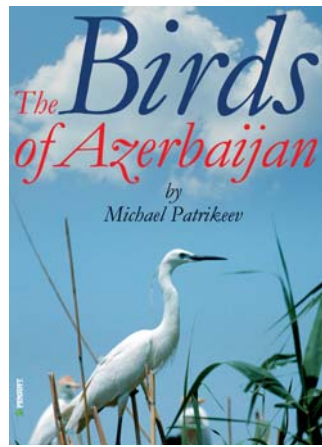


The Birds of Azerbaijan

by
Michael Patrikeev

PENSOFT



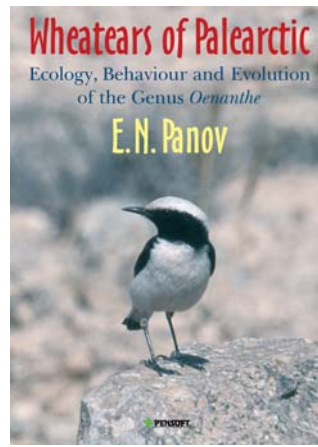


2004. Patrikeev, M.
The Birds of Azerbaijan
Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow
ISBN 954-642-207-X
Pensoft Series Faunistica No 38
ISSN 1312-0174
215x285, 250 distribution maps,
6 graphs, 70 colour and black and
white photographs, complete
bibliography, 7 appendixes, index
380 pp. Hardback
Price EUR 68.80

Azerbaijan, a country with a rich variety of habitats and wildlife, lies south of the Caucasus Mountains on the western seaboard of the Caspian and shares a common border with Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Iran and Turkey. This first full description of its birdlife includes an introduction to the geography of Azerbaijan, a history of bird studies in the country, an analysis of the avifauna, discussion of conservation issues, 372 species accounts, detailed distribution maps, an annotated bird list, as well as sections on Important Bird Areas, colonial birds, waterfowl, and the influence of cold winters and oil pollution. The reference list is the most comprehensive yet compiled on the country's birds. *Birds of Azerbaijan* will be a most valuable addition to zoological libraries, and many professional ornithologists, students of ornithology, nature conservationists and specialists in biogeography will learn much from its pages. It will similarly appeal to birdwatchers wanting to find out about a relatively unexplored part of the western Palearctic and to all those with a keen interest in natural history.

Michael Patrikeev, a graduate of St. Petersburg University, Russia, lived and worked in Azerbaijan for 14 years, and the expertise he acquired there meant that he was able to make a valuable contribution to such books as *Birds of the Western Palearctic*, Concise Edition (Snow & Perrins 1998) and *Important Bird Areas in Europe* (Heath & Evans/BirdLife International, 2000). Michael is now an Avian Biologist at the World Birding Center (Texas) and President of the Institute for the Conservation of World Biodiversity (Canada). He is currently involved in bird studies and conservation activities in Canada, Texas, Mexico and Peru.

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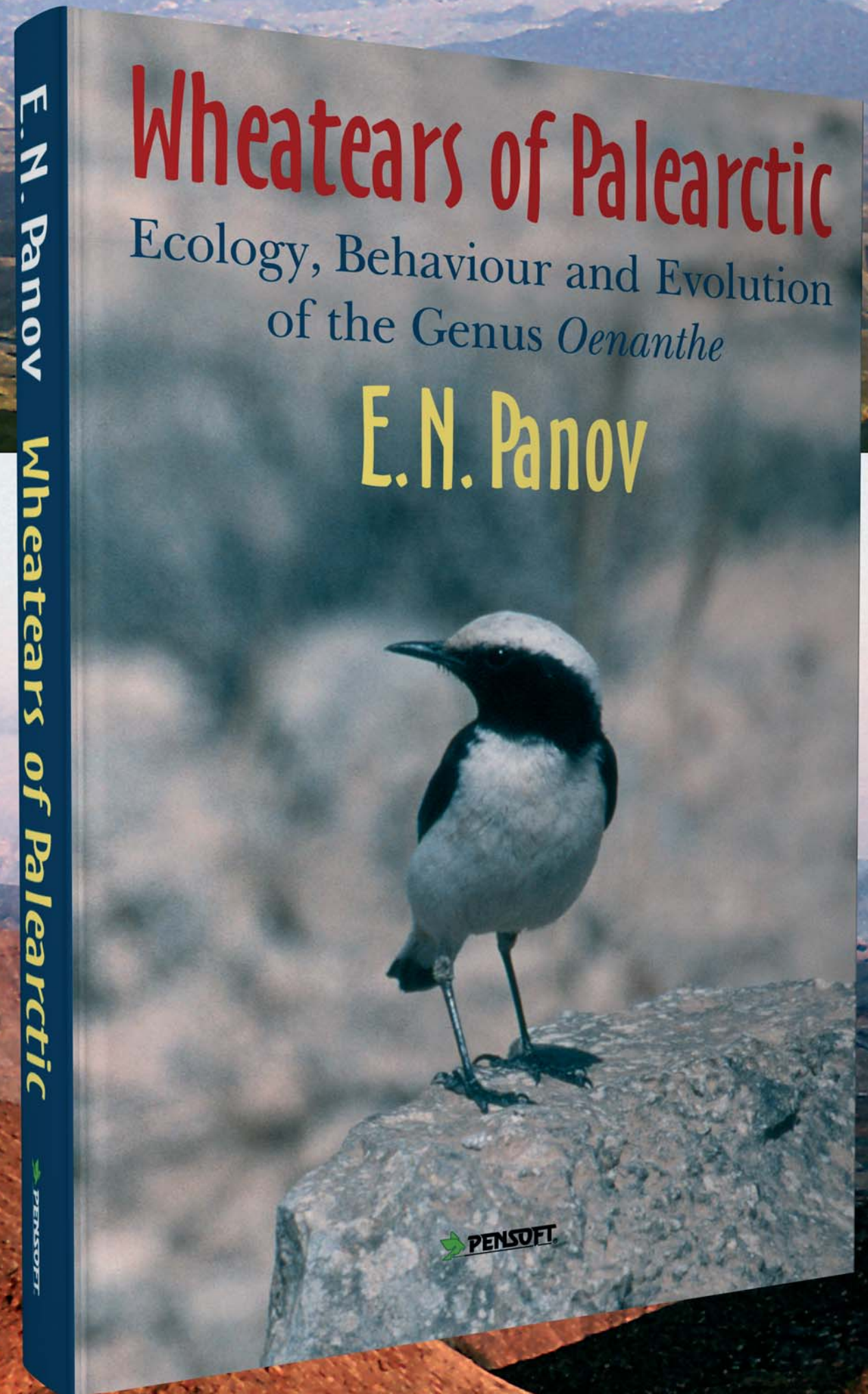


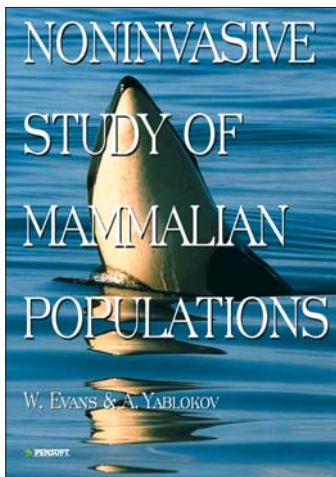
2005. Panov, E. N.
Wheatears of Palearctic.
Ecology, Behaviour and Evolution
of the Genus *Oenanthe*
Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow
ISBN 954-642-226-6
Pensoft Series Faunistica No 40
ISSN 1312-0174
165x240, black and white drawings,
tables, over 120 color photographs,
bibliography, index
439 pp. Hardback
Price EUR 58.80

This book, the first monograph in English on the 14 Palearctic wheatear species, contains a thorough analysis of the co-ordinated evolution of their main morphological, ecological and behavioural features. As most of the species inhabit arid landscapes, the author has been able to present a wide-ranging comparative discussion about how these remarkable birds adapt to an existence in extreme desert conditions. Some have expanded their ranges into temperate-zone and even subarctic landscapes and the book describes how their life strategies have changed accordingly. Also examined here, all within the framework of an integral system of adaptation, are evolutionary trends affecting changes in body-size and plumage coloration, foraging behaviour, breeding dispersion, motor signal behaviour and vocalizations. Special attention is paid to the development of signal and communication behaviour in groups of closely related species at different stages of their divergent evolution. The breakdown of isolating mechanisms, leading to hybridization and a local fusion of closely related species in their secondary contact zones, its causes and dynamics, is another fascinating topic dealt with in the book. The resultant phenomenon of “hybridogenous polymorphism” is similarly treated in considerable detail.

The author, an exceptionally skilled observer and interpreter of bird behaviour, has drawn on his immense experience of many hours spent watching wheatears in the field; he has reared young wheatears in captivity, and has studied the wheatear literature, including that on species distributed outside the Palearctic. The book's thought-provoking text is well supported by an array of diagrams, tables, drawings by the author, and colour photographs of birds and habitats.

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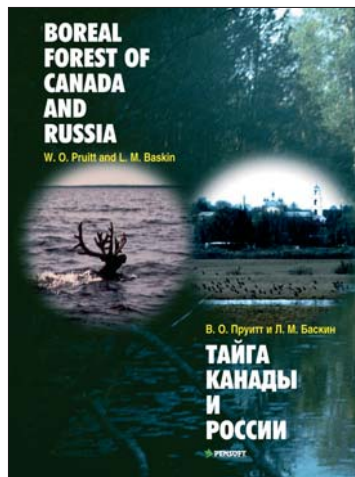




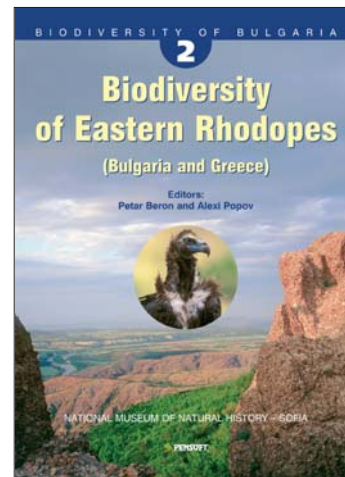
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