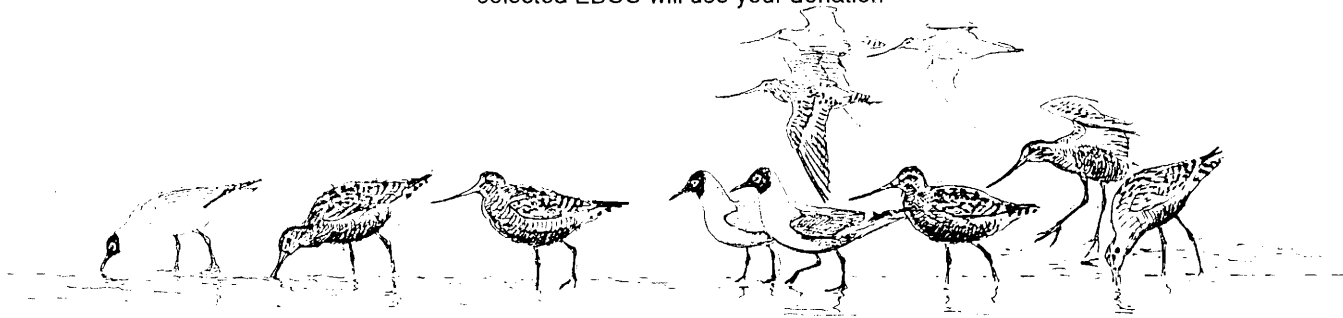


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160, 53113 Bonn, Germany.

If your preferred species has already
been chosen by someone else, please
indicate second and third choices. If
all of your choices have already been
selected EBCC will use your donation

for an unsponsored species unless
you instruct us otherwise.

Goetz Rheinwald



REVIEWS REVIEWS
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awareness and contributed to a far
better recognition of both the value of
estuaries and the complex web of
shared responsibility that exists for
their well-being. As a result we have
seen an upsurge in CZM - coastal
zone management - a management
planning process aimed at resolving
more effectively the conflicts between
human demands and the natural
estuary resource. Such processes
have all identified the needs for a
detailed site-by-site assessment and
the identification of the estuarine
resource based on the 163 sites
identified by the Estuaries Review.

plus a sobering map showing the
location of these activities within the
site boundaries.

We live in exciting times and there is
no doubt that planners are coming to
acknowledge concepts such as "wise
use" and "sustainability" - it is there-
fore vital that nature conservation is
eloquent in developing these concepts
and presenting feasible strategies for
their implementation based on sound
information. These volumes provide
such an information base and do it
well, in a simple and effective summ-
arisation and presentation of a vast
assimilation of site-based data. They
are absolutely essential for all those
involved with nature conservation on
estuaries and coastal zone manage-
ment. As Peter Evans so rightly
states in his impressive introduction,
this "...is an authoritative base-line
from which to prepare for the 21st
century."

Buck, A.L. 1993. *An inventory of UK
estuaries. Vol. 2, South-west Britain.*
JNCC, Peterborough. 180 pp.
£25.00. ISBN 1 873701 37 3.

I refuse to start with the standard
waffle about how productive/
important/valuable estuarine habitats
are. That goes without saying. It
strikes me more simply that I never
sensed their vitality as much as when
we lived on the Dyfi estuary in west
Wales, where the rhythms of the tide
and season embued such a sense of
life. Now in an age where nature
conservation has won its spurs to sit
at the high table of the planners, there
has never been a better opportunity to
influence their future.

The results of this work are being
published by the Joint Nature
Conservation Committee in a series of
six regional volumes covering 20-30
sites each, together with an
introductory volume to set the scene.

Volume 2 covers the 32 estuaries of
south-west England and throughout
Wales, presenting each in the form of
a dossier, summarising key elements
of the nature conservation interest
and an information trail back to
original sources. Each site has a
clearly annotated map, description
and basic statistics relating the
physical characteristics and size of
each site. Standard format graphics
then clearly summarise the major and
minor habitat types present and their
extent, the ornithological interest,
estuarine communities and the
conservation status of each estuary.
A hefty table summarises in
depressing clarity the extent and
nature of all human activities
impinging on the site, along with
summary statistics and discussion,

The pressures on our estuaries will
not diminish in the foreseeable future,
and I only hope that these impressive
documents can make a real change to
the planning process and to estuary
conservation, and will not turn out to
be a historical record of what once
was - yet another epitaph to a
mismanaged and squandered
resource against which to measure
our continued folly in the future!

Tony Fox

Man has so mistreated estuaries in
the UK, squeezing the rich mid-
channel of wildlife habitat between the
confining sea-walls of development,
pollution and recreation. It is now
crunch time. The Nature
Conservancy Council's Estuary
Review produced the monumental
*Nature conservation and estuaries in
Great Britain* (Davidson *et al.* 1991)
[see special offer in *Notes & News*
above] which assessed the remaining
estuarine resources in a national and
international context. The RSPB's
Turning the Tide campaign raised