

best I have seen. "It consists of actually or potentially interbreeding populations, no matter how different they may seem to be, reproductively isolated from other such groups, no matter how similar they may appear to be."

One criticism: On pp. 50-51, Griscom discusses the extinction or partial disappearance of native New Zealand birds, and appears to regard the introduction of European birds as the main cause. Rats, cats, stoats, and the axe, are not mentioned, though he recognises the importance of some of these factors for North America.

Plain bird-watcher, or ornithologist, will find much of interest and profit in this book.—R. J. Scarlett.

**An Undescribed Form of the Black Petrel, by R. A. Falla. Rec. Cant. Mus., Vol. v., No. 2, pp. 111-113, plates xvii-xviii, Nov. 15, 1946.**

This paper relates the events leading to the discovery of a new subspecies of the Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni westlandica*) found breeding in the coastal bush-clad hills near Barrytown, Westland, in 1945, and gives a description of the new form, which has fresh eggs late in May, downy young in August and fully-fledged young in November. This winter breeding season contrasts strikingly with the summer breeding season of the typical bird. Incidentally this interesting event was first brought under the notice of the author by the pupils of Barrytown School through their head teacher, Mr. W. Watson, the school being a group member of this society.—R.H.D.S.

**OYSTERCATCHERS AT SEA.**—Mr. Max Nicol informs me that on several occasions when fishing from a launch three or four miles off the east coast of the North Island (c 30 miles south of Castlepoint) he has seen one or two black oystercatchers (*Haematopus* spp.) settle on the sea. On one occasion, in November, 1946, a bird, settling close behind the anchored launch, swam up to it, was caught and liberated again. When handled it uttered a high-pitched piping. Although European oystercatchers are known to settle in flocks on the ocean, often at a considerable distance from land, this habit does not appear to have been previously reported in N.Z. waters.—J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

The following members have been enrolled since the publication of the membership list in the last Bulletin. An asterisk denotes a life member:—

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Chambers, Stewart, 61 Seaview Road, Remuera, Auckland.  
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Dover, C. W., 9 Logan Terrace, Parnell, Auckland, E. 4.  
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Fisher, V. F., 20 Douglas Avenue, Auckland, S.W.2.  
Frost, Rex, 3 Hillside Road, Papatoetoe.  
Gunson, Lady, Totara Park, Manurewa, Auckland.  
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