

OBITUARY

The passing of Maurice E. Fitzgerald, O.B.E. (Military Division), a foundation member of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Inc., will be greatly regretted by his contemporary champions of the native bush and birds. A fighting man always, he went to the South African War at the age of seventeen and was seriously wounded. As a Major in the Royal Engineers, he served with distinction in the First World War in France, where he was decorated.

One of his victories in subsequent fights when he was the Matamata County Engineer was the setting aside of "Fitzgerald Glade," a fine piece of bush on the Auckland-Rotorua road just west of the Mamaku Range. He retired to Tauranga and from there campaigned vigorously in the cause of nature, with letters to the press and otherwise, right up to his recent death at Hamilton. He was particularly interested in the study of the native parakeets and the Brown Teal and contributed articles to "Notornis," the magazine of the Ornithological Society. He is survived by his wife.

Tauranga has the distinction too of having been the retirement haven of another active foundation member, the late Bernard Sladden, who, from early days, contributed a great deal on the Bay of Plenty area, with strong emphasis on the offshore islands.

— H.R.McK.



REVIEW

Birds of the World, I.P.C. Magazines Ltd., London. This is a weekly magazine to be published in 110 parts, and will become available in New Zealand from 28th October. Part 3 of Vol. 1 has recently come into my hands, and I am much impressed by the high standard attained, both in the text and in the illustrations, colour and black and white; but then one would expect a high standard indeed in view of the personnel on the Editorial Board: James Fisher, Roger Tory Peterson, Stanley Cramp, Eric Hosking, John Warham, Vincent Serventy, John G. Williams, and Bruce Coleman. This particular issue covers a number of sea-birds, of special interest to N.Z. readers being articles on the White-faced Storm Petrel and the Diving Petrel. There is also a paper, superbly illustrated, on some of the pelicans. Contributors are all ornithologists of international reputation, viz. W. R. P. Bourne, David Saunders, John Warham, Leo Batten, and Stanley Cramp, and Dr. M. F. Soper has contributed some of the photographs. Numerous distribution maps are a further pleasing and valuable feature of a publication which must have a world-wide appeal.

In the several American publications on the world's birds that I have seen, there has been a noticeable bias towards the birdlife of the Nearctic and Neotropical Regions. Let us hope that the inclusion of Vin Serventy and John Warham on the Editorial Board may preserve a necessary balance between birds of all Regions, for in this issue there is a tendency to bias in favour of Palaearctic birdlife.

— A.B.