

## LETTERS



The Editor,  
Sir,

### CHATHAM ISLAND PARAKEETS

As far as I am concerned there is no argument with Mr Geo. A. Smith (*Notornis* 23 (4), 1976) as to whether specific differences occur between various body measurements of the two Chatham Island parakeets. Clearly they do, and I have already pointed out the greater average length of wing of the Chatham Island Red-crowned Parakeet and the greater average width of bill of Forbes' Parakeet (*Notornis* 23 (2): 198-202, 1976). I do not know which species has the greater "mass," since adequate samples of weights and measurements of sexed birds of both species do not exist. Smith may well be correct in his assertion that the Chatham Island Red-crowned Parakeet is somewhat larger — but this does not affect my original premise.

The point I was trying to make (*Notornis* 22 (2): 119, 1975) was that compared with the very big size difference between Red-crowned and Yellow-crowned Parakeets on the main islands of New Zealand, the size difference between the two species in the Chatham Islands is small. I mentioned this as one factor that could favour hybrid matings at the Chathams. My comment that the two Chatham Island species are "about the same size" was made strictly in this context.

Apparently Smith agrees with me on the main issue that there is a "lesser disparity in size" between the two parakeets at the Chatham Islands (compared with the mainland forms) and that because of this they might hybridize more readily.

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Ecology Division,  
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Private Bag,  
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21 December 1976



The Editor,  
Sir,

### BIBLIOGRAPHY ON OWLS

We would greatly appreciate it if you would draw your readers' attention to the following request.

"A working bibliography on the Order Strigiformes (Aves) from the world literature" is the title of a bibliography currently being compiled by owl biologists R. J. Clark, D. G. Smith and L. H. Kelso.

NOTORNIS 24: 59-61 (1977)