

The island waterfowl, by Milton W. Weller. 1980. Iowa State University Press. pp. 121 and i-x. B/w photos, diags, maps. US\$10.95 (plus \$1 postage).

On a number of islands of various sizes and degrees of isolation are found endemic species of waterfowl, especially ducks. Dr Weller has concisely described how these endemic species differ from their mainland relatives, and how they have adapted in the face of reduced mobility, different food resources, climate, etc. Responses to island life include varying degrees of flightlessness, marine adaptations, reproductive rate, plumage changes (including tendency to loss of sexual dimorphism and to development of white eye-rings), changes in body size, and development of endemism.

Copies are obtainable from Iowa State University Press, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa 50010.

D. H. BRATHWAITE

A sketchbook of birds, by C. F. Tunnicliffe, R.A. Hutchinson Grp (NZ) Ltd. NZ retail price \$26.75.

This book, which consists of a selection of pages from the artist's many sketchbooks in which he recorded his field observations, includes seabirds (gulls, terns, cormorants & alcid), waders, herons and spoonbills, waterfowl and birds of prey. Any ornithologist, especially a wader watcher, who would like to develop his ability to do field sketches of birds seen should find this book interesting. Each page includes not only the watercolour sketch, but also the rough pencil outlines which preceded it. There are 125 plates.

D. H. BRATHWAITE

Papua New Guinea bird calls, by Harold and Audrey Crouch.

This cassette is the first recording to be made available of the birds of Papua New Guinea in this form and the only one currently available. Two earlier recordings on disc have been unavailable for many years.

The list of species given with the cassette numbers 40 and includes the scientific names, which are also given in the spoken introductions on the tape. However, 41 are presented on the tape, the addition being a recording of the Emperor Of Germany's Bird Of Paradise (*Paradisaea giuelmi*) that became available after the original master tape had been prepared.

The narrations, which are both adequate and informative, are given by Audrey Crouch in a style that I would like used more often both here and on the international scene.

Three of the species are on the New Zealand list — the Sacred Kingfisher, the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo, and the Dollar Bird. Also on this tape is the Brown Quail (*Coturnix australis*), which is also on the New Zealand list as part of a hybrid stock now popular with cage bird people. Many more of the species presented are to be found in Australia as well as New Guinea in one form or another. However, the strictly Papua New Guinea species that make up the bulk of this recording have not so far as I know been released on tape or disc before.