

if some indication as to the location of appropriate photographs was added to the subtitles.

These are very minor faults and detract very little from the final product.

This book is an excellent photographic guide to our mainland birds and will provide a lot of pleasure and interest for the mere bird lover and ornithologist alike.

T. C. Dennison

The contributions of Cook's Third Voyage to the ornithology of the Hawaiian Islands, by David G. Medway. 1981. Pacific Science 35 (2): 105-173. Copy in OSNZ library.

This paper is an important contribution to the history of Hawaiian ornithology. Cook's brief visits in 1778 and 1779 provided the first European contact with the birds of the Hawaiian Islands. First descriptions of 11 species or subspecies were based on specimens collected, and 6-7 types still survive in British and European museums.

This is the first detailed account dealing specifically with ornithological observations made during the visits, including relevant journal accounts, the bird specimens obtained, and the descriptions later based on those specimens. The history and fate of the various specimens are traced and discussed in scholarly detail; original descriptions are reproduced in full, together with English translation if necessary, and there are eight black-and-white plates and one colour plate of first paintings.

B. D. Heather

Finding birds around the world, by P. Alden and J. Gooders. 1981. Andre Deutsch. 683 pp. NZ\$31.50.

This is clearly an American book written in American for the American tick collector. Just under half its pages are devoted to the American continent and about a third of the remaining localities discussed are large towns or capital cities: rarely centres from which an experienced birdwatcher would plan his excursions!

This sort of book is dangerous in that it is bound to increase the disturbance of bird habitats and, in easily accessible places, it can lead to their complete despoilment. Conversely, in countries such as our own, well away from centres of large populations of birdwatchers, making the whereabouts of good localities known is acceptable and may even do good in arousing public awareness. Roger Peterson, in the foreword to this book, illustrates where this has happened, even in the United States.

The book comprises simply an introduction, which is partly explanatory and partly advice to the novice traveller-cum-birdwatcher; 111 chapters, each discussing one area; and a bibliography and indexes. Chapter 111 deals with New Zealand and is the obvious place to start. Much as I endorse the complimentary sentiments expressed about our country, I cannot imagine anyone residing outside the Antarctic ice cap thinking that New Zealand provides "excellent birding," least of all those to whom this book would most appeal: one needs to work hard at that sport here. Apart from mentioning some of the more obvious