

*The aviculture, re-establishment and status of the New Zealand Brown Teal*, by F. Neil Hayes. 1982.

This 61 page booklet is based on the 1980 Brown Teal Management Seminar organised by Ducks Unlimited. It includes information presented by Dr Murray Williams on Brown Teal (Pateke) distribution at the time of European settlement, subsequent decline and present status, as well as over 30 pages on Brown Teal aviculture. This section covers such aspects as establishing pairs, incompatibility, hybridisation and in-breeding, diet, use of chemicals, sexing Brown Teal and other details of avicultural management techniques.

There are four photographs of aviary design, a photograph of a Brown Teal nest box, and diagrams showing construction details of brooder troughs, how to sex Brown Teal and pinioning adult Brown Teal.

Four excellent distribution maps cover Pateke distribution at time of European settlement, the decline of the Pateke, present status, and the present status in greater detail of Brown Teal in Northland.

Ducks Unlimited, established in 1974, is an active group concerned with the preservation of New Zealand's wetlands and particularly the propagation of the waterfowl. Although it has a quarterly magazine, *Flight*, this booklet is its first major publication. I recommend it and hope that they will publish more material as a result of other projects on which they are currently working.

Copies are obtainable from Ducks Unlimited (N.Z.) Inc., P.O. Box 74, Hamilton, at \$6.00 including postage.

Don Hadden

*A bibliography of seabirds in the waters of southern Africa, the Prince Edward and Tristan groups*, by J. Cooper & R. K. Brooke. 1981. S. Afr. Nat. Sci. Programmes Rep. 48. 297 pp.

This is a listing of 2088 publications on southern African seabirds, defined as birds that obtain food from or above the surface of the sea in the area delimited by 17° to 50°S and 20° to 40°E. The work is in two parts. The larger consists of an alphabetical listing by authors' names of the publications, each of which is numbered; the smaller part is an index to the scientific names of the species, in which only the numbers of the papers are given. In other words, this is a bibliography in *Zoological record* style with a much simplified 'Systematic Index' and no 'Geographical' or 'Palaeontological' ones. The only 'Subject' entry is 'Guano.'

The items listed range from unpublished theses, brief notes, and popular articles in obscure local journals, to major works and papers. A number of major publications from outside South Africa, e.g. *The handbook of British Birds*, which only marginally discuss southern African seabirds, are also listed.

This is an example of a bibliographic tool which represents an

intermediate stage before the full development of computerised listings. These will enable the user to search a bibliography and obtain printouts of publications dealing with specific topics identified by combinations of keywords, e.g. "*Diomedea exulans*, Display, Threat & Defence; Marion Island." Someone knowledgeable will have to do the spade work to build these bibliographies. In the meantime, works like the present example are going to be very useful for the active researcher. It is available from C.S.I.R., P.O. Box 395, Pretoria.

John Warham

*Proceedings of the symposium on birds of the sea and shore held at the University of Cape Town 19-21 November 1979*, edited by J. Cooper. African Seabird Group, Cape Town. 1981. 473 pp. S.A.Rd. 25,00.

This book comprises 38 mainly short papers, two-third of which are on seabirds (mostly petrels and penguins), the rest on waders and terns. These papers are grouped together under headings — Feeding Ecology; Patterns of Distribution; Distribution Studies; Conservation of Species and Habitats; Physiology and Breeding Biology.

Although a majority of the topics relates to South African conditions and some, e.g., on wader moult, are based on work done in the Palaearctic, most are nonetheless relevant for New Zealand ornithologists. Particularly noted were papers on the effects of weather on seabird movements and two by Mike Imber with detailed analyses of the diets of various petrels.

All in all a very worthwhile publication.

John Warham

*Birds of the North Solomons*, by Don Hadden. 1981. Wau Ecology Institute handbook no. 8. 107 pp., 82 col. photos.

This excellent little book is the only one that deals solely with Bougainville and Buka, and it thus fills an important gap in our ornithological knowledge of countries bordering on our region. After generous introductory sections, largely for the use of local people and visitors, the main text treats uniformly, in field guide style, the 150+ species on the North Solomons list, under the headings description, voice, habitat, field notes, and distribution. The text summarises the scattered previous information and above all the author's experience during his 5 years as a teacher on Bougainville, 1976-1980. Much of the information is new, especially on sea and shore birds, and the text highlights how much is still unknown about the land birds.

Most of the 24 colour plates are montages of 3-5 photos, the author having opted to illustrate more species (77) than he would have been allowed if they had been full size. Most are presumably adequate to help with field identification, and some are splendid studies. A good range of shorebirds is included, many, alas, too small, especially the absorbing mixed groups.