

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.

A book well worth having, not only because it is the work of a talented New Zealand naturalist but also because it is a valuable addition to the range of recent books on Papua New Guinea and South-west Pacific birds.

B. D. HEATHER

Birds that came back, by John Gooders. 1983. Andre Deutsch. 178 pp., 46 b/w & 14 col. photos. \$45.75.

Recounts the decline of birds that almost or wholly disappeared from Britain in historical times, hastened by human action; and the reappearance of some. In defiance of the title, it also recounts the successful and attempted colonising of Britain by new species. The efforts of man to encourage, guard and legislate for declining, re-establishing, colonising and reintroduced species are well covered. Although very readable and of wide general appeal, it is too expensive for most private libraries.

B. D. HEATHER

LETTER

30 July 1983

The Editor,
Sir,

B. Drey's observation on a kiwi attempting to incubate a beer bottle (*Notornis* 30 (2): 135-6) is certainly unusual but may not be unique. I have just finished Ray Tinsley's *Call of the Moose* (Reed, 1983), in which he recalls a 1979 hunting camp at Cascade Cove at which he and his companion "said goodbye to a kiwi which was trying to hatch a bottle in a hole under a tree behind the little hut" (p. 73). One wonders what the kiwis did before the now-ubiquitous beer bottles were available.

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