

*Small Birds of the New Zealand Bush*, by Elaine Power. Collins, Auckland and London. \$2.50.

It is hard to find words to express the delight which this book has given me. Mrs. Power must rank as one of our foremost bird artists. Twenty-two of the smaller birds of our islands, ranging in size from the Rifleman to the Tui and the Saddleback, are illustrated, most of them in beautiful monochrome and colour. The descriptions are brief, but adequate, and front and back of dust-jacket and cover provide further pictures in colour. Mrs. Power's skill is such that the birds seem almost alive.

The colour plates and text are printed in Hongkong by a Japanese firm. The text was set in Monotype "Bembo" by an Auckland firm, and is clear and easy to read.

The lack of scientific names in the text is no flaw. Those of us who need them have either memorised them or can use our reference books.

I can think of no better book than this to give any nature-lover.

— R. J. SCARLETT



## LETTER

Sir,

This letter refers to the identification of the bird described as a Macaroni Penguin *Eudyptes chrysolophus* and figured under that caption in the paper on New and Rare Birds at Snares Island by John Warham (*Notornis* 16, 4, 223).

We question this identification, as the bird shown has all the characteristics of the black-throated variant of the Royal Penguin *Eudyptes schlegeli*. Some of the differences between the rare black-throated variant of the Royal and the normal adult Macaroni are listed in another paper by one of us (F.C.K.) in the same issue of *Notornis* (pp. 226-229) and a typical Macaroni is figured (p. 227). In addition to the "top-heavy" bill and the apparently jet black throat of the Snares birds, two further points may be mentioned. These are the much larger area of naked skin at the gape in Royals, and the white patch in the upper tail coverts, common in Royals, and rarely, if ever, found in Macaronis. On all counts the Snares bird adds up to *Eudyptes schlegeli*.

It seems evident that both species are likely to occur as vagrants in coastal or sub-antarctic New Zealand. *Notornis* 16: 4, provides a useful identification aid with photographs of four birds, considered by us to be three Royals (pp. 223 and 228) and one Macaroni (p. 227).

— R. A. FALLA  
C. A. FLEMING  
F. C. KINSKY

Wellington, 26/2/1970