

REVIEW

R. M. Lockley. 1970. *Man Against Nature*. A Survival Special on New Zealand Wildlife. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington, for "Survival Books," edited by Colin Willock. 239 pp., 16 colour and 8 other photos, 5 text figures.

Ronald Lockley's association with New Zealand began over 30 years ago when Richdale and other students of behaviour of the Procellariiformes corresponded with the pioneer researcher on the Manx Shearwater on Skokholm Island in Wales. Over the years the links have strengthened (his daughter settled here and he married a New Zealander), and this book testifies that New Zealand has won his heart.

The volume is a conservationist's history of New Zealand, with chapters covering pre-human history, Maori and early pakeha phases, others on South Island and North Island sheep runs, on exterminations and acclimatisation madness, the ravished forest, river, lake and sea, and finally "today" and "tomorrow." Lockley's easy style, quotations from Banks, Samuel Butler, Guthrie-Smith, R. A. Falla and Ken Miers (an incomplete sample) and excellent photographs together make an account that in my opinion will give the right impression of the flavour of New Zealand to an overseas reader. The bird photographs include M. F. Soper's studies of Pigeon, Pukeko, Kakapo, Yellow-eyed Penguin, Royal Albatross, Spotted Shag, Silvereye, Blue Duck, Kingfisher, Black Stilt, Harrier, Sooty Tern and Black-winged Petrel (the last two of doubtful relevance to the text).

For the New Zealand reader it is always intriguing to learn what someone else thinks of the land we love. Lockley is a lively and sympathetic observer and commentator on the New Zealand scene, and he records many original anecdotes from conversation with people like the late R. A. Wilson and Sam Chaffey. We can catch him out when we find errors of fact or judgement, and indeed there are not a few. We read that our swan was flightless, that museum war canoes are but replicas, that tattooed grandfathers still survive, that the last Maori dogs were eaten, that preserved human heads were "shrunk to fist size," that Wiremu Kingi was Rauparaha's nephew, that the Kea was once confined to Southland, that three rat species exist at Kapiti, that New Zealand salmon are all lake-bound, that hatcheries are necessary to keep up trout stocks, that our fresh-water clams are *Unio*. Most glaring are two photos of Pukeko (one wrongly attributed to Soper) labelled as *Notornis*. I can personally forgive (if not forget) these peccadillos for the warmth Lockley has brought to the cause of conservation in New Zealand, which will welcome the support of his informed readers in a period when increasing development presses hard upon our ravaged natural resources.

— C.A.F.