

NOTES & NEWS

A recent visitor to New Zealand was MARGERY FISHER, widow of the celebrated ornithologist and natural history writer James Fisher who was killed in a car accident on 25 September 1970. Mrs Fisher, a writer of children's books and a noted authority on children's literature, was in Wellington during May to open the Second Annual Children's Book Show. This is Mrs Fisher's first visit to New Zealand since the days of her youth here. She is the daughter of Sir Henry and Lady Turner and was born in London but came to New Zealand in 1922 at the age of nine when her father left the Civil Service and joined the NZ Refrigerating Company in Christchurch. After her school days in Christchurch and Amberley, she returned to England to study at Somerville College, Oxford. Her distinguished career, which includes many literary awards and the establishment of her own magazine of reviews of children's books, "Growing Point," rivals her late husband's in his field of natural history. James Fisher had always regarded a visit to New Zealand to be one of the highlights of his career but, to our loss as readers and ornithologists, his busy life never allowed this experience.

Recent numbers of that well-known entertaining and informative journal, the *NZ Woman's Weekly*, have carried articles of interest to OSNZ members. One tells of the habits of a White Heron which has visited the home of Mrs Ethel Muir of Gladstone, 7 miles south of Greymouth, since 1954 (see also article in *Forest & Bird*, May 1972: 19, "White heron a regular visitor to West Coast garden"). Another discusses and illustrates the new series of bird habitat groups in the Auckland Museum designed by Graham Turbott and Leo Cappell. A press button system allows visitors to listen to the birds portrayed in their characteristic surroundings.

References: SNOW, FRANK. 1972. The widow's white heron. Peter Kotuku has spent much of the last 18 years with Mrs. Ethel Muir. *The New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 15 May 1972: 46, 1 fig.; YOUNG, BEATRICE. 1972. Press a button — and the birds sing. *The New Zealand Woman's Weekly*, 22 May 1972: 8-10, illus. (photos by Michael Willison).

EAGLE IN WELLINGTON DISTRICT

Another report of an eagle sighting comes from near Wellington. The observers are cautious to the extent that they do not wish to prejudice identification from any future sightings.

"A large bird of prey, believed to be an Australian eagle, was seen in the Akatarawa Valley between April 3-7. The bird may have come across the Tasman with Cyclone Emily."

Reference: Australian eagle. in Newsletter, Wellington Branch, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, May 1972 (ed. J. A. Fowler), p. 3.