

## REVIEWS

*The Sounds of Antarctica.* Recorded and introduced by Hank Curth. A Kiwi Musiccolour Book. 16 pp., illus. One 33 1/3 r.p.m. record. Wellington, &c.: A. H. & A. W. Reed. 1965. \$1.90.

This record published in 1965 by Kiwi Records of Wellington (the record division of A. H. & A. W. Reed Ltd.) was the first commercial disc published anywhere in the world devoted entirely to sounds of Antarctica and since it is sufficiently important to be included in a catalogue of bird sounds from the Antarctic (Boswall & Prytherch, 1969: 604) it deserves to be brought to the attention of New Zealand readers because it is still readily available from the publishers. The record comes with a 16 page booklet containing colour photographs and descriptions of Antarctic scenery, activities and animals. It is a 7 inch (17cm) 33 1/3 r.p.m. disc and begins with the sounds made by the USS *Glacier* as she breaks through the ice some miles from McMurdo then going on to a recording of Adelie Penguin chicks with adults. The third recording on side one is unfortunately not clearly identified, but is of McCormick's Skua made in McMurdo Sound. Other tracks include Weddell Seals, ice noises, aircraft sounds, Emperor Penguins, huskies, an interview with a New Zealander at Scott Base and a recording of seals and small fish in the sea via a hydrophone. As a matter of local interest, the Editor of *Notornis* tells me that he shared a cabin in the *Glacier* with Mr Curth for several days and saw some of these recordings being made on a Uher machine.

The only complaint I have is that the scientific names have not been included in either the spoken introductions or the colourful booklet.

This record, which sells in most shops for about \$1.90, is the best buy available, the only other disc currently on the market being three times the price. For those interested in further information about this and other records of bird song (including much unpublished), I would suggest that you consult the following reference: Jeffrey Boswall & Robin J. Prytherch, 1969. A discography of bird sounds from the Antarctic. *The Polar Record* [Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge, England] 14 (92): 603-612, 1969, a reprint of which is in the OSNZ Library.

L. B. McP.

*A Field Guide to Western Bird Song.* Introduced by A. A. Allen and Roger Tory Peterson. Three 33 1/3 r.p.m. records. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology. US \$14.95.

This set of three 12 inch (30 cm) records was published to match Roger Tory Peterson's famous "A Field Guide to Western Birds." This is done very well with only a few omissions. This set of records has special interest to New Zealanders as it includes recordings of species both resident and migratory. Among the credits on the back of the cover are two names well known in New Zealand: William V. Ward, who was responsible for the Hawaiian birds, and G. R. Williams, who supplied a Pitcairn Island recording of the Bristle-thighed Curlew. Other well-known names included are those of