

Ludwig Koch and Eric Simms. The species are introduced verbally by Dr Arthur A. Allen and Roger Tory Peterson. The set covers more than 600 species; therefore the time allotted to each is rather brief, only 15 seconds. The cover of this set gives the species in order of appearance, the function of the sound illustrated as well as the locality and the month of recording. The Hawaiian recordings on side two of disc three are the only ones currently available.

I would highly recommend this set, which is available from the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, U.S.A.

L. B. McP.

HUTCHINSON, J. N. *Australian bird calls index* — Series 1, Western Australia, 12 inch LP record or one hour tape-cassette. Available from John N. Hutchinson, Gascoyne Research Station, Carnarvon 6701, Western Australia. A\$5.00 incl. postage.

This full length 33 1/3 r.p.m. recording was produced by John N. Hutchinson and he has provided a magnificent example of what can be done with an open microphone when recording bird song. The quality on this disc is excellent and reminds one of that famous pioneer of nature recording, Dr Ludwig Koch, who always used open microphones.

This disc has 50 species on it, three of which were supplied by Norman Robinson. The species are presented in taxonomic order and are introduced by Miss Gillian Waite, who made one small mistake on one of the announcements. The second bird on track two is announced as a Boobook Owl and is, in fact, listed as such in the main notes on the back of the cover; however, a little sticker attached to the cover states that the recording is a Barking Owl. Of the 50 species, 38 are, as far as I can tell, first recordings for Australia, some of them being of uncommon to rare birds. The cover photograph is a nice shot of the Wedgebill, *Sphenostoma cristatum*.

Mr Hutchinson is to be commended for this record: one hopes that he will go on recording more birds. The record is the result of nine years of patient field work with two Ficord tape recorders.

L. B. McP.

[A review of this recording has appeared in *Emu* 73 (1): 37, by "P.N.R.", January 1973].

BIGWOOD, K. & J. *A treasury of New Zealand bird song*. Introduced by G. R. Williams. Wellington: Kiwi Records (A. H. & A. W. Reed), LP SLD-25 (also available as cassette, TC SLD-25). \$5.50.

This long-playing record is a re-issue of the boxed set that was published some years ago and has many of the faults of that set. The long spoken introductions by Dr Gordon Williams are a waste of valuable needle time and could have been printed on the cover or on a supplementary page. These introductions do not always indicate which race of bird is being presented nor does the data on the cover help much.

These recordings were obtained by Ken and Jean Bigwood on EMI L2 machines and tend to show their age a little except for

two, the Takahe and the Blue Duck, supplied by Dr Williams. This record has the first birds ever recorded on a commercial disc in New Zealand, 30 in all, but I feel it is overpriced at \$5.50. This record (or cassette) which has a full colour photograph of a Tui on the front cover is available from most good record shops along with two supplementary records which will be reviewed at a later date. These are EP EC-25, 10 more New Zealand birds, including North Island Kiwi, Kingfisher, Whitehead, and Pipit, and EC-34, 10 sea birds, including the Wandering Albatross, Sooty Shearwater, Gannet, and Diving Petrel; both records are priced at \$1.75 each.

L. B. McP.

[A review of Vols 2 and 3 of this series appeared in *Notornis* 20 (1): 85-86, 1973 (not on p. 387 of Vol. 19 (4), 1972, as indicated in its table of contents); Vol. 5 will be issued in 1974.]

Birds in Surrey, 1900-1970, edited by Donald Parr. B. T. Batsford Ltd., London. N.Z. Agents Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., Chch. 293 pp. illust. 1972. \$7.95.

This attractive volume is edited by the well known ornithologist Donald Parr assisted by a committee of the Surrey Bird Club, and compiled from the records of the Club, unpublished diaries, the B.T.O. Common Birds Census, and the records of the London Natural History Society, and is a model of its kind. Surrey being one of the most densely populated counties in the British Isles, it is somewhat surprising to find that the systematic list contains 271 species, of which 121 have been proved to breed since 1900. The remarkable diversity of habitat, rivers, marshes, sewage farms, reservoirs, woodland, downs and commons, has resulted in a correspondingly rich birdlife, and the five introductory chapters on habitat are most informative and interesting, as are the other chapters on a history of birds and man in Surrey, and on migration and other movements.

About half of the excellent black and white photographs are of types of habitat mentioned in the text, and the other half of representative birds. The present status, and changes in status, are clearly stated for all species, together with details of distribution of common species, and of occurrences of the rarer ones. The 16 diurnal birds of prey recorded in the systematic list provide a sad story, due to the increasing use of pesticides after the last war. The voluntary ban on the use of dieldrin on spring sown wheat has now alleviated the position somewhat; but the increasing employment of game-keepers has been much to the detriment of these birds. All but one of the 16, the Kestrel, are described as scarce, or extremely scarce, vagrants, migrants, or residents. No less than 15 species of warbler are listed, of which 10 are common, 4 scarce, and 1 sporadic.

Two highly ornamental introduced ducks appear to be firmly established in Surrey, for the Mandarin Duck is described as a moderately common resident, and the American Wood Duck as occasionally breeding. Would not these species add beauty and interest to the New Zealand scene?

This book contains much of general interest, and is an invaluable guide for a visitor to Surrey.

A. B.