

but our noted bird photographers are not immune from similar weaknesses. Any such shortcomings in Mrs Power's books will not detract from the almost indescribable pleasure they give.

The fault of *New Zealand water birds* lies only in its price. For \$8.40 you get 88 pages with 22 coloured plates and 20 black-and-white illustrations of 21 species of birds in contrast to the \$2.50 you paid in 1970 for 20 species of *Small birds* in 48 pages with 21 coloured plates and 17 b & w figures and \$3.20's worth of *Waders* in 1971 with 48 pages, 11 coloured plates, 10 b & w figures, showing 20 species. Statisticians could doubtless assure us that we are still getting value for money despite the cost-of-living adjustments, and I believe them for in *Water birds* we have not only the final, polished portraits of Mrs Power at her very best showing many of the New Zealand pond, river, and swamp birds which we know and enjoy but also an interesting array of preliminary artist's sketches which form the basis of the finished portraits. Her "Introduction" provides a special enjoyment in itself and Mrs Power would seem to have another career ahead of her as natural history writer! Those who have spent hours watching the displays and feeding behaviour of ducks will envy Mrs Power her undoubted talents in capturing so deftly the intriguing postures and stances so characteristic of this group of water birds. Those who admire the cheeky and mischievous Weka (anthropomorphism if you like) will welcome her lively sketches, and the Pukeko also endears itself further to us in her simple outlines.

Let me use R. J. Scarlett's other words about Mrs Power's first book but extend them, in gratitude, to this magnificent offering (published in good time for early Christmas shopping, and with a handy slip-case for mailing to friends): "I can think of no better book than this to give any nature-lover."

E. W. D.



A treasury of New Zealand bird song. Supplement No. 1. Kiwi Treasury Record No. 4. Recorded by Kenneth and Jean Bigwood. Spoken introduction by Gordon R. Williams. Kiwi Record EC-25. Wellington: Kiwi Records (A. H. & A. W. Reed). \$1.75.

This 45rpm extended play record presents 10 more birds from the collection by New Zealand's pioneer recordists Kenneth & Jean Bigwood. While some of the recordings on this disc are not up to today's standards, this is not the fault of the recordists but more the limitations of the recording equipment in use in both the field and the studio. It is a pity that this disc represents the finish of the Bigwoods' efforts in the select field of bird recording as not nearly enough is being done by anyone in this country. The disc which sells at \$1.75 has a twelve page booklet enclosed and presents the following ten birds:

North I. Kiwi
N.Z. Falcon
Pukeko
Shining Cuckoo
Kingfisher

Whitehead
Pipit
Brown Creeper
Silvereye
Black Swan

Most New Zealand ornithologists who are interested in field identification would find this disc of some help as most of the species can be named without seeing the actual bird.

L. B. McP.