

LETTERS

The Editor,
Sir,

OYSTERCATCHER TERMINOLOGY

May I draw attention to two errors which have crept into Dr P. B. Heppleston's etymological note on the terminology of oystercatchers?

(a) *Haematopus*. The last syllable of this generic name is the Greek word for "foot." *Haematopus*, therefore, does not mean "bloody eye," but "blood-red foot (or leg)." The derivation is correctly given on page 179 of Helen Oliver's *Annotated Index* (1968). The ending signifying "eye" is "-ops" as in *Zosterops* = Belt eye or Girdle eye.

(b) *Malacophaga*. *Malakia* is a Greek diminutive meaning "little mollusca." Admittedly there is a Greek, not Latin, adjective *malakos*, meaning soft or luxurious. However, a malacologist is an authority, not on effeminate softness, but on living mollusca.

In the South Island the Black Oystercatcher is sometimes called the Musselpicker, a descriptive name which reflects sound observation by a good countryman. In north-west Nelson I have watched these oystercatchers picking among small mussels on exposed rocks and reefs at low tide. This vernacular name is added in the second edition of the *Field Guide*.

REFERENCES

HEPPLESTON, P. B. 1973. Oystercatcher etymology. *Notornis* 20 (2). 120-122.

OLIVER, H. C. 1968. Annotated index to some early New Zealand bird literature. Pp. x + 1-222. Wellington: Department of Internal Affairs (Wildlife Publ. No. 106).

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31 July 1973

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The Editor,
Sir,

RECORDINGS OF N.Z. BIRDS AVAILABLE

I am writing to bring up to date the list of bird species that I now have available on tape for research purposes. This list shows all the additions to 13 October 1973 after the original list, giving those recordings held at 12 October 1972, published by me in *Notornis* a year ago (Macpherson 1972).

Adelie Penguin; Northern Blue Penguin; NZ Black-browed Mollymawk; Yellow-nosed Mollymawk; Antarctic Petrel; Antarctic Fulmar; Cape Pigeon; North Atlantic Shearwater; Manx Shearwater; Leach's Petrel; Little Shag; White Heron; Brown Teal; Blue Duck; NZ Scaup; Australian White Ibis; Takahe; Spur-winged Plover; Ringed Plover; Asiatic Whimbrel; Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit; Eastern Bar-tailed Godwit; Greenshank; Common Sandpiper; Terek Sandpiper; Turnstone; Japanese Snipe; Banded Dotterel; Black Stilt; Arctic Skua; Long-tailed Skua; Gull-billed Tern; Caspian Tern; Arctic Tern; Sulphur-crested Cockatoo; NI Kaka; SI Kaka; Eastern Rosella; Antipodes Is