

Tane. The journal of the Auckland University Field Club. Vol. 19, Anniversary Issue, 1973. Pp. xvi + 1-244, illus. \$1.50.

Student journals in natural history play an important role in providing an outlet for the publication of notes and observations from field trips, most of which would not otherwise be reported upon or made known to a wider audience. All too often the casual but significant records of the occurrence of various species, seasonal variations, features of behaviour or aspects of life-history, perhaps fragmentary in themselves, as well as narratives of where people went and what they did, are thought unsuitable for publication because they cannot be made to measure up to the rigid standards usually demanded by scientific journals.

Tane is the annual journal of the Auckland University Field Club and is a leader in the field of student publications having begun its life in 1948. Now *Tane* celebrates its 25th anniversary with a special issue which not only marks its own place in the literature of the natural history of New Zealand but also commemorates and documents the 50th anniversary of the Field Club itself, from which many first-rate zoologists, botanists and geologists have developed their careers.

One cannot stress too strongly what an important publication this has been throughout its 19 volumes. The pages of *Tane* are essential reading for all interested in the Northland to Bay of Plenty area and particularly so as a reference point for what is known of the islands of the Hauraki Gulf. A tabular arrangement of articles dealing with the offshore islands is given in Vol. 19 and will be widely used and appreciated.

Vol. 16 of *Tane* gives a classified reference list of all articles published in the first 15 volumes, and a wide range of topics of interest to readers well beyond Auckland is shown. There are not many articles on birds as such but they do include accounts of the birds of the Poor Knights, of Hen Island, of Red Mercury Island, of Mayor Island, of Little Barrier, of the Aldermen Islands (in Vol. 19, 1973), of the Lake Waikaremoana district, and of the field identification of waders. More important, however, is the amount of ecological and general background information available for those who plan field work on the islands of the Gulf and will need to refer, for example, to what knowledge exists on the botany or geology of these places. In addition, the reporting of visits by Field Club members to such places as Little Barrier Island serves to provide a base line for detecting any environmental changes that may be taking place over the long period in which the Club has been flourishing.

The world of science in New Zealand, both amateur and professional, environmentalists and conservationists alike, owes a great debt to the Auckland University Field Club for its initiative in founding *Tane* and for maintaining it so successfully and regularly over 25 years. Well done! The annual volume subscription rate is \$1.50 and original copies of Volumes 8 to 19 are still available. Requests should be addressed to: "*Tane*," c/o Botany Department, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland.

E. W. D.