

The Editor,  
Sir,

### PLUMAGE PHASES OF GIANT PETRELS

There is an error in a recent paper in *Notornis* (Hicks 1973) which should not be left uncorrected.

Referring to the giant petrels *Macronectes halli* and *M. giganteus*, Hicks states (p. 236) that Bourne & Warham (1966) suggested that dark phased individuals represent *M. halli*, and the white phase *M. giganteus*. This is incorrect. Bourne & Warham suggested that, while *M. halli* is monomorphic with only a dark plumage phase, *M. giganteus* is dimorphic with dark and white phases, the white phase representing only up to 15% of local breeding populations of *M. giganteus* and usually a much smaller proportion (Shaughnessy 1971). Dark phased *M. giganteus* become paler with increasing age than does *M. halli*, but to assume that all dark giant petrels seen at sea are *M. halli* leads to a false picture of their distribution.

### REFERENCES

- BOURNE, W. R. P.; WARHAM, J. 1966. Geographical variation in the giant petrels of the genus *Macronectes*. *Ardea* 54: 45-67.
- HICKS, G. R. F. 1973. Latitudinal distribution of seabirds between New Zealand and the Ross Sea, December 1970. *Notornis* 20 (3): 231-250.
- SHAUGHNESSY, P. D. 1971. Frequency of the white phase of the southern giant petrel, *Macronectes giganteus* (Gmelin). *Australian Journal of Zoology* 19: 77-83.

G. W. JOHNSTONE

Antarctic Division,  
Department of Science,  
568 St Kilda Road,  
Melbourne,  
Victoria 3004,  
Australia  
24 January 1974

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The Editor,  
Sir,

### A FAREWELL FROM THE SECRETARY

Although it is perhaps not conventional for letters of resignation to be published in *Notornis* I feel that, under the circumstances, members are entitled to some explanation as to why the Secretary should resign after only a year's service.

I have been invited to apply for a lectureship in a new course in Environmental Science in Leicester and although it is by no means certain that I will get the position, it is an opportunity I feel I cannot let pass by.

Both my wife and I have made very many friends throughout the country by virtue of membership of the OSNZ and it is certainly not through any dissatisfaction with New Zealand or its people that

we take our leave; indeed it is with very mixed feelings that we do so and join the ranks of overseas members of the Society.

My forwarding address will be 211, Lexden Road, Colchester, England, and I will naturally be delighted to hear from any member.

J. A. FOWLER

"Manu Korero,"  
2/1030 Fergusson Drive,  
Upper Hutt  
5 March 1974



#### ADDENDA ET CORRIGENDA

The review printed on pp. 284-285 of *Notornis* 20 (3), September 1973, was inadvertently separated from its introductory paragraph in "From the Editor's Desk" in *Notornis* 20 (2): 187, June 1973.

Classified Summarised Notes in *Notornis* 20 (4), December 1973:

- p. 362, Wrybill line 5. For say read saw;
- p. 368, Grey Ternlet, line 1, for Breet read Brett;  
N.I. Kaka, line 1, for Parau read Parua;
- p. 369, S.I. Kaka, line 7, for Patison read Paterson;
- p. 372, Silvereye, line 4, for Nov 772 read Nov 72.

In A. J. Baker's "Genetics of plumage variability in the Variable Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*)" *Notornis* 20 (4): 330-345, December 1973, there has been an inversion of Figure 3. The corrections are — 1 and 2 should be reversed; 3 and 4 should be reversed; 5, 6 & 7 should be 7, 6 & 5; 8, 9 & 10 should be 10, 9 & 8.

We regret the omission of a line from the letter from Mr Nigel Penniket, "Birds in Exotic Forests" *Notornis* 20 (3): 283, September 1973. At the end of line 9 of paragraph 2, the words "of State forests and the ecological boundaries" [of exotic plantations] should be inserted. The alteration of the writer's sense was unintentional. We apologise.



#### NEW AND FORTHCOMING

Mike Imber has recently published "The food of Grey-faced Petrels (*Pterodroma macroptera gouldi* (Hutton)), with special reference to diurnal vertical migration of the prey." *Journal of Animal Ecology* 42 (3): 645-662, October 1973.



Allan Baker has more oystercatcher papers coming up — "Criteria for ageing and sexing New Zealand oystercatchers" in the *N.Z. Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research*, and "Melanin pigmentation in the dorsal plumage in New Zealand oystercatchers" in the *N.Z. Journal of Zoology*, Prey-specific feeding methods of New Zealand oystercatchers in *Notornis* as well as a contribution in the American journal *Evolution* and Ecological and behavioural evidence for the systematic status of New Zealand oystercatchers recently published in *Royal Ontario Museum Life Sciences Contributions*, No. 96.



F. C. Kinsky and P. C. Harper have produced an illustrated guide to the seabirds of the New Zealand Region due to appear as the next special issue of *Tuatara*, the journal of the Biological Society of the Victoria University of Wellington.