

Sorensen and Westerskov substantiate his claim. Finally, although support for the author's view comes from L. H. Matthews in "A New Dictionary of birds" (1964), Serventy, Serventy & Warham (1971) concede that the Royal is slightly bigger. It is understandable that in an Australian list their one breeding albatross, *Diomedea cauta*, should be placed first, but the subsequent arrangement with the 'Greater's' in the middle of the 'Lessers' seems rather disorderly. Surely the Sooty Albatross is a regular visitor to the Great Australian Bight rather than a 'rare straggler.' Whereas the Manx Shearwater is admitted on the strength of a single banded but battered beach-wreck, Hutton's Shearwater, a regular even if rather anomalous migrant, is reduced to a comment under *Puffinus gavia*. Cook Petrel — note that apostrophe s is now dropped from many names in this book — is listed as a 'visitor probably from New Zealand.' Where else could they come from, for the so-called Cook Petrels (*defillipiana*) of the south-eastern Pacific are so different as probably to warrant full specific status?

It is pleasing to see the use of vernacular names such as Pediunker instead of the insipid Grey Petrel; and Shoemaker instead of White-chinned Petrel which so often is a misnomer. But Giant Petrel is retained in preference to Nelly, the adoption of which would take some of the clumsiness out of the popular names of the two species which the author accepts. Southern Nelly has a brisk ring about it.

This is a book of real quality, thoughtful in its planning and polished in its fulfilment. As a major contribution to Australian ornithology it cannot lightly be disregarded. Any lover of the birds of Australasia will be proud to have it on his shelves and will be using it continually.

R. B. S.

★

Marion and Prince Edward Islands. Report on the South African Biological & Geological Expedition 1965-1966. Sponsored by the Department of Transport of the Republic of South Africa and supervised by the South African Committee for Antarctic Research. Edited by E. M. van Zinderen Bakker Sr., J. M. Winterbottom and R. A. Dyer. Pp. xii + 1-427, frontis., text illus., col. pls 1-24, black & white pls 1-89. Cape Town: A. A. Balkema. R. 22.50, NZ \$25.33.

In a time of greater and greater specialisation it is a pleasure to find a book that not only maintains a high scientific standard but also is general in its coverage. This book follows the tradition of the reports of the great European scientific expeditions of almost a century ago and is a welcome addition to such works as Chilton's "Subantarctic Islands of New Zealand" and the recent publications on Antarctica.

The various sections of the book cover the climate and geology, botany, ornithology and zoology of Marion and Prince Edward Islands. Altogether there are 37 papers of which five deal with ornithology, one in a general section by E. M. van Zinderen Bakker Jr. and four in the zoology section, three by the previous author and one by Dr J. M. Winterbottom, Director of the Percy Fitzpatrick Institute for African Ornithology. This paper "The Position of Marion Island in the Sub-

Antarctic Avifauna" is a detailed and authoritative review of the marine avifauna breeding in the Antarctic and Subantarctic. A number of interesting conclusions emerge from this review. Of the papers by van Zindern Bakker, the first "Comparative Avian Ecology" covers the habitat preferences of 26 species of breeding sea bird and the competition, for food during the chick rearing period. The second is a list of the birds observed at sea between Cape Town and Prince Edward Island. Thirdly there is a very extensive well illustrated paper "A Behaviour Analysis of the Gentoo Penguin" in which an annual cycle of the behavioural phases of this bird is worked out. The final ornithological paper "The Genus *Diomedea*" describes the breeding cycles of the Grey-headed Mollymawk, the Yellow-nosed Albatross and the Wandering Albatross, going into considerable detail with the last named species.

This is a book both for the amateur and specialist. For the former it will have interest in the detailed descriptions of plant and bird life, including the behaviour study of the Gentoo Penguin, all of which are illustrated with drawings and excellent photographs, often in colour. For the latter this book is an important contribution to our knowledge of subantarctic islands and is essential in the library of any institution or laboratory concerned with the plants, birds, invertebrates and geology of the antarctic and subantarctic regions.

G. W. R.

★

Avian Anatomy — Integument. U.S. Department of Agriculture Handbook 362 — an additional note.

In addition to the review of this work given in the last issue of this journal (E.W.D., *Notornis* 21 (1): 96-97, March 1974), a review by Walter J. Bock has appeared in *The Auk* 91 (1): 207-208, January 1974) in which further appreciative remarks are made of the worth of this monograph "for which reviews are superfluous" and which is described "simply as magnificent." However, unknown to the *Notornis* reviewer, although these two volumes on the integument were to be the first of a long series covering all aspects of the gross anatomy of birds, the *Auk* reviewer has now informed us that the Avian Anatomy Project of the U.S. Department of Agriculture was terminated two years ago before further volumes could be completed. This will be a bitter disappointment to those of us whose appetites were whetted by the first volumes which we will now value all the more.

The reviewer of this work in *Nature* (218 (5449): 62, 12 April 1974, D. W. Snow) also believes these volumes to be but the first: "If the standard of those that are to come equals the first, this long-continued and costly undertaking will be fully justified." He notes, amongst other things, that — "The mass of detail that is provided is made digestible, indeed very pleasantly digestible, by the clarity with which it is presented, both in the text and in the figures, and by the care that has been taken to subdivide and index it." The volumes reviewed in *Notornis* are now in the OSNZ library where they will be freely available but the serious student is, nevertheless, urged to invest US \$16.25 in his own set while he can get it.

E. W. D.