

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.

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*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.