

## REVIEWS

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*The Sea and the Ice — A Naturalist in Antarctica.* By Louis J. Halle. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston, Massachusetts. 1973. 286 pp. US \$8.95.

Halle journeyed to the Antarctic during the 1970-71 season and was given the opportunity of seeing more of the continent than most Antarctic naturalists see in a lifetime. The result of his experiences are contained in this well-written book.

The book contains 15 chapters covering such subject matter as the Antarctic Convergence, pack ice, historic explorations, seabirds, penguins, skuas, the South Pole, whales, and seals. The epilogue which follows was printed in *Audubon* in March, 1973. Three appendices follow — the Coriolis effect, the Royal Albatrosses of Tairaroa, and international agreement on measures of conservation in the Antarctic.

Halle has written this book in non-technical language, but at the same time cites references throughout. He seems to have done a good job of reviewing the existing material before going to the Antarctic. I can find few statements with which I disagree, and most of these disagreements are of a personal nature rather than scientific. However, there are a few errors. One such statement, found on p. 135, reads "The Emperor is, I believe, the only bird in the world that . . . does not have a nesting territory that it defends." I am sure he would agree that some parasitic birds maintain no nesting territory.

These few errors aside, however, I can highly recommend this book as a well-written and tremendously interesting account of one of the most fascinating areas in the world — the Antarctic.

R. D. C.



PEDERSEN, LIS. 1974. Bibliography of Scientific Studies of Wellington Harbour: biology, geology, hydrology. *N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, Misc. Pubs.* 56: 48 pp. Obtainable from the Director, N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, P.O. Box 8009, Wellington.

Wellington Harbour has been for a long time the scene of many environmental issues ranging from extensive reclamations to the discharging of domestic and industrial wastes, in addition to the ever-present threat of oil pollution. The bird life of the harbour and its shores has been intimately involved in every one of these conflicts of land and sea use. The discharges from the now defunct plant of the Wellington Meat Export Company at Ngauranga provided a food source for many seabirds. Ornithologists travelling daily along the Hutt Road were able to glimpse Giant Petrels, Wandering Albatrosses, Fluttering, and perhaps Hutton's, Shearwaters within a stone's throw of the railway track. The estuary of the Hutt River not so long ago provided extensive muddy flats for waders; the sandy beach at Petone