

counter the claims of the developer and the speculator that no one cares about mudflats or knows what goes on there anyway. The developer is entitled to ask the conservationist why a particular area is worthy of consideration and the question must be answered with adequate documentation and not rely solely on emotion or airy-fairy beliefs. It is incumbent on all of us, therefore, to dig deep into our bottom drawers and publish our field notes which, often, may represent the only information available about a particular place of conflict.

E. W. D.



FORDHAM, R. A. & OGDEN, J. 1974. An Ecological Approach to New Zealand's Future. Compiled for the Council of the N.Z. Ecological Society. Supplement to its *Proceedings*, Vol. 21. Price \$1, from The Secretary, N.Z. Ecological Society, P.O. Box 1887, Wellington.

One of the most provocative, although not necessarily stimulating, statements on man's place in nature as portrayed in the New Zealand ecological scene has been forwarded to the Editor of *Notornis* for review as has been done apparently for all similar journals in the country. It would take many pages for anyone well-versed in to-day's eco-literature to do justice to what is a brave and honest attempt by two biologists, one of them even an ornithologist, to point to ways in which New Zealand could become the mistress of her own destiny. Your Editor read this in draft form when it was offered to the Royal Society of New Zealand for sponsorship and had misgivings then about whether it could be treated as anything but a personal dissertation of sometimes questionable substance revealing an apparent shallowness of background information and abundant non-sequiturs. Nevertheless, the N.Z. Ecological Society, to which many members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand belong, commissioned it and acknowledged the author's work by publishing and distributing it. One always wonders, in such cases, how much an elected Council, deputising for a Society's membership, can really demonstrate the collective opinion (if such a concept is really so) of the Society as a body.

This publication has already received a number of reviews, ranging in nature from a superficial, unappreciative of the belief that ecology begins at home, assessment by H. Daellenbach in the *New Zealand Monthly Review* of October 1974 to a devastatingly scholarly, in-depth probe by J. D. Stout taking up 8 pages of *New Zealand Soil News*, Vol. 22, No. 4 entitled "The Apocalypse of Thomas Robert Malthus." An abbreviated version of the original Supplement has been published in *New Zealand Engineering* 22 (10): 281-5, 15 October 1974, and one ought to watch for the next revealing issue of *New Zealand Soil News* in which Dr Stout's ability to select and quote may be questioned in its turn.

Although some might accuse me of picking up stray feathers, I do commend this allegedly "unscientific and unscholarly" publication with its "worthless" recommendations for critical examination by all members of the OSNZ, who, as intelligent, broad-minded naturalists, care for what the future holds for New Zealand, its natural habitats and man's place in them.

E. W. D.