

Tahuna-Torea Nature Reserve. Glendowie Sandspit. An illustrated leaflet published jointly by the Auckland City Council and the Auckland Institute and Museum. Text by E. G. Turbott; text illustrations by Jeanne Goulding and J. E. Morton; photography by G. J. H. Moon [1974].

Not everybody knows the difference between a goose and a swan. In the Auckland Magistrate's Court recently a 62-year-old Post Office worker was convicted and fined \$75 and costs for mistaking a Black Oystercatcher for a Pukeko and shooting it dead on Great Barrier Island. His Honour succinctly observed that the onus was on the accused "to learn the difference between one species of fowl and another" and assured him that had he been right about the bird's identification he still would have been in trouble since it was the closed season for Pukeko. The moral of this little homily is that you don't always know what you're looking at unless you're told. And so it is with us. We cannot expect those who ask us what there is about a particular part of our environment, the local beach, estuary, swamp or forest tract perhaps, that merits protection from the hand of the developer and the blade of the bulldozer. Education in what we value in the local scene begins with us. We have an obligation to share our knowledge and what better way than to persuade local authorities and institutions in whom the control of the landscape is vested to make our information and enthusiasm public in palatable form. Some time ago we drew attention to the remarkable public relations work being done by the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Board with its variety of literature for public consumption. Now we must commend the leaflet "Tahuna-Torea: the Gathering-place of the Oystercatcher," published jointly by the Auckland City Council and the Auckland Institute and Museum to both of whom we offer our congratulations on their enterprise and imagination. In their leaflet we are given a guided tour, complete with bus route numbers, of the habitats and their denizens along the Glendowie Sandspit on the Tamaki River close by Auckland City. This Reserve is owned by the Crown but is administered as a public domain by the Auckland City Council. A Reserve Advisory Committee advises the Council on all aspects of management, and if this leaflet is indicative of their thinking they deserve our praise. Mr Turbott's informative and accurate text, coupled with some of Professor Morton's characteristic sketches, provides a fine example of what every local body ought to tell of the reserves and domains that it holds in trust for us. How clearly can we then tell the world why it is that we enthuse over a mudflat or a swamp !

E. W. D.