

*Native Birds of New Zealand.* A Microtone Colour Book. Text by D. H. Brathwaite. 32 pp., illus. in colour. Christchurch: Bascands Ltd. 1974. 90 cents.

Written by a well-known and widely-experienced member of the OSNZ, this profusely-illustrated booklet is one of a series covering such subjects as '*Auckland in Colour*,' '*Christchurch in Colour*,' '*The Maori in Colour*,' the related '*Wild Animals of New Zealand*' and '*Wildflowers of New Zealand*' as well as several titles on the National Parks.

The colour plates are first rate and are from such outstanding photographers as Don Hadden, John Kendrick, G. J. H. Moon, Peter Morrison and M. F. Soper. Don Brathwaite gives a novel turn to his descriptions of each species and its natural history, philosophising on the origin and development of the New Zealand bird fauna, crediting the Spotted Shag with "avian beauty," postulating on the reduction of the Blue Duck, musing on the Variable Oystercatcher, the Fantail, the Bellbird and so on. The author's interest in avian taxonomy shows through his text (he was a member of the Checklist Committee responsible for producing the *Annotated Checklist*) from his linking of the White-fronted Tern with the Roseate Tern to his discussion of the relationships of Rifleman, Parakeets and Robins.

All in all, you couldn't get anything better for 90 cents !

E. W. D.

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*The New Zealand Environment 1968-1974. A bibliography of material available through N.Z. public libraries; including a select list of overseas publications.* Compiled by Nancy Ellis. 198 pp. Wellington: Nature Conservation Council. 1975.

"Dedicated to all New Zealanders who love their country," this bibliography is a compilation of great worth and practical usefulness. Its contents include: N.Z. Laws and Statutes, official reports and environmental impact reports, with subsequent sections listing publications on conservation, pollution, land use, waste disposal, energy, population and regional development with a selection of overseas publications "of a basic or thought-provoking nature." Everybody concerned with environmental matters whether as members of action groups or local body committees or simply as ordinary inquiring members of New Zealand society needs such a publication as this. Especially useful to know about are articles published in the less-often seen or more ephemeral periodicals. How many of us read the *Architectural Association (Auckland) Bulletin*, *Charisma*, *Designscape*, *N.Z. Local Government* or *National Park News* or even the *N.Z. Company Director*? To balance our appreciation of environmental matters against other people's, our reading must extend beyond *Forest and Bird* and *Notornis*. At the least we need some knowledge of what has been published of relevance to our general concern for the environment of the birds which we study. The NCC bibliography provides a painless way of achieving this end and instructs us where we might look in the future.

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