

grebe specimen in question was collected by him in the course of his Te Anau expedition. That von Hugel was an avid bird collector is evident from the contents of his letter and from his statement (p. 393) that he had at the date he wrote already obtained some 300 New Zealand specimens.

DAVID G. MEDWAY

P.O. Box 476,
New Plymouth
8 October 1977



[The diary of T. H. Potts referred to above and quoted in Acland's *The Early Canterbury Runs* is in the possession of Mr David McMillan, F.R.C.S., of Christchurch (pers. comm.). Only the sections 6 April 1855 - 1 April 1858 and 1 January 1865 - 2 December 1865 are known to have survived according to an article by the owner (Memoir Thomas Henry Potts (1824-88) *History and Bibliography* No. 2: 160-172; August 1948) in which he gave ornithological extracts later used by Dawson & Cresswell in 1949, ("Bird life at Governor's Bay, Banks Peninsula. *N.Z. Bird Notes* 3 (6): 141-146). A manuscript record of nests found 1855-1882 also still exists. The article on Potts stated (p. 164) that in his diary for July 1856 he "... noted a pair or two of the great crested grebe on one of the lakes near Lake Coleridge." A bibliographic history of Acland's book was also given (pp. 156-157).

— Ed.]



The Editor,
Sir,

HISTORY OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE CRESTED GREBE

In his article on the history of the discovery of the Crested Grebe in New Zealand (*Notornis* 24 (3); 167-177; Sept. 1977), Dr K. E. Westerskov devoted a paragraph to speculation on the identity of the collector of a Rothschild specimen credited to A. von Hugel, December 1874, collected at Lake Wakatipu. The suggestion in the article is that A. von Hugel may have obtained the specimen from his father Baron Carl von Hugel who visited New Zealand in 1834.

The 1874 date on the label is correct. Anatole von Hugel (1856-1928) arrived in Invercargill from Melbourne on 19 December 1874, and purchased a number of natural history specimens from a dealer (probably James Morton of Tay Street) before travelling north, as recounted in his letter to Bowdler Sharpe published in *Ibis* 1875.

As Dr Westerskov makes generous acknowledgment of my critical reading of his manuscript, I must offer him an apology for regrettable lack of attention at the end of the exercise.

ROBERT FALLA

41 Kotari Road,
Days Bay,
Eastbourne,
17 October 1977