

*Subantarctic Campbell Island*, by Alfred M. Bailey and J. H. Sorenson. Proceedings Number 10. Denver Museum of Natural History. Distributed in N.Z. by A. H. & A. W. Reed. 72/6.

Despite the attentions of sealers and an attempt which lasted nearly forty years to turn its forty square miles into a sheep-run, Campbell Island remains comparatively unspoilt, a subantarctic treasure-house for the zoologist and botanist and especially for the bird photographer, for among its many 'big' attractions are three breeding species of penguins, five of albatrosses and three of seals. Following upon Kaj Westerskov's modest but informative 'Birds of Campbell Island,' we now have 'Subantarctic Campbell Island,' liberally, not to say lavishly, illustrated by one of America's most eminent bird-photographers and by several New Zealanders.

The book, however, is much more than a portrait gallery. The authors have been able to use the notes of members of the Cape Expedition and of meteorologists and naturalists who have followed them, so that the text provides data on breeding and studies on population which are of great value to student and conservationist alike. It is very pleasing to have included for comparative purposes Dr. Fleming's account of the Wandering Albatrosses of the Auckland Islands.

Not only breeding species but also migrants and stragglers are discussed and the list is lengthened by the inclusion of some rather unsatisfactory sightings. Quite unacceptable is the record (p. 257) of Hudsonian Godwit. This rare wader has by no means a 'uniform greyish plumage' but in flight shows a distinctive pattern of contrasting grey, white and black. Might the wader which flew off with 'yelping calls' have been a tattler? Was it really necessary to shoot the Spur-winged Plovers? Surely they presented no difficulties of identification. Perhaps had they survived, an insular race, adapted to subantarctic conditions, would now be evolving!

There is still much research to be done at Campbell Island, for example on its petrels and shearwaters, and the effect of rats and cats. Nevertheless it now has a book well worthy of its magnificent fauna and flora, an 'island book' that can be set beside Rankin's 'Antarctic Isle' and Stonehouse's 'Wideawake Island.' It would make an ideal prize for the young biologist or geographer. The question is:— "How many schools have a prize-fund which can afford it?"

— R.B.S.



*Birds of Western Australia*, by D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell. 3rd edition. Published by Paterson Brokensha Pty. Ltd., Perth, W.A. £A2/10/0.

Though New Zealand and Western Australia are geographically far apart, they have many birds in common, tubenoses, shags, terns, herons, rails, migratory arctic waders, and even a few passerines and extra-limital stragglers. Since 1948 "Serventy and Whittell" has been one of the most helpful and instructive books on Australian birds. A second edition appeared in 1951 and now we welcome a third, with additional plates and drawings, and accounts of recent discoveries, irruptions and changes in status.

Tidily planned and authoritatively written, clearly and cleanly printed on strong paper, this handbook caters conveniently for the