

## ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM THE 12th ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BANDING COMMITTEE

This report deals with birds banded and recovered between 1/4/61 and 31/3/62. During the year 71 species were banded, including five species new to the New Zealand banding list; namely Mottled Petrel, Chatham Island Petrel, Eastern Weka, Bush Pigeon and Black-backed Magpie. 98 species have now been banded in New Zealand.

Additional valuable information is provided on the longevity of some tubinares and on the immense distances travelled by some sea-birds. A Southern Royal Albatross originally banded as an adult breeding male by J. H. Sorensen in February, 1943, was breeding at the same site in December, 1961. This is the oldest New Zealand banded bird ever recovered; and its actual age can be assumed to be considerably more than 25 years. A Light-mantled Sooty Albatross banded as an adult in February 1947 was again breeding on Campbell Island in October 1961. A Pycroft's Petrel banded as an adult on Hen Island on 20/12/54 was recaptured on the same slope on 19/12/61.

Five Cape Pigeons banded at the Tory Channel Whaling Station, three in 1958 and two in 1959, were caught and released at Signey Island, South Orkneys; and another was found breeding in Adelie Land. Reciprocally, ten nestling Nellies banded in Atlantic Antarctica are reported as recovered in New Zealand, nine of them in their first winter.

There are, as usual, numerous recoveries of young Gannets in Australia. One banded at Cape Kidnappers in January 1960 was found in Western Australia in July 1961.

Some Eastern Wekas were re-introduced from the Chatham Islands and liberated in the Arthur's Pass National Park.

A South Island Pied Oystercatcher ringed as a nestling at Lochiel was recovered four months later in Aotea Harbour, 650 miles N.E.

The many recoveries of the three species of gulls are beginning to reveal something of the pattern of dispersal from the breeding colonies. More evidence of the northward movement of Caspian Terns in autumn is provided. Fledglings banded at Palliser Spit and L. Ellesmere were recovered at Papatoetoe and Ngauranga respectively.

Finally, one query. In the light of recent research, is it wise or correct to attach the trinomial *cabaret* to New Zealand Redpolls?

— R.B.S.

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## REVIEW

*New Zealand Bird Portraits*, by Dr. M. F. Soper. Publ. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., 1963. 28/6.

To readers of *Notornis*, Dr. Soper is already well known for his outstandingly beautiful photographs of birds, both rare and common. He uses the hide not only to take portraits but also to find out how birds live. Now he has gathered his experiences together in a book which is a "must" for all serious ornithologists in New Zealand and will make a delectable gift for the plain unpretentious bird-lover. What Moon has done for Northland, Soper has now done for inland

Otago and sub-alpine Southland. By their meticulous field observations both have added much to our knowledge of bird behaviour, especially during the nesting season.

Near Queenstown Dr. Soper has devoted much time to the ducks, gulls, terns and plovers which form the association so characteristic of riverbeds and lakes east of the Southern Alps. Besides patiently photographing them, he has noted the times of their coming and going and carefully studied their ecological needs. He has no doubts about the full specific status of the Black Stilt; but, as he says, much remains to be learnt about this rare and puzzling bird. The Eglinton Valley also, right up to the Homer Tunnel, has been another happy hunting ground. Hence a unique series of studies of Robin, Rifleman, Tomtit, Yellowhead and Rock Wren. Aliens which have come under his critical eye are Black Swan, Canada Goose and Little Owl.

This is an excellent book. The publishers are to be congratulated on their choice of paper and type and on the quality of the photographic reproduction. It deserves in all sincerity a "Well made, New Zealand."

— R. B. S.

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