

## REVIEWS

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*A Naturalist in New Zealand.* By Mary Gillham. A. H. & A. W. Reed, 35/-.

During a year spent as an exchange lecturer at Massey College, Dr. Mary Gillham gathered the material to write and illustrate this unusual book. She has the observant eye of the trained ecologist. Her pencil must have been very busy, for when she was not writing, she was often sketching; and she used her camera to good purpose, too.

It is remarkable what enthusiasm can achieve. Islands are her special love; and during Varsity vacations she seems to have met most of the right people to enable her to visit offshore islands from Stewart to Mokohinau. In the words of Dr. Falla: "This is the zestful account of a quite unorthodox itinerary"; and so evocatively does she write that many readers must be tempted to make the effort necessary to follow in her footsteps.

But even Homer's head nods sometimes; and our authoress seems to have slipped from her high standard of accuracy when on page 174 she comments that the Robins of Kapiti are of the South Island form. This is contrary to the Checklist; and a local authority, when consulted, stated that without doubt they are true North Islanders.

Mary Gillham enjoyed her odyssey in New Zealand; and in a book which is worthy to rank among our classics in the field of general natural history, she tells of her delight.

— R.B.S.



*The Tuatara, Lizards and Frogs of New Zealand* by Richard Sharell. Collins, 1966. 33/.

Although not a bird book, this will be a welcome addition to the shelves of ornithologists. It is the first popular work on this subject, and a very attractive one. The text is interesting, stimulating and informative; the 70 illustrations are lavish, often arresting. (The name *Archaeornis* given on p. 20 has, by the way, been abandoned; all three Jurassic fossil birds are *Archaeopteryx*.)

— B.D.H.



*Australian Birds in Colour* by Keith Hindwood. A. H. & A. W. Reed, 22/6d.

This is a companion volume to Dr. Gordon Williams' "New Zealand Birds in Colour," the type having been set up in N.Z., and the printing done by the Kyodo Company of Japan. I am much impressed by the sheer beauty and excellent reproduction of the 52 colour plates, for with a few exceptions, those colour mutations in reproduction which have disappointed the authors and irritated the readers of some books in recent years are noticeably absent. The photography is of the high standard one would expect from such experts as Norman Chaffer, Ellis McNamara, and the rest, and to me Graeme Chapman's picture of a male Satin Flycatcher at the nest is a gem of the first water. The page of text accompanying each picture is, of course, completely authoritative, and written in an interesting style designed to help popularise the study of birds.

— A.B.