

Lockley has made the most of his brief visits to New Zealand, and brings in many local observations — of a sea elephant's sensitivity, of the binocular eyes of opossums seen on our highways, of the kiwi's sense organs, of grunting leatherjackets, of glowworm caves, of the colonising Monarch butterfly, of the ubiquitous hedgehog, of the lack of rabbit fleas in our rabbits, of sea-bird islands. But even without these local references, *Animal Navigation* would be entertaining and instructive reading.

— C.A.F.



Refocus on N.Z. Birds. By G. J. H. Moon. A. H. & A. W. Reed, \$6.

So well-known are Geoff Moon's expertise as a photographer and his perceptiveness as a field naturalist that this rich volume needs no recommendation. Let it suffice to say that one bird photographer of many year's experience said that after perusing it he felt like throwing his cameras away.

The author's mastery of technique is in evidence throughout; but particularly in his flight shots of Morepork and Kingfisher arriving home and in the picture of a Pigeon feeding its chick before dawn. It is good to see at last our elusive Dabchick, obviously at ease, adequately presented in colour. On the whole the reproduction of the colour plates is of a high standard; though there are a few of the seemingly inevitable lapses. The Reef Herons in the cave are too brilliantly blue to be true and the trio of Spoonbills are positively roseate. But what a scoop!

On Hen Island the author was not content simply to photograph birds at their nests. Sitting patiently for long hours in a stuffy hide by a water-hole, he secured pictures of Saddlebacks, Bellbirds and Parakeets drinking, bathing and casually going about their lawful occasions. Further afield, as he turned his attention to some of our Australian invaders, Silvereyes, Coots, Whitefaced Herons and Black-fronted Dotterels posed before his discerning lens.

The book is timely. As northern New Zealand becomes more densely populated and the threat grows not only to the long, once lovely beaches but also to the offshore islands, we are grimly reminded of the need to conserve some wilderness areas and make them absolutely sacrosanct. The Fairy Tern, here immortalised in exquisite colour, is almost a lost New Zealand bird. Every year there are fewer beaches where Red-breasted Dotterels and Variable Oystercatchers may breed in peace, undisturbed by surfer or surf-caster. The public needs vivid books such as this in order that it may learn more of the beauty and variety of the avian heritage which it is in danger of losing. Hence may come a fuller understanding of the crisis which several endemic species are facing; and of the need for resolute and informed measures of conservation.

— R.B.S.