

Know Your New Zealand Birds, by K. E. Westerskov. Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd. \$2.25.

Here is another small plank to be added to the rapidly growing edifice of the ornithological literature of New Zealand. Dr. Kaj Westerskov has a background of European experience which has helped him to obtain a very full grasp of the study of birds in New Zealand in a short time. Any student of birds in this country, having absorbed the advice in this book, should have become quite an expert.

Identification is lavishly provided for by the sections named "Quick Reference," "Field Key," "Bird Identification According to Habitat" in its ten sub-sections and "Identification to Species." The further sections on various lines of practical study are all useful. A sample of these is the very practical advice for the winning of Scout and Guide badges. A "Personal Checklist" has its dangers in that it could lead students to become "Life listers," considered by serious ornithologists to be next to the egg collector, but here the author has put this facet in a sensible manner which should not lead anyone astray. But why is *Stiltia isabella* retained?

The pictures from Buller by his artist Keulemans are an ornament to any book but in this small volume they may be felt to be rather heavy. The photos are "real life" ones and do much to bring further lively interest to the subject matter. The bibliography, though stated by the author to be a selection only, is comprehensive and will be very helpful to the serious seeker after knowledge.

— H.R.McK.



NOTICES

CRESTED GREBE SURVEY

The Southern Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus australis*) is found in the South Island only and is confined to a relatively few high country lakes and some lowland waters in Westland.

A study of the present distribution and population size of this species is being carried out on a research grant from the University Grants Committee. Would any member who has observations of present and past occurrences of Crested Grebes and is willing to co-operate, please communicate with the undersigned from whom specially designed questionnaires can be obtained. Field work has been carried out in the southern half of the South Island and will be extended into Nelson-Marlborough during the 1967-68 summer. Information is particularly sought from small and out of the way (alpine) lakes.

Please send all relevant information or write for questionnaires to:

Dr. K. E. Westerskov, Department of Zoology, University of Otago, Dunedin.

1969 SUMMER STUDY COURSE

A study course will be held at Invercargill from January 17th to 24th, 1969. Accommodation has been arranged at Omaui Camp, near Bluff, and there is promise of a very attractive programme covering Awarua Bay and Oreti Estuary. Full details will be advised in the June issue of "Notornis."