

- p. 157. On the distribution map of the Pelicans, New Zealand is shown as a blank, though sub-fossil bones were found at Waikaremoana and described in 1931; and now similar bones have been recovered from a number of sites in the North and South Islands. There is, moreover, the story of an Australian Pelican shot on the Wanganui River in 1890.
- p. 216. The colonisation of New Zealand by the Welcome Swallow since 1958 has escaped notice, although it is quite as dramatic as the spread of the Collared Dove across Britain. On the map New Zealand shows white, but has earned its blue.
- p. 221. It should have been mentioned that the Hedge Sparrow was introduced to New Zealand and has become one of the most widely distributed passerines.
- pp. 222, 234, 236. A false impression may be given by the phrasing as it stands. It is not made clear that Blackbirds and Song-thrushes, Skylarks and Starlings, and several species of finches, after being introduced to the two main islands, spread of their own accord across hundreds of miles of open sea to many outlying islands from Norfolk and the Kermadecs to Macquarie.
- p. 230. There is no indication that Buntings are not indigenous to New Zealand.
- p. 237. The colours have been transposed so that Australia is credited with Wattled Crows and New Zealand with Magpie Larks.

This is a noble and inspiring book which should be available to all students who are seriously concerned with the current problems of ornithology and conservation — the more so as on every copy sold a royalty is being paid to the World Wildlife Fund.

— R.B.S.



A Portfolio of Australian Birds, by Wm. T. Cooper and K. A. Hindwood, A. H. & A. W. Reed, \$9.95. Folio size 14 x 11 inches.

Several books of Australian birds of a somewhat similar type have been published over the past two or three years, but of them all, this book in my opinion is quite outstanding. It contains a random selection of 25 birds exquisitely painted by Mr. Cooper, who before turning to bird portraiture had already earned a reputation for his landscapes and seascapes. Each plate reveals the close study the artist has made of the bird in the field, and conveys its 'personality' to a marked degree. Keith Hindwood, one of Australia's leading field ornithologists, writes an interesting and informative text on each of the birds illustrated; and together the authors have certainly achieved their stated aim of indicating 'the beauty and interest that lies in the rich and varied avifauna of Australia.' Many ornithologists and bird-lovers are not disposed to invest in rather expensive publications of this kind; but this is a book with a difference. It is a book to gloat over, and to bring on a nostalgia in those who know something of Australia's birds. Whilst the book will surely have a wide appeal to the public, it is the discerning ornithologist who will really appreciate the accurate portrayal of each bird in plumage, attitude and stance, and background of foliage. May these authors produce other portfolios of equal perfection in due course.

— A.B.