

The chapters on the birds alone make the book one well worth reading, but there are in addition, chapters on the history of the island, the whaling industry, seals and ecology that make the picture of the island complete. Everyone interested in seabirds should have a copy of this book, which is a companion volume to this author's book on the land birds, "Haunts of British Divers," a poem of nature photographs.—R. V. Roberts.

Bird Recognition 2, Birds of Prey and Water-fowl, by James Fisher, with 85 illustrations by Fish-hawk and 32 maps compiled by W. B. Alexander. Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middlesex.

This eagerly-awaited little volume, like its predecessor, contains a mass of easily-accessible information about British birds. It is on the same lines as the first volume (reviewed in this publication) which deals with the sea birds and waders and has proved of considerable value to New Zealand bird observers as it contains many species found here. Volume two has nine species which occur or have been recorded in New Zealand, besides several others very closely related to species found here, and the information given about these birds, besides the details of recognition, habits, etc., of other species, make this book one that New Zealanders cannot afford to miss. How bird observers in this country would welcome a book on similar lines dealing with all the birds found here. Some day, perhaps, the publishers of this series may consider the production of such a book. At its modest price (3s. 6d. in Britain) volume two is within the reach of everyone interested in bird-life. Two further volumes are in preparation.—R.H.D.S.

Nestboxes, by Edwin Cohen and Bruce Campbell, British Trust for Ornithology, Field Guide Number Three, 1952. Price, 2s. 6d. (Address: 2 King Edward Street, Oxford, England.)

The enterprise of the British Trust for Ornithology in issuing field guides is a highly commendable one and this booklet, the third of the series, aims to describe the best and simplest form of nestboxes for attracting hole or ledge nesting birds. In New Zealand, the only widely distributed, common birds likely to adopt nestboxes are the introduced house sparrow and starling and it must be admitted that little attempt has been made in this country to invite birds to occupy these artificial sites for nests. For those wishing to conduct bird-watching of certain species in the garden or elsewhere on a scientific basis, the utilisation of nestboxes has manifest advantages. There are few native birds that could be attracted to these boxes, though in some of the more favoured localities it should be possible to cater for the needs of the rifleman (in Dunedin suburbs and Taranaki, for instance), the tomtit, morepork, kingfisher and possibly ducks. It seems that something could be done in New Zealand on these lines and if it is possible to provide breeding facilities for the species mentioned it would be worth while, though precautions against predators would be necessary and against house sparrows and starlings usurping the nest-boxes. Those who may contemplate activities of this kind will find this booklet, which is well illustrated with diagrams, invaluable for the purpose in view.—R.H.D.S.

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