

of man," increasing as the result of whaling and trawling activities, and (with Vevers) reports that gannets have increased 18% in the east Atlantic since 1939 and have not yet reached the upper limit of population set by food supply. Several papers report the spectacular range-changes of Northern Hemisphere birds correlated with ameliorating climate in the past few decades. For instance, 23 species have been added to the Swedish list or have improved status since 1930, seven southern species have colonized Iceland successfully in the last 50 or 60 years, and Arctic species have lost ground in the same area. An unprecedented and well-documented case of invasion is described by F. Salomonsen (The Immigration and Breeding of the Fieldfare in Greenland). This European taiga species, normally straggling west to Iceland on migration, has done so more often during the recent improvement of climate, and, in January, 1937, a large flock crossed the Atlantic, being recorded on Jan Mayen and in N-E Greenland before crossing the ice cap to S-W Greenland; at least one bird reached Arctic North America to become the first record for the continent (a mummified skin obtained from an old Eskimo). In S.W. Greenland, the fieldfare established itself and eleven years later was breeding freely in certain areas. A. O. Gross (The Herring Gull-Cormorant Control Project) reports decrease of breeding terns (in Maine) resulting from increase in herring gulls to the status of pests. Normally fish-eating gulls even attacked ripe blueberry fruit (compare *L. novaehollandiae* with *Meryta* and *Coprosma* berries). Control is by spraying the eggs with an oil emulsion. Double-crested cormorants have also increased and are controlled owing to complaints of the fishing community. Murphy's work in correlating zonal seabird distribution with zones of surface water is well-known in New Zealand, and it is noteworthy that D. E. Sargeant, discussing ecological relationships of two related northern guillemots, calls for greater co-operation with oceanographic and fisheries research to determine the factors controlling distribution.

In the fifth section of the proceedings, regional faunas, E. M. Nicholson's paper "Birds of the North Atlantic" includes a proposed scheme of regions, 10 degree quadrilaterals, with appropriate names, for use in plotting and discussing seabird distribution. "Birds of Tristan da Cunha" (Y. Hagen) summarizes work elsewhere published in full as a result of the Norwegian Expedition, 1937-38. None of 532 ringed *Eudyptes crestatus* were recovered elsewhere, but 12 of 570 ringed *Diomedea chlororhynchus* were recovered in their first winter from Portuguese Angola and Walvis Bay; no older birds were recovered though ringed birds were at the breeding ground 12 years later. Giant petrels ceased to breed at Tristan after the extermination of sea elephants. Ringed *Puffinus gravis* were recovered from the N. Atlantic and from South Africa. Hagen discusses the skua, naming the Falkland sub-species. A paper of less direct New Zealand interest is Holgersen's "On the Birds of Peter I. Island."

In the final (miscellaneous) section, R. C. Murphy's "Moa Deposits of Pyramid Valley Swamp, New Zealand," is a brief and competent account, marred by the statement (in a diagram) that the swamp deposits overlie a hard-pan floor of a glacial valley. Whatever the relation of moas to the glacial period, no one has seriously suggested that the "corrie-like depression" containing the swamp was carved by a glacier.—C.A.F.

The British Trust for Ornithology, Eighteenth Annual Report, 1951.
Address of Trust, 2 King Edward Street, Oxford, England. Price,
1s. 6d.

This year is described as one of development rather than of new projects, though plans were being considered for extending research work in 1952. A substantial increase in membership is recorded and field investigations have been well supported. The O.S.N.Z. has nest records and ringing schemes in operation and it is of interest to note that the nest records scheme of the British Trust "is now producing data on a scale which should make it of great value to students of breeding biology, while the ringing scheme again established a record." The Trust's regional

representatives (akin to the regional organisers of O.S.N.Z.) "are in many ways the key men of the Trust's organisation and upon whose energy and enthusiasm such a high proportion of our activities depend." N.Z. organisers, please note!

A perusal of the report provides impressive evidence of the great part the Trust is taking in British ornithology. The expansion and progress of bird observations is returning handsome dividends. All serious bird students would be well advised to have copies of these annual reports and keep themselves abreast of what is being achieved in Britain.—R.H.D.S.

Bird Watching, by Mollie Miller Atkinson. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington. Price, 6s.

Some of the joys of bird-watching are conveyed to the reader in this little volume which should have an appeal to the younger folk. The chapters deal mostly with native birds and some are illustrated by drawings by the author, the most successful being those of the fantail, silver-eye, tui and morepork.—R.H.D.S.

New Zealand Birds from Linocuts, by H. McL. Eggers. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington. Price, 4s.

Instructions on how to make linocuts are given in this publication, which contains as illustrations of the art, a selection of birds based on Buller's volumes. A "complete course of instruction" sets out clearly the procedure to follow in the making of linocuts.—R.H.D.S.

Bird Secrets, by Major G. A. Buddle. A. H. & A. W. Reed, Wellington. Price, 20s.

A fine series of photographs of New Zealand birds and a pleasantly written narrative relating the experiences of the late Major Buddle in the field, make this volume an indispensable one for the bird-lover. Although one or two of the photographs are of indifferent quality (the tui at its nest is a notoriously difficult photographic subject) a great number of them are admirable and well-reproduced. The difference in the proportions of the bill in the red-billed and black-billed gulls is clearly indicated, and among rarely photographed species must be mentioned the excellent studies of the spotless crane and the North Island oystercatcher. This volume contains 71 pages of text and 26 pages of illustrations, the latter dealing with 31 species.—R.H.D.S.

Field Guide to the Waders, by H. T. Condon and A. R. McGill; published by the Bird Observers' Club, Melbourne, Vic. Copies obtainable from Mr. D. Mitchell, 4 Victor Avenue, Cheltenham, S 22, Victoria. Price, 2s. 6d, plus postage.

Here is an invaluable guide to the waders that will be welcomed by the increasing band of estuary watchers in New Zealand, especially as it contains almost all of these birds that have been recorded in New Zealand from overseas. The basis of the guide is explained in the introduction and this is followed by a general description of waders, hints for identification, a note on the arrangement and a list of the various species recorded from Australia, totalling 51, all of which are illustrated (many both flying and standing), while a further 13 are given as possible future additions. For each species is a brief plumage description with characteristic markings, if any, in italics; and reference in many cases to differences in seasonal and juvenile plumages. An indication of the bird's habits, its call notes, habitat and distribution complete a brief summary of each bird.

The illustrations as a whole should be helpful: the most serious defect is that relative size has not been observed in arranging the birds on the plates. Especially is this noticeable on page 13, where the bar-tailed godwit (15½ inches in length in life) is shown only a trifle larger than the turn-