

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 ($15\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length in life) is shown only a trifle larger than the turn-

stone (9 inches) or the common sandpiper (8 inches), while the little whimbrel (13 inches) immediately above the godwit is shown as a larger bird. Other examples can be found, notably on page 19, where the long-toed stint (6½ inches) is shown much superior in size to the wood sandpiper (9 inches). This is a pity, as it is so unnecessary; a little planning could have at least given the birds on any one plate in relative proportions, and, in the case of the oystercatchers on page 7, a line could have separated these or other large species from the remainder, as the authors have done on page 21. A redeeming feature is that the size of each species is given in inches in the text. Under the hints for identification the authors state that it is most important to judge correctly the size of the species under observation. That makes it all the more hard to understand why they have in many cases ignored size in the plates and frankly admit doing so in the introduction!

An injunction they give under hints that cannot be emphasised too strongly is: "When an unknown bird is encountered the observer is urged to record his impression at once in a suitable notebook, preferably before consulting this Guide." There will be many New Zealanders who must have this booklet at their elbow as a help in identifying waders visiting our shores. Thirty-two of the species mentioned in the book have been recorded from New Zealand.—R.H.D.S.

REACTIONS OF DIOMEDEA EXULANS to Other Bird Species.—Wandering albatrosses are commonly seen resting on the waters of Lambton Harbour, Wellington, where they partake of offal thrown out of ships. In September, 1948, a bird paddling its way into the inner waters of this harbour apparently to inspect a stream of traffic passing along a nearby street, was attacked by a dozen red-billed gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*). The gulls dived at the albatross one at a time for ten minutes or so, but the albatross remained unmoved. In June, 1952, it was therefore surprising to see another albatross of the same species exhibit fear when several black-backed gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) plunged around it to seize carrion from ships. The same albatross, though exhibiting alarm at the propinquity of noisy, scavenging gulls of this species was itself seen to dominate a nelly (*Macronektes giganteus*). The albatross swam across to the nelly sitting on the water some yards away. When close by, it elevated its bill from an approximate plane to an angle of 45 degrees. The albatross then clapped the unguis hard on the mandible and the nelly at once took flight.—H. L. Secker, Wellington.

SCIENTIFIC NAMES.

The scientific names of birds mentioned in this issue, where not given in the text, are:—

Albatross, Royal (<i>Diomedea epomophora</i>)	Oystercatcher, S.I., Pied (<i>Haematopus finschi</i>)
Albatross, Wandering (<i>Diomedea exulans</i>)	Quail, Brown (<i>Synoicus ypsilophorus</i>)
Blackbird (<i>Turdus merula</i>)	Quail, Californian (<i>Lophortyx californicus</i>)
Bellbird (<i>Anthornis melanura</i>)	Redpoll (<i>Carduelis cabaret</i>)
Dotterel, Banded (<i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>)	Sandpiper, Pectoral (<i>Calidris pectoralis</i>)
Dotterel, N.Z. (<i>Pluviorhynchus obscurus</i>)	Sandpiper, Sharp-tailed (<i>Calidris acuminata</i>)
Duck, Grey (<i>Anas poicilorhyncha</i>)	Shag, Stewart Is. (<i>Leucocarbo chalconotus</i>)
Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>)	Shag, Spotted (<i>Stictocarbo punctatus</i>)
Goldfinch (<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>)	Shag, White-throated (<i>Phalacrocorax melanoleucus</i>)
Gull, Black-backed (<i>Larus dominicanus</i>)	Silver-eye (<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>)
Gull, Black-billed (<i>Larus bulleri</i>)	Skylark (<i>Alauda arvensis</i>)
Gull, Red-billed (<i>L. hollandiae</i>)	Sparrow, House (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)
Harrier (<i>Circus approximans</i>)	Starling (<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>)
Hedge Sparrow (<i>Fringilla modularis</i>)	Stint, Red-necked (<i>Calidris ruficollis</i>)
Heron, White (<i>Casmerodius albus</i>)	Stilt (<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>)
Heron, white-faced (<i>Notophoxyx novaehollandiae</i>)	Tern, Caspian (<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>)
Knot (<i>Calidris canutus</i>)	Tern, White-fronted (<i>Sterna striata</i>)
Morepork (<i>Ninox novaeseelandiae</i>)	Tern, Song (<i>Turdus ericetorum</i>)
Mollymawk, Buller's (<i>Thalassarche bulleri</i>)	Warbler, Grey (<i>Pseudogerygone igata</i>)
Mollymawk, White-capped (<i>Thalassarche cauta</i>)	Whimbrel (<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>)

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