

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 (*Macronectes 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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