

petrel. The type of *lineata* (allegedly from Samoa) is associated with (i.e., identified as) the subantarctic *Fregetta tropica*. The Whitney South Sea Expedition specimen from the Marquesas group (identified by Murphy as *lineata* in 1924 and named *Fregettornis guttata* by Mathews in 1933) is identified as *Fregetta grallaria*. The two Paris Museum specimens and the type of *Pealeornis maoriana* Mathews (all three from off Banks Peninsula, not East Cape, as some have translated "Promontorio Orientali") are listed under *Oceanites oceanicus* because the authors "strongly suspect" that they are a "Pealea" phase of that species. Mathews (1933) had already demonstrated that three distinct species were involved, and had related two of them to *Oceanites* and *F. grallaria*, but he preferred to name them distinct species.

The white-bellied storm petrel (*Fregetta grallaria*) has a tenuous place on the New Zealand list, based on a specimen from "off New Zealand" (H. Whitely coll.) described by Mathews (1932) as *F. g. deceptis*. Murphy and Snyder have re-examined and measured the New Zealand specimen but it cannot be attributed to a definite breeding population because there are insufficient skins to characterize more than two contrasting subspecies of *grallaria*, one from Juan Fernandez (small), the other from Rapa (large). Other specimens from breeding areas (Tristan, Lord Howe, etc.) are intermediate, and so is "*deceptis*," although it approaches the Rapa form in some dimensions.—C.A.F.

Rare and Extinct Birds of Britain, by Ralph Whitlock. F.Z.S., M.B.O.U., 224 pp., with 85 monochrome plates. Published by Phoenix House, Ltd., London. (N.Z. agents, A. H. & A. W. Reed). N.Z. price, 26/3.

A surprisingly large number of birds are included in this volume under the headings of "lost breeding species, rare and local nesting species, local subspecies, Continental and allied subspecies, rare birds of passage and seasonal visitors, migrants and eccentricities." A short introductory chapter discusses the subject from a general viewpoint and refers to the vast changes in environment in Britain as a result of man's activities and their effect on bird life. The epilogue gives a more optimistic view of future possibilities, of species returning to former haunts and the prospects of new arrivals, in a period which indicates a trend to warmer climatic conditions, a gradual but vast process, in which many birds are appearing in more northerly lands than formerly. It seems likely on present evidence that these birds may form a new group of species which may become established as breeding birds in Britain. A feature of this book is the exceptionally fine series of plates illustrating 84 species; it is evident that great care has been taken in choosing photographs of the highest standard. The result is an attractive volume that should be of wide appeal to an increasing band of bird-minded people.—R.H.D.S.

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Many New Zealanders no doubt look forward to the day when this country has at least one bird observatory comparable to that established at Fair Isle, between Shetland and Orkney islands. Fair Isle is exceptionally well placed in relation to migratory movements, as a perusal of this number of the bulletin shows. Much valuable information on migration is being brought to life by the activities of this station, and all members interested in this absorbing subject can become acquainted with the work of the Fair Isle Observatory and at the same time assist the project by subscribing to its bulletin. The director's address is: 1 April to 31 October, Fair Isle Bird Observatory, by Lerwick, Scotland; 1 November to 31 March, Fair Isle Bird Observatory Trust, 17 India Street, Edinburgh, Scotland.—R.H.D.S.

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