

Marine Birds—at and off-shore—at Bird Island, Algoa Bay. M. Courtenay-Latimer. The Ostrich xxiv., 1 : 27-32.

Some field notes of interest on four species of albatross seen around a fishing boat.—J.M.C.

Some Sea Birds in Winter off the S.W. Cape. W. P. Stanford. The Ostrich. xxiv. 1 : 17-26.

This paper concerns sea birds seen from the research ship *Africana II*. on one of her routine scientific trips off the south-west Cape coast. Species dealt with include many species of petrel and albatross which are also found in New Zealand seas, and the field notes and comparisons of plumage at different ages between birds of somewhat similar appearance could be of much value to ornithologists in New Zealand if The Ostrich was readily available.—J.M.C.

A Sub-Fossil Hawk from New Zealand, by R. J. Scarlett. Records of the Canterbury Museum, vol. 6, pp. 245-252, 1953.

The Recent and sub-Recent formations of New Zealand and the Chatham Islands, in swamps, sand dunes and caves, often contain bird bones, sometimes in considerable quantities. The species range from giant moas to small perching birds. Collections have accumulated in the main museums but very little work has been done on them. Mr. R. J. Scarlett has recently paid some attention to the comparatively extensive series in the Canterbury Museum and has sorted out the bones of a harrier larger than the existing species. In addition to large size there are structural differences, notably in the premaxilla in which the cutting edge is convex instead of straight as it is in *Circus approximans*. This new species has been named *C. eylesi* and the type and most of the other bones examined come from Pyramid Valley. There are as well a few bones from Lake Grassmere, Marlborough. The author's description is accompanied by line drawings and numerous measurements and amply demonstrates the specific status of this harrier.—W.R.B.O.

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