

Islands of New Zealand, involving up to twenty birds in some localities. Most of the work on lead poisoning in waterfowl has been carried out in the United States, and the relevant points of this work are discussed in this paper. The important facts are: the ingestion of a single No. 6 shot was sufficient to cause death in seven of ten wild Mallards, six No. 6 shot always constitute a fatal dose. Recovery from lead poisoning is influenced by diet; soft foods tend to promote recovery, grain feeding aggravates the condition. Birds that recover have a lower egg production, many of the eggs laid are infertile. The symptoms of lead poisoning are described.

The local importance of this paper lies in the implication of grain feeding practices with increased mortality from lead poisoning. This is important in New Zealand in view of the controversy over grain feeding of ponds. Now that interested persons will be able to detect cases of lead poisoning, it may be that the problem is more important here than has been suspected.

W.C.C.

Kiwi Colour Slides. New Zealand Birds — Sets A & B (A. H. & A. W. Reed Ltd, Wellington).

With commendable enterprise A. H. and A. W. Reed have published two sets of 35 mm colour slides of New Zealand birds. The slides have been made from photographs taken by K. V. Bigwood, whose name is a guarantee of the quality of the bird portraiture. In New Zealand there are now many naturalists skilfully taking still and moving colour photographs of birds; and the purists among them may find cause to complain that the excellence of Mr Bigwood's originals is not matched by the quality of the colour reproduction, particularly in the first set, in which there are evident the same false tone values which marred the colour portraits in Oliver's recent monumental volume and drew adverse criticism. In this respect New Zealand seems to be lagging behind the high standard now achieved overseas. Each set is accompanied by a commentary, but that which goes with the first set begins with the startling statement 'New Zealand has no native animals'! Aesthetically the second set is much more satisfying. Especially praiseworthy are brilliant studies of Red-fronted Parakeet and Stitchbird.

The publication of these slides will be a stimulus to New Zealanders to examine their birds more closely for their hidden beauties. An exciting start has been made in a new venture in publishing. The issue of further sets, two of which are already promised, is eagerly awaited.

— R.B.S.

NOTICES

PAST VOLUMES OF THE EMU DEPOSITED IN THE LIBRARY

Through the initiative of Mr R. V. Roberts and the co-operation of Dr W. R. B. Oliver, Honorary Secretary for the R.A.O.U. in New Zealand, volumes 4-41 of the *Emu* have been transferred by the Council of the R.A.O.U. to our Library. The O.S.N.Z. is deeply indebted to those who have been instrumental in the transference to our Library of these valuable ornithological volumes. The Library now has a complete set of the *Emu* except for volumes I-III.

The Editor will be away from New Zealand from May to September. In his absence Mr E. G. Turbott has kindly offered to edit *Notornis*. Material for publication should be sent to him at the War Memorial Museum, Auckland.