

*I Name This Parrot*, by Arthur A. Prestwich, 1958 (Published by the Author, 61 Chase Road, Oakwood, London, N.14; 5/6), 86 pp.

Parrots are among the most spectacular of birds both from an aesthetic and from a scientific point of view. It is not surprising, therefore, to find many great names in the history of ornithology linked with the names of many species of parrot. This little book, compiled and published by the Secretary of the Avicultural Society, has a welcome place in the literature of birds and should be of use to those interested in the more romantic aspects of the discovery and the naming of the many different kinds of parrots.

Short biographies of John Byron, Lear, Rothschild, Finsch, Forbes, Latham, Meyer, Salvin, Sclater, Stresemann, Tristram, and others are included, and comments, which may be new to many New Zealand ornithologists, are made on a number of New Zealand species. How many of us know how, for example, the Orange-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus malherbi* (Souance, 1857), came to be so named? By browsing through this book, Alfred Malherbe and Baron Charles de Souance become known to us and the question is solved. So it is for *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cooki* of Norfolk Island (p. 16), *C. auriceps forbesi* of the Chatham Islands (p. 28), and *C. novaezelandiae hochstetteri* of Antipodes Island (p. 40).

The biography of William Swainson (pp. 74-5), "undoubtedly one of the greatest English naturalists of the nineteenth century," who emigrated to New Zealand in 1840 and died at Fern Grove in the Hutt in 1855, itself makes this book of interest to those concerned with the little-known aspects of New Zealand history. In the same connection, I was especially pleased to see that Henry Ogg Forbes, Director of the Canterbury Museum from 1889 to 1892, is given the credit due to him as a pioneer in New Zealand ornithology (pp. 28-9).—E.W.D.

*The Waders of Sydney*, by K. A. Hindwood and E. S. Hoskin, reprinted from *Emu*, Vol. 54, 1954, pp. 217-255.

For comparative purposes and for help in identifying rare stragglers this pamphlet is likely to prove most useful to all who watch waders in New Zealand. The authors discuss the status of 44 species which have occurred near Sydney. Of these, 15 breed in Australia, 28 are trans-equatorial migrants from New Zealand, flocks of fifty or more being not uncommon.

The notes on this species are of especial interest to New Zealanders. The first Banded Dotterels appear near Sydney about the end of January. The moult into breeding plumage is evident in the field towards the end of April. Most birds are fully plumaged by mid-August, just prior to their departure. Laggards may remain throughout September. Their presence in October or November is exceptional but the few that have been seen have been in breeding plumage.

A perusal of the Sydney list shows that although in recent years several arctic waders have been recorded for the first time in New Zealand, the possibilities are by no means exhausted. Sooner or later Mongolian Dotterel, Great Knot, Common, Wood and Broad-billed Sandpipers may be found in New Zealand. Long-billed Curlews, Gray-tailed Tattlers, Japanese Snipe, Curlew Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-