

A number of reports have come in about the Spine-tailed Swifts, whose arrival in considerable numbers was reported in the last issue. It is hoped that members who have information about them will not fail to send it in, so that as complete a report as possible may be drawn up.

#### REVIEWS.

"The Emu," Vol. XLII, pt. 3, Jan., 1943. This number contains one New Zealand paper, "The Occurrence of *Pterodroma leucoptera* in New Zealand," by P. C. Bull. It deals with the remains of ten specimens of the Gould Petrel found washed up on Muriwai Beach, Auckland, in April, 1942. This is the first authentic record in New Zealand. The birds are fully described and compared with specimens from Cabbage Tree Island, N.S.W., the only known nesting place. The Muriwai specimens differ from the Cabbage Tree Island ones, and appear to belong to a different sub-species from an undiscovered and perhaps more northerly colony. This paper shows the valuable contributions to the systematic and distributional sides of ornithology which may be made by the study of storm-drifted specimens from the beaches, and members are urged to keep this in mind. Another paper in The Emu which should be mentioned is "Birds of the Five Islands," by J. A. Keast, which deals with some small islands not far from Sidney, and will be of interest to members who have the opportunity to study some of our small bird-inhabited islands. The author points out the importance, when visiting a colony, of estimating the numbers of birds in it, so that in course of time information about the fluctuation in numbers from year to year may be accumulated.—B. J. M.

"Notes on Birds near Whangarei," by Wesley Sanderson. This is a typewritten booklet of 38 pages, containing several articles on different subjects. Some deal with particular species, such as the Rails or the Brown Duck, while others contain notes on nests, on protective colouration or on the enemies of birds. Not intended to be exhaustive scientific treatises, the articles are pleasantly written accounts of the experiences of a bird lover throughout the year.—B. J. M.

"A Study of the Little Owl, *Athene noctua*, in New Zealand," by B. J. Marples. Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., vol. 72, Part 3, pp. 237-252, 1942. This is a most welcome initial study of its kind based on exhaustive material of 242 birds; it deals with a most thorough analysis of the food of this bird in New Zealand which, for the greater part, comprises caterpillars and beetles; very few remains of birds were found, none belonging to native species. Interesting chapters are devoted to seasonal variations, the sex ratio, and to the distribution and nesting.

K.A.W.

Any of the above may be borrowed on application to the Hon. Secretary, together with postage.