

effort to find out the number and fate of as many eggs as possible belonging to any species.

Will all who have any notes on the White Eye, and especially those who have been ringing any of this species, please communicate with Professor Marples, as it is hoped to bring out shortly a report on this bird.

REVIEWS.

The Emu. Vol. XVII, Part IV. This contains a valuable paper by C. A. Fleming on the White-eye, but this will be reviewed in a later number.

The Emu. Vol. XVIII, Part I. There are three N.Z. papers: "The Kuaka or Diving Petrel, *Pelecanoides urinatrix*," by L. E. Richdale, pp. 24-48. This is a very close and detailed study of the life history of the bird, carried out during an aggregate of 21 weeks of observations spread over several years. Extensive use was made of ringing, weighing and measuring, and it is very gratifying to see measurements, weights, etc., based upon large numbers of observations. Far too much of our information is based upon small numbers. It is impossible to summarise the paper in this space but an important feature is a table of data for estimating the ages of chicks, which should be in the notebook of all who visit small islands. In future, observers who encounter chicks of this species will be able to make reasonably close estimates of their ages instead of making such vague and almost useless records as the only too common "recently hatched" or "well grown chick." In this way relative times of hatching may be arrived at, and on the present data there seems to be a considerable discrepancy between the various breeding grounds. The paper is illustrated with photographs of chicks at different ages.

"Observations on the Distribution of the Wrybill in the North Island, N.Z.," by R. B. Sibson, pp. 49-62. This is an important paper on the winter distribution and behaviour of one of our most interesting species. It breeds on the river beds of Canterbury and winters in the Firth of Thames, North Auckland region. Graphs are given of the numbers observed at different times, and the paper is an excellent example of what can be accomplished by the systematic observation of bird flocks. Behaviour, plumage, and call notes are also dealt with. It is to be hoped that someone will follow with an account of the bird in the South Island, and that members will be encouraged to make systematic studies themselves.

"A Mechanism for Recording Automatically the Nesting Habits of Birds," by B. J. Marples and L. Gurr, pp. 67-71. This paper describes a simple home-made device which recorded on a smoked drum every time a bird entered or left its nest. The records of laying, incubating and feeding obtained for the blackbird, thrush and sparrow are discussed, also the change in weight of blackbird's eggs and young during the period in the nest. Such automatic recording methods could be usefully adapted for many ornithological purposes.