

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

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INTRODUCTION.

The last number contained the report on the White-eye, and there was no space for introductory matter and reviews. These are included here. No. 7 will be the last one for the year 1943-44, and will contain the short classified notes, and No. 8 will consist of Mr. McCaskill's report on the Magpie Inquiry. This report has already been drawn up, but if anyone has any further notes it might still be possible to include them. It is hoped that members will send in short articles suitable for publication in these pages so that the editors will have material in hand to draw upon when making up the contents.

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following donations to the Publication Fund: Mrs. Lenz 15s, Mr. W. Sanderson 10s, and Miss Marriott 5s. A very generous anonymous donation of £15 was received for the purpose of acquiring extra copies of each number of N.Z.B.N. as they come out. This is an important matter, as there will always be a demand for back numbers and the first few are already practically exhausted. We also gratefully acknowledge the gift of separates of several papers, and especially for a copy of his book, "Birds of Hawaii," by Mr. G. C. Munro.

The number of members is now about 180, and we hope at least to reach 200 by the end of the current year. It is hoped that the sheet of hints to observers sent out with the annual report will prove useful

to members, and if extra copies of it, or of the printed circular can be of use in obtaining new recruits, they may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary.

REVIEWS.

The following periodicals and copies of papers have been received since those reviewed in No. 4, and they may be borrowed on application to the Hon. Secretary, together with stamps for postage:—

"*The Emu*," Vol. XLIII, Part 2. There are three New Zealand papers. "The Kuaka, or Diving Petrel," Part 2, by L. E. Richdale. This completes the account of the life history of this bird, dealing with the adult. Measurements of 100 birds from one island and of 50 pairs from an adjacent one are compared with the published measurements of different sub-species. It is interesting to note that these are based on series of only 2-7 individuals. Clearly anyone visiting breeding grounds has the opportunity of making valuable long series of measurements without the slaughter of large numbers of birds. "The races of *Puffinus assimilis* in Australia and New Zealand," by C. A. Fleming and D. L. Serventy. This paper discusses in detail the sub-species of the Little Shearwater, of which there are five, one, *P. haurakiensis*, breeding on islands in the outer Hauraki Gulf. "Additions to the avifauna of the North Island, New Zealand," by R. B. Sibson. This paper records the occurrence for the first time in the North Island of three rare waders, the Hudsonian Godwit, Curlew Sandpiper and American Pectoral Sandpiper. They had previously been recorded in the South Island. No doubt if a watch was kept in suitable localities we should learn more of the occurrence and movements of northern migrants which reach us in small numbers.

"*The Emu*," Vol. XLIII, Part 3. There is one New Zealand paper, "The Parara, or Broad Billed Prion, *Pachyptila vittata* (Gmelin)" by L. E. Richdale. This is another of the detailed life history studies of petrels made by this worker on an island off Stewart Island. As in his other papers, he makes extensive use of weights and measurements in studying the growth of the chick. The technique of routine weighing both night and morning is invaluable in determining the way in which the young of petrels are fed.

"*The Emu*," Vol. XLIII, Part 4. There is one New Zealand paper, "Notes On New Zealand Birds," by G. Mathews. This is concerned solely with nomenclature and is of interest only to the systematist. "The food of cormorants and other fish-eating birds," by K. C. McKeown. This deals with several New Zealand species in Australia, and should be read by all interested in this matter. It stresses the need for accurate information in view of the often sensational statements as to the economic status of these birds. "An attempted simplification of the mathematical method of sub-specific differentiation and identification," by R. S. Miller.