

REVIEWS.

"The Emu," Vol. XLIV, Part 1. There are no New Zealand papers, but there is a very interesting one on the behaviour and breeding of the Grey Duck (known as the Black Duck in Australia, where it is also native). It shows what useful information may be obtained by the careful observation of birds which can be kept in captivity under more or less natural conditions. "The Black Duck in Captivity." By A. F. D'Ombraim.

"The Emu," Vol. XLIV, Part 2. "The Breeding of the Double-banded Dotterel," by R. H. D. Stidolph. This paper records three unusually large clutches of eggs found in the Wellington district, two with four and one with six eggs. The interesting point is that they were found in three successive years within a few yards of the same spot, suggesting that the birds return year after year to the same site. Other specially interesting papers are "Watching the Powerful Owl," by D. Fleay, and "Timor and the Colonisation of Australia by Birds," by E. Mayr.

"The Emu," Vol. XLIV, Part 3. This contains a paper on "The White Phase of the Reef Heron in New Zealand," by K. A. Wodzicki and J. R. Eyles, an occurrence which was noted in our last number. There is also one on "The Downy Plumage of the Australian Dabchick," by E. Mayr, which should be read by anyone who has access to the young of the New Zealand species, as information as to its pattern and variability are required. An interesting paper on "The Spotted and Satin Bower-birds," by N. Chaffer, should also be mentioned.

These numbers may be borrowed on request to the Hon. Secretary, together with stamps for postage.

B. J. M.

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE AUSTRALIAN MAGPIES (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca* and *G. tibicen*) IN NEW ZEALAND.

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In December, 1942, at a meeting of the N.Z. Ornithological Society in Christchurch it was decided to ask members to co-operate in this investigation. In N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. I, No. 2, April, 1943, a questionnaire was printed (see Appendix II) and was replied to by 35 members from various parts of New Zealand. Because of the small coverage thus obtained the writer, by courtesy of the Principals, was permitted to enlist the services of the students attending the four Teachers' Training Colleges. Nearly 1000 replies were received, representing practically the whole inhabited area of New Zealand. By courtesy of the Canterbury Education Board and its Chief Instructor in Agricul-