

gives a good description of nest, eggs and some of the habits of the Grey Teal in the Wairarapa district.

L. E. Richdale contributes "Courtship and Allied Behaviour in Penguins," a study in which he departs from the presentation of life history data to give an analysis of behaviour, based mainly on his valuable and intensive study over eight seasons of the Yellow-eyed Penguin, although other species are also discussed. There is a useful preliminary definition of terms which should do much to correct the loose usage so often employed in discussions on behaviour. Another welcome feature is a classification of all the fixed trains of action which the author has observed, illustrated in each case with his excellent photographs.

Mr Richdale finds comparison with the work of others who have ventured to write of penguin behaviour to be "difficult" for reasons which he gives. The inference is gratuitous: his own good work can very well be left to speak for itself.

J. A. Tubb's "Field Notes on Some New Guinea Birds" and G. R. Gannon's "Nesting Activities of the Grey Thrush" are papers of general interest, and there are also "The Grey Plover," by A. R. McGill; "The Eyrean Grass-Wren," by K. A. Hindwood; "The Genus *Phoebetria* in Australian Seas," by D. L. Serventy, and several other short papers.

R. A. F.

*"CAMERA STUDIES OF NEW ZEALAND BIRDS, SERIES A."*

By L. E. Richdale, Dunedin, 1944.

In No. 4 of the series, "Wild Life in New Zealand," Mr Richdale presents camera studies of seven species of penguin and eight petrels from the Otago-Stewart Island area. The high standard of photographic achievement we have learned to expect from this painstaking investigator is fully maintained, and the portraits of adults and young and moulting birds should prove of practical value as aids to identification in these "difficult" groups. Also, visitors to island colonies will find the illustrations of downy petrel chicks of known age a great help in assessing the age in days of young birds they encounter. There are 21 photographs of 15 species: The Erect-crested, Rock-hopper, Royal, White-flipped, Little Blue Penguins, and of *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus* (for which no suitable common name is available), and, in addition, of the Royal Albatross, Whitefaced Storm Petrel, two Prions, Diving Petrel, Cape Pigeon, Nelly and Mutton-bird. Informative sub-titles and an author's preface accompany the plates.

Vernacular names for our lesser known seabirds remain a problem and call for standardisation. It may be doubted whether "Erect crested Penguin" will ever gain the currency of such a rival term as "Schlatter's Penguin," and the use of "Fairy Prion" for *Pachyptila turtur* is preferable to "Narrow-billed Prion," a name suitably applied to *P. belcheri*.

Mr Richdale promises a full account of the life history of the Muttonbird as the next number in the series.

The booklet is obtainable from the author, 23 Skibo Street, Dunedin. Price, 3s 6d.

C. A. F.