

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*G. tibicen*).—Whanawhana, 25 miles west of Hastings, 3/12/46, six; 8/1/47, three, first record of occurrence of this species in North Island; large numbers of white-backed magpies in district.—(L.W.McL.) Mt. Campbell, Napier (near Ngaroto School), 13/7/47, at least 21 seen in small area, where no white-backs were seen. On main road, near Takapau, 18/7/47, majority of flock of 17 were this species; four, including 1 immature north of Norsewood, and 6, including 2 immature, north of Dannevirke; 2 more, 1 immature, c. 8 miles north of Woodville. Adult male and female and immature of both species appear to be readily distinguishable with field glasses, and band of black, width of which varies considerably, is very prominent.—(J.M.C.) Windemere, S. Canterbury, 22/1/46, one adult seen.—(J.M.C., E.O.W.) Kaikoura golf links, 9/8/47, one seen.—(L.W.McC.)

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Darfield, 7/9/47, plantation, 2 on bluegum tree.—(H.S.G.)

REVIEWS.

Birds of the Philippines, by Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr (The Macmillan Company, New York): Pp. I-XI. and 1-309, 1946. \$3.75

This newest addition to the important series of publications "The Pacific World" should be of interest to New Zealand ornithologists. After Mayr's "Birds of the South-west Pacific" it is another important contribution to our knowledge of birds of the Pacific shores. Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr who are the joint authors of this admirably set-up book, are well-known to ornithologists of this country and are both particularly qualified for the preparation of the book. The geography and habitats of the Philippine birds are dealt with briefly and followed by a systematic section and an appendix of birds of the Palawan group. The book is illustrated with excellent drawings by E. L. Poole and Alexander Seidel. Although the Philippines belong to the Oriental region, they are at the crossroads with regard to interesting elements of Palearctic, Malaysian, Moluccan and even Papuan-Australian origin. It will be also of interest to find that amongst the 450 species of Philippine birds there are several species belonging to the New Zealand list such as the reef heron (*Egretta sacra*), stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*), pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) and several others.—(K.A.W.)

"Native Animals of New Zealand," by A. W. B. Powell, Auckland Museum Handbook of Zoology.. Unity Press, Auckland, 1947. (96 pp. 411figs).

Here is an introduction to the fauna of New Zealand such as the country has lacked for years—concise, authoritative, reasonable in price, and with over 400 fine line-drawing illustrations by the author's competent pen. Primarily a guide book to the New Zealand natural history exhibits in the Auckland Museum, the booklet will also serve the worthy purpose of introducing to hosts of school and college students, overseas visitors and others, the fascination of New Zealand wild life. Birds are allotted 12 pages and 41 figures, and a representative selection of species is covered. The bird illustrations are perhaps the least successful of a very fine set of drawings, probably because the medium is less sympathetic to their feathered contours, but admirable for the scaly or chitinous integuments of fish and invertebrates. The text is conveniently set alongside the half-page panel of illustrations that grace nearly every page. This book is a "must" for all naturalists whose specialised topic is coupled with a general interest in all groups of animals.—(C.A.F.)

Date of Publication—January 1, 1948.

The Masterton Printing Co., Ltd., Lincoln Road, Masterton.