

persistent throughout November and December, but whether socially roosting birds were mated males or young of the previous season was unknown.

Authorities state that social roosting recommences late in June in southern England. Summer and early autumn roosts are also described by Marples (1934) starlings occupying reed beds or deciduous trees and deserting them before winter. He notes that non-breeding starlings occupy a roost throughout the year.

At Karori on December 6 birds remained at night about their late breeding area in the plantation or flew elsewhere. Two kilometres distant a summer roost existed in late November. Many juveniles were absent from the suburb but had probably retired to Makara where they were abundant on January 2, 1948.

Small groups of non-breeding birds, usually about five, had increased to fifty by November 23 and 30.

Observations on summer roosts are not precisely identical with English records but the writer believes this is caused by the absence of favourable vegetation in the area.

References.

Tucker, B. W. (et al) Handbook of British Birds.

Marples, B. J.—Journal of Animal Ecology, Nov., 1934. Winter Starling Roosts of Great Britain.

Stuart Smith.—How to Study Birds.

Secker, H. L.—N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. II., Roosting Habits of Starlings.

REVIEWS.

New Zealand Bird Life, by E. G. Turbott; A. H. & A. W. Reed. (101 pages, including 49 illustrations). Price, 17/6.

Attractively printed on art paper, this volume contains authoritative information concerning a number of native birds, with more or less incidental reference to two or three introduced species. Written in popular style, it is intended to interest more particularly youthful readers, though its pages can well be perused and enjoyed by the more mature. Miss Nancy Wilson contributes a fitting preface. A feature of the volume is its profusion of photographs, many of which are the work of Major G. A. Buddle. The photographs generally are of an excellent standard, but a few of stuffed specimens do not stand comparison with those of wild birds. Major Buddle's fine studies testify to his patience and painstaking work in photographing New Zealand's bird life. Perhaps some space could have been devoted to common, introduced birds met with in garden and countryside and captions provided for the photographs introducing the four sections of the book. The volume as a whole is a very fine production and should grace the shelves of all bird lovers.—R.H.D.S.

The Gannet on Cape Kidnappers, by K. A. Wodzicki and C. P. McMeekan; Trans. Royal Soc. of N.Z., Vol. 76, pt. 3, p.p. 429-452, July, 1947.

In view of the gannet census being conducted by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand this paper is of particular interest. In an introductory section is included a table of the breeding colonies of the gannet in N.Z., in which, based on the observations of various authorities, the estimated total is given as 11,777 pairs, though this may not be very accurate as some of the estimates were made over 20 years ago. Dealing more particularly with the Cape Kidnappers colony, the authors give a brief historical survey, a general description of the gannetry, evidence of an extension of the breeding areas to three different colonies in comparatively recent years, a population census (in 1945, 5674 birds), observations on breeding habits and on experiments to study psychological reactions of breeding birds. The authors reached the conclusion that in the 1945-46 season "no more than 16 per cent. of their total numbers have been reared to the stage that the chicks are able to leave