

the rock." Notes on the bird life of the area are included and an appendix gives a list of egg measurements. There are a number of illustrations.—(R.H.D.S.)

Notes on the Bird Life of the Porangahau District, N.Z., by John H. Cunningham and K. Wodzicki; Emu, Vol. 47, 177-128; Jan., 1948.

The Porangahau Estuary and its association with some of the field observations of the late Mr. H. Guthrie-Smith make this area of more than passing interest. Following on a general description of the area, the authors give a systematic list of the species recorded in the district. It is difficult to follow the reasoning of the authors in their remarks about the North Island and the South Island oystercatchers. After quoting such an eminent authority as Falla, who includes the east coast of the North Island as within the range of *H. unicolor*, they dismiss all black-plumaged birds as *H. reischeki*, passing over Falla's statement and the fact that it is considered impossible to distinguish in the field wholly black *reischeki* from *unicolor*. One of the most interesting records concerning the area is the breeding of the black-billed gull (in company with the red-billed gull) in a district not hitherto known as a breeding place for this species. Some of the conclusions arrived at differ from those of Fleming (published in the second annual report of the Ornithological Society) and it appears that some of Fleming's observations have been overlooked. These considerations apart, the paper gives much interesting information of the bird life of the district under review.—(R.H.D.S.)

BIRD BIBLIOGRAPHY.

Pair Formation in Penguins, by L. E. Richdale; Emu, Vol. 46 (1946), 133-156 and 215-227.

A supplementary paper to one entitled "Courtship and Allied Behaviour in Penguins" (Emu, 1945, 305-323 and 37-54) relates to a study of a sedentary species, *Megadyptes*, in which the author's evidence and observations are based on ringed birds.

Notes on the Breeding Cycle of the Thrush and Blackbird in N.Z., by P. C. Bull; Emu, Vol 46 (1946) 198-208.

This study was made in a dairy farming area at Mangere, near Auckland, and discusses period of breeding, including winter laying of thrush, size of clutch, fertility of eggs, survival in the nest and population density, with a comparison between the two species.

Method of Silvereye Trapping in N.Z., by J. M. Cunningham. Emu, Vol. 46 (1946), 209-214.

Reprints of this paper have been distributed to members.

Sooty Shearwater in Tasmania, by M. S. R. Sharland. Emu, Vol. 46 (1946) 228-229.

Records Tasman Island (S.E. tip of Tasmania) as a breeding site of this species.

A Note on the Australian Tree Martin in N.Z., by W. J. Phillipps. Emu, Vol 47 (1947), 116.

Records the occurrence of *Hylochelidon nigricans* in Blenheim district on four occasions in last ten years, a bird being shot on 29/3/47.

Field Notes on Waders in South-West Pacific, with Special Reference to the Russell Islands, by P. C. Bull. Emu; Vol. 47 (1948), 165-176.

Gives observations made during a year's war service in this area. Numbers and species observed indicate, says the author, that Solomons are a short backwater from main stream of Northern Hemisphere migrants moving south to Australia. Migrants to and from New Zealand apparently travel further east.

Sooty Shearwater in Australia, by J. A. Kearst and A. R. McGill. Emu; Vol. 47 (1948), 199-202.

Following on M. S. R. Sharland's record of breeding of this bird on island off Tasmania, the authors give two additional islands off N.S.W. as breeding places of this bird.