

## REVIEWS

Birds of Western Australia, by D. L. Serventy and H. M. Whittell (with illustrations by Olive Seymour, H. O. Webster, P. Slater and G. E. Binstead). Third edition. Publishers, Paterson Brokensha Pty. Ltd., Perth, W.A. 1962. Price, £2/10/-.

The general presentation and layout of the latest version of this well-known book is similar to that of the second edition, published in 1952. Much of the text has been rewritten and brought up to date and there are numerous amplifications and amendments. The usefulness of the book is further increased by the introduction of two new colored plates of thornbills and additional black-and-white text illustrations, which are mostly very good.

The section on bird geography generally remains unchanged. Further brief discussion on the probable effects of recent alterations in world climate on local bird populations and reference to evidence suggesting "double invasions" of the South-West by both Eyrean and Bassian species have been added.

The main body of the work is devoted to a detailed account of 369 species (out of a possible "452" for the State of Western Australia) with special reference to their identification, habits and occurrence. A list of species not found south of the Kimberley region (and therefore not dealt with in the work) is given on page 47. Introduced species, seven in number, are treated in detail. The sequence of orders and families differs from earlier editions and that of the R.A.O.U. Checklist, conforming generally to the new, recommended world standard arrangement.

Numerous name changes have been incorporated, including a number which have been recommended by the R.A.O.U. Checklist Committee and, we suspect, some which have been suggested to the reviser by specialists in certain groups or genera. For instance, it is mentioned that Dr. Finn Salomonsen was consulted on the nomenclature and classification of the honeyeaters. With one or two exceptions, we feel that all these changes are to the good. The use of *Manorhina* instead of *Myzantha* for the Miners may be questioned by some and confusion is likely to be caused by the adoption of the name *Cinclosoma cinnamomeum* for the

two western forms of quail-thrushes, which are usually distinguished by the prefixes "Western" and "Nullarbor." The former is given the subspecific name "*castaneothorax*," a designation that rightly belongs to a species confined to the interior of Queensland and which should be replaced by Sharpe's name *marginatum*, preferably as a full species. In the opinion of the writer, the Nullarbor Quail-thrush is best regarded as a distinct species, *Cinclosoma alisteri*, also.

It is pleasing to record that no attempt has been made to meddle unduly with vernacular names and thereby foist a host of invented names upon that section of the unsuspecting public composed largely of beginners in bird study.

The "Birds of Western Australia" has been painstakingly produced. It is in a special class apart from all other similar Australian publications; and it is an indispensable reference work for both beginner and expert alike. Also, we think it represents very good value for the money.—H.T.C.

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VIII Bulletin of the International Council for Bird Preservation—Published by The International Council for Bird Preservation. 1962.

This is an illustrated report of the proceedings of the Twelfth World Meeting of the Council held in Tokyo, in May, 1960. It has been produced under the editorship of distinguished Japanese, American and English ornithologists and is written in four languages. We are presented with a revised version of the Declaration of Principles of the Council, first adopted in 1922. Under the heading "By-laws . . ." "Article II-OBJECT" it is stated that the Council's "object shall be to stimulate interest in all countries for a more adequate protection of wild bird-life."

Resolutions adopted at conferences of the I.C.B.P. in 1958 (Finland) and 1960 (Tokyo) contain many interesting items as also do the reports from the National Sections (Taiwan, India, Japan, Korea, Borneo, New Zealand, U.S.S.R.). It will be noted that there is no Australian contribution, although an Australian Section is listed at the end of the volume. Under the By-laws of the Council "a National Section shall be

composed of eight or less institutions, societies or associations interested in the preservation of wild birds, and each may be represented by two delegates.”

Other matters dealt with include oil pollution of the sea, a report on threatened species and chasing birds away from airfields. Altogether an important publication for conservationists and those ornithologists interested in bird preservation.—H.T.C.

*The Australian Bird Watcher*, volume 2, No. 1. June 30, 1963. Published by the Bird Observers Club, Melbourne, Victoria. Price 5 shillings per part.

From time to time we have been invited to review the B.O.C.'s young but fully-fledged little publication. Unfortunately, this has not been possible in the past owing to an overlap in our publishing dates. Under the able editorship of Mr. Roy Cooper, the magazine has become noted for its excellent photographic illustrations, factual contri-

butions and pleasant layout. The latest issue maintains a high standard.

More than one half of its pages are devoted to field observations on Waders (Charadrii), by an expert on the group, Mr. Fred Smith. Mr. Harold Tarr also contributes nesting notes and photographs of the Pied Oyster-catcher. Mr. Smith reports a new Australian record of the Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*)—"a male in well defined breeding plumage"—at Werribee, 26 miles west of Melbourne, on December 22, 1962. The same author, in another article, claims the first Victorian sighting of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*), also at Werribee, in December, 1962.

Finally, Mr. Smith submits a summary of his observations of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*), made in the Williamstown-Altona-Laverton-Werribee area, near Melbourne, between February, 1962, and April, 1963. Valuable notes on identification, habits and calls are provided.—H.T.C.