

A BIOLOGY OF BIRDS with Particular Reference to New Zealand Birds, by B. D. Heather; issued by the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.), 1966; 102 pp., 67 illustrations (photographs and drawings), paper cover; prize NZ 12/6.

This book was originally prepared as Chapter 8 in *Biology for Sixth Forms* (1963). If the other chapters are as complete as the one on birds, then New Zealand post primary students have a wonderful opportunity to obtain a thorough training in biology.

The book naturally deals with New Zealand birds and conditions, but this should not detract from its interest for Australians; the sections on Features of the New Zealand Avifauna and Birds and Man in New Zealand make interesting comparison with Australian birds and conditions. The other sections, Characteristics Phylogeny Classification, Anatomy and Physiology of Birds, and Practical Work are of equal value in either country. There is a bibliography, a glossary of terms and an appendix. This latter gives information on the O.S.N.Z. and its projects. The three permanent projects, the Nest Record Scheme, The Beach Patrol Scheme and the Recording Scheme are explained—here there is much food for thought—as is the N.Z. Banding Scheme.

The material comprising the book is neither over-simplified nor too technical, and almost every aspect of ornithology that the amateur worker is interested in is dealt with, and usually with as much information as the amateur would require. If he wants more there is a list of references for further reading at the end of each section.

Considering the low price of this book it compares very favourably with other books on this subject, and although not as useful a practical guide to Australians as Bourke's *Elementary Bird Study* it certainly deserves a place in the bird watcher's library.

A Biology of Birds is available from the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.), P.O. Box 40272, Upper Hutt, New Zealand. The price, including postage and packing is A\$1.68 (NZ 13/6). Australian cheques are NOT cashable in N.Z.; a money order made out to Upper Hutt P.O. is suggested.

B.G.