
BOOK REVIEWS

FAIRY PENGUINS. A Brief History with Photographs, by Pauline Reilly, published by Printers Pty. Ltd., Abbotsford, Victoria, 1972; 32 (un-numbered) pp.; 24 b. & w. plates. Size 185 x 115 mm. Price: 0.75c.

This carefully produced publication is based on investigations by the Penguin Study Group (a section of the Victorian Ornithological Research Group) in the Summerland Penguin Reserve, Phillip Island, between the years 1968 and 1971. Banding techniques were employed and more detailed information is available in *The Australian Bird Bander*, volumes 7-10, published 1969-1972.

The booklet is an excellent souvenir digest, which caters for the many thousands of people who visit Phillip Island annually to observe the evening parade of the penguins from the sea to their nesting burrows in the sand dunes behind the beach. Although the text lacks headings and chapters, as well as a table of contents, it covers most questions people are likely to ask, gives a coherent account of the life history, and can be relied upon to be authoritative. It also draws attention to odd bits of information not readily obtainable elsewhere; e.g. the recovery of a banded penguin chick which was found on Kangaroo Island, South Australia, 39 days after banding—distance by sea about 900 km from Phillip Island.

Dingy paper and murky, but otherwise excellent photographs, might give a false impression of inferiority and detract from sales.

—H. T. CONDON.