

of the pages through six separate and unrelated works is likely to annoy the reader without having any compensating virtue. Price of the book is 2/6, from the author, 23 Skibo Street, Kew, Dunedin.

Series B of *Camera Studies of New Zealand Birds*, by the same author (3/6 net) contains 24 first-rate photographs of penguins on the Otago Peninsula.—P.C.M.

Correspondence

BREEDING OF WHITE-FRONTED TERN.

To the Editor,
Sir—

As it may be some time before a third edition of my field guide (*Tasmanian Birds*, 1945) is printed, I would be pleased if you will allow me now to correct a statement contained in the book in reference to the eggs of the White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*). The reference, on page 30 of the second edition, is—

"There are three eggs in the Tasmanian Museum marked as having been taken on the Friars, South Bruny, in November, 1885. This is the only known breeding record for Tasmania."

The supposed record was based on an entry contained in the catalogue of A. E. Brent, in possession of the Tasmanian Museum, and supported by three eggs from the Brent collection in the Museum. These egg are listed by Brent as those of *S. striata*, but pencilled on the shell of each egg is 'W-Tern'. Brent records these were taken on The Friars by A. L. Butler in 1885.

In view of the determination by K. A. Hindwood (*Emu*, vol. 45, 1946, pp. 179-200) that there is no authenticated record of the White-fronted Tern's eggs being taken in Australia, the eggs were forwarded to the Australian Museum, Sydney, for comparison with similar material. Mr. Hindwood, who examined them, now informs me that they are the eggs of the Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*). He believes, and I concur, that the name given in pencil — 'W-Tern' — refers not to White-fronted Tern but to 'Wideawake' Tern, an alternative vernacular for *S. fuscata*.

As Brent was astray in his identification of the eggs — there is no similar material here for comparison — I think it highly unlikely that the eggs came from The Friars at all.

Yours, etc.,

MICHAEL SHARLAND.

Hobart, Tas., 28/5/46.

The date of publication was July 29, 1946.