

producing it. It is hoped that further publications will follow.—JOHN LIDDY.

Taxonomy of the Mulga Parrot.—In an interesting paper, 'The Parrots of Australia. 8. The Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).', *Avicultural Mag.*, 70 (4), pp. 136-145, 1964, Joseph M. Forshaw discusses the taxonomy of *P. varius*. Forshaw considers that, although the eastern birds do tend to be more brilliant than the birds of the interior and western regions, the individual variation throughout the range reduces the importance of this as a subspecific criterion. It is concluded that the arrangement suggested by Peters, i.e. the rejection of all races, is correct and should be adopted.—JOHN L. McKEAN.

PAVO—The Indian Journal of Ornithology. Vol. 1. No. 1. pp. 1-70. March, 1963. India is a vast country with a rich, varied and colourful avifauna, yet until the appearance of *Pavo* there was not a single journal in India devoted entirely to ornithology. This reviewer has no hesitation in welcoming this journal and considers its very presence should encourage further ornithological research in India. The first number contains papers on the historical and cultural position of the Peacock (India's national bird), and on its breeding biology, ecology, physiology, ethology and genetics.—JOHN L. McKEAN.

Instructions to Young Ornithologists. IV. Sea-birds, by Mary E. Gillham. Museum Press Limited, London, 1963. Few people know sea-birds and sea-bird islands as does Dr Mary E. Gillham. She has a passion for the sea, its bird-life and those lonely places where they nest and live, and writes accordingly. Well illustrated with sketches made from most of her own transparencies, this book covers in excellent fashion all phases in the life of sea-birds ranging from the albatross to the little Diving Petrel. Sections of the book are devoted to classification, flight, swimming ability, types and their feeding habits, roosts, nesting colonies and breeding. A splendid publication and thoroughly recommended not only to young ornithologists but to all who share in the many pleasures associated with the study of bird-life.—W. R. WHEELER.

News and Notes

HEAD-COLOURS OF GOULDIAN FINCHES

Professor Bennett, of the Genetics Department, University of Adelaide, is undertaking research on the genetic mechanisms of the red and black head-colours of Gouldian Finches, *Poephila gouldiae*. He would be very grateful for any information on their occurrence in the field. In particular, records of numbers of red males, red females, black males and black females are required.

If any member has records of this sort, he is asked to write to Professor Bennett at the above address. Members who live in northern Australia, and who might otherwise visit areas where Gouldian Finches occur, could also assist by undertaking counts. It would be greatly appreciated, in that case, if they could contact Professor Bennett before making any counts.

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