

## LITERATURE

Edited by A. R. McEVEY

### BOOKS

**Birds of Victoria. The Ranges** by A. J. Reid, N. J. Shaw and W. R. Wheeler 1970. Melbourne: Gould League, Victoria. Pp. 88, col. pl. 36, figs. 43, b & w pl. 5, maps 2, 170 × 115 mm. \$A.1.50.

The second volume of the Gould League's series of field guides covering birds of different Victorian habitats continues the imaginative approach of the first, already reviewed (*Emu* 70: 39). 'The Ranges' are defined as including country above 400 m or having an annual rainfall of 50 mm, i.e. approximately half of the State. Introductory articles entitled 'Birds and their Forest Associations', 'Ground Dwelling Birds' and 'Birds found above 5,000 ft.' give an indication of the habitats and communities to be found in the Ranges. The photographs of habitat, small sketches of items of food and of predators all help the reader to visualize the birds in their ecological setting.

The species depicted number 102 of which 73 are described in some detail. There is an overlap with the first volume, so that this book can be used alone in its own region.

The Gould League is to be congratulated on the continuing success of this thoughtful and stimulating series. The paintings, again, are by no means perfect, but as a whole this is unimportant; praise for what has been achieved and offered at so low a price is more appropriate than criticism of detail.

R.A.B.

**Animals in Migration** by Robert T. Orr 1970. N.Y.: The Macmillan Co. Pp. xv + 303, maps, line drawings, monochrome pl., col. pl. 19, 240 × 165 mm. \$US12.50.

Migration is a term that covers a great variety of animal movements in many circumstances and for numerous reasons. This book is therefore a comprehensive documentation of various kinds of animal behaviour and as such might be said to lack coherence. An attempt is made to deal with all animals that indulge in regular movements of population, but butterflies, fish, birds, bats and marine mammals inevitably receive most notice.

Four chapters out of 17 deal with birds, but there are frequent references to them throughout the book under such headings as photoperiodism, irruptions, fat deposition, speed, height, orientation and mortality. In a chapter on methods of studying migration, techniques used by ornithologists are widely discussed.

Numerous clear maps are useful in giving the reader a quick grasp of the scope of various migrations. There are 17 pages of bibliography and a good index. This is quite a good and up-to-date treatise on a perennially interesting subject.

D.F.D.

**Ornithology in Laboratory and Field** by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. 4th edition, 1970. Minneapolis: Burgess Publishing Company. Pp. xvii + 524, b & w pl. 27, col. 3, frontispiece, 254 × 190 mm. \$US11.95.

Having fledged on a borrowed copy of an earlier edition of 'Pettingill', I was curious to see this brand new one. The fourth edition, more compact than the third, with higher quality paper, a few drawings in colour, an additional 145 pages and a more sophisticated title (pre-

viously *A Laboratory and Field Manual of Ornithology*), is less a manual for the laboratory and obviously more a competitive ornithological text-book. The author insists that it is a manual to guide and assist the student in direct observations, but suggests that it may supplant the need for an accompanying text. Its price has doubled.

To anyone familiar with previous editions the format of the text is clearly Pettingill; separate sections cover topography, feathers and tracts, anatomy and physiology, systematics, external structure, identification, plumages and coloration, distribution, migration, territory, song, mating, nests and nest-building, eggs, laying and incubation, development of young, and parental care. The old sections on ecology and communities now rest under one on distribution. 'Populations' has been expanded to 'Longevity, numbers, and populations'. 'Behaviour' and 'Ancestry, evolution, and decrease of birds' are new, as is 'Birds and ornithology: an introduction'. A number of specialists have provided small sections. There are nine useful appendices. One includes ideas on photography, tape-recording, banding and marking, and other methods of field-study. Bibliographies include general ornithology, life-history studies, regional works and recreational reading. A list of current ornithological journals is appended, also a review of avian ectoparasites, and a table of clutch-sizes, incubation periods and ages at fledging, but alas only for North American species. A good ten-page index of subjects is provided, but unfortunately none of authors. Numerous diagrams, tables and charts still await labelling by the student. Unwieldy fold-out pages have all been relegated to a pocket inside the back cover.

Many sections are set out almost as programs and although too much how-to-do-it may dull the imagination it certainly ensures that relevant and comparable data are obtained. Despite the possible superficiality of some sections, the bibliographies are most useful and will continue to be major sources of information. Literature reviewed is fairly up to date. The draft was completed late in 1969, and there are few citations of more recent publications. Work done since the third edition is not always discussed; salt-glands are, laparotomy techniques are not. The drawings and diagrams by R. B. Ewing, and more sophisticated than those in the previous edition, enhance the appearance and worth of the book.

It is difficult to find fault with a work as comprehensive and useful as this, particularly with a recent edition of a book first published in 1939. Doubtless, it will contain a few errors. A separate page had to be provided by the publisher as a replacement for Plate XIV (p. 48), printed incorrectly. The form of citation of literature used throughout wastes some space, but allows dates to be read at a glance. The full references in A. J. Berger's text (pp. 72-80) differ jarringly in style from most others in the book; and they are repeated in a bibliography on p. 102.

It is with diabolical glee that I note (p. 106) that another American biologist has been trapped by his system of spelling into thinking that 'mucous' is a synonym for, instead of the adjective of, 'mucus'. And anyone to whom a bolus denotes something formed by buccal manipulation, or at least a rounded lump, will be dumbfounded to learn that a pigeon swallows successive

boluses of water without lifting its head (p. 106). I think, too, that Dr. Pettingill loses the argument when he pedantically insists on 'ruptive' rather than 'disruptive' coloration (p. 194). No doubt some will object to his often enthusiastic and categorical statements: 'Threat displays . . . prevent over-population . . .' (p. 255); 'Every student of ornithology should become a *militant* conservationist. . . .' (p. 423—his italics).

But how useful is this book to the Australian ornithologist? American universities abound with courses in ornithology; recently an American Ph.D. told me of completing five different formal courses in ornithology during his training. Australian universities generally have no courses in zoology for post-graduates, so that formal exposure to ornithology as a subject worth studying in its own right does not exist. Hence, such manuals are

hardly needed. The most obvious criticism by the potential Australian purchaser would be to the extremely parochial nature of the content. By far, most examples are drawn from North American birds. Most discussions of general topics, e.g. ecological distribution, deal only with American species. Do not expect discussion of nomadism or migration in Australian birds. Even the key to Orders (p. 175) is restricted to those occurring in North America. To the advanced ornithologist, the book's chief value lies in its general reviews and excellent bibliographies; to the serious amateur without a basic zoological background, in its ideas, sources of information, and methodology. To the casual bird-watcher, reading about all those birds in America might be rather dull unless he is planning a trip there.

D.D.D.

## SHORTER NOTICES

### Overseas Publications

#### Seabirds

GILL, F. B. 1967. Observations on the pelagic distribution of sea-birds in the western Indian ocean. Proc. U.S. natn. Mus. 123 (3605).

This is an important paper on distribution of seabirds not listed here before.

J.L.McK.

GILL, F. B. 1970. Hybridization in Norfolk Island White-eyes (*Zosterops*). Condor 72: 481–482.

Three hybrids between *Zosterops lateralis* and *Z. tenuirostris* are reported and discussed.

J.L.McK.

SHUNTOV, V. P. 1968. Numerical record of sea birds in the eastern part of the Indian Ocean. Oceanology 8(3): 494–501. (Trans. Am. Geoph. Un., 1969).

Analyses 618 bird counts made during research cruises in May 1965, January and June 1966 and May–July 1967 in waters off western Australia, 375 of them over the shelf off northern Australia (including the Timor and Arafura Seas), and 243 along sections from south-western Australia to the Sunda and Lombok Straits, the transect to Sunda Strait in particular being repeated three times, in January, May and June. Only one of the identifications is remarkable, of a white-breasted shearwater considered to be *Puffinus gavia* which predominated in an area of upwelling off north-western Australia during the south-eastern monsoon (it would be interesting to know what this really was), but an interesting correlation is shown between the occurrence of upwelling and an increase in density of seabirds south of Java.

W.R.P.B.

#### Physiology

LASIEWSKI, W. R., W. R. DAWSON and G. A. BARTHOLOMEW. 1970. Temperature regulation in the Little Papuan Frogmouth *Podargus ocellatus*. Condor 72: 332–338.

*Podargus ocellatus* possesses a complete and effective range of thermo-regulatory responses although it lives in a uniform equable tropical environment.

J.L.McK.

#### Palaeornithology

WALDMAN, M. 1970. A third specimen of a lower Cretaceous feather from Victoria, Australia. Condor 72: 377.

The feather, found in silty claystone near Koonwarra in southern Gippsland, is figured and described in detail. It is asymmetrical in shape and is probably, but not certainly, a covert feather.

J.L.McK.

### Historical

#### The Cayleys, Father and Son

Neville Henry Pennington Cayley (1853–1903) was an ornithological artist of considerable talent. His line drawings illustrate the four volumes of A. J. North's *Nests and Eggs of Birds* (1901–1914). Many of his water-colour paintings are extant and there is a collection of them in the National Library, Canberra. His only book is a limp covered 8vo, titled *Australian Birds*, containing eleven coloured plates, titled, but without any other explanatory text. It was published in 1900 by the N.S.W. Bookstall Co., Sydney. Ferguson (item 8035) gives the contents as ten plates; my copy has eleven plates.

Neville William Cayley, the son, followed his father as a natural history artist, painting birds, mammals, butterflies and flowers for the most part, though he also did landscapes. His first book was in the format of his father's small item. It was titled *Our Birds* and contained seven coloured plates, titled, and with a page of explanatory matter. It was published by the Aldenhoven Art Galleries Limited in 1918. Another of his booklets, similar in style, came from the same publishers in the same year. Its title was *Our Flowers* and it contained seven coloured plates and a page of text by A. G. Hamilton, one of the founders of the Gould League of Bird Lovers of New South Wales. The third small booklet by Neville W. Cayley is *The Tale of Bluey Wren*, published in 1926 with one colour plate and a number of black and white illustrations. It was issued by Lonsdale and Bartholomew (Aust.) Ltd.

Subsequently he wrote and illustrated *What Bird is That?* (1931), *Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary* (1932), *Budgerigahs in Bush and Aviary* (1932), *Australian Parrots* (1938) and *The Fairy Wrens of Australia* (1949) published a few months before his death on 17 March 1950. Neville W. Cayley also illustrated *What Butterfly is That?* by G. A. Waterhouse (1932) and *Furred Animals of Australia* by Ellis Troughton (1941). Many of his drawings and paintings appeared in books by other authors and in journals.

Cayley Sr had a painting style quite different from that of his son, there being no difficulty in recognizing the work of either. The father signed his work 'Neville Cayley', the son, 'Neville W. Cayley'. In recent years the paintings and the books of both men have appreciated greatly in value and are now sought after by collectors.

An 'Appreciation' of Neville W. Cayley has been published (Emu 50: 52–6).

K.A.H.

(This note, which one had hoped would be the first of many was, so regrettably, the only contribution to 'Literature' by the late K. A. Hindwood—Review Ed.)