

I have been unable to discover the height above sea level of the ranges. Mt. Korong some eight miles to the north-east is 1,400 feet and appears to be much higher than the ranges: my guess at their height would be about 1,200 feet.

I wonder if the birds have since remained in this fairly thickly timbered area during the hot summer months? I have not had the opportunity to revisit the area.—F. A. WATTS, Heathmont, Vic., 29/1/59.

Reviews

A Time to Look: A Book to Read.—Graham Pizzey's book *A Time to Look*, Heinemann, 1958, 94 pp., 37 pp. ills., price 30/-, may be said to exemplify the author's closing words—"To process, as it were, the sights and sounds of the natural world and express them in photographs and words in as true and telling a manner as I am able". It is a combination of film pictures and word pictures, both of quality. In Australia there are no professional ornithological photographers like Eric Hosking in England, and others elsewhere, though John Warham's activities are directed that way. Pizzey has aspirations to devote most of his time to picturing birds and deserves encouragement if this first collection is a promise of more to come. Perhaps, here and there, there is some striving for effect in the language employed, but it is a minor fault: on the whole the style is good, and certainly entertaining. The author says that he has patience—a concomitant of bird photography. Patently he has ability, enthusiasm and ingenuity in devising means to achieve his object.

The author's special occasions, red-letter days with birds, and joyous events that, like Wordsworth's daffodils, "flash upon that inward eye" are presented, so that readers may share his bird-watching experiences—Wedge-tailed Eagles at home, Gannets and Cape Barren Geese in Bass Strait, waders on Mud Island, Ayers Rock, the Barrier Reef highlights and lesser pleasures. A practical aspect is a chapter on the development of a technique and technical data.

The publishers have been liberal in respect of photographs, but the variation in sizes and the grouping is not always pleasing, and the setting of some captions sideways detracts from appearance.

A pleasant book, a suitable gift for overseas friends, whether bird-students, or not, a record of observation and skill.—C.E.B.

Curlew-Sandpiper.—In 1957, L. A. Portenko began a series of papers on the rare waders of northern and eastern Siberia. The first instalment dealt with the peculiar Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Euryornychus pygmaeus*). A second paper, 'Studien an einigen seltenen Limicolen aus den nördlichen und östlichen Sibirien—II', *Journal für Ornithologie*, 100, 2, 141-172, April 1959, deals with the Curlew-Sandpiper (*Erolia ferruginea*) and describes the species as purely a far north Asiatic breeding form. Its breeding range extends from the Kolyma River in the east and reaches almost to the Ob River in the west.

Portenko describes the courtship, display, nest, eggs, and downy young. A coloured plate depicts a downy chick and two chicks of the Pectoral Sandpiper (*Erolia melanotos*) for comparison.

An intermediate plumage phase which the author calls the pre-nuptial plumage is described and figured.

Migration routes of the Curlew-Sandpiper apparently lie along coastlines, lakes and streams. From the evidence of banded birds it seems that individuals do not always go to the same region each year.—E.F.B.