though tugged or shaken, after which it would be two or three inches shorter. When this first happened, the body writhed convulsively, and the parent bird seemed to jab at it with its beak. Thereafter it merely watched closely while the snake was gathered in a few inches at a time with a breathing space between each gulp. When I left, about three inches of tail still protruded. I had no watch but estimated that the nestling had swallowed the greater part of the snake in fifteen minutes. Though it must have been killed first, the victim did not appear to be at all mangled.—NANCY HOPKINS, Townsville, Qld., 3/11/53.

Reviews

Migrations of the Sooty Shearwater.—A very significant banding recovery from the north Pacific Ocean is reported by Dr. L. E. Richdale in the *Ibis*, vol. 99, January 1957, p. 116. A Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), which he banded as a breeding bird on Stewart Island, New Zealand, was caught alive and then released at the northern Coronado Islands, Mexico, about July 11, 1955. This indicates that New Zealand breeding Sooty Shearwaters migrate into the northern Pacific and possibly follow a somewhat similar circuit to that of the Australian Short-tailed Shearwater (*P. tenuirostris*). This has been the general belief until recently, when overseas ornithologists began to speculate on the origin and destination of the vast flocks of migrating shearwaters moving westwards along the Antarctic continent in the Indian Ocean sector in late summer. They had been reported first by Dr. R. A. Falla, and subsequently seen by Martin Routh, the biologists of the Australian National Antarctic Expeditions and members of Dutch expeditions. G. J. van Oordt and J. P. Kruijt (*Ibis*, vol. 95, p. 624; *Ardea*, vol. 42, p. 264) offered the startling explanation that these birds were from New Zealand and adjacent islands bound for the Atlantic via the Cape of Good Hope! Richdale's record would dispose of this theory, unless the immature age classes have a radically-different migratory pattern from the breeding adults. The final solution of this intriguing problem must await more observations at sea, and, above all, more extensive ringing programmes at the various breeding stations.—D.L.S.

Bird of Paradise Anatomy.—In a paper 'On the Anatomy of the Red Bird of Paradise, with Comparative Remarks on the Corvidae', by Andrew J. Berger, *The Auk*, vol. 73, no. 3, July 1956, pp. 427-446, the author has examined in detail the pterylosis, osteology and the musculature of a single specimen of the Red Bird of Paradise (*Paradisaea rubra*) and compared the results with relevant data concerning the Corvidae. Whilst several workers have indicated the possible relationship of the two families, Berger shows that much more information on anatomical features generally is needed before such a grouping can be satisfactorily maintained. He states that so little is known about the pterylosis and osteology of passerine birds that it is difficult to select characters which reveal affinity. His contribution is valuable because it provides a basis for future research on other species of the Paradisaeidae and also because of the twenty titles cited in the bibliography. —K.A.H.

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