

The Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis*, in south-east Queensland. Woodall, P. F. (1986). *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 13: 575-582. (During 1972-1983 numbers in coastal areas were reasonably stable but the inland population increased.)

Population size and breeding success of the Gentoo Penguin, *Pygoscelis papua* at Macquarie Island. Robertson, G. (1986). *Aust. Wildl. Res.* 13: 583-587. (In November 1984, 4 700 pairs in 53 colonies produced 4 600 chicks.)

Geographical variation in size of an Australian honey-eater (Aves: Meliphagidae): an example of Bergmann's rule. Wooller, R. D., Saunders, D. A., Bradley, J. S., and de Rebeira, C. P. (1985). *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 25: 355-363. (Clinal variation in Singing Honeyeaters.)

Reliability of singing bird surveys: effects of song phenology during the breeding season. Wilson, D. M., and Bart, J. (1985). *Condor* 87: 69-73. (Phenological differences might cause errors of up to 25% in estimating density.)

A new method for matching hatchlings with their eggs. Mayoh, K. R., and Zach, R. (1985). *Condor* 87: 300-301. (Thin thread was glued around each egg.)

REVIEW

Research on penguins in New Zealand. A report prepared by the Penguin Research Review Sub-committee, WRLG Research Review Liaison Group, Wellington, 38 pp.

The Wildlife Research Liaison Group (WRLG) was formed in New Zealand in 1981 by the Minister of Science and Technology. Its objective is to promote wildlife research in New Zealand by: (i) encouraging communication between all organisations and individuals interested in wildlife; and (ii) by reviewing recent and current research.

Nine species of penguin breed in New Zealand, or its offshore sub-Antarctic islands, and in the Ross Sea sector of Antarctica (New Zealand's Ross Dependency). These penguins are the: Emperor; Yellow-eyed; Adelie; Chinstrap; Blue (-Little); Rockhopper; Fiordland Crested; Snares Crested; and Erect-crested.

The report reviews the existing knowledge of each of these nine species in the New Zealand region. The reviews cover: Distribution and Abundance; Reproduction; Survival and Mortality; Embryology and Development; Physiology; Behaviour, Foods and Feeding; and Parasitology.

The report concludes with suggestions for future research and a useful list of 194 references of research on penguins in New Zealand and its territories.

D. Purchase, Canberra, A.C.T.

The Birdlife of Rottneest Island by Denis Saunders and Perry de Rebeira, 1985. The Authors, Guildford, WA. 101 pp including 13 colour plates and five maps. \$Au9.50.

This book, as the authors have indicated in the Introduction, is designed for visitors to the island who are not bird watchers but who may want to identify and know something of the birds they see there. Rottneest Island is a popular resort island 18 kilometres from Fremantle, WA. It is visited by "up to 250,000 people every year" and the authors have considered that a special publication of the birds found on the island should be available to these visitors.

In addition to the Introduction, chapters cover Bird Habitats, The Birds, and Bird Watching on Rottneest Island; there is a Bibliography and an Appendix which comprises a list of 106 species with the status of each on the island. The chapter on The Birds is subdivided into six sections referring to habitats — Birds of the coast, Birds of the salt-lakes, Birds of the swamps, Birds of the woodlands, Birds of the heath, and Birds of the settlements and disturbed areas. Six of the colour plates depict 12 photographs of habitats; the other seven are paintings of 47 of the more commonly seen birds (other than vagrants) shown in the text; two others are illustrated in black and white. Though not up to the standard of work by leading ornithological artists in this country, the paintings, by one of the authors (P. de R.) are adequate if, as the authors suggest, the description given in the text is "read in conjunction with the plate which illustrates the bird".

The text reveals the long field experience of both authors; it summarises the known information and biology of each species. I found it interesting and accurate.

The book should be of value to non-birdwatcher visitors to the island and also a useful summary for birdwatchers intending to visit Rottneest. It brought back pleasant memories of two visits; one of these included a bike ride to Cape Vamingh to see the shearwaters come in after dark. The ride back, on a very black night, with one torch between two of us, made dodging Quokkas quite a hazardous task.

S. G. Lane, Moonee, NSW.

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