

petrels and shearwaters sitting on the ground, when most observations and identification problems occur at sea. To my mind, nothing beats a good fieldguide illustration for identification purposes and it is a pity that yet another New Zealand publication has tackled this aspect inadequately.

But on a brighter note, the photographs are generally excellent, with Brian Chudleigh's waders and terns some of the best I have seen. The paper, printing and photographic reproduction are good and the binding successfully withstood a month in the back of my car with numerous 11 year old lads and their accessories.

There is a lot of information in this book, but a bit more research, checking and stringent editing would have made it more accessible and accurate. If you are looking for a book to guide you to your local birdwatching areas you may well be disappointed, but if you want an ornithological tour of New Zealand, then this book will guide you to some of the country's best birdwatching localities and direct you to some exciting scenic areas.

Derek Onley



*The Manx Shearwater*, by Michael Brooke. 1990. T. & D. Poyser. Hardback. 246 pp. 64 b/w illustrations, 57 tables. UK price £16.

It is 48 years since Ronald Lockley's classic *Shearwaters* appeared, a book that stimulated the interest of many ornithologists of his and later generations in shearwaters in particular and in tube-noses in general. The present monograph shows how far we have come since 1942. This is a highly readable but scholarly text drawing largely on Brooke's long-term research and so focusing particularly on breeding biology, bringing together his published results in a more digestible form. This aspect takes up about 60% of the text. The rest is devoted to topics like global distribution, migration, population biology and vocalisations. Parallel references to birds other than petrels help in putting the situation with petrels in perspective.

Brooke describes field experiments on orientation to nest sites and has a whole chapter on *puffinosis*, an affliction that kills fledglings and whose main outward manifestation is blistering of the feet. He reveals that the causative agent(s) have yet to be identified, describes his experiments that point to the involvement of mites ('bracken bugs') in transmission, and reveals that a drug used in treating relapsing fever in humans was successful for combating *puffinosis* in small-scale trials.

Highly recommended.

John Warham