

In places great detail is given. For example, a full page table lists the squid species eaten by *D. exulans* based on 4 analyses, and, separately, the rostral lengths of these molluscs from S. Georgian material.

Some omissions are strange. For instance, in the account of the Wandering Albatross, the plumages of 7 different stages to maturity are described in fine detail filling over two pages and the Gibson Scores cited, but neither Gibson's diagram nor the expanded one by Jouventin *et al.* are reproduced. Although most of the 7 stages are shown in the plates, Gibson's simple figure would have been a significant additional aid for the user and perhaps enabled some of the verbiage to be trimmed. The writers also seem to have had trouble believing that our Antipodes/Campbell I. birds breed in dark neotenus plumage and they fail to warn the reader that such birds are common in Australasian seas and too easily scored as immatures.

Despite such minor blemishes, this volume contains a vast store of information into which workers on tubenoses will be delving for a good many years to come.

John Warham



A Field Guide To Australian Bird Song: Cassettes 6 7 & 8. Available from the Bird Observers Club of Australia, P O Box 185, Nunawading, Victoria 3131, Australia. \$Aust 11.00 plus packing and postage.

This series of tapes are the only ones available presenting most of the birds of Australia in systematic order and are well worth the cost even if we disagree over some of the vernacular names.

Volume 6 in this major series on the Birds of Australia is of considerable interest to New Zealand ornithologists as it contains eight species that are on our checklist. Species covered range from the Owls to the Cuckoo-shrikes, including the many species of Kingfisher and the astonishing mimicry of the two species of lyrebirds. A golden opportunity exists here for those interested in comparing the sounds made by different populations of a species such as the Welcome Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* on both sides of the Tasman Sea, or if you are interested in a wider perspective, Richards Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* of Australia and Africa along with the New Zealand birds. Good long recordings are given in most cases for the 44 species assembled by Len Grice in this volume.

Volume 7 brings us a further 36 passerines, four of which are on the New Zealand list (Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos* and Blackbird *T. merula* Red-vented Bulbul *Pyconotus cafer* and White-winged Triller *Lalage tricolor*). Many melodious species including most of the attractive Robins and Whistlers are given centre stage on this magnificent cassette assembled by Rex Buckingham and Len Jackson. Anyone interested in learning the songs of the Australian passerines would find this cassette an absolute must.

Volume 8 presents a further 34 species including at least two that are now on the New Zealand lists. (Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* and

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*). This cassette lends itself to those interested in the sounds produced by the birds found across the Tasman. Many of these passerines could find their way to New Zealand in the future, tapes such as these are a considerable help in identifying many of these species either here or in Australia.

Each tape comes with a booklet containing brief notes about the featured species, this considerably increases the value of these recordings to the research fraternity. A note of caution here, because mistakes do happen: in the booklet for Volume 8 the listener is advised that two species are presented on Volume 2 under the name of Lewin's Rail *Rallus pectoralis*. A White Browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinereus* is heard in this recording along with *R. pectoralis*. In Volume 4, under the entry for Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* we are advised that the species featured is actually the Wompoo Pigeon *Ptilinopus magnificus*. It is hoped that these will be included at the end of the series when suitable field tapes may be available.

A plea from the producers of these cassettes is for people, using the recordings in the field to attract birds into the open for photography or other purposes, to show some restraint; excessive playback on location can lead to the abandonment of nests and young, or even a particular location.

If you are interested in the birds of Australia this is the set of tapes to use.

L. B. McPherson

