

M. halli, which is sympatric with *M. giganteus* on Macquarie Island. Therefore, they can now be identified only as giant petrels *Macronectes* sp.

LITERATURE CITED

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REVIEWS

Children of Tane (VP 429); *Friends of Maui* (VP 444); *Birds of New Zealand* (VP 445). Also as cassettes.

The first of these three discs was released to coincide with Conservation Week 1979. It consists of 19 bird species heard on Radio New Zealand's early call programme with Robert Taylor, and songs in Maori by Sydney Melbourne about each species. For me, it's too much music and not enough bird song, and I don't like the blending of music into bird song. The birds take a definite third place to the music and to Robert Taylor's instructive comments. The second disc, released for Conservation Week 1980, has 19 seabird species and the Long-tailed Cuckoo, included because of its place in Maori mythology. It has 3 species not previously available on disc; the first one has 4 such species. The field recordings are by John Kendrick of Wildlife Service and are of high standard.

The third disc, released in August 1980, has all the birds of the other discs plus Taylor's comments. The playing time for each bird is greatly expanded, and so this is the choice for the ornithologist, unless you like Maori music and mythology for preference. All three make a great souvenir for tourists in New Zealand.

— LES McPHERSON

NEW RATITE FROM NEW CALEDONIA

Sylviornis neocaledoniae n.g., n.sp. (Aves, *Ratite eteint de la Nouvelle-Caledonie*, by Poplin, Francois 1980. *C.R.Acad. Sc. Paris Vol. 290, Serie D*, pp. 691-694.

A medium-sized lightly built ratite, like *Rhea*, *Casuaris* and *Dromaius* (the emu) but most like the last two, is described from a first phalange, the body of a left femur, two tibiotarsi and a tarsometatarsus. They represent a bird resembling an emu, cassowary or rhea in general profile, of the size of a small emu (such as Black Emu).