

Jersey in June; strident whistles, sometimes repeated as a chatter, but calls of other species in the background make identification somewhat hazardous.

Naturalists who regularly observe waders may benefit from having these tapes on tap but their value would have been increased by more documentation (of other bird calls in the background and of behavioural setting). Ideally, each species should be represented by song on breeding grounds, flight calls, alarm calls, and calls in winter quarters, all identified as such. This should soon be possible, to judge by the tape resources Les McPherson has been able to draw upon already.

— C. A. FLEMING

*Australian bird calls. Series Two: Western Australia*, by John N. Hutchinson. Available from author, Balingu 6253, Western Australia. \$Aust 8.00 per cassette or disc, post paid.

This stereo cassette contains the songs or calls of 25 Australian birds and three atmosphere or habitat recordings and is the equal of the earlier disc by this author.

The only complaint I have is that there is no verbal introduction to each species but this is offset to some degree by the use of a data sheet which comes with the tape and indicates precise times when a given species starts its song or call. Other information on the sheet includes the background sounds per channel, the date of recording, locality, time, temperature and the cloud type and wind.

One of the most striking recordings is of a Kangaroo hopping past the recording station from left to right, together with a strong background chorus from four bird species, three of which feature as soloists later in the recording. The only species that was on Mr Hutchinson's first disc and appears again is the White-tailed Cockatoo, a species over which there is much discussion at present. The early disc gave an example of song from the Long-billed, while the new one gives an example from the Short-billed variety.

This cassette is by far the most superior I have heard so far. There is none of the background rumble so common to pre-recorded cassettes of natural sound these days. Mr Hutchinson is to be very highly commended for this fine-quality recording.

— L. B. McPHERSON



## SHORT NOTE

### TUIS FLYING WITH BILLS OPEN

On 27 January 1978, a very hot day, the temperature being about 30°, flax at the Mt. Bruce Bird Sanctuary was still in flower and about a dozen Tuists were feeding on the nectar. In every instance when the birds were seen in flight they had their bills open, apparently as a cooling action.

R. STIDOLPH, *Masterton*