

Australian Sea-Birds. — Through the courtesy of Mr. J. A. Kershaw, F.E.S., Curator, I have been permitted to look over the bird-skins in the National Museum. I have noticed three species of sea-birds that are not on any Australian list, so far as I am aware, namely: — Two specimens of the Antarctic Petrel (*Thalassoica antarctica*), "from and identified by J. Gould"; one from South Australian seas, the other from Australian seas; one specimen of the Snowy, or Ice, Petrel (*Pagodroma nivea*), "from and identified by J. Gould," marked Australian seas; and a specimen of the Antarctic Skua (*Megalestris maccormicki*), ^{see p. 119} taken by N. Batchelor, at Queenscliff, Victoria. When one considers the long Antarctic night and consequent frozen rigours of the far south, it is not surprising that the above-mentioned Antarctic-breeding species should occasionally make their way into lower and more temperate latitudes in the seas of Southern Australia.—A. J. CAMPBELL, F.A.O.U., Melbourne.

Reviews.

["A Practical Handbook of British Birds." — Edited by H. F. Witherby, M.B.E., F.Z.S., F.R.G.S., M.B.O.U., assisted by authors of the various sections: Dr. Ernest Hartert, Miss Annie C. Jackson, H.M.B.O.U. (Mrs. Meinertzhagen), Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, M.A., M.B.O.U., and Messrs. C. Oldham, F.Z.S., Norman F. Ticehurst, M.A., F.R.C.S. It contains over 1500 pages of letterpress, with 30 plates coloured and monochrome and over 350 text figures. Demy 8vo. 2 vols. (bound as 3) £4/10/- net.]

The issue of Part XVIII. completes a publication of the greatest value to all working ornithologists and bird-lovers. Originality in plan, practical utility and accuracy of detail are claimed for this work, which is the result of great labour and much research.

The information under each species being divided into sections and given in uniform order is easy of reference. All the birds on the British List are included.

Keys to the Orders, Families, Genera and Species are given as guides to identification.

Descriptions are more complete than any hitherto published in book form. They include in each species the plumages and moults of both sexes from season to season, as well as the changes from nestling to maturity under separate headings.

Characters and Allied Forms is a useful section in which the chief characteristics of the species and how it differs from near allies on the British List are shown.

Field Characters.—In this section discriminating notes are given of points of distinction in the bird's appearance "in the field," of flight, notes and song, and other habits. The section dealing with breeding habits deals concisely with breeding habitat, nest, site and construction; eggs, colour, number in clutch and size; breeding season; incubation period and share of sexes, and fledgling period where known. The food, so far as is known,



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