

## A PORTFOLIO OF NEW ZEALAND BIRDS

By Bruce Harvey

Charles E. Tuttle Company, Rutland, Vermont. 1971. Pp. 64. \$17.50

This large volume, similar in size and format to A Portfolio of Australian Birds, is mainly a coffee table volume of portraits of 25 species of New Zealand birds with brief supporting natural history text by the artist-author. For the most part, the color plates are well painted and printed and give the dilettante naturalist a good representation of the more colorful and interesting species of New Zealand birds. The text also is adequate for that purpose.

One feature which is very annoying, particularly in this era of increasingly wise use of natural resources, is the needless waste of paper in this book. Roughly half of the entire volume consists of blank pages! Art books often use much open space, but this is extreme and a real waste of paper (to say nothing of the trees from which the paper was made). Since Tuttle appears to be embarking on a series of bird-art books, I hope they make better use of paper in future volumes.

As a solid contribution to the ornithology of New Zealand, this volume is relatively unimportant, but as a pleasant volume to have on one's coffee table it serves its purpose. After all, most of us became involved in bird study because of the beauty of birds and they certainly deserve to be painted by talented bird artists.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

## THE INVISIBLE PYRAMID

By Loren Eiseley

Charles Scribner's Sons, New York. 1970. Pp. 173. \$6.95.

When I requested this book for review, I anticipated receiving a volume dealing with the ecological pyramid of numbers which is so intimately involved in food chains and webs. Instead, this is a philosophical commentary upon man's past, present and

future as perceived by an eminent anthropologist and professor. EBBA members wishing to reflect upon their place in the universe may find the volume of interest.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

## A FIELD GUIDE TO THE BUTTERFLIES OF BRITAIN AND EUROPE

By L. G. Higgins and N. D. Riley

Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, Mass. 1970. Pp. 380. \$8.95

This volume contains more than 760 color illustrations of butterflies by Brian Hargreaves. All species in Europe west of Russia are included along with the forms found on the Mediterranean, Madeira, and Canary Islands, and along the west coast of North Africa. Distribution maps also are provided for almost all species -- the first ever to be compiled and published. The text contains the standard field guide information: vernacular and scientific names, description, flight, habitat, and distribution.

--Reviewed by Donald S. Heintzelman

## AN ATLAS OF SPECIATION IN AFRICAN PASSERINE BIRDS

By B. P. Hall and R. E. Moreau

British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S. W. 7, Great Britain. 1970. Pp. 423. Fifteen pounds.

This ponderous volume of maps charts the geographic distribution of 962 species of African passerines. It is the first such book ever devoted in such depth to the distribution of a major portion of the birds of an entire continent and, as such, represents one of the most significant ornithological volumes every published. The task of gathering location data from vast numbers of museum specimens, supplemented by some sight observations, and plotting these accurately on maps seems almost overwhelming. Yet this is exactly what the senior author did.