

is made even duller, and harder to scan, by unimaginative typesetting. The species and subspecies headings are not prominent enough. The main species-level texts (Distribution, Ecology) are too similar in typeface and layout to the long synonymic entries. A redeeming feature is the exquisite drawings by F. Knight which grace the introduction to each family.

This scholarly work is a landmark in the Australasian bird literature. All natural history research libraries will need it, and it will be of lasting interest and usefulness to New Zealand ornithologists.

B.J. GILL

LETTER

The Editor,

Errors and omissions in a list

It has been more than seven years since I submitted a note on possible changes to the systematic arrangement of New Zealand birds for publication in *Notornis*. The purpose of the note (Sibley *et al.*'s (1988) classification of living birds applied to the New Zealand list: *Notornis* 38: 152-164) was to assess some possible consequences for the New Zealand fauna of then recent biochemical studies. No-one seems to have noticed that the Grey Warbler had been struck off as a New Zealand bird, or, if they did, they did not think that it was important. Perhaps that was not surprising as the reviewer, editor, and author had not noticed its absence either! Nomenclature may not be at the top of most members' interest lists, but it is somewhat surprising that the omission of one of the commonest birds has not been mentioned to the author at any time since the note was published. *Gerygone* should have appeared in the list in the subfamily Pardalotidae, subfamily Acanthizinae, after the Family Meliphagidae, in the Superfamily Meliphagoidea.

Some other corrections and alterations to the list may also be noted: Infraclass Neoaves should appear before Parvclass Galloanserae, rather than before the Coraciae; the correct name for the forest kingfishers has since been determined to be the Halcyonidae rather than the Dacelonidae; amongst the Psittacidae, *Platycercus* should be in italics; in the Accipitridae, the genus *Haliaeetus* is not now thought to have been present in New Zealand; the genus *Poliocephalus* should be added to the Family Podicipedidae; and the correct name for the Eopsaltriidae has been found to be the Petroicidae.

Yours faithfully,

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