

Lack of adequate information compelled the authors to group tentatively a number of aberrant species, including four Australian. The Cape Barren Goose is included as an aberrant species in the sheldrakes, the Pink-eared and Freckled Ducks in the river-duck tribe. And the Pied Goose is, with 'great reservations,' grouped for the time being as an aberrant species of the tribe Cairinini, perching ducks, the tribe in which are included, as normal species, the two species of Pygmy-Geese that occur in Australia, and the Maned Goose.

Excellent plates illustrate the paper—a striking colour plate of the Baikal Teal (*Anas formosa*) as frontispiece, by Terence M. Shortt, and two plates, each with five diagrammatic figures of downy young, by Alexander Seidel.

This is a provocative and stimulating study that by inference encourages more energetic field work in regard to Australian species of Anatidae.—J.J.

**Northern Territory Birds.**—'The Birds of the Northern Territory,' by H. T. Condon, appears in *The South Australian Naturalist*, vol. 22, pt. 4, and vol. 23, pt. 1. This is a general account, accompanied by two pages of drawings of typical species and a 'habitat' map. The first part deals largely with climate and flora-fauna associations and the second with general groups. There is a tabulated list of 346 species appended. It is "probable that many more will be added in the future. For an area as large as the one under consideration the number of species that has been recorded is small." The purpose of the account is to supply an authentic list for servicemen and others interested, and is based on the author's own observations during three years, accounts in ornithological journals, and material in the South Australian Museum.—C.E.B.

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## News and Notes

June 28, 1945, was the centenary of the death of John Gilbert, John Gould's famous collector, who was speared by aborigines in the Gulf Country, north Queensland, during Leichhardt's Port Essington Expedition. On that day our President, Mr. K. A. Hindwood, and several bird-lovers and admirers of Gilbert and his work, placed a wreath of native flowers on the Gilbert Memorial in St. James's Church, Sydney. The date on the tablet reads June 29, an error that has been noted previously. A photograph of the Gilbert Memorial is reproduced in *The Emu*, vol. 38, pl. 36, opp. p. 150, and in *Strange New World*, by Alec H. Chisholm, 1941, opp. p. 331.

The death has occurred at Hobart of Mr. Arthur L. Butler, a foundation member of the Union. A biographical notice will appear in the next issue of *The Emu*.

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