

North America and finally south-westwards across the Pacific back to Australia. Movements and return appear remarkably regular.

The southern breeding of this species provides an exception to the firm rule that migratory birds nest in the colder of the regions visited. Breeding out of season is unknown. The breeding pattern is as constant as other features.

Extensive physiological data of breeding are included. A considerable non-breeding population exists, as commencement of breeding is delayed until the sixth year. The species moults on head and body during breeding, but moult of tail and wings is delayed until the birds are 'settled' in northern waters—an adaptation to the requirements necessary for lengthy migration flights.—C.E.B.

Cassowary Specimens and Illustrations.—An interesting account by Rachel L. M. Warren appears in the *Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, ser. 12, vol. ix, p. 753, Oct. 1956. It brings together varied data, some previously unpublished, of the 48 named forms of cassowaries, and lists British Museum material. Location of type specimens (some are lost—one remembers Kennedy's tragic northern Queensland expedition and Carron's account of Wall's attempt to preserve the skin of *australis*) are given, and lists of British Museum specimens, illustrations and special references. Though based on Peters (1931) and Mayr (1941), three species only—*casuaricus*, *bennetti* and *unappendiculatus*—are recognized, with 19 forms (though *aurantiacus* and *philipi* of the last may be identical).—C.E.B.

Bird Ailments.—Ray Murray in *Australian Aviculture*, vol. 11, no. 5, p. 61, gives a concise account of common ailments of cage birds and their treatment. He hits the nail on the head when he says that the main trouble with sick birds is to make the correct diagnosis of the case. He does not provide much guidance in that direction, however. A feature of the various treatments is the use of modern drugs. The article appears to be a useful one for 'fanciers'.—C.E.B.

Obituary

AUBREY S. CHALK

A former treasurer of the R.A.O.U., Mr. Aubrey S. Chalk, died at his home at Kooyong, Melbourne, on March 20, 1957, at the age of 73 years. Born at Berwick, a picturesque township east of Melbourne, Aubrey Chalk grew up in pleasant surroundings and early developed an interest in birds. He became as a young man an official of the Bank of Australasia, and he continued in that service over many years, eventually retiring as a branch manager. In all places at which he was stationed he maintained his interest in field ornithology, and, although he wrote little on the subject, he acquired a good general knowledge and became skilled at finding nests. Being stationed in Melbourne during his later years, he took an active part in the work of natural history societies, and he was variously president of the Bird Observers Club (1934-6), president of the Field Naturalists Club of Victoria (1939-40), treasurer of the R.A.O.U., and vice-president of the Gould League of Bird Lovers.

A quiet and amiable man, Chalk was much esteemed by a wide circle of friends. He was married twice and left two daughters by his first marriage.—A.H.C.

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