

BOOK REVIEW

Lockley, R. M., Shearwaters (The Devin-Adair Co., 1942, New York). Available from Pierce Book Co., Winthrop, Iowa 50682. \$6.00.

Most of us have awed at shearwaters on the wing, few have visited their nesting grounds, but no one has had R. M. Lockley's lifelong acquaintance with these masters of flight. His chronicle, though now 30 years old, still gives a penetrating look into the life of a Manx colony, on Skokholm Island off the southwest coast of Britain. With sightings of this species becoming ever more frequent in Massachusetts waters, this book may be more important to us now than when it was written.

We learn of fidelities (and infidelities) in his Knoll Village, of great black-backed gull infanticides, and of Lockley's homing experiments. We are also told how this dedicated birder elevated the life history of the Manx from fable to fact through careful and persistent observation.

By the way, Mr. Lockley is alive and well -- I saw him a couple of months ago on a National Geographic Society TV special -- performing more homing experiments, which spotlight the Manx's pathfinding ability and our own lack of understanding. L.J.R.

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