

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