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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In his review of my book *Prodigious Birds (Archaeology in New Zealand 33)*, Ron Scarlett mentions that there is no reference to a partly preserved *Anomalopteryx didiformis* specimen from Te Anau Cave. I assume that he is referring to the Lake Echo specimen found in 1980 and published by Michael Forrest in 1987. If so, he will find it described in table 5.2 on page 68.

I thank Ron for his review, but am disappointed that *Archaeology in New Zealand* should make no more effort than to publish a review already in print elsewhere (*Te Karanga* 5 (4), February 1990: 24), together with Jill Hamel's thoughts on the history of moa taxonomy. The latter, which constitute an enthusiastic tribute to the taxonomic methods used by Hutton (and which I described on pages 25-28 in *Prodigious Birds*), are quite wrong in asserting that he managed to reduce the number of moa species to 14, and close to the modern consensus, in 1896, or at any other time. The 14 species described in his paper on Kapua are simply those which were represented at that site. They do not include other South Island or any North Island species which Hutton described elsewhere. Reference to tables on pages 210-211 of my book will show that he recognised about 30 moa species throughout his career: he never got within cooee of the modern consensus.

Yours faithfully,

Atholl Anderson
University of Otago
PO Box 56
Dunedin

Attention: the Editor,

Science Magazine Seeks Information

The *New Zealand Science Monthly* provides an informative, readable look at New Zealand science and technology. It is read by everyone from secondary school students to academics, and aims to provide information of substance in a non-technical manner. The magazine covers a broad range of subjects in a variety of ways - including feature stories, opinion pieces, conference announcements, new technology developments and book reviews.

We would welcome submissions from researchers, engineers and interested parties about their work, their ideas and their concerns. These could range from copies of abstracts to conference proceedings, from information for feature articles

to letters to the editor. This is a chance to reach the general public and assure them that science is alive and kicking in New Zealand.

Copies of writers' guidelines are available on request as are free evaluation copies of the magazine itself.

Write to:

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New Zealand Science Monthly
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We look forward to hearing more about your area of interest.

Yours sincerely,

Vicki Hyde