

Buying time and space for the kokako

by Gerard Hutching

Pat and Arthur Cowan with Sir Edmund Hillary on Mt Rangitoto.

Photo: Commission for the Environment

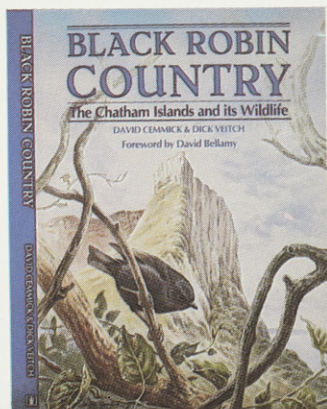
The North Island kokako, assailed on one side by man's clearance of its habitat, and on the other by competition from possums and the threat of predators, needs all the help it can get. Arthur and Pat Cowan are a farming couple who, more than most, have tried to ensure this endangered wattle bird and other native wildlife will survive.

The Cowans are modest about their efforts for conservation, even if their efforts are far from modest: the most outstanding example being the purchase of 1250 hectares of land from under the nose of potential agro-forestry developers on Mt Rangitoto near Te Kuiti. In addition the Cowan family have three large tracts of bush in QEII National Trust open space covenants.

Arthur Cowan's special feeling for the land could be connected with the fact that he was born and raised within a stone's throw from where he now farms. His father he remembers as "quite a keen conservationist", and a person who regretted the amount of bush clearance he had done as a young man. In his latter years Mr Cowan senior did his best to replant areas in native trees.

'The whole world should read this book and hold its breath in hope.'

— David Bellamy



BLACK ROBIN COUNTRY

The Chatham Islands and its Wildlife

by
David Cemmick
&
Dick Veitch

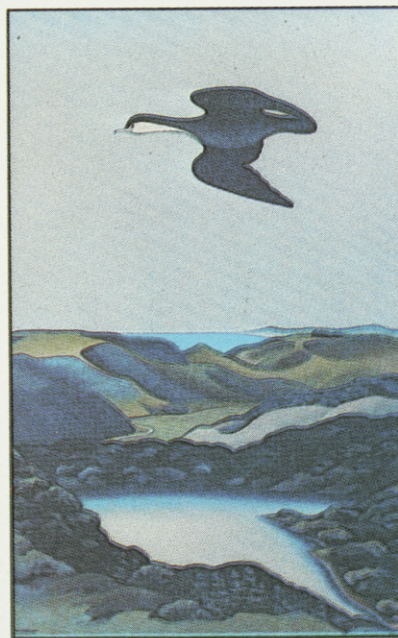
A fascinating natural history in the classic sense, **BLACK ROBIN COUNTRY** is primarily the story of the black robin—the world's rarest bird, found only on the Chathams. It is also a wonderful pictorial essay of the other wildlife of the little known Chatham Islands—those species that survived man's encroachment.

Conservation work on the islands has been in progress for many years. In 1983 Wildlife Officer Dick Veitch invited artist David Cemmick to accompany him on one of his visits. **BLACK ROBIN COUNTRY** is the result of their combined talents.

In over 70 vivid, full colour paintings, detailed sketches and an informative text, artist and naturalist have created a memorable portrait of the natural world of the Chatham Islands.

A beautiful book for the art lover, natural history enthusiast and conservationist.

HODDER & STOUGHTON



Kawaupaku, Te Henga

by Don Binney

an oil painting on board.

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