

Mr. Cunningham spoke appreciatively of the great co-operation received from members of the committee, and expressed thanks to the Royal Society for the use of its room.

Mr. Fleming said he considered his term of office as president a great honour for him.

Mr. A. A. Boulton made reference to the high standard of the bulletin under Mr. Stidolph's editorship. Mr. Boulton's remarks were heartily endorsed by the meeting.

Dr. R. A. Falla gave a most enjoyable and interesting lantern and film display. He said the lantern section could be regarded as a short memorial to Mr. Stead, as many of his best slides were shown. His own films were of the highest quality and greatly appealed to those present.

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### EXCURSION TO KAPITI ISLAND.

The excursion to Kapiti Island on the day after the annual meeting gave a number of members the chance to fulfil a long-cherished wish. Many also added new species to their lists of birds seen, or had the chance to become more familiar with uncommon ones. All this, combined with a perfectly calm, warm, sunny day, made the expedition a highly successful and enjoyable occasion. The thanks of all are due to the organiser, Mr. C. A. Fleming, and to those who helped with the transport.

A party of 25 left Wellington on Saturday morning and arrived at Paraparaumu Beach to find the sun shining and the launch already anchored off shore. It took some time ferrying so large a party out to the launch, but even so Kapiti was reached by about eleven o'clock after a very pleasant trip. Spotted and black shags, black-backed and red-billed gulls, grey and paradise ducks and a white-fronted tern were seen on the way over, and even before landing the calls of the tuis and bellbirds on the island were easily heard.

Lunch was eaten early so as to leave as much time as possible free for exploring, and, as the bush round the house was simply alive with birds, most members were to be seen wandering around with sandwich in one hand and field glasses in the other. Tuis and bellbirds were everywhere, whiteheads, red-fronted parakeets and pied fantails were numerous, while a weka came along the track and shared in the lunch. It formed the target for many cameras and was even tempted to steal a spoon in the hope of providing further action pictures. Afterwards the party split up, a number of members having a steep but most interesting scramble up the bush tracks and one or two of the most active even reaching the summit of the island. The unfamiliar vegetation in the bush was interesting to South Island members, while to meet robins along the track so tame that they would continue to feed within two or three feet of a group of people, and to see kakas and pigeons feeding overhead, was a great thrill. The pied tit and grey warbler seemed to be rarer but they were seen by some members of the party, and calls were heard apparently belonging to the yellow-fronted parakeet, though the bird was not seen. The only sign of introduced species was the old nest of a blackbird.

When we returned from our scramble a huge kettle was boiling and provided a welcome cup of tea before we reluctantly embarked for the return trip. The sea was even calmer, and the sun finally setting behind the island left a wonderful silhouette against the sky. Black-fronted tern, fluttering shearwater and gannet provided three more species to our list, bringing the day's total to 21, before the excitement of landing and the drive back to Wellington in the dark.—B.J.M.