

## THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND RINGING SCHEME.

The Ringing Committee has approved the following rules for operation of the Ringing Scheme, and rings should be available for issue to members, free of charge, in the immediate future. The species at present approved for ringing are: Caspian tern, white-fronted tern, black-billed gull, red-billed gull, gannet and stilt, but anyone wishing to make ringing studies of other species should nevertheless apply to the convener. The rules as here published are only for guidance of members, and authorised operators will be given cards containing them and subsequent amendments.

It is emphasised that all ringing of protected birds is allowed by courtesy of the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs. Practically all native birds are protected and it is an offence to handle such species, for any purpose, without permission.

J. M. CUNNINGHAM, Convener.

### GENERAL INFORMATION.

1. The Ringing Committee consists of four members who are appointed annually by the general committee of the society, and a recorder, all being members of the society.

2. The Ringing Committee may appoint as its recorder one of its own members or some other person or institution.

3. Permission, which may be cancelled at any time, to ring birds under the scheme may be granted in writing by the secretary of the society on the recommendation of the Ringing Committee. Such permission is granted under delegation of authority by the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs.

4. Application to ring birds under the scheme should be made to the Ringing Committee. Rings and permission to ring will be issued only to members of the society.

5. Applicants to ring must present in broad outline their plans of operation, species to be ringed, types of trap to be used, etc. Indiscriminate ringing of any and every species is not part of the scheme.

6. The Ringing Committee, before it recommends permission to ring, must be satisfied:—

- (1) That the operator will adhere to the rules and instructions as laid down from time to time by the Ringing Committee.
- (2) That the operator is competent to recognise all the species he desires to ring. (Wrong identification may lead to gross misunderstanding of results.)
- (3) That the operator has no interest in the trapping and ringing other than for study of the living bird.
- (4) That the operator will exercise due care in trapping, and in placing or replacing rings on birds.
- (5) That the type of trap used is not likely to harm the birds.

### CONDITIONS OF ISSUE.

7. The issue of rings and permission to ring under the scheme is conditional on the operator's acceptance of the following rules and instructions, and others to be laid down from time to time by the Ringing Committee:—

- (1) The operator acts for himself in trapping birds under the scheme and no responsibility or liability can attach to the society or any other member through his failure to adhere to authorised instructions.
- (2) The operator is to trap and ring only those species as stipulated from time to time by the Ringing Committee.
- (3) Operators ringing birds must always first obtain permission for purposes of entry from the owner, occupier or controlling authority of the land on which the birds are to be ringed.

- (4) Birds are to be released immediately after ringing, and every care taken to prevent harm or injury.
- (5) Birds are to be trapped and rings used only by the authorised operator or under his direct supervision.
- (6) The operator is to keep and return proper records as stipulated on forms supplied by the Ringing Committee.
- (7) The operator using colour rings is to use only the colours and combinations of colours stipulated by the Ringing Committee.
- (8) Passerine fledglings are not to be ringed except in certain circumstances approved by the Ringing Committee.
- (9) Schedules and unused rings issued to the operator are to be returned immediately at the request of the Ringing Committee.
- (10) The ring sizes for various species of birds as stipulated by the Ringing Committee are to be strictly adhered to.
- (11) If a ring is for any reason taken off a bird, it is never to be used on another bird.
- (12) Rings are to be closed round the leg by means of a pair of pliers so the butt ends meet.

#### RECORDS AND TERMINOLOGY.

8. The following are the records to be kept and terms to be used:—
  - (1) The recorder of the Ringing Committee is to keep full record of the serial numbers of all rings issued to operators in an "Issues Index."
  - (2) Records in alphabetical order, known as the "Operator's Record" is also to be kept by the recorder.
  - (3) "Operator's Schedules," one for each species, are to be completed by the operator to show the date each ring was used, and other relevant data (including records of "Repeats," and "Recoveries" known to the operator). They are to be returned to the recorder when filled, 12 months after the date of first entry, or on request.
  - (4) "Recoveries Cards" are to be kept by the recorder, on which full particulars of all recoveries are to be entered.
  - (5) "Where Ringed" is the term used to describe the ringing site or within two miles of it.
  - (6) A "Record" may be of a bird trapped, re-trapped, seen (in the case of birds colour ringed), or found dead, and includes the terms "repeat" and "recovery." Full details of circumstances of records should always be given.
  - (7) A "Repeat" is the term used to describe a bird recorded "where ringed" within **three months** of ringing. The term also includes a "recovery" with "repeats" at the locality it is recovered at.
  - (8) A "Recovery" is a bird recorded as defined in clause 8 (section 6) above: (a) "where ringed" **more than three months** after the last record there (sometimes known as a "return"); (b) a bird recorded at any time more than **two miles** from "where ringed"; or (c) a dead bird (known as a "dead recovery").
  - (9) "Recoveries" should be reported to the recorder immediately, giving full particulars of date, time, place, circumstances of capture or death, etc.
  - (10) A summary of operations, including numbers of each species ringed (showing individual operator's totals), and full particulars of all "recoveries" is to be published in the bulletin of the society. The report is to cover, as far as possible, a period of 12 months up to 31st March each year. This report is to be independent of papers concerning individual studies by operators, who are requested to retain the terminology given above as far as possible in order to save future confusion.