

## THE KERMADECS EXPEDITION

*By A. BLACKBURN*

Members will have shared to a degree in the bitter disappointment suffered by the Expedition party through the untimely ending of the Expedition, owing to the eruption on Raoul Island. There has been no prospect of return this year for several reasons, viz. the problem of transport, the water situation on Raoul, and the fact that the season for temperate zone seabirds was becoming too far advanced. But the project has not been abandoned, for the Expedition Sub-Committee has met and plans to send a party to the Kermadecs in two years' time, that is to say, in the late Spring of 1966. Thus the Expedition members who have suffered from the present reverse will be given the opportunity of returning; and the Sub-Committee's planning, and the monumental work of organising performed by Mr. A. T. Edgar will not all be wasted effort. In fact, this year's abortive expedition has provided valuable experience to be applied in two years' time.

Most of the equipment and stores have been salvaged, but even after realisation, the financial loss to the Society will naturally be substantial, so the Expedition Sub-Committee is taking steps which should result in reducing this loss. Subscriptions and donations to the Expedition funds reached the pleasing total of £597, and it is anticipated that subscribers will wish their subscriptions to remain with the Society in an Expedition Fund. A list of contributors is appended.

A few members of the party spent a brief period ashore on Meyer Island, and were impressed with the variety and numbers of tropical seabirds breeding there. We shall look forward to detailed reports being published at an early date.

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B. D. Bell, Wellington	5	E. W. Dawson, Wellington	5
Bernice P. Bishop Museum,		Mrs. E. W. Dawson, Wellington	5
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Massachusetts, U.S.A.	36	Dr. K. E. Westerskov, Dunedin	5
D. V. Merton, Auckland	6	R. M. Weston, Kawerau	5
B. D. Mills, Gisborne	5	Wildlife Division,	
G. J. H. Moon, Warkworth	5	Internal Affairs, Wellington	50
J. L. Moore, Wellington	5	O. Wilkes, Christchurch	5
F. L. Newcombe, Wellington	5	C. K. Williams, Gisborne	5
A. Nuttall, Oamaru	5	G. R. Williams, Christchurch	5
Mrs. H. C. Oliver, Wellington	5	A. Wright, Haast	5

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## SHORT NOTES

### WELCOME SWALLOW AT THE BROTHERS

On the morning of the 16th September, 1964, Mr. G. Randle informed me that he had seen a swallow near the lighthouse hen-run. As we approached the bird flew up and passed overhead. It was noted that it had a deep forked tail, white under-parts and was dark blue over the remaining parts. As the boat was due to collect Mr. Randle, we had to leave the bird for the time being.

A while after my return the bird settled on a post about six yards away and I was able to identify it as a Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*). Its forehead and throat were a chestnut-red colour and the remainder of the under-parts a buff to creamy white. The upper-parts were a dark metallic blue with the tail deeply forked. It was noted during its flight that there was a thin bar of white spots across the tail. Although some of the feathers were ruffled and the under-parts dirty, the bird appeared healthy. Its flight was swooping and graceful and it showed no sign of exhaustion.

The Swallow remained in the same area and was last seen about 1400 hrs. The weather at the time was southerly winds 30 knots, overcast with cloud down to 900 ft. and rain earlier in the day. The previous two days had been gale force N.W. winds with heavy rain.

— A. WRIGHT