

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

### THE YOUNG CONSERVATOR OF THE YEAR

The articles in this issue by Barrie Heather and Don Hadden on the Black-fronted Dotterels of the Wairarapa serve to introduce a worthy award of the Young Conservator of the Year made to Michael Dennison, a 15 year old fifth form pupil at Wairarapa College, Masterton. Michael is an active member of the OSNZ and has played a useful part in the Black-fronted Dotterel survey both in the Wairarapa and in Hawkes Bay.

He is especially interested in the Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme and is currently involved with other members of the OSNZ in a survey of birds of the Wairarapa. Michael's other interests include cricket, tramping, rugby, and, in particular, photography from which he is building up a good collection of bird slides.

The award of Young Conservator of the Year is sponsored by the Nature Conservation Council as the highlight of the Nature Conservation Week Campaign, and it goes to a young person under the age of 18 who has shown "an enterprising and active interest in conservation." The NCC leaflet on the award states that it "is intended to encourage conservation activities by young people, giving recognition to those who have made an outstanding contribution, and stimulating others to follow their example." Further, it is stated: "Bearing in mind the age of the nominee, the judges look for — evidence of genuine interest in conservation; personal initiative in some conservation activity; voluntary participation in conservation projects. Importance is placed on sustained interest over a long period, and the developing of projects rather than isolated bursts of activity." Further details of the Award can be obtained from the Secretary, National Conservation Week Campaign Committee, P.O. Box 5014, Wellington.

Let us extend the Ornithological Society's congratulations to the Young Conservator for 1973, and hope that he will continue to be a valued member of our community in following on with his enterprise, enthusiasm and active interest in conservation and the environment, perhaps to make his own mark amongst those who have found their career in the natural history of New Zealand.

### CONSERVATION & THE OSNZ

The role of the Ornithological Society of N.Z., Inc., both as a corporate body and as individual members offering or being asked for comments or expertise, has been debated frequently. The expression of opinion given by the Society's Council as presented in this issue of *Notornis* will doubtless provoke reactions, favourable or otherwise, from those who care about such matters. Further public discussion is probably best confined to the ephemeral atmosphere of Annual General Meetings as in the past but because such a statement from council is an important event in itself in the Society's history, the columns of *Notornis* will be open for the strictly limited period of the forthcoming December and March issues in case some members have remarks to make which they believe deserve either a wider audience or a more permanent record for posterity.



Michael Dennison, Young Conservator of the Year, receiving a pair of inscribed binoculars, as part of his award, from the Chairman of the Nature Conservation Council (Sir Robert Falla), August 1973.

Photo: John Cleland Photo Studio Ltd.