

and gentle in the best sense of the term. One of his most refreshing traits was modesty, and the tributes that are now paid to his distinguished professional career are something that he would not have thought of claiming for himself.

R. A. F.

Ray Jacobs will long be remembered not merely as an outstanding museum display artist and taxidermist, but as one of those few who have been able to incorporate a feeling of their enthusiasm, understanding and sympathy for wildlife into static museum displays. The habitat groups at the Canterbury Museum will long stand as a memorial to this outstanding gift.

R. R. F.

Ray Jacobs was one of the finest taxidermists and display artists that New Zealand has produced, and his long association with Canterbury Museum provided many opportunities for him to show his skill.

Perhaps the most spectacular example of his work is the Stead Hall of New Zealand birds, where, under the direction of Mr E. G. Turbott, he, with the co-operation of Mr Ralph Riccalton, created a display which is the admiration, not only of New Zealanders, but which has won acclaim from visitors from many lands. Ray's work will live long after him.

R. J. S.

Ray Jacobs will always be remembered for his superlative natural history dioramas, and especially for the series in the New Zealand Bird Hall of Canterbury Museum the standard of which has attracted world-wide interest; I worked on the Hall with Ray Jacobs and Ralph Riccalton and remember this as a period of productive and stimulating exchange of ideas and vigorous action. Ray had progressive views on every aspect of Museum work. Perhaps his main characteristics were his vigorous approach to even the most demanding task and his belief in the Museum as an educational and cultural force, both resulting in displays which will long be the pride of the Museum.

E. G. T.



Dr R. W. WILLETT, FRSNZ

We record, with great regret, the death on 6 June of Dr R. W. Willett who retired as President of the Royal Society of New Zealand in May of this year shortly after leading the first scientific delegation to visit the People's Republic of China.

Dr Willett, who was 61, was Assistant Director-General of the DSIR and formerly Director of the N.Z. Geological Survey. He was a man of action, of forthright opinion and decision, a leader in both

science and administration, and a friend and adviser to his many colleagues and fellow members of the innumerable committees on which he worked. Dr Willett was deeply concerned with the relationship of the Member Bodies of the Royal Society of N.Z. to the Society itself and its function as a unique amalgam of scientific endeavour and reasoned opinion. Although he was no ornithologist, he was genuinely appreciative of the role of the Ornithological Society of N.Z. as a Member Body of the Royal Society of N.Z. and of the contribution that ornithology as such makes to science. With his passing we have lost a friend and an advocate.

E. W. D.



NEWLY PUBLISHED

BAKER, A. J. 1974. Criteria for aging and sexing oystercatchers, N.Z. Journal of Marine and Freshwater Research 8 (1): 211-221, fig. 1, tables 1-4.

ABSTRACT: "Criteria based on external characters are presented for aging and sexing the three New Zealand species of oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus finschi* Martens, 1897, *H. unicolor* Forster, 1844, and *H. chathamensis* Hartert, 1927. Four classes are discerned: juveniles have brown dorsal plumage, a brown iris and grey legs; second-year birds have an orange-red iris and pale pink legs; sub-adults have a dull red iris and pink legs; adults have a scarlet iris and bright coral pink legs. The three species can be sexed by discriminant analysis of the sexually dimorphic characters bill length (\bar{x}^3), bill length: bill depth (\bar{x}^2) and bill length: bill width (\bar{x}^3) . . ."

SERVENTY, D. L. 1974. The biology behind the Mutton Bird industry.

Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania 107: 1-9, figs 1-2, table 1. (The Royal Society of Tasmania Medal Lecture 1970).



The January 1974 issue of *The Auk* (91 (1): 241) announces an award from the Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund of the American Museum of Natural History to Dr John Warham for "biometric studies of the Procellariiformes" and also to Dr Joel Cracraft for a study of "evolution of the moas," the results of which will interest many of us. Dr Warham has recently published an important study entitled: "The breeding biology and behaviour of the Snares Crested Penguin. *Journal of the Royal Society of N.Z.*, 4 (1): 63-108, 17 figs, March 1974.