

required from members. At present there are still some operators who cause unnecessary work by asking for supplies of rings at short notice, by not filling in their schedules correctly or by failing to forward them promptly.

The excessive wear shown by the society's rings when used on certain species continues to cause concern. It appears that the fitting of rings too loosely is at least partly to blame for this, and the matter is receiving further study. The manufacturers advise that they now have a specially resistant type of ring for use on waterfowl, and it is hoped to obtain some of these for trial next season. It is also intended to investigate further the possibility of getting more satisfactory rings from other sources.

A change of policy has been made with regard to ringing permits. Under the new policy each operator has his own individual permit which specifies the species he may ring. This method allows the Ringing Committee more freedom to make allowances for the special requirements of individual research projects and at the same time ensures a better control of ringing activities. The society's permit to handle certain protected birds for the purpose of ringing, granted by the Hon. the Minister of Internal Affairs, is conditional on the scheme being properly controlled, and such control is clearly in the interests of the operators themselves. All active ringing operators have now received their individual permits together with an instruction leaflet explaining the new scheme and incorporating certain technical recommendations with regard to bird ringing. Other members requiring copies of this leaflet (No. 4) may obtain them from the convener of the Ringing Committee.

All recovery cards held up to March 31, 1953, have now been duplicated and the duplicate set is held by the Auckland Museum. The Ringing Committee is grateful to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for assistance with the typing of these cards.

In 1951 the Ringing Committee sent a quantity of the society's rings to the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition because that organisation had insufficient time to procure its own rings before the departure of personnel to Heard Island. The Australian authorities provided dollars for a new supply of rings to be sent from America so that our stocks would be fully replenished. Before the New Zealand rings had all been used the Australians managed to obtain a supply of rings bearing their own inscription, and the fairly substantial unexpended balance of New Zealand rings has recently been returned to us as a gift. This generous action is very much appreciated.—P. C. Bull, convener of the Ringing Committee.

ALBINO KOKAKO NEAR PAEROA.—It was the good fortune of my brother, H. J. Morgan, of Rarotonga, and myself during a tramp in the bush on 7th January, 1954, to see at close quarters an albino kokako (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) or blue-wattled crow. We were in the ranges between Waitekauri and Paeroa and had had lunch on a ridge at a height of 1600 feet above sea level when my brother decided to see which birds he could call. Very soon we were visited by warblers, pied tits, fantails, tuis and then a kokako. Within a few minutes of seeing the first kokako we saw an albino kokako. We observed both birds for approximately 25 minutes and they came to within 15 feet of us. The albino was three parts white and one part slate grey. Of the tail feathers one, or perhaps two, were all grey while the rest were pure white. The colour of the bill was a light orange. The albino was the more curious of the two and kept calling "took! took! took!" Oliver ("New Zealand Birds," p. 502) states that albinos have been obtained in the Rimutaka mountains, and the Wairarapa district. This must have been many years ago, when the kokako was plentiful, as there have been no reports of its being found in those places recently. It, therefore, appears that this present case of albinism is of particular interest.—H. L. Morgan, Paeroa.