

## AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS NEAR INVERCARGILL, 1958

On 23/5/58, with Mr. George Moffett, I visited the Borstal Farm at Invercargill, in response to a report from Mr. Christie, the Farm manager, of the presence of a strange bird. Mr. Christie, in his telephoned report, said he had "seen pictures of similar birds in Biblical books; it has a long bill, curved like a scimitar." This description partially prepared us for the exotic sight of an Australian White Ibis, which seemed the more improbable for its association with a group of mundane domestic geese. Mr. Christie told us that the bird had been with his geese since 14/5/58, and in fact it remained in the vicinity of the house, and never far from the geese, until 3rd June, since when it has not been seen. Ground conditions throughout this period were very wet. The ibis fed voraciously during the first two weeks, sometimes stabbing its strong, dark bill full length into marshy places where it fed. It seemed to be in good fettle, and stepped briskly from one feeding spot to another. During the latter part of its stay it did not feed so avidly, and could often be seen swaying precariously on branches of nearby macrocarpa trees, or flying with unhurried, majestic mien, over the nearby water — a small lagoon, packed at this time with gun-wise ducks.

All who studied the bird during its stay were able to get excellent views at close range. When approached, the geese would move before the ibis did.

This is the only White Ibis reported in this area this year.

MAIDA L. BARLOW



## LETTER

Sir,

On behalf of the President, Mr. P. C. Bull, and all who so greatly enjoyed the Field Study Week-end at Blenheim, 25-27/10/58, I wish to express warm thanks to Mr. Brian D. Bell, who so ably and pleasantly organised the function; to the members of the N.Z. Deerstalkers' Osn. (Marlborough Branch) and the Marlborough O.S.N.Z. members who provided billeting, entertainment and transport, and made the occasion so enjoyable and successful. Hearty thanks are tendered also to those who made donations.

It seems that a report on the financial side of the venture may give helpful information to future organisers.

Fees, Visitors, at £2	---	---	---	---	---	£61	0	0
Donations (car expenses and launch hire)	---	---	---	---	---	33	15	0
						£94	15	0

Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Sundries	---	---	---	---	---	11	15	0
Launch hire £12/10/- Dinghy £1	---	---	---	---	---	13	10	0
Car Expenses at 5d. per mile (usual rate is about 8d.)	---	---	---	---	---	48	5	0
Balance in hand	---	---	---	---	---	21	5	0
						£94	15	0

— H. R. McKENZIE.  
Hon. Treasurer, O.S.N.Z.



IX. IMMATURE AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS at Royal Bush,  
Southland on 14/9/'57.  
(v. Notornis VIII, 31)