NAME CHANGES IN THE MOA GENUS *DINORNIS*

In Opinion 299, published 21st April, 1954, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has ruled that the trivial names *novaezealandiae* Owen, 1843, and *struthoides* Owen, 1844, as published in the combinations *Dinornis novaezealandiae* and *Dinornis struthoides* are to be accepted and has placed these names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. The Commission has further ruled that the trivial name *ingens* Owen, 1844, as published in the combination *Dinornis ingens* is to be rejected as a junior objective synonym of *Dinornis novaezealandiae* Owen, 1843, and has placed this name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*.

This decision, made in response to an application lodged before 1941 by Gilbert Archey and R. S. Allan, answers a problem explained in detail by Archey in his monograph on "The Moa (1941, *Bull. Auckland Mus.* 1, pp. 8 & 63) and has the effect of reversing the alternative adopted by Archey, and followed by Oliver without comment, pending the Commission's decision. Consequently throughout the monographs of both Archey and Oliver (The Moas of New Zealand and Australia, *Dominion Mus. Bull.* 15, 1949), and throughout the moa section of Oliver's *New Zealand Birds* 2nd Edition (1955) the name *Dinornis novaezealandiae* should be used for the species referred to as *D. ingens* and the name *Dinornis struthoides* for the species referred to as *D. novaezealandiae*.

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BIRD COUNTS WITH A CAMERA

Aerial photographs have long been accepted as a useful means of securing counts of nests on sites inaccessible by surface approach, such as colonies established on isolated rock stacks which are exposed to rough seas and may be unclimbable. Ornithologists are only too well aware of the difficulty of making an accurate count of sea birds when, for example, a gannet breeding station is disturbed by observers and hundreds or even thousands fly off within a few seconds.

There is a simple solution to this problem by the use of a 35 mm camera and the normal projector used for colour slides. As an illustration, Pied Stilts have a favourite feeding ground on an island shell-spit in Ohiwa Harbour. The approach is without natural cover, and even if by the aid of a hide one can get fairly close, the constant coming and going of the birds makes visual counting a poor proposition.

The easier method is to advance with the camera set for instant use, and when the stilts are flushed to take one or two snapshots as soon as all are in the air. The resulting "count exposures" are then projected, either as filmstrip or as single slides by temporarily inserting in glass covers, on to a large sheet of paper (preferably squared) in place of the usual screen. Providing the projector is blower-cooled to avoid overheating the film, one can then make a pencil stroke over every bird in the picture, counting at the same time. On taking down the paper, which is now a chart of the flight pattern, a recount can be taken as a check, crossing each stroke. The above stilt counts have been