

SOME FOOD OF YOUNG GULLS AND TERNS

During the banding activities among gull and tern colonies during the 1959-60 season it was possible to make some brief observations on what some of these birds were feeding to their young. At Kaikoura Peninsula, the chicks of the Red-billed Gulls (*L. scopulinus*) were being fed almost exclusively on a euphausiid shrimp (*Nyctiphanes australis*). Specimens were taken and identified by J. C. Yaldwin. On the Wairau River, at a colony of Black-backed Gulls (*L. dominicanus*) some 20 miles from the sea, the parents were feeding the young on a predominantly 'army worm' (*Persectania ewingi*) diet, but there was some other material which was not determined.

On the Waihopai River, a major tributary of the Wairau flowing from the south, some Black-fronted Terns (*C. albobristatus*) were observed flying to and fro between a wheat crop and the river-bed. The terns were flying over the crop and were dropping down at intervals to pick something from the top of the wheat. They then flew off to the river-bed with something in their bills. An examination of the crop showed a heavy infestation of 'army worm' which was climbing up the wheat straw. Once they reached a certain height they were apparently vulnerable to the terns. On the river-bed the terns had newly flying chicks. Although they were not actually seen to feed the 'army worm' caterpillars to the chicks, it would be safe to presume that this was being done.

— BRIAN D. BELL



NOTICES

INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc., and notice given to members, a Special General Meeting was held at Auckland at 7.30 p.m. on 8/11/60 to consider a motion to increase certain classes of subscription. The President, Mr. A. Blackburn, occupied the Chair.

The motion read: "That members' subscriptions be increased: Junior, from 5/- to 10/-; Ordinary, from 10/- to £1; Life (Over 30 years of age), from £10 to £20. To provide that members not requiring "Notornis" shall pay 10/- and that Endowment members' subscriptions shall remain at £1."

The motion was carried unanimously by the meeting of fifteen members, including four members of Council.

A member stated that he would give notice of motion for the 1961 Annual General Meeting to the effect that, from 1/4/61, the classes Ordinary and Endowment, both being at £1, be merged and titled Ordinary, and that members wishing to support the Society further be classed as Endowment members on payment of £1/10/-.