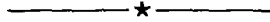


Her initiative showed itself in many ways. From Ross McKenzie she inherited the patronage of the local New Zealand Dotterels and extended the banding programme. She was a foundation member, a practical adviser and a generous benefactor of the Miranda Naturalists Trust. She set *Tara* on its feet and was the driving force behind it. *Tara* is the Auckland region's quarterly mixture of serious ornithology and light-hearted bird-watching. Her room at the Museum always seemed to be thronged with visitors.

Naturalists from far afield, both old and young, have reason to remember Sylvia with affection and admiration. Grateful for years of unsparing service, the Ornithological Society offers its sympathy to her husband, and to her children and grandchildren scattered across the globe.

— R. B. S.



LETTER

24 March 1982

The Editor,

Sir,

I have just received the December 1981 issue of *Notornis*, which contained the obituary of our friend, Ross McKenzie.

Mrs Foster and I had the privilege of spending three days with Ross and Hetty, back in February 1971.

We arrived at Auckland on a Saturday morning, and went to our hotel, figuring we would call Ross (whom we had never met, but whose name we had got from the B.O.U.), and hadn't much more than checked in, when the telephone rang, and here was Ross, saying, "Come on, throw your bags down, and get out here." We had a most delightful three days, which was a rare privilege, because both Ross and Hetty were so kind, so hospitable, and so very friendly, that, even though we have not had the privilege of seeing them since, we treasure their friendship. The picnics that we had, which Hetty fixed up, built around her homemade bread, were really something. They not only took us by automobile to various points, but also we had one day out on a boat to see the shearwaters, etc.

I just thought, maybe, this tribute from one of your overseas members might be of interest.

I can close by saying that the list of birds that he showed us, in his area, was terrific, and, furthermore, he and Hetty told us where to go in South Island, which, also, proved most successful.

JOHN H. FOSTER, 1616 Walnut Street, Philadelphia