

1970 ANNUAL MEETING, WELLINGTON

The Society's Council met on Friday, 15th May, with a full day of business from which the following items may be of general interest:

(i) A Project Assistance Fund has been established, replacing the Minor Expeditions Fund. Grants may be made from this fund towards expenses incurred in any ornithological research project, study, or expedition. Applicants must have been members of the Society for at least two years, and must undertake to publish in "*Notornis*" or deposit findings in the Recording Scheme. Grants will be limited to \$300 in total in any one financial year.

(ii) Following the successful trial in September-October 1969, the Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme has been adopted for a period of three years.

(iii) Council members who must travel to meetings may now claim fares to the equivalent of first class rail fares.

The Conference of Regional Representatives on Saturday morning was attended by all but 4 of the 19 R.R.'s. and consequently was the most successful yet, with a very fruitful discussion and exchange of ideas.

The following papers were presented on the Saturday afternoon:

(1) Dr. Ian Andrew on Bush Census Techniques, as used at Lake Waikaremoana.

(2) Dr. P. C. Bull reporting on the trial of the Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme.

(3) Mr. John Kendrick on Sound Recording of Birds.

All these speakers were enthusiastically received, and the success of the afternoon was completed with a sumptuous afternoon tea served by Wellington ladies.

Members gathered for cocktails and a buffet dinner before the Annual General Meeting, which commenced at 8 p.m. with the President, Dr. G. R. Williams, in the chair, and 54 members present.

The Editor's Report explained that the quality of "*Notornis*" depends on the material that is sent in, and he hoped that spirited correspondence would follow any imperfections. Discussion centred on the problem of long articles, and Dr. R. A. Falla stated that in some cases nothing would be lost, the Society would be a good deal happier, and "*Notornis*" some pages shorter, if some ruthless pruning was practised. The continued increase in cost is giving concern; but is the result of the rising cost of paper and labour, as well as the growth in size. A change to other than art paper was suggested, and the Treasurer stated that up to \$250 per year could be saved by using a lighter grade of paper. The Council was asked to look into methods of reducing the cost of "*Notornis*."

Scheme reports were presented to the meeting, including the report of the Society's representative on the Banding Advisory Committee of the Department of Internal Affairs, Mr. J. M. Cunningham, in which he criticised the lack of annual reports on banding, and tendered his resignation as representative. Dr. Falla expressed the hope that New Zealand's scheme does not get bogged down, and if it is not to be kept for professionals, some assurance will have to be made

that the Wildlife Branch will produce annual reports. Dr. Williams explained that the scheme was now of no cost to the Society, but the Department wants the amateur to continue to remain in the scheme.

The four retiring members of the Council were declared re-elected unopposed — Dr. P. C. Bull, Dr. R. A. Falla, Mrs. J. B. Hamel, and Mr. N. B. MacKenzie.

The new constitution proposed for approval at this meeting was referred back to the Council after considerable discussion, particularly on the two issues of Conservation and Junior Membership. Strong views were held on these matters and changes in the proposed constitution overlooked recent decisions of general meetings of the Society. The Constitution Sub-Committee of the Council was asked to receive further submissions from members and to submit new proposals to the next A.G.M.

The proposed increases in subscription rates were approved and the meeting closed a little before midnight.

— B. A. ELLIS



BEACH PATROL SCHEME, 1969

Not less than 84 members and friends took part in the Scheme in 1969. They travelled 1570 miles along beaches and reported finding 2324 dead seabirds plus a small number of other species. Particularly commendable efforts were made by teams led by A. T. Edgar in Northland, Mrs. S. Reed in Auckland, C. Paulin in Taranaki, D. E. Crockett in Wanganui and Dr. I. G. Andrew in Manawatu; and individually by Elizabeth Madgwick (Northland), T. R. Harty (South Auckland), G. A. Woodward and E. K. Saul (Wellington), R. J. Pierce (South Canterbury) and R. Boud (Southland). Cards have been received from all zones except Fiordland, Auckland East and North Coast South Island. At present the numbers of specimens reported from zones are as follows: Auckland West 820; Taranaki 121; Wellington West 1,110; Westland 2; Bay of Plenty 71; East Coast North Island 9; Wairarapa 1; Canterbury North 7; Canterbury South 21; Otago 7; Southland 56; Wellington South 99.

No large wrecks were reported during 1969. The most abundant species found was again Fairy Prion (427 specimens); and this was undoubtedly the major species among a large number of unidentified prions. There was a remarkably large number of albatrosses and mollymawks (170) of all the usual species but especially mollymawks. Shearwaters were represented by 262 Sooty, 183 Fluttering and 99 Short-tailed, plus lesser numbers of the other species. There were 5 Blue Petrels. Rare specimens found were 1 Wilson's Storm Petrel, 2 Grey-backed Storm Petrels, 1 Arctic Tern and 1 Oriental Cuckoo.

Regarding final reports, the 1968 report has taken longer than expected to complete but will be with the editor within a month. The 1969 report should be done by the end of this year. Some work has been done on the outstanding reports for 1965-67 but I can do little more before next year. However, E. K. Saul has kindly offered to assist and is now working on the 1967 data.

— M. J. IMBER, Organiser

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1969

1968		1969
	OUR INCOME WAS EARNED FROM:	
1818	Subscriptions: Ordinary	1854
47	Arrears	18
	Transfer from	
152	Life Members (Note 1)	151
21	Donations	16
745	Profit on Christmas Cards	106
252	Sale of Back Numbers	346
50	Surplus Field Study Course	19
-	Biology of Birds	212
-	Tent Sales	50
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3085	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$2772
	PLUS INVESTMENT INCOME:	
340	Interest	297
193	Dividends	208
612	Royalties	13
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1145	TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	518
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4230	TOTAL INCOME	\$3290
	LESS EXPENSES:	
2324	"Notornis" Printing & Distribution	2725
62	Postages	62
157	Printing & Stationery	153
81	General Expenses	96
16	Annual General Meeting	14
108	Travelling Expenses	130
5	Nest Record Scheme	56
5	Recording Scheme	10
20	Royal Society Affiliation	20
64	Library Expenses	76
80	Nett Cost of Kermadec Expedition	-
225	Audit Fee	100
-	Kermadec Reprints	48
-	Beach Patrol Scheme	25
-	Distribution Mapping Scheme	12
-	Donations — Royal Society	75
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3147	TOTAL EXPENSES	3602
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	NETT DEFICIT TRANSFERRED TO	
\$1083	(Surplus) THE ACCUMULATED FUND	\$312
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BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st December, 1969

1968		1969
	CURRENT ASSETS:	
5324	Cash at Bank of N.Z.	3969
79	Sundry Amounts owed to the Society	20
515	Bank of N.Z. Savings Account	519
104	Checklist Expenses	—
100	Stocks of "Notornis"	100
100	Stock of "Biology of Birds"	100
6222	TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	\$4708
	INVESTMENTS AT COST:	
5134	Shares in Public Companies (Note 2)	5281
4284	Local Body Stocks	5274
9418	TOTAL INVESTMENTS	10555
1000	Library at Valuation	1000
16640	TOTAL ASSETS	16263
	LESS LIABILITIES:	
735	Amounts owed by the Society	873
177	Subscriptions in Advance	176
	RESERVE FUNDS:	
—	Publications	1104
	Less Checklist Expenses written off	104
		1000
251	Minor Expeditions	251
1512	Life Subscriptions	1414
2675	TOTAL LIABILITIES	3714
	VALUE OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS	
13956	AS BELOW	\$12549
	ACCUMULATED FUNDS:	
14078	Balance 1/1/69	13965
1083	Plus Surplus for Year	—
15161		13965
500	Less Stock of "Notornis" written down	—
696	Loss on "Biology of Birds"	—
	Deficit for Year	312
1196	Transfer to Publications Reserve	1104
		1416
\$13965	BALANCE 31/12/69 AS ABOVE	\$12549

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

For the Year Ended 31st December, 1969

We report, that in our opinion, the foregoing accounts of **The Ornithological Society of N.Z. (Inc.)** for the year ended 31st December, 1969, are in agreement with the books and reports of the Society and give a true and fair view of the Society's position at that date and the results of its transactions for the year. The Society has kept proper books and supplied all the information required.

THOMPSON & LANG, Chartered Accountants,
Auditors

Dunedin, 27th February, 1970

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1: Life Members transfer 10% of Balance 1/1/69.

Note 2: Shares in Public Companies cost \$5280.60 and had an approximate market value of \$6583.66 as at 31/12/69.

SCHEDULE 1: LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS

SHARES IN PUBLIC COMPANIES AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

Company	Shares Held	Cost of Purchase \$	Approximate Market Value at 31/12/69 \$
Andrews & Beaven	450	892.39	880.00
Farmers Trading Co.	500	1018.50	520.00
Forest Products Ltd. (68 only part paid)	548	1142.45	2246.80
General Foods (Convertible Notes)	168	84.00	168.00
Alex Harvey	168	486.41	735.32
Wilsons Portland Cement	500	1044.62	1375.00
J. Wattie Canneries	571	612.23	993.54
		\$5280.60	\$6918.66

SCHEDULE 2: SHORT-TERM INVESTMENTS

LOCAL BODY STOCKS AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1969

Auckland Electric Power Board	....	\$400 due	1/4/70
Auckland Electric Power Board	....	600 due	15/2/71
Auckland Electric Power Board	....	400 due	15/10/75
Southland Hospital Board	....	990 due	1/11/74
Southland Harbour Board	....	953 due	30/6/72
Otago Harbour Board	....	966 due	1/9/71
Auckland Hospital Board	....	965 due	17/6/73
		\$5274	

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the Year Ended 31/12/69

PRESENTED AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE O.S.N.Z., WELLINGTON, 16/5/70

For the year 1969 I have to report that our continued policy of a high standard journal and active investigation and recording schemes, operated on the basis of a \$2.00 basic subscription, has resulted in a nett deficit of \$312. Contributing to this deficit has been a disappointing response to the 1969 Christmas card, which resulted in the small profit of \$106 as compared to \$745 in 1968. Royalties also showed a decline. Running costs now amount to approximately \$3.60 (\$3602/1004) per member. Were it not for the invested accumulated fund (built up from past Christmas card profits royalties and a legacy) returning an interest of approximately 50c per member, the deficit for 1969 would have been in the order of \$800.

Subscriptions were last raised in 1962 to \$2.00 which then had a buying power of \$2.54 based on 1970 values (assuming 3% inflation per annum compounded over eight years). Running costs per member have exceeded the subscription rate per member ever since 1964, the deficit being met by the *interest* returned from investments, Christmas card profits and royalties. If subscriptions are not raised in 1971, and if Christmas card profits plus royalties again fail to cover the margin, it is probable that the *capital* of the invested fund will have to be eroded to meet ordinary expenses.

Some 160 copies of the publication "Biology of Birds" were sold during the year yielding \$212. Back numbers of "Notornis" continued to find a steady market especially overseas, and yielded \$346. Surplus tent flies from the Kermadec Expedition yielded \$50; the tents themselves are in the custody of the Treasurer.

Investment income returned just on \$500, but of this \$147 was reinvested in cash issues offered by public companies. The 1969 recovery of the share market is reflected in the market value of our shares being \$1638 above cost price as at 31/12/69.

With regard to the year's expenses I have to report a further 3% increase in printing "Notornis" over that for 1968, after allowing for the increase of 24 pages in Vol 16 (1969). This is additional to the 20% increase in 1968 over that for 1967. Additional illustrations further increased the cost some \$200 over that for 1968. Donations to the Royal Society totalled \$75 being \$25 to the Fleming Portrait Fund, and \$50 to the building appeal.

Membership for the year remained static. One hundred and two new members joined while 59 left the Society and a further 45 were struck off as being unfinancial. Total membership stands at 1004 (if husband/wife membership is counted as two members, and 'exchanges' and 'complimentaries' are excluded).

Again I have to thank the willing group of Dunedin folk (Jill Hamel, Bob Smith, Robin Gledhill, Peter Schweigman, and my wife Colleen) for their assistance at busy times. To our Auditor, Mr. J. Lang, goes my sincere appreciation for his continued goodwill and courtesy in handling the affairs of the Society.

— JAMES P. C. WATT,
Hon. Treasurer

REPORT OF THE NEST RECORD SCHEME

For the Year Ended April 30th, 1970

Throughout the year ending April 30th, 1970, 507 nest record cards have been received from 23 contributors. Observations were made for 44 species. The largest contribution by a junior member is that of Stephen Lawrence of Wanganui, who recorded 55 observations of nesting of 8 species. The most detailed observation of an individual nest was made by Michael O'Shea of Wanganui, who observed the nest of a Hedge Sparrow.

O.S.N.Z. members are reminded that nest record cards can be borrowed for information on breeding behaviour. We would be grateful if those availing themselves of this service could, where practicable, make available to the Society the results of their analyses, as the information would then be available to others on request. This does not apply, of course, to those whose results are published in *Notornis*, or elsewhere.

Five colonial cards covering mainly gulls, terns and shags have been included in this year's report.

The Blue Duck is recorded in the scheme for the first time this year.

Sincere thanks to those who contributed cards during the year and best wishes to those who are planning to participate in the Nest Record Scheme in the future.

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Dr. I. G. Andrew, Mrs. B. Brown, T. R. Calvert, C. N. Challies, P. Child, B. Cowan (43), J. A. Cowie, A. T. Edgar (12), B. A. Ellis, I. G. Granville (23), H. F. Heinekamp, M. Hawes and R. Gray (37), D. Haddon (38), J. R. Jackson, E. B. Jones, S. B. Lawrence (55), M. O'Shea (13), R. Pierce, O. Toor, G. Welsh (22), B. Wilson, A. H. Whitaker.

A group study consisting of Stephen Lawrence, Ormond Toor, Ian Granville, Greg Welsh and Lawrence Edlin contributed 196 cards on the Black-backed Gull *Larus dominicanus* from the Kaitoke Colony, Wanganui.

— DAVID E. CROCKETT,
Nest Record Organiser

SPECIES LIST OF NEST RECORD CARDS

SPECIES	Previous Total	1969-70 New Total	SPECIES	Previous Total	1969-70 New Total		
North Island Kiwi	2	-	2	N.Z. Dotterel	53	5	58
Stewart Island Kiwi	3	-	3	Wrybill Plover	9	-	9
Great Spotted Kiwi	1	-	1	Pied Stilt	239	8	247
Yellow-eyed Penguin	11	-	11	Black Stilt	6	-	6
Little Blue Penguin	58	-	58	Southern Skua	2	-	2
White-flipped Penguin	12	-	12	Black-backed Gull	222	201	423
N.Z. Crested Penguin	2	-	2	Red-billed Gull	107	-	107
Southern Crested Grebe	2	-	2	Black-billed Gull	102	1	103
N.Z. Dabchick	1	-	1	Black-fronted Tern	208	-	208
Wandering Albatross	11	-	11	Caspian Tern	38	-	40
Light-mantled Sooty Albatross	4	-	4	Antarctic Tern	3	-	3
Fairy Prion	16	-	16	Fairy Tern	9	-	9
Flesh-footed Shearwater	1	-	1	White-fronted Tern	53	1	54
Sooty Shearwater	4	-	4	White Tern	1	-	1
Fluttering Shearwater	7	-	7	Grey Ternlet	5	-	5
Allied Shearwater	3	-	3	N.Z. Pigeon	28	1	29
Black Petrel	1	-	1	Rock Pigeon	64	-	64
Grev-faced Petrel	14	-	14	Kaka	9	-	9
Kermadec Petrel	1	-	1	Kea	52	2	54
Pycroft's Petrel	5	-	5	N.Z. Parakeet (Red-crowned)	7	-	7
White-faced Storm Petrel	5	-	5	Yellow-crowned Parakeet	3	1	4
Diving Petrel	51	-	51	Shining Cuckoo	4	-	4
Gannet	4	-	4	Morepork	10	-	10
Black Shag	63	1	64	Little Owl	14	-	14
Pied Shag	20	1	64	Kingfisher	65	-	65
Little Black Shag	1	-	1	South Island Rifleman	72	39	111
White-throated Shag	13	1	14	North Island Rifleman	5	-	5
King Shag	18	-	18	Rock Wren	11	-	11
Spotted Shag	5	-	5	Skylark	99	2	101
Blue Heron	31	-	31	Welcome Swallow	162	14	176
White-faced Heron	13	1	14	Fantail	142	-	142
Bittern	2	-	2	N.I. Fantail	21	15	36
Canada Goose	22	-	22	N.I. Tomtit	22	-	22
Domestic Goose (presumed escaped)	2	-	2	S.I. Tomtit	23	-	23
Mute Swan	9	-	9	N.I. Robin	8	-	8
Black Swan	47	2	49	S.I. Robin	15	-	15
Paradise Duck	7	-	7	N.I. Fernbird	7	4	11
Grey Teal	9	-	9	S.I. Fernbird	9	-	9
Brown Teal	2	-	2	Brown Creeper	4	-	4
Blue Duck	-	1	1	Whitehead	6	-	6
Grey Duck	84	2	86	Yellowhead	13	-	13
Grey Duck/Mallard Cross	2	-	2	Grey Warbler	85	6	91
Mallard	58	9	67	Song Thrush	1222	32	1254
Shoveller	12	-	12	Blackbird	1053	45	1098
Black Teal	6	-	6	Hedge Sparrow	146	1	147
Harrier	50	2	52	N.Z. Pipit	32	2	34
N.Z. Falcon	5	-	5	Bellbird	18	-	18
Pheasant	18	-	18	Tui	28	-	28
Brown Quail	4	-	4	White-eye	126	18	144
Californian Quail	18	-	18	Greenfinch	79	11	90
Chukor	1	-	1	Goldfinch	334	19	353
Banded Rail	4	-	4	Lesser Redpoll	61	1	62
Spotless Crane	2	3	5	Chaffinch	175	8	183
North Island Weka	8	-	8	Yellowhammer	33	2	35
South Island Weka	8	-	8	Cirl Bunting	1	-	1
Pukeko	106	7	113	House Sparrow	497	7	504
Australian Coot	4	7	11	Starling	211	10	221
South Island Pied Oystercatcher	103	4	107	Myna	21	1	22
North Island Pied Oystercatcher	30	-	30	White-backed Magpie	25	1	22
Black Oystercatcher	35	3	38	Magpie (Species not indicated)	6	-	6
Spur Winged Plover	32	-	32	North Island Saddleback	7	-	7
Banded Dotterel	165	-	168				
					7408	507	7915

RECORDING SCHEME**Report for 1969/70**

Files or extracts from files for 29 species have been sent out on request during the year (compare previous annual figures of 4, 3, 10 and 23). Much good information has come in but the number of contributors is slightly down on last year. My thanks to all who have sent notes. Many of those who have borrowed species files have stated that they found them very useful — the more contributions, the more useful the files will become. I ask for the co-operation of all R.R.'s in collecting and forwarding items of unpublished information and copies of all newsletters.

The following is a list of contributors:—

Southland — Mrs. Barlow.

Otago — P. Child, W. T. Poppelwell, R. Smith.

Canterbury — R. J. Pierce.

West Coast — P. Grant, C. R. Veitch.

Marlborough — R. M. Holdaway.

Nelson — F. Boyce.

Wellington — B. D. Bell, M. J. Imber, F. C. Kinsky, D. V. Merton, Wildlife.

Wairarapa —

Manawatu — I. G. Andrew, E. B. Jones, A. A. Savell.

Wanganui —

Taranaki — A. Fielding, D. Medway.

Hawkes Bay —

Gisborne — A. Blackburn.

Volcanic Plateau — R. Cowan, A. Cragg, R. W. Jackson, M. G. MacDonald, N. Hellyer.

Bay of Plenty —

Waikato — D. W. Hadden, J. Seddon.

South Auckland — H. R. McKenzie.

Auckland — G. Adams, T. R. Calvert, J. Jenkins, Mrs. Reed, R. B. Sibson, E. G. Turbott.

Northland — Mrs. Barron, D. E. Calvert, C. Clunie, B. Cooksey, C. W. Devonshire, Miss Madgwick, R. H. Michie, M. Munro, Mrs. Reynolds, G. Wightman.

Canada — Dr. J. B. Hardie.

E. & O. E.

— A. T. EDGAR, Recorder

**NOTICE****DONATIONS**

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following donations of one dollar or more received during the year ended 31/12/69. Some thirty members also contributed an extra dollar through their endowment subscription. E. St. Paul, \$2.05; Miss D. A. White, \$2.00; Miss B. McDougall, \$6.00; Roy Cooper, \$1.00; G. Wightman, \$1.00; J. A. Fagan, \$1.00; A. Todd, \$1.00.

LIBRARY REPORT

1st January to 31st December, 1969

The past year has been satisfactory and encouraging. The usual journals and some separates have come in and been catalogued, and borrowings are fairly constant, particularly by university students, many of whom are working on theses. The inter-loan system has still further increased, and it is noticeable that many of these go out to universities all over New Zealand.

Our thanks and appreciation should again be expressed to the Director of the Auckland War Memorial Museum and the Council for the continued housing of the library; also to Miss Evans, Museum Librarian, and her staff, for their friendly helpfulness.

— HETTY McKENZIE, Hon. Librarian

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CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

The 1969 Christmas Card depicted the Spotted Shag by John Gould, published in "Birds of Australia." This was the fourth in the Society's historical series. Sales this year fell well below those of previous years and it is difficult to understand why this happened. Probably it was the result of several reasons. The Shag obviously was not a popular subject and some people even got confused because the illustration was taken from an Australian publication.

This year 19,500 cards were printed and 904 dozen were sold. This number included 45 dozen 1968, 15 dozen 1967, 25 dozen 1966 and 6 dozen mixed packages. The net profit for the year was \$100. The printing was rather patchy and the cards required sorting before dispatch, but the printer has agreed to credit the Society with those which were unacceptable. This is expected to be about 1,500 cards.

The painting for 1970 has not been selected as yet but it is hoped to illustrate a bush bird. It is also planned to sell previous years' cards which are still available and mixed packages. In this way it is hoped to reduce the backlog of cards on hand.

Once again, on behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the Turnbull Library, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and also my wife, who handled the packaging of the cards.

— B. D. BELL, Convenor

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SUMMER STUDY COURSE, FAR NORTH

In mid-January, 1971, a one-week Study Course will be held in the Far North, probably using Houhora as base camp for work around the Parengarenga inlet. Full details will be circulated with the September issue of *Notornis*.

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Due to the adoption of new subscription rates, the Society's Council advises that acceptance of future applications for life membership may be deferred until after 1st January, 1971.