

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

GORDON WILLIAMS is a very well-known figure in New Zealand ornithology and needs little introduction. Nevertheless, some biographical details may be interesting. Dr Williams was President of the OSNZ from 1967 to 1971, Secretary from 1957 to 1962 and a long-standing member of Council. He has also been Vice-President and Editor of the NZ Ecological Society and is closely involved in the forthcoming XVI International Ornithological Congress to be held in Canberra in August 1974. Many readers and listeners will know him through his book reviews in *The NZ Listener*, his numerous contributions in *An Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* and for his former radio feature *Nature Magazine*. He was born in South Africa in 1920 and gained his B.Sc. with Honours in Chemistry at Sydney University. For ten years he was in the Wildlife section of the Department of Internal Affairs, then lecturer in zoology at Lincoln College during which time he gained his Ph.D. He has also worked at the Bureau of Animal Population at Oxford University, and at the University of Aberdeen. In 1965 he returned to Wellington and is now Head of the Wildlife Service. Dr Williams is preparing a revision of Oliver's *New Zealand Birds* and is editor of an important work *The Natural History of New Zealand (An Ecological Survey)*, to be published by A. H. & A. W. Reed during 1973, in which 18 distinguished scientists survey the changes and developments in the New Zealand environment during the past 1,000 years. MALCOLM HARRISON, born in 1942, is a technician with the Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs. He has already contributed an important paper to *Notornis* in his survey of the Orange-fronted Parakeet. He has written another article on the Laughing Owl in the magazine *Birds of the World* (vol. 9, part 8, pp. 2892-3; 1971), even if it was wrongly credited to U.K. ornithologist M. P. Harris (corrected, however, in the index, vol. 9, part 12, p. 3005).

JILL HAMEL became Regional Representative for Otago in 1964 and a member of Council of the OSNZ in 1966. She spent her childhood on a farm near Hastings and moved to Dunedin during her secondary schooling. She graduated B.Sc. in Botany and Zoology from Otago University and worked as a technician in the Botany Department during the early years of her marriage. When her family of two boys were away at school Mrs Hamel took three units of Anthropology at Otago University and then discovered that the regulations prevented her from going on to Master's degree in Anthropology. After some preliminary preparation she began a Ph.D. thesis which has involved her in a numerical taxonomy of moas, some dendrochronology and general ecological studies, basically to try to determine the ecological relationships of the Polynesian occupation of the Catlins district, an attempt to solve the question of how did Polynesian people exploit the area and what effect did they have on the biota. She is interested in the application of multivariate analysis techniques and computer programmes, as used in her thesis work, to the OSNZ mapping schemes. Mrs Hamel's earlier contribution on "The future of ornithology in New Zealand" (*Notornis* 16: 206-209; 1969) has also provided some stimulation.

PHILIP BURTON has contributed several notable papers to *The Ibis* on the functional anatomy of wading birds. His bulletin on "Feeding and feeding apparatus in waders" is to be published by the British Museum (Natural History) shortly. He has also advised on many articles in the magazine *Birds of the World*. Dr Burton is in the sub-department of Ornithology of the British Museum (Natural History) at Tring, the home of the BTO and the famous Rothschild Museum. His Ph.D. study at the university of London (1969) was on "Anatomy and adaptive modifications of the feeding apparatus in waders" but Dr Burton also has interests in the ecology of geese and other waterfowl. He is at present on an expedition in South America.

DAVID THOMAS is a well-known member of the RAOU living in Tasmania. He describes himself as "middle-aged metallurgist," having graduated B.Sc. (Hons) from Manchester University in 1951. His ornithological interests date from his arrival in Tasmania eight years ago and he has already published extensively in *The Emu*, his most important papers to date being: Fluctuations in numbers of waders in south-eastern Tasmania *Emu* 70: 79-85; Breeding biology of the Australian Spurwinged Plover *Emu* 69: 81-102; Ecological aspects of the feeding behaviour of two calidritine sandpipers wintering in south-eastern Tasmania *Emu* 71: 20-26; and, Wader migration across Australia *Emu* 70: 145-154. Mr Thomas is currently interested in the breeding adaptations of temperate Australian birds and in ecological and zoogeographical aspects of the Tasmanian avifauna. He is also Nest Record Scheme Organiser for the RAOU and Editor of *The Tasmanian Naturalist*.

JOHN CRAIG obtained his B.Sc. with 1st Class Honours at Otago University in 1969 and began studies for a Ph.D. thesis at Massey University in April 1970 on the ecology and behaviour of the Pukeko. His other interests include wood carving and, while in Dunedin, he was active in surf lifesaving. He is married with two children.

GEORGE WATSON and PHIL ANGLE are Chairman and Museum Specialist, respectively, in the Department of Vertebrate Zoology at the Smithsonian Institution. They have been in the field together in the American sector of Antarctica, and with Peter Harper and others, have recently published a folio of distribution maps of Antarctic and Subantarctic birds for the American Geographical Society's series (Folio 14), as well as writing a handbook of Antarctic birds soon to be published. Dr Watson has also been responsible for the Smithsonian field guide to the birds of the Indian Ocean (1963) and the manual of seabirds of the Tropical Atlantic (1965, revised 1966). He was born in 1931 and received his university training at Yale, being postgraduate scholar at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, 1953-4, and gaining his Ph.D. in 1964. He was appointed Assistant Curator of Birds in the U.S. National Museum in 1962 and became Chairman of Vertebrate Zoology in 1967.

PETER HARPER became well-known in the OSNZ as a beach-patroller of the Wellington west coast and quickly developed an extensive knowledge of storm-drifted birds especially prions. Through Dr R. A. Falla, who gave him much encouragement, he was appointed to the National Science Foundation's Antarctic research vessel *Eltanin* as ornithological observer for the Dominion Museum from 1965 to 1967. During eight long cruises in *Eltanin* he covered many thousands of miles of the Southern Ocean and developed a profound knowledge of the habits and distribution of pelagic birds rivalled by few others. His skill as a photographer, field worker and analyser of data will be well shown in a forthcoming major contribution on prions due in the next issue of *Notornis*.

CHRIS ROBERTSON, Banding Officer of the New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, has been in charge of the NZ National Banding Scheme since 1967. He has been responsible for the reorganisation of the scheme involving, amongst other aspects, the conversion of previous recovery records held on hand-written cards to computer records. A good account of the use of the computer in the banding scheme was given by him in *Wildlife 1970 — A Review* (pp. 52-54) and the new banding report for 1964-1971 shows the results of his organisation in some detail. Mr Robertson, born in 1941, is a son of the late Rev. F. H. Robertson, well-known for his pioneer work on the gannets of Cape Kidnappers and for his organisation of OSNZ activities in Hawkes Bay (see obituary in *Notornis* 6 (5): 144-145; 1955). He has also had experience of Antarctic birds as a member of the NZ-US Balleny Islands/Ross Sea Expedition of 1965 led by Elliot Dawson. Other involvements are with the Tairaroa Head and Campbell Island albatrosses, as well as continuing his father's gannet work.

KAJ EJVIND WESTERSKOV was born in Denmark in 1919 and received his Diploma in Forestry from the Danish Forestry School. He took his M.Sc. at the Ohio State University and was game biologist at the Danish Game Research Station at Kalo from 1949 to 1951. He was with the Wildlife section of the Department of Internal Affairs in Wellington from 1952 to 1964 during which time he published many papers on the biology of game birds as well as on albatrosses and on the birds of Campbell Island. He also was awarded his Ph.D. at Victoria University. From 1961 to 1962 he held a Post-doctoral Fellowship of the National Research Council of Canada at the University of Alberta. Dr Westerskov is known to the public through his handy little guide book "Know Your New Zealand Birds" (Whitcombe & Tombs, 1967). He is now Associate Professor of Zoology at Otago University and has just returned after an extensive sabbatical tour overseas.