

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1972

The thirty-third Annual General Meeting was held in Wellington on 13 May 1972, and attended by 52 members. The president, Mr F. C. Kinsky, presented his report on the Society's year, pointing out that the year had been one of ornithological surprises in the way of the many rare vagrants which had been found in New Zealand. The Society's finances had improved, with a surplus of \$696 arising from the increase in subscriptions and also the valuable additional income as detailed in the treasurer's report. The reports of all schemes and sub-committees were summarised, and discussion invited, the full reports to be published in *Notornis*. Mr. E. W. Dawson, the new editor of the journal, answered questions on changes in style, and the future policy of *Notornis*.

The secretary reported from the previous day's council meeting: an annual award for juniors had been reinstated, to be awarded for any outstanding contribution to the Society's objects by a member under the age of 18 years. The venues decided for this year's study courses were announced. A move to have the Society join CoEnCo, the Conference on the Environment and Conservation, was reported to have been rejected by the council.

A motion from the meeting proposed that the Society should join CoEnCo, and considerable discussion followed. Although there was no opposition to conservation, some speakers said that we should not be involved in active support of conservation issues. Others felt that the study of birds cannot continue without conserving them and their environment. Applause greeted a statement that the position is now very different from what it was a few years ago, and that we should stand up and be counted amongst those wanting to conserve wildlife. The meeting carried a motion "That the Council reconsider at its next meeting, the matter of joining CoEnCo." Dr R. A. Falla said that this was the place for members to instruct Council, and the Council must now look at it, not to throw it out again, but to seriously consider all aspects.

The annual conference of Regional Representatives was held on the morning of Saturday, 13 May, and in the afternoon Dr J. Mills spoke on colour-marking of Grey Teal for the study of their distribution and movements, and Mr C. J. R. Robertson discussed the history and development of the Taiaroa Head Royal Albatross Sanctuary. These two addresses were followed by a film of New Zealand birds introduced by Dr R. A. Falla.

Field trips planned for Sunday were cancelled due to the weather which had made us all glad to be indoors most of the week-end, and a social gathering on Sunday morning rounded-off the organised activities.

B. A. ELLIS, Secretary

## THE BEACH PATROL SCHEME IN 1971

There was an exceptionally high level of beach patrolling on all coasts in 1971. Only the west coast of the South Island received few visits. This grand effort was rewarded fairly constantly throughout the year, and there was the usual increase in seabird mortality towards the end of the year.

The following are interim totals of birds found on the various coasts, for which the cards have been received:

Auckland West	.....	.....	.....	1906
Taranaki	.....	.....	.....	126
Wellington West	.....	.....	.....	508
Westland	.....	.....	.....	3
Auckland East	.....	.....	.....	409
Bay of Plenty	.....	.....	.....	205
East Coast North Island	.....	.....	.....	21
Wairarapa	.....	.....	.....	2
Canterbury North	.....	.....	.....	263
Canterbury South	.....	.....	.....	24
Otago	.....	.....	.....	37
Southland	.....	.....	.....	40
Wellington South	.....	.....	.....	35
North Coast South Island	.....	.....	.....	30
Total	.....	.....	.....	<hr/> 3609

In addition further cards are expected for about 1000 birds from Northland and about 1000 or more from Wellington West. Thus the year's total should reach between 5,000 and 6,000 — a record.

Large wrecks occurred of Fairy Prions in October and of Sooty Shearwaters in November. There is a good list of relatively rare specimens. The outstanding find was the first Soft-plumaged Petrel recorded on a beach patrol (the second record for the mainland). There were 2 Chatham Island Mollymawks, 2 Antarctic Fulmars, 2 Kerguelen Petrels, 1 Gould's Petrel, 1 Black-winged Petrel, 1 Wilson's Storm Petrel, 1 Brown Booby, 1 Lesser Frigate Bird, 6 Sooty Terns and 2 Spine-tailed Swifts.

All beach patrollers should be congratulated on their efforts.

M. J. IMBER, Organiser



## DONATIONS 1971

The Society gratefully acknowledges the extra monies provided by endowment members, and also the following donations exceeding \$1.00 received.

Miss R. Easdale \$1.00; Mrs H. Aickin \$2.00; D. Robertson \$1.00; N. Walsh \$1.00; G. G. Couling \$1.00; Miss J. K. Edgar \$1.00; Dr G. Huxley \$1.00; W. A. Chenery \$1.00; R. N. Holdaway \$1.00; Anonymous \$10.00; Miss E. R. Lethbridge \$1.00; Mrs H. F. Drake \$1.00; R. A. Creswell \$2.00; G. Wightman \$1.00; P. Budd \$1.00; Miss B. McDougall \$6.00.

## CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

The 1971 Christmas card depicted the Bush Wren by Joseph Wolf, illustrator for the zoology of the voyage of HMS *Erebus* and *Terror*, 1839-43. This card was the most popular to date and sales reached a record level.

15,000 cards were printed and a total of 1,539 dozen (18,468) cards were sold. This reduced the back numbers of cards held considerably. Sales were made up as follows: wrens 804 dozen, mixed 550 dozen, owls 97 dozen, shags 46 dozen and terns 42 dozen.

Production and packaging costs rose a little but the net profit was \$725. It would be appropriate to mention the regular donations made by some purchasers, particularly Miss Harper of Kaikoura and D. Greany of Jackson's Bay.

The illustration for this year will be the Banded Dotterel from *The Birds of Australia* by John Gould. This and a limited number of mixed packs will be available for sale this year.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the Turnbull Library for permission to use the painting, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for circulating brochures and to my wife for packaging and dispatching the cards.

B. D. BELL, Convener



## REPORT OF THE NEST RECORD SCHEME For the Year Ended 30 April 1972

During the year ending 30 April 1972, 1,097 nest record cards have been received from 27 contributors. Observations were made for 85 species including the following which appeared in the scheme for the first time:—

Rock-hopper Penguin; Grey-headed Mollymawk; Black-browed Mollymawk; Giant Petrel; Chatham Island Shag; Pitt Island Shag; Chatham Island Oystercatcher; Shore Plover; Chatham Island Tomtit; Stewart Island Fernbird.

Large contributions came from:—

Mr R. H. D. Stidolph (367) who has transferred many valuable and historical records from his diaries which cover observations during the last half century. This contribution is much appreciated and should add a great deal to the earlier records in the scheme; Dr M. F. Soper (237) has contributed nest records for a number of rare species in the Fiordland area as well as cards covering observations of species on Campbell and Chatham Islands; Hugh Robertson, a Junior Member of Aoukautere, Manawatu, with a contribution of 122 cards is to be commended for the time and concentration used in compiling his observations; J. R. Jackson (114), including a number of cards (6) observed during a Canterbury Region field trip; Dr P. C. Bull (78).

Observations compiled during a research project in Waikanae have been recorded on Nest Record Cards. The use of Colonial Cards is increasing. This year 46 cards have been received from 9

contributors covering 10 species of Penguins, Mollymawks, Gulls and Terns. Filed in the Nest Record Scheme there are now 9,389 nest record cards covering 134 species of birds. Three species, Thrush: 1,450; Blackbird: 1,248; and House Sparrow: 545, have significant numbers of nests recorded. 1,488 cards were loaned this year on 8 requests. Information has been used in University Studies and in Wildlife Branch and Animal Ecology Research projects. Dr P. C. Bull and the Convener have made arrangements where the locality data recorded on Nest Record Cards is being incorporated in the New Zealand Mapping Scheme. Craig, J. L. (1972) Investigation of the mechanism maintaining polymorphism in the New Zealand Fantail. *Notornis* 19(1): 42-53, acknowledges the use of information from the O.S.N.Z. Nest Record Cards.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Regional Representatives for the encouragement given to their local members which resulted in a record contribution this year. My sincere thanks to those who have contributed during the year and best wishes to those who are planning to participate in the Nest Record Scheme in the future.

Thanks go to my wife whose assistance with the Nest Record Scheme has been extremely valuable this year.

#### LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

G. Arnold (14), P. C. Bull (78), D. E. Calvert, W. J. Campbell, C. N. Challies, R. S. Cowan (15), J. A. Cowie (17), A. T. Edgar, S. Fogarty, G. Guy, D. W. Haddon (15), J. Hilton, J. R. Jackson (114), M. Lane, R. V. McLintock, P. Miller, M. O'Shea, R. Pierce (25), H. A. Robertson (122), P. M. Sagar, G. Stanley, R. S. Slack, M. F. Soper (237), R. H. D. Stidolph (367), K. V. Todd, B. Wilson.

DAVID E. CROCKETT, Nest Records Convener



### LIBRARY REPORT

#### 1 January to 31 December 1971

The past year has made considerable increase in the work of the Library. Besides the routine intake of the usual journals and separates, there have been added many books. Mr R. V. Roberts, who is a life member of OSNZ, has given to the Auckland Institute and Museum Library the whole of his life's collection of ornithological works. This is a valuable and massive collection. It also has meant that many of the books were duplicates for the museum library and of these, dozens have been passed on to our shelves.

Dr W. A. Watters has also made a donation of several worthy books and these and the Roberts ones have been catalogued.

The interloan goes on well and items are borrowed, mostly by students from many of our universities and colleges.

Our thanks and appreciation should again be expressed to the Director and Council of the Auckland War Memorial Museum, and to Mr Thwaites the Librarian, and his friendly and helpful staff.

HETTY MCKENZIE, Hon. Librarian

## OSNZ RECORDING SCHEME

### Report for 1971/72

Notes on sightings and behaviour received between 1963 and 1970 were recorded on species files amounting to about 600 pages of typecript. A summary of this material was prepared and sent to Dr Falla for editing in October 1971. A further year's intake is now being typed and will later be summarised for publication. The files of the scheme also include bird lists from a number of inland localities, riverbed counts from Central Otago, series of coastal counts from Firth of Thames, Manukau, South Canterbury and Otago and other miscellaneous material of ornithological interest. Species files are available on loan and extracts from recorded material are supplied to members on request: 17 species files were sent out in three years 1965/1968. From 1968 to date the number of requests for species files or other information has averaged 22 per year. *Members who borrow files or records are particularly requested to return these as soon as they have finished with them;* in the past some files have been lost.

Annual publication of Classified Summarised Notes should provide reading of general interest; members working on individual species will still have access to the fuller information contained in species files and other records. Purely distributional information is now well catered for by the Mapping Scheme; the Recording Scheme still needs records of rare or uncommon species, extensions of range e.g., Welcome Swallow, Spur-winged Plover, Black-fronted Dotterel, bird lists and bird counts. I have had several requests for information on what birds can be found in certain areas and in most cases have been able to supply this from available records. Regular records from an area can build up a picture which is of lasting value. Notes on behaviour and records showing increase or decrease of numbers over a period or between seasons are particularly welcome. Copies of regional newsletters are most useful. I am grateful to those RRs who have collected and forwarded notes from regional members, and to individual members who have written direct to me; both channels of information will, I hope, continue and multiply.

A. T. EDGAR



### RECORDING SCHEME

Contributions in the form of Regional Circulars and notes from individuals are welcome at any time. Notes collated by Regional Representatives should reach A. T. Edgar, Inlet Road, Kerikeri, by 30 June, after which date all material received will be processed and Classified Summarised Notes prepared for publication in the December *Notornis*.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### For Year Ended 31 December 1971

PRESENTED AT THE A.G.M. OF THE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)  
WELLINGTON — 13 MAY 1972

The membership at the end of the year was 1028. This is a decrease of 2 on the previous year's total of 1030. The details are 2 honorary life, 74 life, 22 endowment, 697 ordinary, 58 junior, 77 corporate bodies, 49 husband and wife, counting as two, making the total of 1028. 120 members were admitted, 72 went out due to resignation or death and 50 were deleted as being unfinancial.

Total income for the year was \$6966, an increase of \$2809 on last year's amount of \$4157. Subscriptions received showed an increase of \$1753. Profit from the sale of Christmas cards increased by \$184, sale of back numbers, also an increase, of \$142 to an all time record of \$562, booksellers margin on direct *Checklist* sales was \$459 and royalties on the *Checklist* amounted to \$404. The thanks of the Society are due to those members whose efforts have made possible these very valuable additional sources of income. The Society gratefully acknowledges a bequest of \$50, and a set of back numbers of *Notornis*, from the estate of the late Mr V. I. Clark.

Total expenses were \$6270 compared with \$4778 last year. The cost of printing and distribution of *Notornis* was \$604 higher at \$4121. During the year back numbers of *Notornis* which were out of stock were reprinted at a cost of \$974 and adequate supplies are now held. The cost of *Notornis* was \$4109 while subscriptions, with transfer from life members, amounted to \$3809. The additional income, other than members' subscriptions, has enabled the expenses and the cost of running the Society to be met and allowed a surplus of \$696 to be transferred to the Accumulated Fund.

The Council agreed to the wishes of the co-authors of the *Field Guide* and royalties of \$796 on the revised edition were transferred directly to the Projects Assistance Reserve Fund.

Part of the balance in the current account with the Bank of New Zealand, \$5000, has been placed on term deposits with the Bank.

The Society has now \$5245 invested in shares of public companies and at the date of the balance the market value of the holding was \$5916. During the year 72 \$1 shares in Andrews & Beaven Ltd, were taken up in the 1 for 8 issue of May 1971; 42 bonus shares were received from Alex Harvey Industries Ltd in November. Local body stocks with a maturing value of \$5000, costing \$4841 are held; \$600 in the Auckland Electric Power Board matured on 15/2/71 and \$1000 in the Otago Harbour Board on 1/9/71. These amounts were reinvested by the purchase of \$1600 Waitemata County Council stock to mature 17/2/74.

H. W. M. HOGG, Hon. Treasurer

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)  
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1971

1970		1971
\$		\$
	<b>INCOME WAS EARNED FROM:</b>	
1904	Subscriptions .....	3657
141	Transfer from Life Members .....	152 (Note I)
71	Donations .....	33
546	Profit from Christmas Cards .....	730
420	Sale of Back Numbers .....	562
85	Surplus Field Study Course .....	9
-		21
101	Biology of Birds .....	113
-	Hire Kermadec Film .....	5
3268	<b>TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME</b> .....	\$5282
	<b>PLUS INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME:</b>	
376	Interest .....	441
197	Dividends .....	292
-	Premium on Maturity of Local Body Stock .....	34
316	Royalties .....	408 (Note II)
-	Booksellers Margin on direct Checklist sales .....	459
-	Legacy Estate late V. I. Clark .....	50
889	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT &amp; OTHER INCOME:</b>	1684
4157	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> .....	6966
	<b>LESS EXPENSES:</b>	
3517	<b>Notornis</b> Printing and Distribution .....	4121
-	<b>Less</b> Advertising .....	12
250	Subsidy DSIR .....	-
3267		4109
46	Annual General Meeting .....	-
100	Audit Fee .....	100
30	Beach Patrol Scheme .....	36
25	Distribution Scheme .....	3
60	Donations .....	60
156	General Expenses .....	126
76	Kermadec Reprints .....	118
212	Nett Cost Kermadec Film .....	-
50	Library Expenses .....	50
-	Nest Record Scheme .....	16
60	Postages .....	153
213	Printing & Stationery .....	270
20	Royal Society Affiliation .....	20
176	Travelling Expenses .....	235
287	<b>Notornis</b> Reprinting .....	974
4778	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> .....	6270
-	Surplus for year transferred to Accumulated Fund	\$696
\$621	Nett Deficiency Transferred .....	-

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)  
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1971

1970		1971
\$		\$
	<b>CURRENT ASSETS:</b>	
3559	Cash at Bank of NZ	1488
802	Cash at Bank of NZ Te Aro	—
1001	Bank of NZ Savings Account	190
—	Term Deposits Bank of NZ	5000
100	Stocks of <b>Notornis</b>	100 (Note III)
100	Stocks of <b>Biology of Birds</b>	100 (Note III)
5562	<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	6878
	<b>INVESTMENTS AT COST:</b>	
5173	Shares in Public Companies	5245 (Note IV)
4875	Locally Body Stocks	4841
10048	<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	10086
1000	Library at Valuation	(Note III) 1000
16610	<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	\$17964
	<b>LESS LIABILITIES:</b>	
1085	Amounts owed by Society	1726
802	Amounts received for Checklist	—
187	Subscriptions in Advance	234
	<b>RESERVE FUNDS:</b>	
300	Projects Assistance Reserve Fund	1096 (Note V)
1357	Life Subscriptions	1371
1000	Publications	1000
4731	<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	5427
	<b>VALUE OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS</b>	
11879	<b>AS BELOW</b>	\$12537
	<b>ACCUMULATED FUNDS:</b>	
12549	Balance at 31/12/70	11879
—	Surplus for year	696
		12575
621	Deficiency for Year	—
49	Transfer to Projects Assistance Reserve Fund	38
\$11879		\$12537

We report, that in our opinion, the foregoing accounts of THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.) for the year end 31st December 1971 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, 8 February, 1972



THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)  
SHARES IN PUBLIC COMPANIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1971

Company	Shares Held	Par Value	Cost of Purchase	Approximate Market Value at 31/12/71
			\$	\$
Andrews & Beaven Ltd	650	\$1	986.79	702.00
Farmers Trading Co Ltd	500	50c	1018.50	570.00
NZ Forest Products Ltd	548	\$1	1227.45	1915.60
General Foods Ltd				
Convertible Notes	168		84.00	137.76
Alex Harvey				
Industries Ltd	210	\$1	486.41	734.00
Golden Bay				
Cement Co Ltd	500	50c	372.31	540.00
Wattie Industries Ltd	656	50c	697.23	817.20
Winstone Ltd	500	50c	372.31	500.00
			<u>\$5245.00</u>	<u>\$5916.56</u>

**NOTE I** Life Members Transfer: 10% of Balance at 31/12/71.

**NOTE II** Royalties from Sales of first Edition **Field Guide** (\$4) and from Sales of **Checklist** (404).

**NOTE III** Stocks of **Notornis** and **Biology of Birds**, and Valuation of Library are at Standard Values. No attempt has been made to accurately value these assets.

**NOTE IV** Shares in Public Companies cost \$5245 and had an approximate market value of \$5916.56 at 31/12/71 as per list above .

**NOTE V** Movements in this Reserve Fund during the year are as follows:

Balance as at 1/1/71 is \$300.

Plus Royalty for Revised Field Guide, \$796

Plus Transfer from Accumulated Fund, \$38

gives a total of \$1134, Less amount paid for Moa ecology research at Papatowai, \$38, which leaves a balance at the end of the year 31/12/71 of \$1096.

INVESTMENTS IN LOCAL BODY STOCKS  
AS AT 31st DECEMBER, 1971

Southland Harbour Board	....	....	\$953 due	30/6/72
Auckland Hospital Board	....	....	965 due	17/6/73
Waitemata County Council	....	....	1533 due	17/2/74
Southland Hospital Board	....	....	990 due	1/11/74
Auckland Electric Power Board	....	....	400 due	15/10/75

## BIRD DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SCHEME

It is hoped to get the Bird Mapping Scheme data handled by computer, but the exact programming will depend on the use to be made of the data. This was discussed by the RR conference in May, and the main requirements seemed to be that we would want to know:

- (1) What squares each species of bird has been recorded from over any given period
- (2) The same, but using any numerical data available (e.g. squares that had reports of more than 100 of a certain species)
- (3) A list of all species recorded from a particular square
- (4) Which habitat types had been sampled in each square.

If you expect to be wanting other information from the computer (if and when we have its services), please send full details to P. C. Bull, C/o Ecology Division, DSIR, P.O. Box 30-466, Lower Hutt, before the end of June or within one week of receipt of this notice. Comments would be welcome.

A committee (B. A. Ellis, C. J. R. Robertson, P. C. Bull, J. A. Fowler, and Mrs J. Hamel) has been set up to advise Council on these matters. The need for urgency is that we hope a feasibility study to test how the data can best be handled will take place about early July, and the test must be related to the kinds of uses to which the data are to be put. (This does *not* mean that computer printouts etc. may be expected in the near future.)

P. C. BULL

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Those interested in following current research on Antarctic birds may care to subscribe to the *Antarctic Journal of the United States*, published bimonthly by the National Science Foundation. It may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at US\$4.50 per year.

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## NOTICE

### BEECH FOREST INQUIRY

The Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand, at the request of the Member Bodies Committee, has set up an *ad hoc* committee on the utilisation of beech forests and has appointed Mr E. W. Dawson as Convener. One of the committee's tasks, under its terms of reference, is to inquire into what scientific work has been done already on the plants, animals, soils and hydrology of the forest habitat, to examine what work is currently being undertaken, and to suggest what might well be done. Members of the OSNZ can render a very useful service, bearing in mind the Society's role as a member body of the RSNZ, in advising this committee of any present or past work on birds of beech and pine forests of which they may be aware. Communications should be sent, as soon as possible, to Mr E. W. Dawson, N.Z. Oceanographic Institute, DSIR, P.O. Box 8009, Government Buildings, Wellington.