

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

F. C. KINSKY, President of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.), has been a member of Council since 1960 and was Convener of the Banding Scheme from 1956 to 1962. As Convener of the Checklist Committee he was largely responsible for the compilation and production of the "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of New Zealand" published by the Society in 1970. Mr Kinsky was born in 1911 in Bohemia, then part of Austria, now a part of Czechoslovakia. He came to New Zealand in 1949 and joined the Department of Industries and Commerce in Wellington. In 1955 he transferred to the staff of the Dominion Museum and was appointed Ornithologist in 1963. Fred Kinsky has had many and varied experiences in ornithology, both in Europe and in New Zealand. Field work has taken him, within recent years, to the Antarctic (the 1963/64 and 1965/66 summers at Hallett Station studying skuas and penguins and participation in the 1964 Reconnaissance Expedition to the Balleny Islands) and on several visits to the tropical islands of the Fiji group, to say nothing of the long vigils he has kept with the Blue Penguins of Wellington Harbour. Current research interests are studies of the status and moult cycle of the Little Tern and Fairy Tern in New Zealand, the plumage differences between Hutton's Shearwater and the Fluttering Shearwater and, with Dr R. A. Falla, a study of subspeciation and distribution of the Blue Penguin. Earlier comprehensive studies included those on the yearly cycle of the Northern Blue Penguin in the Wellington Harbour area (*Records of the Dominion Museum* 3 (3): 145-218, 1960) and the plumage colour and moult cycle of the Southern Black-backed Gull (*Records of the Dominion Museum* 4 (14): 149-219, 1963). Other interests include bird photography and ornithological philately.

E. B. JONES was born in England in 1902 but has spent the greater part of his life in New Zealand. He says that he was encouraged in his youth to take an interest in outdoor life and has always been interested in birds. Mr Jones was employed for twenty years in the Public Service in Wellington, finishing up in Head Office, DSIR, where he came to know several members of the OSNZ. He writes of himself: "During my last thirteen years in Wellington, I spent most of my lunch hours on the waterfront, observing sea birds and noting leg-band numbers of gulls. In a couple of years I managed to collect a thousand numbers. Since my retirement in 1963, I have been living in Levin and have found plenty to keep me interested. I keep a close watch on the birds of Horowhenua Lake and make frequent visits to the coast and nearby estuaries. In the process, I have met with a number of new species of birds and learned quite a lot about the ways of the more common ones."

CHRIS ROBERTSON was introduced to readers in the last issue of *Notornis*.

ROD ABEL is Manager of Marineland of New Zealand, a noted tourist attraction at Napier. He writes of himself: "I was born on 10 March 1936 in Cambridge, and was educated firstly in the far north, a little place called Herekino on the West Coast out from Kaitaia. Then at Northland College at Kaikohe and later at Napier Boys' High School. I spent most of my working life farming. This includes six or seven years breaking in horses on the family racing stud farm. Sporting interests — Rugby: Waikato Rep. Squad 1959; Canterbury 1960-61-62; South Island Rep. 1962; Hawke's Bay until the end of the 1969 season, including half a dozen appearances in All Black Trials. I joined Marineland as Manager on 1 January 1969." Readers wishing to learn of Mr Abel's accomplishments with marine mammals will see fascinating evidence in his "Marineland."

JOHN DARBY is the Assistant-Director of the Otago Museum. Born in England, he came to New Zealand in 1954. He obtained a Diploma in Agriculture at Lincoln College and subsequently worked at Ruakura Animal Research Station before joining the staff of the Zoology Department of the University of Canterbury. As Senior Technician in charge of the Photographic Unit he developed a special interest in photomicrography and holds a Fellowship of the Royal Microscopical Society. He has spent three summers in Antarctica around Ross Island, working initially on the distribution of Weddell Seal colonies by aerial reconnaissance, and subsequently on the relationship between the Adelie Penguin and Maccormick's Skua, as part of Dr Euan Young's team at Cape Bird. From these activities has developed his interest in animal behaviour and ecology, particularly of birds and spiders. In 1969 he was appointed Scientific Officer in Zoology at the Otago Museum. Since then he has been particularly concerned with carrying out Natural History Education programmes for primary and secondary school pupils in Otago. Recently he has planned and produced the life-history displays about the Royal Albatross for the Tourist Information Centre at Taiaroa Heads. He is married with two children; his wife, Marie Darby, is also a zoologist and accompanied the 1968 Lindblad expeditions to the Antarctic and the New Zealand Subantarctic islands in the *Magga Dan*, about which she has written in *Notornis* 17 (1): 28-55 (1970) and in *Animals* magazine 13 (4): 171-177, 1970 (see also Dorothy Braxton's account in *The Abominable Snow-Women*, A. H. & A. W. Reed, 1969).

JIM COLEMAN is at present completing a Ph.D. thesis in the Zoology Department of the University of Canterbury on the ecology of Starlings in Canterbury with particular reference to their importance as agents in the control of grass grubs. His thesis for the M.Sc. degree, submitted in 1968, was on the ecology of rooks in Canterbury and forms the basis of his contribution in this issue of *Notornis*. He has also been studying the breeding biology of the Westland Black Petrel but his main interests lie in the foods and feeding relationships of vertebrates. Mr Coleman is 28 years old, was educated at Motueka High School and is married with two children.

PETER HARPER was introduced to readers in the last issue of *Notornis*.