

Now, how is the worth of a technique, method or theory judged? First it is judged by an internal criticism of the results and secondly by checking independently the more extreme deductions, easily accessible to checking.

These criteria will apply to results obtained by sight recoveries of banded birds.

An original "aim" of our Society was "the study of living birds in their natural state." I believe a careful and intense programme of obtaining a wealth of sight recoveries of banded birds is one of the best policies in such a study. "Best" in that it is relatively simple, easy, and of low cost; and skilfully carried out with minimum disturbance to the birds observed.

REFERENCES

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21 July 1972



The Editor,
Sir,

CONSTITUTIONAL PROCEDURE AT THE AGM

In the report of the Annual General Meeting for 1972 (*Notornis* 19 (2): 176) concerning the "matter of joining CoEnCo" Dr R. A. Falla is reported as saying "this was the place for members to instruct Council . . ."

Unfortunately this is not so. The 1953 Constitution of the Society provided for the Council to manage the affairs of the Society "subject to the direction of the Society in general meeting." Members will recall that in 1968 and again in 1970 I fought tooth and nail against certain proposed alterations to the constitution, including the dropping of this desirable provision, in the new and unsatisfactory constitution which was finally adopted in Christchurch in 1971 in my absence.

Members will now realise that they have surrendered control of their own society to the ruling council as their only practical recourse (if they should wish it) is to unseat its members, one third at a time, over three years. Let us hope that the council will in fact, continue to act as a "benevolent dictatorship."

J. M. CUNNINGHAM

Wellington
27 July 1972