

NOTES AND NEWS

KAJ WESTERSKOV HONOURED

"Dr K. E. WESTERSKOV, associate professor of zoology at the University of Otago . . . has had a rare distinction conferred upon him by fellow scientists in his native Denmark. He has been elected a Corresponding Fellow of the Danish Ornithological Society, of which he was a council member before coming to New Zealand in 1952. The society has only 12 Corresponding Fellows, of whom the best known to most New Zealanders is Peter Scott.

"A prolific writer, Dr Westerskov is internationally known for his work on the partridge and the pheasant. Of his four books and 100 papers and articles, the most popular in non-academic circles is "Know Your New Zealand Birds." Dr Westerskov was employed by the Wildlife Division until he joined the university staff in 1964."

Source: Reprinted from *The Otago Daily Times*, 3 August, 1972, page 10.

RESEARCH REQUEST

Jo Knight, of the Zoology Department, University of Canterbury, is experimenting with a new method for testing the age of birds based on a study of stained and ground sections of their bones. She has already examined the skeletons of Red-billed Gulls of known age collected by Dr Jim Mills during his work at Kaikoura and she now wants to try a variety of species. Any members able to help are asked to write to her at the Edward Percival Marine Laboratory, P.O. Box 11, Kaikoura.

INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS

The 16th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Canberra, A.C.T., from 12 - 17 August 1974. It will be sponsored jointly by the Australian Academy of Science and the RAOU. Professor J. Dorst of Paris is President and Dr H. J. Frith of Canberra is Secretary-General.

The congress theme will be "The Two Hemispheres," this being the first International Ornithological Congress held south of the equator, and comparisons and contrasts will be developed between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, "each of which presents a tale half told, in each of which we are seekers in common of the whole story of birds." Four main subjects will be built around this theme and there will be also at least 12 symposia by invited speakers and general sessions for offered papers.

This will be an important occasion for any NZ ornithologists, whose presence in Canberra could add immeasurably to the success of the Congress, and this advance warning is given for those who might be considering going to Canberra in 1974. Further details are available from Mr A. BLACKBURN, 10 SCORE ROAD, GISBORNE. It is hoped that some kind of discount travel can be arranged for NZ participants and, to help planning, would intending travellers, even if only tentative, please write to Mr Blackburn as soon as possible?

A MANX SHEARWATER IN NEW ZEALAND

"It is not often that the Wellington Region can claim a new bird species for the country. We should therefore congratulate Mr T. C. L. Symmes on finding New Zealand's first Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*), beach-wrecked near Pukerua Bay on 25 June. The Manx Shearwater breeds on islands along the west coast of Britain and the only other Australasian record was of a bird which had been banded on Skokholm Island (Wales) and was washed ashore in Australia in Nov. 1961. Birds migrate from the North to South Atlantic and presumably the odd one gets far enough south to be whisked into the Roaring Forties and round the Southern Ocean." Source: FOWLER, J. A. (ed.). Newsletter, Wellington Branch, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, July 1972.

REGIONAL NEWS

Northland: A beach count of 100 New Zealand Dotterel is the best since 1940. *Gisborne:* A Kaka has been visiting an urban plantation. *Wanganui:* Coots, 9 counted on Westmere Lake; Spotted Shags, 5 on 27 May, the largest number on record for Wanganui. *Taranaki:* Beach patrols in 1971 yielded 130 birds of 16 species; other birds reported, Common Sandpiper (3rd for NZ), Wrybill, Little Tern, Black-fronted Dotterel, Spoonbill. *Wellington:* A Little Grey Kiwi was killed by a car at Raumati Beach on 19 June, perhaps a bird removed from Kapiti Island; a Giant Petrel bearing an Australian band was found at Waikawa on 5 June, and a Southern Skua was seen feeding on a dead sheep near Foxton Beach on 24 June; the first report of Welcome Swallows in the Hutt Valley comes from two birds seen at the Silverstream Bridge on 11 June; a field meeting at Lake Horowhenua resulted in the sighting of the following, White Heron (1), Bittern (1), Dabchick (18), and Little Black Shag (7); June was an "extraordinary" month for beach patrollers in which 250 birds of 31 species were found along 150 miles of beach, including 27 Yellow-eyed Penguins, 10 Spotted Shags, and a small wreck of Fluttering Shearwaters (61).

KIWIS' ACTIVITY IN CAPTIVITY

The Otorohanga Zoological Society Inc. has recently made a survey of 48 hours of activity in their Nocturnal Kiwi House, from 9.00 a.m. 23 June to 9.00 a.m. 25 June. The survey was divided into twenty-four 2-hour shifts and was carried out by 17 members of the Zoological Society. Three individuals of the North Island Kiwi (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) were observed and a very detailed report has now been compiled. We are indebted to Barry Rowe, President of the Otorohanga Zoological Society, for sending it to *Notornis*; a copy is available in the OSNZ library for the benefit of our members. With the current controversy about the export of kiwis to overseas zoos it is refreshing to see such local studies being made.

WILDLIFE SERVICE SOUND LIBRARY

It may not be known generally that the Wildlife Service has issued a catalogue of its holdings of natural sound recordings. A surprising range of birds, some 143 species and subspecies, is listed including a number of rarely-visited species such as the Auckland Island Teal and the Black Robin of Little Mangere Island. Under certain conditions these recordings may be borrowed or tapes made on request. Further information will be given readily by the Wildlife Service. Readers of *Notornis* may like to note that an article on natural sound recording written by Mr J. L. Kendrick of the Wildlife Service will appear in an early issue next year.

Reference: Information Section, Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington. *Sound Library Catalogue*. No. 1. October 1971, 23 pp.

WILDLIFE 1971

Once again the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs has given the interested public a clear account of what it is and what it does. *Wildlife 1971 — a review*, recently issued, is the third such publication detailing the work and achievements of the Wildlife Service. A great many aspects of interest are shown ranging from the Black Swans of Lake Ellesmere, the small rails at Pukepuke, the survival of the Kokako and the Takahe, petrels, rats, albatrosses, ducks, reserves and surveys, a host to interest the OSNZ reader.



BIRD MAPPING SCHEME

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Would contributors please send all remaining lists for 1972 to their Regional Representative (address in back of *Notornis*) as soon as possible. All cards should reach the recording office by 31 January 1973 to ensure an earlier appearance of the annual report. Any queries concerning the scheme should be sent to regional representatives or to Mr P. D. Gaze (Ecology Division, DSIR, Box 30466, Lower Hutt).