

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

CHARLES FLEMING is a very well-known member of the OSNZ and needs little introduction to readers. He was President from 1948-1950. We will always be especially indebted to him for his work as Convener of the Committee responsible for the 1953 Checklist. His more academic achievements are, perhaps, not so well-known to his many friends outside the strictly scientific fraternity and reference to sources of further information about his scientific career might be of some interest.

A profile of Dr Fleming, written by Margaret Kelly, in the *Auckland Weekly* of 16 October 1963 gives a readable account of the development of his interests and, particularly, the part he has played in reforming New Zealand science through his involvement in the Royal Society of New Zealand, of which he was President from 1962 to 1966. He is also one of the few New Zealanders to be elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, a particularly high honour in scientific circles. His other honours and achievements can be found in *Who's Who in New Zealand* and in the first volume of the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand*, but another interesting outline of his career has been published recently in *Search* (Vol. 3, No. 9, pp. 316-7, Sept. 1972), the journal of the Australian and New Zealand Association for the Advancement of Science, on the occasion of his award of the ANZAAS Medal. Dr Fleming has been a prolific publisher of his work and interests. A bibliography of his writings from 1939 to 1971, compiled recently by Mr I. W. Keyes of the NZ Geological Survey, lists 266 items ranging from popular geological articles in the *Otaki-Waikanae Weekly News* to scholarly contributions to such journals as *Tectonophysics* and the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature*.

Margaret Kelly wrote of him: "As a naturalist, whose insatiable curiosity has brought great personal satisfaction and has resulted in scientific research of considerable importance, Dr Fleming has had a richly rewarding career." Members of the OSNZ and readers of *N.Z. Bird Notes* and *Notornis* will share her sentiments. Dr Fleming is currently playing a significant role behind the scenes as a member of the Environmental Council.

ALAN BAKER is Curator of Echinoderms and Marine Mammals at the Dominion Museum, Wellington (shortly to be renamed the "National Museum"). He has recently published a useful guide to "New Zealand Whales and Dolphins," issued as Part I of Volume 20 of *Tuatara*, the journal of the Biological Society of Victoria University of Wellington. Dr Baker was born in 1940 and has always been interested in marine life since his childhood in the Bay of Islands. He graduated from Victoria University with a Ph.D. thesis on a life-history study of the New Zealand Pilchard, *Sardinops neopilchardus*, carried out from 1966 to 1968 during the tenure of a N.Z. Marine Department research fellowship and since published as *Fisheries Research Bulletin* No. 5 (1972). He has written papers on a variety of topics ranging from sea-urchins to fossil whales. Alan Baker is an accomplished skindiver and has done much work around the Poor

Knights Islands as well as joining in expeditions to Niue Island and the Antarctic. He has also had first-hand experience of the Crown-of-Thorns starfish plague on the Great Barrier Reef. Dr Baker recently visited some of New Zealand subantarctic islands from Mr Alex Black's *Acheron* during the 1972/3 Auckland Islands expedition. He is this year's President of the N.Z. Marine Sciences Society.

BRIAN MCPHERSON is at present engaged as a guide on the Routeburn Track. He is 19 years old and developed his ornithological interests at primary school, later becoming more orientated towards ecology in general. His major interests are in botany, photography, and, particularly, tramping, climbing and working in the Fiordland mountains. During 1973 he will be studying at Otago University, taking Botany II, Anthropology I and Geology I.

CARL ROBERTS has been at Colorado College since 1957 and received his Ph.D. degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Missouri in 1959. Accompanied by his wife, Professor Roberts went to New Zealand for a year on a combined sabbatical leave and College Science Improvement Program grant from the National Science Foundation.

He writes: "This COSIP grant is designed to allow scientists in various colleges and universities time off in addition to sabbaticals to beef up their areas of competence and to expand their skills into new areas. I have long been interested in and have taught Comparative Psychology and Ethology in addition to my primary courses in Learning and Behaviour Theory and the experimental analysis of behaviour more generally. I went to New Zealand partly because of the accessibility of various exotic animals, partly to spend a year in a different culture from my own, partly because both my wife and I had always wanted to visit New Zealand because of its geography and history of progressive social legislation, and partly because of the trout fishing. My primary purpose was to expand my skills and knowledge in animal behaviour areas. I got started on the Yellow-eyed Penguin primarily because I wanted to take moving pictures of penguin behaviour. Since I was doing that it seemed reasonable to collect such data on egg and chick survival as I could, since I was already looking at a variety of penguin nests. Hence the article."

While in New Zealand Professor Roberts developed procedures for the experimental study of such birds as the Takahe, the Yellow-eyed Penguin and kiwis, involving battery-operated automatic apparatus, and would very much like to see such ideas developed at a zoological park such as Mount Bruce.

ANTHONY WHITTEN was born in London in 1953 and has lived there since. He was educated at Dulwich College which he left at the end of 1971. During the summer of 1970 he worked on a Royal Society grant at Peter Scott's Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge which has resulted in his first paper, "A new behavioural method for the further determination of olfaction in the Mallard," in the *Journal of Biological Education*, December 1971. He applied for a Churchill Fellowship and, as he says, "was surprised, and honoured, to be elected the youngest ever Churchill Fellow in 1971."

He writes: "I chose to visit New Zealand for about nine weeks to study conservation methods and the Churchill Trust allowed me also to stay for appreciable periods in Singapore, Western Australia, Fiji, Hawaii, Vancouver and Banff on my way to and from New Zealand. I spent my time in New Zealand seeing as much as I could and speaking to innumerable people arranged partly by Lands & Survey and by the Wildlife Service. What I did in New Zealand could fill a book (in fact I wrote over 50,000 words of log) and there is only space to say that the things that stick out in my mind are the periods spent on Little Barrier and Kapiti, in the Southern Alps and at Mount Bruce. I am having a year off before I go to Southampton University and during this time I have been writing articles about my trip, helping Dr Janet Kear with her work on the Hawaiian Goose (which I saw wild in Hawaii), forming an Association of Animal Collectors, and working on the editorial staff of the International Zoo Yearbook." Mr Whitten says further that he intends to make his career in scientific conservation and his immediate ambition is to arrange an expedition, within the next four years, to study the breeding biology of the Bewick Swan on the Yamal Peninsula in Russia.

JIM FOWLER came to New Zealand from Britain in 1970, ostensibly to see a wild Kiwi, an ambition he soon satisfied whilst on holiday at Stewart Island. He quickly became an active member of OSNZ and was elected Regional Representative for the Wellington Branch in March 1972. Ornithologically, his main interest is bird movement and distribution, and he found the OSNZ Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme an excellent outlet for this interest. He has written a number of articles for popular and scientific journals.

Dr Fowler gained his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in the University of Wales, studying a mammalian enzyme system and its relationship to vitamin B₆. He is now an Inspector of Technical Institutes in the Department of Education and has been appointed, by secondment, as Leader, Vanda Station in Antarctica, for the summer season 1972-73.

J. M. CUNNINGHAM was introduced to bird watching by R. H. D. Stidolph, a lifelong ornithologist and former editor of *Notornis*, to whom he acknowledges all his early knowledge of and enthusiasm for ornithology. In the 1940s and 1950s he was a prolific contributor to various ornithological journals. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the OSNZ from 1946 to 1953 and played a part in establishing the direction of development of the Society particularly in the field of co-operative field investigations. Mr Cunningham designed and introduced the Nest Records Scheme (1950), the Ringing Scheme (1950), the Beach Patrol Scheme (1951) and drafted the Society's second constitution leading to Incorporation. It is his regret that he never completed the organisation of a mapping scheme such as is now in operation. He regards as his chief achievement, however, the fostering of close understanding and co-operation between professional and amateur ornithologists in what were largely the formative years of the Society. He says he has firm ideas of what constitutes a good research paper or book and, although he has written many favourable reviews, is very

critical of "addle-pated" thinking and writing and expects his own work to be similarly criticised. He is an equally firm believer that the Society should study birds and not dissipate its energies on other matters such as conservation. In his own deep interest in this subject he does not work through committees but prefers behind the scenes to approach Ministers and public bodies over such issues as Waimeha lagoon, Westshore lagoon, Carters Bush reserve and the creeping encroachment of roads on to Wellington beaches. Office Manager, Credit Manager, Book Warehouse Manager in turn, married with three children, he has a prize-winning garden, an important natural history library (regretting his friends do not make enough use of it) and is an inveterate collector of such varied items as original New Zealand paintings, cactuses, stamps, shells, and Matchbox toys.

ALAN WRIGHT was born in Yorkshire in 1928 and was in the Royal Navy from 1945 to 1948. He worked for a year with the Forestry Commission and then joined the Royal New Zealand Navy in which he served from 1949 to 1955. After a year in England, he returned to New Zealand and worked as a rigger in the Post & Telegraph Department until 1959 when he transferred to the Marine Department as a lighthouse keeper, relieving on most of the New Zealand lighthouses until 1965 when he joined the Wildlife Service as Field Officer at Haast. He became Field Officer in charge of the albatross colony at Taiaroa Head in 1968. While with the Marine Department, Alan Wright was on loan to the Civil Aviation Department as Officer-in-charge, Campbell Island, 1962/63, and was later a member of the OSNZ Kermadecs Expedition in 1965. He became a member of the OSNZ during his time with the Marine Department and, through spending 3½ years on the Brothers lighthouse in Cook Strait, developed an interest in sea birds, and especially in albatrosses following his experiences on Campbell Island. He is currently working with Chris Robertson on the Northern Royal Albatross.

He describes himself as: "A keen nature photographer, bander and data collector in the bird field, active committee member of the Dunedin Conservation and Ecology Action Group and the Otago Peninsula Trust development of the public access area to the Royal Albatross colony."

JOHN KENDRICK was born in Hamilton and was educated at Hamilton High School. He trained in electronics and worked for several radio and electronics firms before establishing his own business in Hamilton. He assisted the Hamilton Junior Naturalist Club during its formation, and as a staff member for four years. In 1965 he sold his radio and TV business and moved to Wellington to take up the position of Visual Aids Officer with the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs. As photographer, film cameraman, and sound recordist, John Kendrick has had the good fortune to visit most of New Zealand and its offshore islands in the course of work to obtain wildlife material for the Department. His interests include skiing, tramping, yachting, and the study of natural history.