

FROM THE SECRETARY

COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT ON CONSERVATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

In recent years there has been an increase in threats to birds in New Zealand as a result of pollution and habitat destruction. We are now facing a potential environmental crisis with wide-ranging changes in land use and shifts in human populations which may radically affect the variety and distribution of the birds we watch and study.

Members of the Society must feel concern for the future and will wish to know how the Society, or they as individuals, can help in any way to mitigate the impact of these changes. At recent meetings the Council has discussed the matter at some length and has felt that it should issue a policy statement on just how the Society can make an effective contribution to bird conservation, and ways in which individual members can help.

Council feels that the basic aims of the Society should continue to be as stated in the Constitution: the encouragement and direction of the study of ornithology, particularly in New Zealand, the publication of a journal and co-operation with other bodies of similar interests. To this end, Council will be prepared to recommend local and national projects which will often be important for conservation reasons. The Society should associate itself with, and lend full support to, voluntary and governmental conservation bodies; but the Society should not normally take independent action on conservation matters. It is felt that threats to birds and their habitats can best be handled by the specialist conservation bodies constituted specifically for this purpose. Further duplication of effort in the conservation field should be avoided, and the Society should not itself develop into yet another conservation body. Its function should be to supply facts and data to conservation bodies such as the Nature Conservation Council, Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and environmental action groups. Council will continue to maintain close contact with these bodies.

Council wishes, however, to encourage individual members to help in the following ways:

- (a) By personal support for the voluntary conservation bodies.
- (b) By helping the Wildlife Branch of the Internal Affairs Department and the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in monitoring counts of various bird species and implementing joint projects such as the Bird Distribution Mapping Scheme, Beach Patrols, etc.
- (c) By keeping close touch with local representatives of the conservation organisation and reporting to them or the Society's Secretary at once any information on developments posing a threat to birds or the environment.
- (d) By gaining knowledge of local areas and collecting data on species and numbers throughout the year, and by supplying such information to Regional Representatives or to the Convener of the Bird Recording Scheme, so that factual evidence

- of the importance of a threatened area is immediately available.
- (e) By writing privately to the Press, local member of Parliament, a Cabinet Minister, as appropriate, with their views on any threats in their areas.

J. A. FOWLER
Hon. Sec., OSNZ Inc.



STUDENT MEMBERS

Although a synopsis of the proceedings of the last AGM was contained in the June issue of this journal, I have had a request to state, in full, the single amendment that was made to the Constitution.

The motion, as published on the agenda, was amended twice before finally being put to the vote in the following form:

“Members Clause 5 (b) be deleted and replaced by —
Members Clause 5 (b). Student members twenty years of age or under who elect to receive a 25% rebate from their annual subscription on application to the Treasurer shall be entitled to full rights of membership except that they shall not be eligible for election to Council.”

In practical terms, as stated in my synopsis, the effect of the amendment is to allow student members to cast votes in elections and General Meetings.

J. A. FOWLER
Hon. Sec., OSNZ Inc.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OF RR

Mr. Norman Mackenzie, RR for Hawkes Bay, may now be contacted at: Wildlife Trust, Main Road, Westshore, Napier.

JUST PUBLISHED !

The Fiat book of common birds in New Zealand, Vol. 2. Mountain, bush and shore birds. By Janet Marshall, F. C. Kinsky and C. J. R. Robertson, September 1973. 96 pp., 40 pls. Wellington, &c.: A. H. & A. W. Reed Ltd., \$1.95.

REPRINTS

The Editor extends his apologies to those who have not yet received their reprints from the last issue. Staff changes at our printers have necessitated some delays in the usual procedure.

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

On the suggestion of several long-standing members of the Society, this feature of *Notornis* will be discontinued with the present issue unless other members express a contrary desire.