

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

"21" is a number traditionally associated with "coming of age." *Notornis* came of age, in fact, when it fledged from *New Zealand Bird Notes* and donned its new plumage as Vol. 4, No. 1, in July 1950. Twenty-one volumes of ornithological annals is something of which the Society and its contributing members can be well proud. Some of the papers within these covers are epoch-making, some quietly memorable, some rather profound, some trivial, perhaps, and there may be some that should not have darkened the printer's page at all. But they are the stuff of which ornithology, as a science recording observations and interpreting them, is made. Let us rejoice, then, that we have come of age again with the completion of our 21st volume!

The final part of Vol. 4 of the Society's journal (June 1951) dealt largely with observations made on *Notornis* immediately following its rediscovery by Dr G. B. Orbell in 1948. Readers will recall that the four articles in this number were issued as a special publication of the Society under the title "The Takahe" for sale to the general public, and how this attractive booklet proved to be a great aid in drawing in new members. Since then a great deal of work has been carried out on the Takahe by the Wildlife Service of the Department of Internal Affairs. Regrettably, rather little of their success or progress has been published, newspaper accounts tending to point out the deaths in captivity or the more sensational aspects of an allegedly rapidly decreasing population so relevant in this day of doom-prophets.

We are privileged, therefore to be able to present a batch of papers from Brian Reid and his co-workers which tell something of what the Wildlife Service has been doing with *Notornis*. These are valuable documents, although, admittedly, they will not command every reader's interest, and it is particularly fitting that we should be able to publish them as a 21st birthday tribute for our own *Notornis*.



ANOTHER GOOD CHRISTMAS PRESENT!

Those of us who like to combine bird-watching with other outdoor activities, whether at the end of a fly-rod or not, will enjoy another book from the house of William Collins which comes in time for someone's Christmas stocking. The publishers say of *A Fisherman's Year* by John Parsons — "... a book for everyone who enjoys good writing of life outdoors. An Englishman who came to New Zealand over twenty years ago, John Parsons still remembers with nostalgia the many hours of pleasure he enjoyed in his homeland. But to him New Zealand was, and remains, a fisherman's paradise, with Taupo as its Mecca. This pleasure, excitement and sheer joy he communicates to the reader in a book that is not only for the angler, but to be read and enjoyed by the naturalist, the lover of wild life and the armchair adventurer." It should, therefore, be a welcome addition to the shelves of most members of the OSNZ!