

## ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

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DAVID E. CROCKETT is Senior Science Adviser, Auckland Education Board based in Whangarei. He is Regional Representative for the Northland and Far North Regions and has been Nest Record Convenor since May 1969. His paper was compiled from observations made on Meyer Island during the OSNZ 25th Anniversary Expedition to the Kermadec Islands 1966-67. He was also a member of the 1964 Kermadec Expedition. He writes that his interest in birds started in a Christchurch bird club conducted by Dr, now Sir Robert, Falla, then Director of the Canterbury Museum. A beach patrol with Dr Falla on 9 September 1946 at New Brighton introduced him to an activity which has continued to the present.

A chance meeting with Robert Cushman Murphy in 1947 and subsequent correspondence fostered his interest in Procellariiformes. The generous support of Dr Charles Fleming in the early fifties helped further develop this interest in sea birds which has taken him to a number of offshore islands. While leading a Wanganui Museum Expedition to the Chatham Islands in 1969-70, and in the company of Fred Kinsky and Lawrence Edlin he found the Black-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma nigripennis*) on South East Island.

After a visit to his first "petrel island" in 1952 two papers were published — Birds of Motunau Island and The Birds of Motunau River Mouth. *Notornis* 6 (2): 40-42 and 49-50.

His interests include OSNZ activities, photography, sound recording, sea watching, bird banding and beach patrolling. His wife, Ruth, also a member of OSNZ, joins him in many of his ornithological activities.

BETH BROWN was born and educated in Napier and aided by her father developed an appreciation of natural history from an early age.

As one of many whose interest in birds was fostered by H. R. McKenzie, she served a ten-year apprenticeship before becoming RR for South Auckland when he retired in 1973. Another unfailing source of encouragement, she believes, has been R. B. Sibson, and she writes — "With the guidance of these two and living as I do close to both Manukau Harbour and the Firth of Thames, it is natural that my great interest is waders. I have taken part in a number of Field Study Courses and have helped arrange two private field trips to Fiji after the Society's original one in 1970. An ear for music is an aid to ornithology and sound recording is a satisfying adjunct. My husband shares my interest in birds and is a keen photographer."

PETER CHILD is Deputy Principal, Dunstan High School, Alexandra. He has spent most of his life in Central Otago but has had two spells in the Gilbert and Ellice Islands and has published an

account of their birds in the *Atoll Research Bulletin*. He was also a member of the ill-fated Kermadecs expedition of 1964.

Mr Child's ornithological interests include migration, birds at high altitudes, Pacific birds in general, and changes in the bird life of Central Otago. Most of his summer vacations are currently spent in making a survey of the birdlife of Mount Aspiring National Park. Starved of ornithological chit-chat in Alexandra, he says he welcomes suitably qualified visitors! His other leisure-time activities are mountaineering and tramping, watercolour painting, lichenology, and lazing away part of his advancing years, as he calls them, in salubrious climates such as Fiji.

ROB GUEST joined the N.Z. Forest Service in 1972 after graduating in Forestry from Bangor, North Wales. His work has consisted of conducting surveys to determine the condition and trends of the indigenous vegetation for watershed management. He says that his exciting ornithological moments include being stooped by a peregrine falcon whilst rock climbing and being hit by a barn owl whilst he was riding a motorcycle! Apart from birdwatching, he is keen on climbing, photography and fishing.

MICHAEL IMBER is a scientist with Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, which he joined in 1966, not long after obtaining his M.Agric.Sc. degree from Massey University, with a thesis on effects of population density on reproduction in mice. He was born in the U.K. in 1940 and came to N.Z. in 1958. His early work with Wildlife was on population dynamics of Canada Geese, which continues; research on petrels began with Grey-faced Petrels on Whale Island in 1968 and extended to Cook's and Black Petrels on Little Barrier Island in 1971; studies of the food of oceanic birds derived from this interest in petrels, which also made him a keen beach patroller. He married Miriel Aitchison, then Sister in Children's Ward, Wanganui Hospital, in 1965; they have one more child, they say, than they should, and live at Raumati. A further introduction to Mike Imber's work on the food of oceanic birds appears in the latest issue of *Wildlife — a review*, No. 5: 23-25, 1974.

RODNEY RUSS is a wildlife trainee with the Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, which he joined in 1971. In 1972/73 he was a member of the Wildlife Service support staff for the Auckland Islands expedition, as well as participating in the general bird surveys and banding programme. He returned briefly in December 1973 on the M.V. *Acheron* to provide follow-up data on the Southern Royal Albatross. Participation in various recent wildlife expeditions to the Chatham Islands has allowed him to visit the majority of the islands in that group.

DICK WATLING was born in Uganda in 1951, moving soon after to Kenya where he lived until 1960 when he went to England. After school days in Yorkshire, he spent a year in the Serengeti Research Institute in Tanzania as a research assistant. In 1969 he entered Bristol University, graduating in zoology in 1973.

Since 1967 Mr Watling has spent his school and university vacations in Fiji and has been able to follow his interests in zoology

and especially in ornithology. This led directly to his present position as a postgraduate student of the Department of Applied Biology, University of Cambridge, attached to the Agricultural Department in Fiji where he is working on an agricultural bird pest, the Red-vented Bulbul.

JAMES MILLS, author of a report on the present status of the Takahe published in the December 1974 *Notornis*, is a scientist with the Wildlife Branch, Department of Internal Affairs. He has been involved with research on Takahe in Fiordland since 1972. He received his undergraduate and graduate education at Canterbury University, attaining a PhD in 1971. Other species studied have been the Red-billed Gull and the Grey Teal. His co-author ROGER LAVERS was employed with the Wildlife Branch as a scientist until 1973 and has since been a student at the Bible College of New Zealand in Auckland. He graduated from Victoria University with a BSc honours degree. As well as Takahe he has been involved with research on mustelids.



#### INDEX TO NOTORNIS

Mr Brian Ellis, former Secretary of the OSNZ, has offered to compile an index of the first twenty volumes of *Notornis*. The form of the index (whether by author and/or species and/or locality) has yet to be decided.



We acknowledge with thanks the Universities Entrance Board for permission to reproduce part of the 1974 Entrance Scholarship examination paper in Biology.