

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1975



The 36th Annual General Meeting was held in Dunedin on 17 May and attended by over 40 members. The President, Mr B. D. Bell, in his report on the year's activities, paid tribute to Mr Kinsky who recently resigned from the presidency. The ornithological highlights of the year had been the attendance of many of our members at the 16th International Ornithological Congress in Canberra and the recent influx of an unusually large number of Australian birds. These included White and Glossy Ibises, Little Egrets, Cattle Egrets, Grass Whistleducks, two Australian Little Grebes and a new record for New Zealand when a Hoary-headed Grebe was reported from the Snares Islands.

Reports from the Society's Scheme Organisers and Committee Conveners were summarised and presented to the meeting. A review of the year's study courses was given, the Summer School for Ornithology having been extremely successful. It is planned that this year a Labour Day Weekend course will again be centred on South Island river-beds and for North Island members, activities in the vicinity of Tauranga Harbour and possibly the Hauhungaroa Range are envisaged.

Although five positions were vacant on Council, there have been no changes as all Councillors due to retire were re-elected, most of them unopposed.

The annual conference of Regional Representatives was held on the Saturday morning when those present exchanged suggestions and renewed their enthusiasm for a demanding task. Speakers in the afternoon provided an interesting series of lectures on a variety of topics, a river-bed survey in Southland, feeding of the Black-fronted Tern, ecological aspects of Aramoana Estuary, plumage of the Crested Grebe and territoriality in the Rifleman. The evening meeting was followed by an account from Mr D. V. Merton on efforts to save the Kakapo from extinction.

Field trips held on Sunday to Taiaroa Head and Aramoana were well patronised, providing an opportunity to observe the local birdlife and to continue the relaxed ornithological conversations which were typical of the successful weekend.

P. D. GAZE, Secretary

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### For Year Ended 31st December, 1974



PRESENTED AT THE A.G.M. OF THE  
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)

DUNEDIN — 17 MAY 1975

During the year membership increased by 51 to a total of 1155. 125 new members were admitted, while 52 left by resignation and death and 22 were struck off because of being unfinancial. The classes of members are 2 honorary life, 76 life, 23 endowment, 722 ordinary, 62 junior, 2 family, 102 corporate bodies, 83 husband and wife, counting as two, giving the total of 1155.

The income for the year was \$7669 which is an increase of \$583. Subscriptions were \$216 more, sale of back numbers of *Notornis* an increase of \$112 and the combined income from interest and dividends \$1106, is \$211 greater. Profit from the sale of Christmas cards, \$1462, again added materially to the Society's income. Without this source of income a deficiency of \$1181 for the year would have resulted, instead of the surplus of \$281 as is shown. The increase in the rates of subscription for this current year will mean that the Society will not be depending to such an extent on the sale of the cards as it has done in the past few years.

Expenses totalled \$7388 an increase of \$1134. Cost of printing and distribution of *Notornis*, as is the case with most present day costs, was \$888 more. Reprinting of back numbers was \$177. Other expenses totalled \$1276 an increase of \$335.

The surplus for the year, \$281, has been added to the Accumulated Fund.

\$358, royalties on the revised *Field Guide*, were received and added directly to the Projects Assistance Reserve. Royalties have now been received on sales of 4767 copies.

Local body loans, Waitemata County Council \$1600 and Southland Hospital Board \$900, matured and the amounts reinvested with the Perpetual Trustees Co. Ltd, on authorised trustee investment with interest at 9½%.

The holdings of shares in public companies were sold and the proceeds reinvested as detailed in the notes accompanying the accounts. The greater return by way of higher interest on the reinvestments will be available to meet future annual expenditure.

H. W. M. HOGG, Hon. Treasurer

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC).STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARENDED 31ST DECEMBER 19741973INCOME WAS EARNED FROM:

4052	Subscriptions	4268
195	Transfer from Life Members	199 (NOTE I)
78	Donations	118
1455	Profit from Christmas Cards	1462
269	Sale Back numbers	381
<u>81</u>	Biology of Birds	<u>38</u>
6130	<u>TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME:</u>	\$ 6466

PLUS INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME:

592	Interest	892
303	Dividends	214
35	Premium on Maturity of Local Body Stock	76
20	Royalties	21 (NOTE II)
6	Booksellers Margin on direct Checklist Sales	-
<u>956</u>	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENT &amp; OTHER INCOME:</u>	<u>\$1203</u>
7086	<u>TOTAL INCOME:</u>	<u>\$7669</u>

LESS EXPENSES:

5047	"Notornis" Printing & Distribution	5935
<u>9</u>	<u>Less Advertising</u>	<u>--</u>
5038		5935
--	Annual General Meeting	13
100	Audit Fee	100
67	Beach Patrol Scheme	-
-	Donations	40
126	General Expenses	123
50	Library Expenses	50
-	Nest Record Scheme	63
98	Postages	82
204	Printing & Stationery	434
20	Royal Society Affiliation	-
276	Travelling Expenses	371
<u>275</u>	<u>"Notornis" Reprinting</u>	<u>177</u>
6254	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES:</u>	<u>\$7388</u>
<u>832</u>	<u>SURPLUS FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUND:</u>	<u>\$ 281</u>
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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC).BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1974

<u>1973</u>			
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS:</u>		
2729	Cash at Bank of New Zealand	3721	
756	Bank of N.Z. Savings Account	797	
1500	Term Deposit Bank of N.Z.	1500	
100	Stock of "Notornis"	100 (NOTE III)	
5085	<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS:</u>	6113	
	<u>INVESTMENTS:</u>		
3883	Shares in Public Companies	- (NOTE IV)	
2923	Local Body Stocks	400	
	The Perpetual Trustees Co Ltd		
7000	Group Trustee Investments	12000	
	B. N. Z. Finance Co Ltd		
--	First Ranking Compounding Debenture Stock	3200	
13806	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS:</u>	15600	
<u>1000</u>	Library at Valuation	1000	
19891	<u>TOTAL ASSETS:</u>	22718	
	<u>LESS LIABILITIES:</u>		
1371	Amounts owed by Society	2083	
365	Subscriptions in Advance	1217	
	<u>Reserve Funds:</u>		
2227	Projects Assistance Reserve	2585 (NOTE V)	
1756	Life Subscriptions	1797	
<u>1000</u>	Publications	1000	
6719	<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES:</u>	8682	
13172	<u>VALUE OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS BELOW:</u>	14036	
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS:</u>		
11953	Balance at 31.12.73	13172	
100	Less Stocks "Biology of Birds" Written Off	-	
11853		13172	
	<u>Plus</u> Profit on Sale of Shares		
	N.Z. Forest Products	442	
	Winstone	272	
	Golden Bay Cement	183	
	<u>Less</u> Loss		
	Wattie Industries	25	
487	Andrews & Beaven	289	583
<u>832</u>	Surplus for year	281	
<u>13172</u>	<u>BALANCE AT 31.12.74:</u>	14036	

We report, that in our opinion, the foregoing accounts and notes attached of THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC) for the year ended 31st December 1974 are in agreement with the books and reports of the Society and give a true and fair view of the Society's position at that date and the results of its transactions for the year. The Society has kept proper books and supplied all the information required.

THOMPSON & LANG  
Chartered Accountants  
Auditors

DUNEDIN: 11TH MARCH 1975

- NOTE I Life members Transfer: 10% of Balance at 31/12/74.
- NOTE II Royalties from Sales of Checklist.
- NOTE III Stocks of "Notornis" and Valuation of Library are at Standard Values. No attempt has been made to accurately value these assets.
- NOTE IV All the Society's holding in Shares in Public Companies have been sold and the proceeds invested with the Perpetual Trustees Co Ltd Group Trustee Investment Fund (interest rate  $9\frac{1}{2}\%$ ) and B.N.Z. Finance Co Ltd First Ranking Compounding Debenture Stock (interest rate 10%).
- NOTE V Projects Assistance Reserve.

Movement in this account during the year is as follows:—

<i>Plus</i> Royalty on Revised Field Guide	358
Balance at 31/12/73 was .....	<u>\$2227</u>
BALANCE at 31/12/74 .....	<u>\$2585</u>



## INVESTMENT IN LOCAL BODY STOCKS

**As at 31 December 1974**

Auckland Electric Power Board ..... \$400 due 15/10/75

## DONATIONS 1974

The following donations of \$1.00 or more were received during the year:

L. S. Rickard \$6 and \$4; M. G. Cheshire \$1; Dr R. W. Storer \$2; Mrs M. Collingwood \$1; G. Foreman \$1; R. Jackson \$1; C. J. Foreman \$1 and \$2; E. St. Paul \$3; W. A. Chenery \$1; S. R. Emmens \$10; Miss N. D. Tanner \$25; R. E. Satherlry \$5; M. Keillor \$1; Mr & Mrs W. E. Nightingale \$4; M. Lane \$2; Dr M. Buchler \$1; W. T. Poppelwell \$1; Miss D. Steel \$4; Mr & Mrs R. Pullen \$4; G. Wightman \$1; I. E. Cooksley \$2; R. G. Mueller \$6 and \$6; P. Warren \$6; G. I. Hunt \$2; Mrs P. M. Graham \$4; R. N. Cotter \$1; Mrs D. F. Kay \$1; Mrs H. F. Drake \$1; Mrs E. Wisnesky \$2; A. E. Bond \$1; J. S. Thomson \$4; J. A. Fowler \$2.

## **REPORT OF THE NEST RECORD SCHEME**

### **For the Year Ended 30 April, 1975**

There are now 10,974 nest record cards covering 142 species of birds within the Scheme.

During the year ending 30 April 1975, 418 nest record cards have been received from 21 contributors. Observations were made for 21 species including the following which appeared in the Scheme for the first time:— Adelie Penguin, Marsh Crake.

Dr J. A. D. Flack made a large contribution of Nest Record Cards on the South Island Robin, resulting from his work in the Kaikoura district. Black-fronted Tern, Caspian Tern and White-fronted Tern accounted for the 9 Colonial Cards completed this year by five contributors. Despite the large number of cards forwarded to members, only a small number of cards were returned this year. I would be grateful if Regional Representatives could encourage members in this individual activity.

My sincere thanks to those who have contributed to the Scheme. Thanks go to my wife, Ruth, whose assistance with the Nest Record Scheme has been most valuable.

DAVID E. CROCKETT, Nest Records Convener



#### **LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS**

Ben D. Bell, Mrs Beth Brown, C. Brown, W. Brown, J. A. Cowie, T. C. Crocker, A. T. Edgar, J. A. D. Flack, Miss P. Fooks, R. Guest, J. R. Jackson, I. W. Johnson, Mrs R. V. McLintock, I. A. Mathieson, M. O'Shea, Mrs S. M. Reed, H. Rook, R. R. Sutton, Mrs Juliette Urquhart, D. M. Walter, P. S. Walter.

# SPECIES FROM WHICH NEST RECORDS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

	Previous Total	Total 1974/75	New Total
N.I. KIWI	3	-	3
STEWART ISLAND KIWI	4	-	4
GREAT SPOTTED KIWI	1	-	1
ADELIE PENGUIN	-	75	75
YELLOW EYED PENGUIN	11	-	11
L.B. PENGUIN	76	-	76
WHITE FLIPPED PENGUIN	12	-	12
N.Z. CRESTED PENGUIN	2	1	3
ROCK HOPPER PENGUIN	1	-	1
N.Z. CRESTED GREBE	3	-	3
N.Z. DABCHICK	1	-	1
WANDERING ALBATROSS	11	-	11
BLACK BROWED MOLLYMAWK	1	-	1
GREYHEADED MOLLYMAWK	1	-	1
LIGHT MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS	6	-	6
GIANT PETREL	4	-	4
FAIRY PRION	16	-	16
FLESH FOOTED SHEARWATER	1	-	1
SOOTY SHEARWATER	5	-	5
FLUTTERING SHEARWATER	7	-	7
ALLIED SHEARWATER	3	-	3
BLACK PETREL	1	-	1
GREYFACED PETREL	2	-	2
KERMADEC PETREL	14	-	14
CHATHAM ISLAND PETREL	1	-	1
PYCROFTS PETREL	5	-	5
WHITE FACED ST. PETREL	8	-	8
DIVING PETREL	52	-	52
GANNET	4	-	4
BLACK SHAG	73	-	73
PIED SHAG	21	-	21
LITTLE BLACK SHAG	1	-	1
WHITE THROATED SHAG	30	-	30
KING SHAG	18	-	18
CHATHAM IS. SHAG	2	-	2
SPOTTED SHAG	5	-	5
PITT ISLAND SHAG	3	-	3
BLUE HERON	37	-	37
WHITE FACED HERON	19	-	19
BITTERN	2	-	2
CANADA GOOSE	27	-	27
DOMESTIC GOOSE	2	-	2
MUTE SWAN	9	-	9
BLACK SWAN	63	-	63
PARADISE DUCK	7	-	7
GREY TEAL	9	-	9
BROWN TEAL	2	-	2
BLUE DUCK	1	-	1
GREY DUCK	10	-	10
GREY MALLARD CROSS	5	-	5
MALLARD	79	1	80
SHOVELER	16	-	16
BLACK TEAL	7	-	7
HARRIER	65	-	65
N.Z. FALCON	7	-	7
PHEASANT	23	-	23
BROWN QUAIL	5	-	5
CALIFORNIAN QUAIL	24	1	25
CHUKOR	2	-	2
MARSH CRAKE	-	1	1
BANDED RAIL	4	-	4
SPOTLESS CRAKE	8	-	8
N.I. WEKA	7	-	7
S.I. WEKA	8	-	8
PUKEKO	171	-	171

AUST COOT	16	-	16
- SOUTH ISLAND PIED			
OYSTERCATCHERS	119	-	119
- NORTH ISLAND PIED			
OYSTERCATCHERS	46	4	50
- CHATHAM ISLAND			
OYSTERCATCHERS	9	-	9
BLACK OYSTERCATCHER	49	-	49
SPUR WINGED PLOVER	34	-	34
BANDED DOTTEREL	283	1	284
N.Z. DOTTEREL	78	14	92
BLACK FRONTED DOTTEREL	10	-	10
SHORE PLOVER	12	-	12
WRYBILLED PLOVER	13	-	13
CHATHAM IS SNIPE	1	-	1
PIED STILT	329	2	331
BLACK STILT	8	-	8
SOUTHERN SKUA	45	-	45
BLACK BACKED GULL	461	-	461
RED BILLED GULL	131	-	131
BLACK BILLED GULL	133	-	133
BLACK FRONTED TERN	224	1	225
CASPIAN TERN	70	4	74
ANTARCTIC TERN	3	-	3
FAIRY TERN	11	1	12
WHITE FRONTED TERN	73	4	77
WHITE TERN	1	-	1
WHITE WINGED BLACK TERN	1	-	1
GREY TERNLET	5	-	5
N.Z. PIGEON	31	-	31
ROCK PIGEON	68	-	68
KAKA	10	-	10
KEA	63	-	63
CHATHAM IS RED CROWNED PARAKEET	1	-	1
N.Z. RED CROWNED PARAKEET	8	-	8
YELLOW CROWNED PARAKEET	-	-	-
SHINING CUCKOO	9	-	9
LONG TAILED CUCKOO	1	-	1
MOREPORK	13	-	13
LITTLE OWL	16	-	16
KINGFISHER	74	-	74
S.I. RIFLEMAN	129	-	129
N.I. RIFLEMAN	6	-	6
ROCK WREN	13	-	13
SKYLARK	133	-	133
WELCOME SWALLOW	268	9	277
FANTAIL	160	-	160
N.I. FANTAIL	64	-	64
N.I. TOMTIT	26	-	26
S.I. TOMTIT	40	-	40
CHATHAM IS. TOMTIT	1	-	1
N.I. ROBIN	9	-	9
S.I. ROBIN	29	268	297
N.I. FERNBIRD	14	-	14
S.I. FERNBIRD	13	-	13
STEWART ISLAND FERNBIRD	1	-	1
BROWN CREEPER	7	-	7
WHITE HEAD	12	-	12
YELLOW HEAD	17	-	17
CHATHAM ISLAND WARBLER	1	-	1
GREY WARBLER	138	-	138
SONG THRUSH	1641	7	1648
BLACKBIRD	1390	10	1400
HEDGE SPARROW	189	-	189
N.Z. PIPIT	69	-	69
BELLBIRD	28	-	28
TUI	37	1	38
WHITE EYE	217	1	218



GREENFINCH	150	-	150
GOLDFINCH	602	2	604
REDPOLL	79	-	79
CHAFFINCH	263	-	263
YELLOW HAMMER	57	-	57
CITRIL BUNTING	4	-	4
HOUSE SPARROW	558	-	558
STARLING	421	9	430
MYNA	27	1	28
W.B. MAGPIE	34	-	34
MAGPIE SPECIES	7	-	7
S.I. SADDLEBACK	7	-	7



## CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

This year we departed from the historical series and started a new one using original paintings by Mrs Janet Marshall. Four subjects were used, Robin, Stitchbird, Rifleman and Falcon. Mixed packages were also available and these included some of the old historical series. 40,000 of each card were printed to ensure there was ample stocks for this year and also for mixed packages in future years. A multiple printing method held costs at a reasonable figure thus enabling us to build up stock for the future. Some 58,500 cards were sold, far more than in any previous year. Despite the increased costs because of the larger production, \$1,450 profit was made.

In 1975 it is planned to add two further paintings to the series, Grey Warbler and Shoveler. Mixed packages (with five species) and some of last year's cards will be available.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for addressing the brochure envelopes. I would also thank the many Wellington members for helping with the packaging of brochures and cards, and my wife who assisted throughout with the despatch.

B. D. BELL, Convener



## FIELD INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

Only one study has been referred to the Committee for comment. This related to a study on the status and distribution of the Reef Heron in the far north. Advice on this study will be conveyed to the organisers of the project.

The Convener has continued to foster the Caspian Tern Survey and this will continue for one more season. He also plans to introduce a study on the breeding distribution and status of some shags. The co-operation of regional representatives and members would be appreciated.

*Caspian Tern Survey*

Reports were received from all districts but this year nesting success was very low and most colonies failed. Many colonies were flooded by high tides but this did not explain the failure at all colonies.

The successful North Island colonies were:

South Kaipara Head	c. 200 chicks
Whangarei Harbour	c. 40
Whangapoua	c. 40
Onoke	c. 20

and in the South island:

Farewell Spit	c. 200
Invercargill Estuary	c. 12

It can be seen that apart from the two major colonies production was very low. As nesting success is about 1 chick per pair and the present estimated total population of terns in New Zealand is about 1,000 this year's production was about half the breeding potential.

Because of this year's erratic breeding behaviour it is considered that one further year's study should be made before the findings are written up for publication. I would ask that all regional representatives make a real effort to locate all colonies to record the number of adults and nests and that each colony is followed through to determine the number of chicks which actually fledge. This final year's effort should round the study off and enable a really worthwhile statement on the breeding distribution and status to be made.

Once again I would like to thank all regional representatives and other members for their work and effort on this project.

B. D. BELL, Convener



## **RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1974-75**

*Members:* F. C. Kinsky (Convener)

Sir Robert Falla

B. D. Bell

D. H. Brathwaite

Since last year's AGM, the Committee received 6 submissions, as set out below.

Submission A, B and C were received during the Convener's absence from New Zealand and Mr B. D. Bell kindly looked after them.

- A. Mr A. Habraken, Papakura, concerning a Crested Tern (*Sterna bergi cristata*) sight record in the Firth of Thames.  
The Committee confirmed the identification.
- B. Dr K. E. Westerskov, report on "probable first breeding of the Cattle Egret in New Zealand."  
The Committee considered the record as being acceptable.

- C. Mr R. J. Pierce, "White-winged Black Terns nesting in New Zealand."

The Committee was not so happy with this report and suggested a change of title to the report and, although accepting the record as probably correct, recommended a cautious approach to avoid the merest possibility of error.

- D. Mrs B. Brown, Papakura, sight record of a Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) in the Kaipara Harbour.

The Committee accepted and confirmed the identification, although only 3 out of the four members of the Committee commented.

- E. Miss L. J. Stopforth, Karamea, through Mr B. A. Ellis, Wellington. Sighting of a flock of 12 Plumed Whistling Ducks (*Dendrocygna eytoni*) near Karamea in January 1975.

The Committee was satisfied with the report and confirmed the identification.

- F. Mrs Moncrieff and Mr Ross, Nelson, through Mr F. H. Boyce, Nelson, concerning the alleged sighting of an eagle in the Nelson District in January 1975.

This report was not circulated to members, but was only discussed by the Convener and the President. Both agreed that the report was not only not adequate but also confusing and by lack of details conveyed no impression of the bird concerned. From the "facts" submitted, it was not even possible to guess at the Order the bird, if it was a bird at all, could be classified into. This submission was rejected.

A suggestion for simplification of the set up and workings of the Rare Birds Committee in the future was conveyed to Council through the Hon. Secretary.

F. C. KINSKY, Convener,  
Rare Birds Committee



## BEACH PATROL SCHEME 1974

During 1974 there was a good level of activity by patrollers on all coasts except Fiordland. An average number of patrollers covered a slightly greater length of beach than in previous years. The total number of birds found is some four times more than ever before due to two large wrecks, both of which are considered to be due to food shortages for the species concerned.

The first wreck occurred mainly in the Auckland East area and partly in Auckland West during April and was composed entirely of Blue Penguin. The second wreck occurred along the whole of the West Coast of New Zealand during June and July, and consisted of Prions in the following order of abundance:

*Pachyptila salvini*, *P. desolata*, *P. turtur*, *P. vittata*, and *P. belcheri*. Rare species included one Soft-plumaged Petrel (*Pterodroma mollis*) and one Grey Ternlet (*Procelsterna caerulea*).

<i>Coast</i>	<i>Kilometres</i>	<i>Birds</i>
Auckland West	1174	13698
Taranaki	46	144
Wellington West	456	2820
Westland	2	39
Auckland East	787	5373
Bay of Plenty	193	128
East Coast North Island	43	117
Wairarapa	3	6
Canterbury North	98	153
Canterbury South	94	318
Otago	22	29
Southland	733	53
Wellington South	197	267
North Coast South Island	38	14
Outlying Islands	8	9
	<hr/> 3,214	<hr/> 23,848

There has been an encouraging increase in the number of beaches which have been regularly patrolled. I would like to thank all who have contributed to this scheme.

C. R. VEITCH, Organiser



## **BIRD DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SCHEME**

### **Annual Report for 1974**

A total of 1036 species lists, compiled during 1974, was received up to 25 April 1975; this is a marked reduction on the 1900 lists completed in 1973 and perhaps indicates a reluctance by observers to search for additional species in squares already surveyed once. Lists are now available from 89% of the 1600 squares in the North Island (up 2% from last year) and from 83% of the 2000 South Island ones (up 7%). Progress towards the goal of at least one good species list from every square has been slow during the past year, probably because many of the remaining squares are in remote areas. On the other hand, the scheme continues to enjoy the support of many members of the Society; 55 people compiled species lists for the first time in 1974, and already 88 lists have been received for 1975. Another

cause for satisfaction is that the playing of tape recordings of calls of Spotless Crakes (*Porzana tabuensis*) has been very successful in revealing the widespread occurrence of these birds even in areas where prolonged observation by conventional means had suggested their absence.

As forecast in last year's report (*Notornis* 21: 178-81), the mapping office is now devoting most of its attention to ways of making the existing information more readily available to those who need it (but more species lists are still wanted, especially from areas not previously covered). Progress with the processing of the data by computer has continued to be disappointingly slow. Mistakes were detected in the coding of some of the data and this necessitated a thorough checking of all previous work, a massive task now nearing completion. Despite these problems, several items of useful information have been extracted from the system (often by reference to the original cards) to help people with current research or with conservation issues.

The past year provided two unusual opportunities to learn how bird mapping schemes operate overseas. One of us (P.C.B.) attended the 16th International Ornithological Congress in Canberra last August and took part in three informal sessions devoted to problems of bird mapping. The New Zealand scheme was favourably commented upon by several overseas ornithologists and it was comforting to discover that we were not alone in our problems with computers and their associated costs. Discussion often centred on the relative merits of recording all species or just breeding species, and on whether or not it was worth attempting to record numbers as opposed to mere presence or seeming absence. Most of the experts held that the recording of numbers added greatly to costs without providing much of real value.

Then in October, we were privileged to have a visit from Dr F. H. Perring of the British Biological Records Centre, and we heard with envy of the automated map-making facilities available there. Dr Perring complimented New Zealand ornithologists on their mapping scheme and suggested we should now produce provisional maps to show the distribution of each species of bird. Dr D. G. Dawson of Ecology Division is currently in Britain studying methods used at the Biological Records Centre. By the time he returns with practical experience of British map-making equipment and procedures, the New Zealand data should be thoroughly checked and ready for use.

In conclusion we wish to thank all who compiled bird lists during the past year, Regional Representatives who despatched and checked cards, and the Directors of Ecology Division of DSIR and the Wildlife Service of Internal Affairs who helped by providing respectively, office facilities and computer services. Mr C. J. Robertson of Wildlife Service was especially helpful in dealing with computer problems.

P. C. BULL  
P. D. GAZE

*Ecology Division, DSIR,  
P.O. Box 30466,  
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