

LETTERS

The Editor,
Sir,

ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS

In *Notornis* 22 (1): 93, you ask for readers' views on lists of publications. One cannot read or even inspect all books and journals available, and so some selection must be made. I believe that it is the Society's duty to help its members make such a selection.

Lists of contents of individual issues of overseas journals are of little value but brief abstracts as have appeared for years in *Ibis* are surely the answer to an ornithologist's dream. On 22 August 1953, the Council of the Society adopted certain rules for the conduct of its business (listing incidentally, functions of and suggestions for Regional Organisers, which might well be brought up to date and followed now — how many have seen them?).

In these rules a Library Committee was to be set up, consisting of the Librarian as chairman, the Editor and two other members with power to co-opt one other. The Committee was (clause c (3)) "to ensure that all available ornithological journals of a suitable standard, in English, and also those foreign language journals likely to be of use to ornithologists in New Zealand, are received by the Society, provided that sufficient funds for their purchase or sufficient copies of the Society's bulletin for exchange, are available."

Another function (clause c (7)) was "to set up a panel of members of the Society, to be known as the "*Reviewing Panel*," to prepare reviews for the Society's bulletin (by title only, abstract or critical review), of: (a) all literature published concerning endemic New Zealand birds. (b) Literature published concerning indigenous birds or birds introduced to New Zealand where this is likely to be of especial interest to ornithologists in New Zealand. (c) Literature published concerning behaviour, habits, methods of study, etc., which is likely to help the study of ornithology in its widest aspects in New Zealand. Such reviews are not intended to replace those offered to the editor by other members, but to ensure that all ornithologists in New Zealand may be familiar with ornithological literature published elsewhere than in the Society's bulletin."

I recommend the above be implemented.

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5 May 1975