

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

JIM WATT, a past Treasurer of the Society, ranks ornithology as his major hobby, and one which compliments his other interests of nature conservation, photography, tramping and maritime history. He is a graduate of Lincoln College and Colorado State University and works as a scientist in DSIR's Soil Bureau. His professional interests relate to all aspects of land-use management, and particularly to the integration of soil science, soil conservation, hydrology and watershed management. Among his ornithological 'highs' he lists watching the dawn display of the sharp-tailed grouse in Colorado, the XIVth International Ornithological Congress's week-long excursion around the bird islands of Scotland in 1966, and regular returns to Stewart Island. Although he has lived most of his life in Dunedin, Jim and his wife Colleen and family have recently moved to Hawke's Bay.

PETER DILKS is a technical officer who has been employed by Ecology Division, DSIR, since late 1968. Initially, he worked at Havelock North on the breeding biology of Mynas and on the food and feeding of feral pigeons, but in 1974 he was transferred to Nelson where he now works on birds in the South Island beech forests. He has been involved with the OSNZ since 1962 mainly through participating in the Nest Record, Beach Patrol and Bird Mapping Schemes.

KATHLEEN C. HARRISON has maintained a life long interest in ornithology although had little opportunity during her early youth spent in the industrial north of England, to study the less common species of birds. It is only over the past two or three years that she has been able to devote the time and patience to bird-watching and she combines this activity most pleasantly with her many and varied interests such as rock climbing, photography and sketching.

PHILIP A. G. HOWELL is a technician in the Physics Department of the University of Canterbury who has had a life-long interest in natural philosophy. He has recently resumed a specific interest in forest and birdlife, after having to set it aside during some three decades devoted to communications technology.

PHILIP ZEIGLER, author of the observations on the development of feeding in captive Keas reported in the June issue of *Notornis*, is currently a Research Associate of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and director of an inter-disciplinary training programme in Animal Behaviour involving the Museum and the City University of New York. He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin where he was trained in both Neurophysiology and Psychology. This was followed by a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Cambridge where he worked under W. H. Thorpe and R. A. Hinde (and shared the tea room table with the present Editor of *Notornis*!). It was at this time that he developed an interest in the neural control of species-typical behaviour in birds. Subsequently he has devoted himself primarily to the study of neurobehavioural mechanisms underlying avian feeding behaviour employing anatomical,

physiological and behavioural techniques. The sabbatical year in New Zealand offered an opportunity to spend some time in the field. He had hoped to study the feeding behaviour of native parrots under more natural conditions. The study reported in *Notornis* represents a realistic compromise between the impoverishment of a laboratory environment and the exigencies of the field.

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NEW FROM WILDLIFE

Sound Library Catalogue. Edition No. 3. 25 pp. Wellington: Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs. May 1975.

New recordings incorporated into the Wildlife Sound Library necessitate another edition of the catalogue. Although the subjects are mainly birds, they range as far as mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects, concluding with the song (call? or buzz?) of a N.Z. Blowfly (*Calliphora quadrimaculata*) recorded on Little Barrier Island.

OSNZ members are reminded that the library can supply tape copies on loan or permanently on the borrower's own tape. Tapes are copyright but special arrangements can be made for wider use.

Wildlife — a review. No. 6, 1975. New Zealand Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs. 58 pp.

Once again Wildlife has done its commendable public relations act by telling us what has been going on throughout the past year. Topics in this issue include: The honorary wildlife ranger scheme, R. T. ADAMS; Paradise Shelduck, M. J. WILLIAMS; New Zealand Shoveler, T. A. CAITHNESS; Black Swan, M. J. WILLIAMS; The timing of breeding of the Red-billed Gull, J. A. MILLS; Introduced predators and the South Island Robin, P. J. MOORS; The Black Tomtit, H. A. BEST; The Black Petrel, M. J. IMBER; Kakapo, D. V. MERTON, concluding with a report by G. R. WILLIAMS on the International Symposium on the Conservation of marine birds held in Seattle in May 1975, and followed by a list of scientific publications.

Checklist of the Birds of Australia. Part 1. Non-Passerines. By H. T. CONDON. RAOU, 1975.

The last checklist of Australian birds appeared in 1926. The present long-awaited work will be of very great interest to all OSNZ members concerned with taxonomy and distribution. Some of the name changes are likely to influence us on this side of the Tasman also. A special feature of the list is its extensive synonymy, both of species and of genera. A review by Mr D. H. Brathwaite will appear in the March issue of *Notornis*.

SUMMER SCHOOL OF ORNITHOLOGY, JANUARY 1975

If those members of the course who did not obtain notes of David Dawson's lecture, "Food, Feeding Behaviour and Habitat in Birds" will now apply to the organiser at the undermentioned address copies will be forwarded together with the notes on Don Brathwaite's lecture which will be forwarded to all members of the course early in the New Year.

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Nelson.