

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1976



The 37th Annual General Meeting was held in the Eponi Community Centre, Lower Hutt, on 22 May. The President's address, which was given to 64 members and friends, outlined the ornithological achievements of the Society in the last year and the plans for future work. The highlights of the year were the discovery of a Christmas Island Shearwater *Puffinus nativitatus*, a new record for New Zealand, the re-discovery of the Campbell Island Teal and the successful breeding of a pair of Hoary-headed Grebes.

Three Labour Day Weekend courses were held in 1975; the two centred on riverbeds suffered from the weather but the other in the Rotorua district was enjoyed by many members. This year a survey of Kokako distribution is planned by Auckland regions and in the south a further riverbed survey is planned, probably on the Maitaia. A summer course for selected junior members is envisaged for Farewell Spit in January 1977 and the following year a course catering for more members along the Bay of Plenty coastline. Reports from the Society's Scheme Organisers and Committee Conveners were summarised and read to the meeting. A Junior Member Award is to be presented to Colin O'Donnell from Nelson for his outstanding contributions to the work of the Society and the initiative shown in conducting research of his own. The meeting was informed that Council had made a grant of \$2000 to The Miranda Naturalists' Trust to assist with the building of a bird observatory on the Firth of Thames.

This year the election of four Councillors was hindered by postal delays and other circumstances beyond the control of Council which prevented some members from exercising their rightful voting privileges. However, despite these regrettable circumstances the meeting decided that Council had acted in good faith and that the vote as recorded be accepted as valid. The successful candidates were Dr Ben D. Bell, Mr M. L. Falconer, Mr F. C. Kinsky and Mrs S. M. Reed.

The A.G.M. was preceded by a morning meeting of Regional Representatives where an exceptional turnout provided a variety of suggestions on how to stimulate ornithological research within the regions. Dr L. J. Davies has replaced Dr I. G. Andrew in the Manawatu region. In the afternoon the following speakers contributed to the session of lectures: Dr D. G. Dawson, Bird Counts in Westland and their implications for Conservation; Mr B. D. Bell, An Expedition to Christmas Island; Mr R. R. Sutton, Breeding of the Hoary-headed Grebe in Southland; Mr M. L. Falconer, The Wellington Harbour Survey; and Mr C. J. R. Robertson, Rediscovery of the Campbell Island Teal.

A field trip on the Sunday to the coastal lakes at Pencarrow was supported by 12 car-loads of enthusiastic members and perfect weather conditions. The nesting colony of Black Shags was visited and observations were made on the Spotless Crake and the waterfowl.

P. D. GAZE, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Year Ended 31st December, 1975



PRESENTED AT THE A.G.M. OF THE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)
WELLINGTON — 22 MAY 1976

During the year 116 new members were admitted, 67 left by resignation and death and 43 were struck off because of being unfinancial. This is a net increase of 6, making the total membership at the end of the year 1161. The details are 1 honorary life, 77 life, 21 endowment, 709 ordinary, 57 junior, 5 family, 105 corporate bodies, 93 husband and wife, counting as two, making the total of 1161.

The total income was \$11444 compared with \$7669 for the previous year, an increase of \$3775. Members' subscriptions, reflecting the higher rates for 1975, were \$6325, an increase of \$2057. The profit from the sale of Christmas cards \$2266 is an all time high, and the Society thanks those responsible whose efforts have made possible the considerable income which has been received over the past years. Sale of back numbers of *Notornis* amounted to \$602 which is also a record. Interest on investments \$1615 is an increase of \$509 on last year's combined figure for dividends and interest of \$1106. The Society was grateful to receive a bequest of \$102 from the estate of the late Mr W. J. Burns of Trentham.

Expenses totalled \$9731, \$2343 more than last year. *Notornis* printing and distribution costs increased by \$834 to \$6769. Back numbers of *Notornis* which were out of stock were reprinted, the cost being \$1680.

The substantial surplus for the year, \$1713, thanks to the profit on the sale of the Christmas Cards, has been added to the Accumulated Fund.

Royalties on the revised edition of the *Field Guide* amounting to \$2065 were received and credited to the Projects Assistance Reserve. In all the Society has received \$4350 since the first printing of the revised edition.

The loan of \$400 to the Auckland Electric Power Board matured in October.

During the year \$2000 was invested in the BNZ Finance Co., Ltd., first ranking debenture stock from which interest at the rate of 10% is received.

H. W. M. HOGG, Hon. Treasurer

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARENDED 31ST DECEMBER 19751974INCOME WAS EARNED FROM

4268	Subscriptions	6325
199	Transfer from Life Members	199 (Note I)
118	Donations	59
1462	Profit from Christmas Cards	2266
381	Sale Back Numbers	602
-	Surplus Summer School	109
-	Surplus Annual General Meeting	20
-	Sale Car Stickers	46
38	Biology of Birds	25

6466 TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME \$9651

PLUS INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME

892	Interest	1615
214	Dividends	-
76	Premium on Maturity of Local Body Stock	-
21	Royalties	31 (Note II)
-	Booksellers Margin on direct Checklist Sales	5
-	Legacy Late W.J. Burns	102
-	Sale of Tent	40

1203 TOTAL INVESTMENT & OTHER

INCOME \$1793

7669 TOTAL INCOME \$11444

LESS EXPENSES

5935	"Notornis" Printing & Distribution	6769
13	Annual General Meeting	-
100	Audit Fee	50
-	Beach Patrol Scheme	76
-	Car Stickers	168
40	Donations	-
123	General Expenses	215
-	Kermadec Reprints	124
50	Library Expenses	50
63	Nest Record Scheme	-
82	Postages	137
434	Printing & Stationery	211
-	Royal Society Affiliation	40
371	Travelling Expenses	211
177	"Notornis" Reprinting	1680

7388 TOTAL EXPENSES \$9731

281 SURPLUS FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUND \$1713

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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1975

<u>1974</u>			
	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
3721	Cash at Bank of New Zealand	4588	
797	Bank of New Zealand Savings A/C	799	
1500	Term Deposit Bank of N.Z.	1500	
<u>100</u>	Stock of "Notornis"	<u>100</u>	(Note 111)
6118			
	<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>		6987
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
400	Local Body Stocks	-	
.	The Perpetual Trustees Co. Ltd		
12000	Group Trustee Investments	12000	
	B.N.Z. Finance Co. Ltd		
<u>3200</u>	First Ranking Debenture Stock	<u>5528</u>	
15600			
	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</u>		17528
<u>1000</u>	Library at Valuation	(Note 111)	<u>1000</u>
22718			
	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		25515
	<u>LESS LIABILITIES</u>		
2083	Amounts Owed by Society	1735	
1217	Subscriptions in Advance	631	
	<u>Reserve Funds</u>		
2585	Projects Assistance Reserve	4650	(Note IV)
1797	Life Subscriptions	1799	
<u>1000</u>	Publications	<u>1000</u>	
8682			
	<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>9815</u>
14036	<u>VALUE OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS BELOW</u>		\$15700
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
13172	Balance at 31.12.74	14037	
583	Profit on Sale of Shares	-	
<u>281</u>	Surplus for Year	<u>1713</u>	
14036			
	Transfer to Projects Assistance	15750	
	Reserve Fund	<u>50</u>	
14036			
=====	<u>BALANCE AT 31.12.75</u>		\$15700
			=====

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 1975 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.

DUNEDIN: 16TH MARCH 1976

THOMPSON & LANG

Chartered Accountants

Auditors

- NOTE I Life members Transfer: 10% of Balance at 31/12/75.
- 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 Projects Assistance Reserve.
Movements in this Reserve Fund during the year are:

Balance as at 1/1/75	\$2585
Plus Royalty on Revised <i>Field Guide</i>	2065
Transfer from Accumulated Fund	50
		<hr/>
		\$4700
Less Cash payment N.Z. Dotterel Survey		50
		<hr/>
BALANCE as at 31/12/75	\$4650



DONATIONS 1975

The following donations of \$1.00 or more were received during the year ended 31/12/75 (21 members contributed an extra dollar through their Endowment subscription):

D. Sarll \$1; R. St. Paul \$5; Mrs W. H. Rolston \$10; T. P. Hamilton \$4; Mrs L. Collingwood \$1; S. R. Emmens \$10; R. W. Jackson \$3; A. P. Druce \$4; G. I. Hunt \$4; K. Hicks \$1; A. E. Bond \$1; R. E. Satherley \$3; Mr G. Dudley \$4; E. Bodley \$2; R. A. Creswell \$1; I. E. Cooksley \$1; G. Wightman \$1; T. M. Keillor \$1.



REPORT OF THE NEST RECORD SCHEME For the Year Ended 30 April, 1976

There are now 11,350 nest record cards covering 142 species within the scheme. During the year ending 30 April 1976, 375 nest record cards have been received from 26 contributors. Observations were made for 50 species.

Chris Lusk, working in the lower Rangitikei area, contributed 102 cards covering 29 species.

13 Colonial Cards were received covering the following species: Pied Shag, Black Shag, Pied Stilt, Black-Backed Gulls, Black-billed Gulls and Caspian Terns.

Cards for 12 species were on loan during the year.

For a total membership of 1155 I feel that 375 nest record cards for the year is a poor total. I would be grateful if Regional Repre-

sentatives could encourage members in participating 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, Convener

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

W. J. Campbell (10), C. N. Challis, J. F. Coe, A. T. Edgar (15), H. Elder, D. R. Ellis, Patricia Fooks, P. D. Gaze, A. H. Gordon (21), I. Granville, R. Guest, L. Gurr, J. R. Hay, P. M. Hollin, M. Hows, J. R. Jackson (22), C. H. Lusk (102), B. F. McConkey (39), G. J. H. Moon, R. Pierce (28), S. E. Quin, H. A. Robertson (88), P. M. Sagar, D. Scott, C. R. Veitch, R. Williamson.

LIST OF ACCESSIONS TO THE NEST RECORDING SCHEME

N.I. Kiwi 1; Banded Dotterel 4; N.Z. Dabchick 1; N.Z. Dotterel 11; Black Shag 1; Wrybill 15; Pied Shag 1; Pied Stilt 49; Little Shag 1; Black-backed Gull 12; Reef Heron 2; Red-billed Gull 8; Feral goose 1; Black-billed Gull 5; Mute Swan 1; Black-fronted Tern 4; Black Swan 1; Caspian Tern 3; Grey Duck 1; Fairy Tern 2; Mallard 5; White-fronted Tern 2; Harrier 2; Rock 1; Pukeko 3; Kingfisher 4; Australian Coot 1; S.I. Rifleman 1; S.I. Pied Oystercatcher 1; N.I. Rifleman 7; Variable Oystercatcher 1; Skylark 4; Welcome Swallow 5; S.I. Fantail 7; S. I. Robin 1; N.I. Fantail 5; Grey Warbler 4; Song Thrush 26; Blackbird 47; Hedge Sparrow 1; N.Z. Pipit 1; Bellbird 1; White-eye 8; Greenfinch 7; Goldfinch 18; Redpoll 6; Chaffinch 7; House Sparrow 9; Starling 46; White-backed Magpie 9; N.I. Saddle-back 1.



CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Two further original paintings by Mrs Janet Marshall were used for this year's card. The Grey Warbler and Shoveler were featured but mixed packages and the previous year's cards were also available. Sixty thousand cards were sold this year and a profit of \$2,500 resulted.

In 1976 two further paintings, Yellowhead and Wrybill, will be used. These were printed at the same time as last year's cards and this will reduce production costs. However, profit is likely to be less because of the higher postage rates.

On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the Royal N.Z. Forest and Bird Protection Society for addressing the brochure envelopes. I would also like to thank the many Wellington members for helping with the packaging of brochures and cards and my wife who assisted throughout with the dispatch. Regrettably I have to advise that 1976 will be the final year my wife and I will be able to undertake this service for the Society and would ask that someone else volunteer to continue this valuable fund raising project.

B. D. BELL, Convener

FIELD INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE REPORT

One general enquiry about bird study was received and advice was given to direct this interest to specific tasks.

Two of the national surveys have been completed, relating to the Australian 'Visitors,' both the herons, ibises etc. and kestrels, and the Caspian Tern breeding survey. These will be written up and published during the year. Members are asked to continue to record Australian 'Visitors' but to send any future records to the Recording Scheme for publication in Classified Summarised Notes.

One study continues. This is the Reef Heron study being convened by Mrs Reynolds and Mr A. T. Edgar. Much of the information has been gathered and this has been circulated to Regional Representatives for checking and to see if any records have been overlooked. Future records would be appreciated.

A new study will begin this year and will continue for two to three years depending on support given. This will be a survey of the nesting colonies of shags — Black, Pied, Little Black and Little. Considerable interest has already been shown in this programme.

Thanks are again due to all Regional Representatives and to all members who have contributed to these special studies.

B. D. BELL, Convener



BEACH PATROL 1975 - INTERIM REPORT

During 1975, 3583 km of coast were patrolled by 163 members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and friends. 565 patrols were made and specimen record cards completed for 59 specimens. 21130 dead seabirds and 172 dead land birds were found. This high seabird total was largely caused by:— a wreck of mainly Prions (*Pachyptila* spp.) and Diving Petrels (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) with lesser extra numbers of Blue Penguins (*Eudyptula minor*), Cape Pigeons (*Daption capensis*) and Fluttering Shearwaters (*Puffinus gavia*) during July; a notable, but numerically small, wreck of Antarctic Fulmars (*Fulmarus glacialis*) in September; and a large wreck of Sooty Shearwaters (*Puffinus griseus*) during October - November. One Eastern Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) is a new record for beach patrolling. This is the second year that Antarctic Petrels (*Thalassoica antarctica*) have been recorded in the Beach Patrol Scheme and in

New Zealand (2 birds 1973, 3 birds 1975) and third beach patrol records for Black-bellied Storm Petrel (*Fregetta tropica*) and Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*).

The following are interim totals for sections of coast patrolled:

<i>Coast</i>	<i>Kilometres</i>	<i>Birds</i>
Auckland West	1932	15676
Taranaki	231	1274
Wellington West	280	2182
Westland	69	25
Auckland East	384	548
Bay of Plenty	70	59
East Coast N.I.	39	47
Canterbury North	50	59
Canterbury South	113	259
Otago	25	45
Southland	53	62
Wellington South	280	755
North Coast S.I.	48	126
Outlying Islands	9	13
	<hr/> 3583 <hr/>	<hr/> 21130 <hr/>

There has been an encouraging increase in the number of participants and the success of this scheme is due to their work. However there is still room for more patrollers and more regular patrolling of beaches.

C. R. VEITCH, Organiser



BIRD DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SCHEME

Annual Report for 1975

The mapping office has again devoted most of its attention to making existing information on bird distribution more readily available to those who need it for research or conservation. Although considerable progress has been made, a few computer "bugs" still require identification and correction. For instance, although all coding and punching have been checked, a recent computer-produced map of Bellbird distribution showed a number of discrepancies from one prepared manually by reference to the original record cards. Preliminary investigations of these discrepancies revealed some easily corrected defects in the computer programme; also, in view of the large number of cards that had to be handled, it would be surprising if the manually prepared map was completely free of errors.

Once these problems have been ironed out, hopefully within the next few weeks, the main task will be the production of maps. If funds permit, it is intended to have separate maps for 64 widespread species; 18 maps will each cover two species with restricted distribution; and a few other maps will show the number of species recorded for each square, and the distribution of the habitats that were covered in the survey (Northern hemisphere migrants and species that are mainly pelagic will not be mapped). The maps will be produced as inexpensively as possible (perhaps as a supplement to *Notornis*) to serve the immediate needs of conservation and research, and to provide an opportunity for the detection of errors and the filling of gaps. A set of more polished maps could follow later if needed.

While the mapping office has been preoccupied with recalcitrant computing services, field observers have continued to supply further valuable records; 423 new cards were received during 1975, and a further 69 came in during the first four months of 1976. Species lists are still welcome from anywhere but especially from remote areas.

Once again I am indebted to the Directors of the Ecology Division of DSIR and the Wildlife Service of Internal Affairs who helped by providing respectively, office facilities and computer services. Special thanks are due to Mr C. J. R. Robertson of the Wildlife Service for battling with computer problems (mostly from outside his own Department), to Peter Gaze and Meg Flux of Ecology Division for their fortitude in preparing manually the Bellbird map, and to all who have contributed new cards.

P. C. BULL, Scheme Organiser



LIBRARY REPORT

I must first say how indebted we all are to the late Mrs Hetty McKenzie for attending to the library so faithfully for ten years, only one of her many services to the Society.

60 items were borrowed last year. Approximately half these went out on interloan, chiefly to Canterbury and Otago Universities. We now receive 47 journals, as well as newsletters and occasional publications. Last year saw the commencement of the exchange with *Wildfowl* (Wildfowl Trust) and we shortly hope to receive *Australian Bird Bender*. Also commencing regularly once again are *Le Gerfaut* (Belgian journal with some papers in English, others having English summaries), *Ardea* (English language journal from Holland) and *Larus* (Yugoslavia).

During the year we were pleased to receive donations of 54 items from Mr P. E. Roberts, Mr R. B. Sibson and Mr H. R. McKenzie, whose parcel included 23 booklets and reprints by L. E. Richdale and copies of the original *OSNZ Reports* and *Bulletins*.

A revised list of the books and periodicals held here will be available shortly, with many thanks to Mrs M. E. McKenzie for the considerable job of typing the stencils.

I am a little disappointed to find that our use of the library has not kept pace with our increase in membership and would welcome suggestions as to how to remedy this.

Finally, I thank the Director and Council of the Auckland Museum and Institute for their generosity in continuing to allow us valuable housing space, and the Museum Librarian and his staff for their unfailing patience and helpfulness.

A. J. GOODWIN, Hon. Librarian

OSNZ LIBRARY

The Society's Library is housed in the Library Block of the Auckland Institute and Museum. A catalogue of books and periodicals is available from Mrs G. Skinner (see Back Numbers, etc.). Any items may be borrowed by members upon payment of postage, or the library may be visited by arrangement with the Hon. Librarian, Miss A. J. Goodwin, R.D. 1, Clevedon (Phone CD 886), who is most willing to supply any further information.

