

for breeding is a recent development while promiscuity is the 'old' way of living in the Bird of Paradise family."

Although huge numbers of birds are taken by natives by traditional means — shotgun shooting being heavily penalised — the native landowners protect the display trees which are used season after season. They "practice sensible conservation methods allowing at least one fully plumed male to survive at each display tree. So even the Lesser and Raggiana Birds of Paradise, the ones that are the most used in headdresses, are not endangered by traditional style hunters" (the chief threat is the replacement of the forest by agricultural land).

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J. M. C.

ABOUT OUR AUTHORS

ROBERT ("BOB") ST. PAUL came to New Zealand with his family from England when less than a year old and spent his school years at Moumoukai Valley in the Hunua Ranges. A sturdy youth, he left school very early and in 1912 went bushfalling and pitsawing, working from Awanui in the north, Wanganui in the west, National Park in the south and all about the King Country and western Urewera. After being a bush boss for a long time he went postsplitting independently. He is a brother of J. W. and E. St. Paul, whose names have appeared often in *Notornis*. Dr Gilbert Archey (later Sir Gilbert) met him at Tihoi, recognised his ornithological potential and enlisted him as a member of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, getting him to send his daily bird notes to R. B. Sibson, who, when he went overseas handed him over to H. R. McKenzie, who put him on to monthly detailed charts. These charts were faithfully compiled and are a mine of information. In 1961 his health failed and he went to live at Waikino, still keeping a close interest in birds. His files are eventually to be deposited in the OSNZ library.

BRIAN GILL completed a B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Zoology at Massey University in 1975, and is currently studying breeding of the Grey Warbler and Shining Cuckoo at Kowhai Bush (Kaikoura) for a Ph.D. at Canterbury University. Apart from bird-counts, he has also worked on the Whistling Frog (1973, *Proc. N.Z. Ecol. Soc.* 20: 31-4), and on skinks (1976, *N.Z. J. Zool.* 3: 141-57) in the coastal Manawatu.

C. JOHN RALPH, a member of the OSNZ for several years, has recently joined the U.S. Forest Service as a Research Ecologist, studying forest birds in Hawaii, especially endangered species. These

studies include censusing, banding, food habits, breeding biology and energy budgets to help determine the factors limiting their populations. Much of his research in the past has focused on migration, but he has studied breeding and wintering birds as well. He was co-founder of the Point Reyes Bird Observatory in California and the Ashby Bird Observatory in Massachusetts, and served as the Director at Point Reyes for four years. After receiving his doctorate, he taught animal behaviour and ecology in Pennsylvania for three years before being offered the position in Hawaii. The kingfisher study was occasioned by a visit to various research centres and workers in New Zealand. While driving between areas, he took the opportunity to make notes on the species.

CAROL PEARSON RALPH first turned her attention seriously to birds during a year in Argentina with her parents, both field biologists. This interest later took her to the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, where she joined C. John Ralph in studying breeding sparrows. During her graduate studies at Cornell University, she studied and published on birds in Colombia and Peru; then, for her doctoral dissertation she turned to a colourful insect, the Large Milkweed Bug, and its special relationship with its host plant. As a collaborator with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, she currently is expanding her entomological interests by identifying the insects important as food for the Hawaiian forest birds.

WILLIAM CALDER III says that he was introduced to birds by a boyhood companion, now Prof. L. Hugh Moore, and members of the Atlanta Bird Club. He did graduate research in bird physiology at Washington State University (Zebra Finch) and at Duke (Road-runner). He co-authored "Caloric and thermal relationships of birds" with Dr James R. King (Vol. 4, *Avian Biology*, D. S. Farner & J. R. King eds.). Professor Calder is in New Zealand on sabbatical leave from the University of Arizona for his study of kiwis. He says that he is "frantically trying to see as much of kiwi country as I can before continuing on to labs in Australia and a symposium on bird and egg respiration in Germany" and returning home.

BARRY ROWE is a pharmacist in retail business in Otorohanga. He has been closely associated with the planning, building and subsequent operation of the Nocturnal Kiwi House and allied units at Otorohanga, and is currently curator of the kiwis there, including all three species. He writes: "I believe in the principle of the aviculture of our native species as a means of propagation of the rare species in particular and of developing an understanding of all species."

