

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1977

The Society's 38th Annual General Meeting was held on Saturday, 21 May, at the Auckland Museum and was attended by 90 members and friends. The President, Mr B. D. Bell, presented his report on the ornithological year. Australian vagrants continue to be reported, the more interesting being a Yellow-billed Spoonbill, Plumed Egret, Australian Pelican, Red-kneed Dotterel and a Pallid Cuckoo. Hoary-headed Grebes have again bred in Southland and the Australian Little Grebe has bred for the first time. Three prominent advancements of the Society were outlined. A study course for Junior Members has been held on Farewell Spit, the publication of *OSNZ News* was a new venture that had appeal to most members and provided a vital means of communication and the Mapping Scheme was at a stage where plans for final publication were being made. It is hoped to publish an atlas of distribution maps within the year. Council has agreed to cease further reprinting of back-numbers of *Notornis*; as stocks decrease they will become available to libraries only. The reports of Scheme Organisers were summarised and the Financial Report discussed; these are printed here in full. Over the last year projects assistance has been provided to: subsidise Junior Members attending the Farewell Spit Course, purchase a telescope currently on loan to the Manawatu Region for their study of an estuary and to assist the long-standing research on N.Z. Dotterel. Confirmation was given of the Study Course being held in the Bay of Plenty during January 1978.

Mr Bell believes the Society has a promising future with many enthusiastic members. However, the problem of rising travel costs is affecting us all and members will need to co-operate with others when pursuing their field activities.

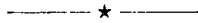
A meeting of Regional Representatives was held on the Saturday morning, where after discussing local problems and achievements, Dr P. C. Bull presented each with a draft atlas of distribution maps. During the afternoon conference Dr C. Watt, Entomology Division, DSIR, spoke on the nest fauna of New Zealand birds. He made a request for further nests, sealed in a cloth or paper bag, to be sent to him in Auckland. Mr R. B. Sibson gave an informal address on a range of subjects, mainly concerned with active speciation occurring in our avifauna; which was particularly stimulating to those who may have felt that — 'all the work has been done.' The AGM was then preceded by an excellent dinner catered for by the Auckland Herbal Society.

On the Sunday morning about 40 members were escorted by Dr R. Lockley around Tahuna-Torea, a bird reserve on the shore of the Tamaki Basin. The day was wet and the birds were few but members were impressed with how the land had been managed for birds and birdwatchers. Acquaintances were identified beneath parka hoods and the conviviality of the weekend continued.

P. D. GAZE
Hon. Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

For Year Ended 31 December, 1976



The membership at the end of the year was 1174, an increase of 13 for the twelve months. New members admitted totalled 128; 64 left by resignation and 51 were struck off unfinancial. The classes of members are 1 honorary life, 78 life, 739 ordinary, 57 junior, 9 family, 116 corporate bodies, 87 husband and wife, counting as two, total 1174.

The income for the year was \$13540, an increase of \$2096. Subscriptions increased by \$471 mainly due to the increased subscriptions now being charged to libraries, universities and other institutions. The profit on the sale of Christmas cards, \$4391, is almost double last year's record amount of \$2266. Interest is about the same as last year but it should be noted that the interest earned on the Projects Assistance Reserve Fund investments amounting to \$441 has been credited direct to that Fund.

Expenses totalled \$9825, an increase of \$94. The cost of printing and distribution of *Notornis*, including the cost of the December *OSNZ News*, was \$7502, \$733 more than last year. The cost of having back numbers of *Notornis* reprinted was \$967 which is \$713 less than the previous year.

The profit from the sale of Christmas cards \$4391 was mainly responsible for making the surplus on the year's working \$3715, which has been transferred to the Accumulated Fund.

The Projects Assistance Reserve Fund was credited with \$1249, royalties on the revised *Field Guide* received during the year. A grant of \$1000 was made from the Fund to the Miranda Naturalists' Trust for assistance with the building of a bird observatory.

During the year investments of \$5000 with The Perpetual Trustees Co. Ltd. matured and were reinvested in the Development Finance Corporation of N.Z. secured debenture stock \$3000 at 9½% interest maturing on 30/6/79 and \$2000 at 9¾% interest maturing on 30/9/81. \$3000 was invested in Christchurch Drainage Board debenture stock at 9½% interest maturing on 1/8/82. These investments are authorised trustee investments.

H. W. M. HOGG, *Hon. Treasurer*

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARENDED 31 DECEMBER 1976

<u>1975</u>	<u>INCOME WAS EARNED FROM</u>	
6325	Subscriptions	6796
199	Transfer from Life Members	225 (Note 1)
59	Donations	120
2266	Profit from Christmas Cards	4391
602	Sale Back Numbers	323
109	Surplus Summer School	-
20	Surplus Annual General Meeting	-
46	Sale Car Stickers	16
25	Biology of Birds	<u>38</u>
9651	<u>TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME</u>	11909
	<u>PLUS INVESTMENT AND OTHER INCOME</u>	
1615	Interest	1601 (Note 11)
31	Royalties	30 (Note 111)
5	Booksellers Margin on direct Checklist Sales	-
102	Legacy Late W.J. Burns	-
40	Sale of Tent	<u>-</u>
<u>1793</u>	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME</u>	<u>1631</u>
11444	<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	13540
	<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>	
6769	<u>'Notornis' and 'OSNZ News' Printing and Distribution</u>	7502
-	Annual General Meeting	23
50	Audit Fee	85
76	Beach Patrol Scheme	-
168	Car Stickers	-
-	Donations	20
215	General Expenses	152
124	Kermadec Reprints	-
50	Library Expenses	134
-	Nest Record Scheme	36
137	Postages	190
211	Printing and Stationery	222
40	Royal Society Affiliation	20
211	Travelling Expenses	474
<u>1680</u>	<u>'Notornis' Reprinting</u>	<u>967</u>
<u>9731</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>9825</u>
1713	SURPLUS FOR YEAR TRANSFERRED TO ACCUMULATED FUND	3715
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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1976

<u>1975</u>	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
4588	Cash at Bank of New Zealand	3572	
-	Amount owing to Society	373	
799	Bank of New Zealand Savings A/c	28	
1500	Term Deposits Bank of New Zealand	5500	
<u>100</u>	Stock of <u>Notornis</u>	<u>100</u>	(Note IV)
6987	<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>		9573
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
-	Local Body Stocks	3000	
	The Perpetual Trustees Co Ltd		
12000	Group Trustee Investments	7000	
	B.N.Z. Finance Co Ltd		
5528	First Ranking Debenture Stock	5889	
	Development Finance Corp of N.Z.		
<u>-</u>	Secured Debenture Stock	<u>5000</u>	
17528	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</u>		20889
<u>1000</u>	Library at Valuation		<u>1000</u>
25515	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		31462
	<u>LESS LIABILITIES</u>		
1735	Amounts Owed by Society	3023	
631	Subscriptions in Advance	656	
	<u>Reserve Funds</u>		
4650	Projects Assistance Reserve	5340	(Note V)
1799	Life Subscriptions	2028	
<u>1000</u>	Publications	<u>1000</u>	
<u>9815</u>	<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>12047</u>
15700	<u>VALUE OF ACCUMULATED FUNDS AS BELOW</u>		19415
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
14037	Balance at 31/12/75	15700	
<u>1713</u>	Surplus for Year	<u>3715</u>	
15750		19415	
	Transfer to Projects Assistance		
<u>50</u>	Reserve Fund	<u>-</u>	
15700	<u>BALANCE AT 31/12/76</u>	.	19415
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We report, that in our opinion, the foregoing accounts and notes attached of THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.) for the year ended 31 December 1976 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: 10 MARCH 1977

THOMPSON & LANG

*Chartered Accountants
Auditors*



NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

NOTE I	Life members transfer: 10% of Balance at 31/12/76.		
NOTE II	The interest earned on the Projects Assistance Reserve Fund investments has been credited direct to the Fund.		
NOTE III	Royalties from Sales of <i>Checklist</i> .		
NOTE IV	Stocks of <i>Notornis</i> and Valuation of Library are at Standard Values. No attempt has been made to accurately value these assets.		
NOTE V	Projects Assistance Reserve.		
	Movements in this Reserve Fund during the year are:		
	Balance as at 1/1/76	\$4650
	<i>Plus</i> Royalty on Revised <i>Field Guide</i>	1249
	Interest earned by Fund	441
			<hr/>
			\$6340
	<i>Less</i> Cash payment		
	Miranda Naturalists' Trust	1000
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	Balance as at 31/12/76	\$5340



DONATIONS 1976

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

Dr C. J. Ralph \$2.75; W. M. Burrows \$2; C. J. Foreman \$4; L. S. Rickard \$4; R. G. Mueller \$14; Rev. R. Burt \$4; D. M. Cunningham \$4; J. S. Thomson \$2 and \$6; Miss N. D. Tanner \$4; Miss B. Bird \$4; M. N. Sim \$1.50; Mrs L. Collingwood \$4; Mr & Mrs A. B. Cochrane \$1; J. F. Castle \$4; G. I. Hunt \$4; R. Jackson \$4; I. E. Cooksley \$2; P. Warren \$2; S. R. Emmens \$4; R. E. Satherly \$4; R. Cometti \$6; D. Saril \$1; Mrs N. Dyson \$2; Mrs E. M. Hannah \$4; A. H. Grootegoed \$4; G. Wightman \$2; Dr G. I. Nicholson \$2; Mrs H. F. Drake \$1; M. G. Turner \$4; Sir Charles Fleming \$10.

LIBRARY REPORT

It has been good to see more use made of the library this year, and thanks are due to the editor of *OSNZ News* for publicity and for publishing reviews.

Details are: 153 items borrowed, 30 on interloan, 31 by Auckland University and 92 by other members. An exchange has been arranged with the New Guinea Bird Society and we should soon be receiving a journal again from the Ornithological Society of Bavaria.

The year's allowance for replacement of missing back numbers has been spent on copies of *Wilson Bulletin* and Supplements to *Ostrich*, and we have also been able to replace Oliver's *New Zealand Birds*, 2nd Edition. A new list of books and periodicals has been printed but cataloguing of the remainder of Dr Deignan's collection of reprints is still to be done. In addition, 14 volumes of *Notornis* have been bound.

Sincere thanks to those who donated 29 items to the library this year — Messrs M. Ross, T. C. O'Callaghan, H. R. McKenzie, E. G. Turbott, C. R. Veitch, Mrs A. Prickett, Dr Michael Taylor and Dr Denis Hanna; also to Sylvia Reed for advice and help, including duplicating the new catalogue.

Once again we are indebted to the Director and Council of the Auckland Museum and Institute for providing space for the library and for the use of their Gestetner machine and to the Museum Librarian and his staff for so much willing help.

A. J. GOODWIN, *Hon. Librarian*



REPORT OF THE NEST RECORD SCHEME

For the Year Ended 30 April, 1977

There are now 11,684 nest record cards covering 146 species within the scheme. During the year ending 30 April 1977 334 nest record cards were received from 37 contributors. Observations were made for 54 species. New species for the scheme are Hoary-headed Grebe, Snares Island Snipe, Black Tit and Snares Fernbird.

Chris Lusk, working mainly in the Wairarapa, contributed 78 cards covering 28 species, a notable effort for a Junior member.

35 Colonial cards were received covering the following species: Gannet, Pied Shag, Little Shag, Pied Stilt, Black-backed Gull, Red-billed Gull, Black-billed Gull, Caspian Tern and White-fronted Tern.

Cards for 12 species were on loan during the year.

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 (20), C. N. Challies (8), D. H. Brathwaite (2), M. Clarbrough (39), M. Conway (2), R. S. Cowan (7), Tony C. Crocker (11), T. Curran (2), M. S. Field (1), K. Fletcher & R. V. McIntock (4), R. A. Froggatt (2), R. Genet (13), Bruce Goffin (2), R. Guest (4), Mathew Hastie (1), M. Heine (15), M. Irwin (1), I. G. McLean (35), C. H. Lusk (78), Neil Mair (16), Pat Miller (4), G. H. Moon (2), I. A. Nicholson (4), R. Odgers (1), Colin O'Donnell (4), Julie Paice (1), S. M. Reed (14), C. H. B. Robinson (2), W. A. Rodgers (4), P. M. Sagar (24), Jean F. Skinner (2), R. R. Sutton (4), Alison Taylor (1), M. Turner (1), Marion E. Wallis (2), K. Wright (1).

LIST OF ACCESSIONS TO THE NEST RECORDING SCHEME

Yellow-eyed Penguin 1; N.Z. Dabchick 1; Hoary-headed Grebe 1; Gannet 1; Black Shag 5; Pied Shag 1; Little Shag 6; Bittern 1; Canada Goose 1; Black Swan 4; Grey Duck 1; Mallard 5; Chukor 1; Banded Rail 1; Pukeko 7; Australian Coot 4; South Island Pied Oystercatcher 5; Variable Oystercatcher 3; Spur-winged Plover 4; Banded Dotterel 8; N.Z. Dotterel 13; Black-fronted Dotterel 1; Snares I. Snipe 1; Pied Stilt 33; Southern Skua 3; Black-backed Gull 45; Red-billed Gull 2; Black-billed Gull 1; Black-fronted Tern 9; Caspian Tern 11; White-fronted Tern 6; N.Z. Pigeon 2; Rock Pigeon 1; Kea 1; Little Owl 1; Kingfisher 2; S.I. Rifleman 4; Skylark 7; Welcome Swallow 14; N.I. Fantail 36; Black Tit 4; Snares Fernbird 6; Brown Creeper 1; Song Thrush 14; Blackbird 17; Hedge Sparrow 2; Tui 2; White-eye 7; Goldfinch 6; Redpoll 1; Chaffinch 3; House Sparrow 6; Starling 8; White-backed Magpie 3.



BEACH PATROL - INTERIM REPORT

During 1976, 140 people walked 3 041 kilometres on 480 beach patrols on all sections of coast except Fiordland. They found 5570 dead seabirds at an average rate of 2.13 per kilometre of beach covered monthly. Totals for each section of coast are:—

<i>Coast</i>	<i>Km</i>	<i>Birds</i>
Auckland West	1308	3871
Taranaki	157	79
Wellington West	100	274
Westland	8	2
Auckland East	535	509
Bay of Plenty	64	51
East Coast North Island	6	12
Wairarapa	22	14
Canterbury North	31	35
Canterbury South	39	142
Otago	21	27
Southland	86	206
Wellington South	152	211
North Coast South Island	10	101
Outlying Islands	76	36

After the large wrecks of 1974 and 1975 this is a pleasing return, for the birds at least, to more normal conditions.

My thanks are due to all who took part in the Beach Patrol Scheme during 1976.

C. R. VEITCH, *Scheme Organiser*



BIRD DISTRIBUTION MAPPING SCHEME

Annual Report for 1976

The computer office has at last provided draft maps showing the distribution of all but the rarest of New Zealand's land and fresh-water birds (the inadvertent omission of a map for Little Black Shag will be rectified later), and also for several shore birds, especially those that come up rivers or breed inland; maps have not been printed for arctic waders, nor for species that are mainly pelagic.

Enough copies have been made of each map to supply a set on loan to each member of Council and to each Regional Representative. Although some copies are of rather indifferent quality, they should assist council members to decide on the form in which the maps should be published, and also permit Regional Representatives to use their local knowledge in searching for possible errors (while there is still time for corrections) and to obtain the views of local members on the future of the mapping scheme. Members who wish to see the draft maps, or to assist in checking their accuracy, should contact their Regional Representative or nearest member of Council.

It is a pleasure to acknowledge the continued practical support of the Directors of Ecology Division (DSIR) and Wildlife Service (Department of Internal Affairs); copies of the draft atlas could not have been produced without this support. The Photographic Section of the Geological Survey helped with the problem of fitting coastlines to the computer maps. Finally, members should know that the significant progress achieved during the past year results mainly from the hard work, perseverance and enthusiasm of P. D. Gaze and C. J. R. Robertson.

P. C. BULL, *Scheme Organiser*



RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE

Annual Report for the Period

June 1976 - May 1977

Members: F. C. Kinsky (Convener)

B. D. Bell

D. H. Brathwaite

Sir Robert Falla

During the period June 1976 to May 1977 the Rare Birds Committee received four submissions, which were considered by the Committee, as set out below:

- A) The sighting of a Red-kneed Dotterel (*Charadrius cinctus*), Manawatu River estuary, 14th March 1976.

- The Committee confirmed the identification by majority vote.
- B) The sightings of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*) in Northland in 1976. A photograph was submitted with the report.
The identification of this bird was confirmed by the Committee on a unanimous vote.
- C) The alleged sighting of five Stilt Sandpipers (*Micropalama himantopus*) at the Manawatu River estuary on 13th October 1976.
This submission was rejected unanimously by the Committee.
- D) Sighting of a Baird's Sandpiper (*Calidris bairdii*) at the Manawatu River estuary on 10th, 11th and 25th October 1976.
This submission was accepted and the identification was confirmed by the Committee, although only three out of the four committee members commented.

F. C. KINSKY, *Convener*



SHORT NOTE

THE FIRST OCCURRENCE OF THE YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (*Platalea flavipes*) IN NEW ZEALAND

On 23 August 1976, I sighted a group of four waders at Rangaunu Harbour, Kaitaia. I was immediately able to identify three of the birds as a White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) and two Royal Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*), but the fourth, though obviously a Spoonbill, was larger and had distinctive yellow legs, feet and bill. The Spoonbills were feeding vigorously in the shallows on the mud-flats, sometimes venturing out into water 45-50 cm in depth. On occasion these three birds would form into a line and work along the shoreline with typical sideways movements of their bills.

After consultation with a colleague, and reference to Frith 1969 (*Birds in the Australian high country*. Reed) and Slater 1970 (*A field guide to Australian birds*. Rigby), I realised that the unusual Spoonbill was, in fact, a Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*).

In its native Australia, the species ranges throughout most of the continent, with the exception of the south-west and Tasmania, frequenting swamps, shallow lakes, rivers and dams.

This, however, would appear to be the first record of a Yellow-billed Spoonbill in New Zealand and outside of continental Australia (Condon 1975, *Checklist of the birds of Australia*. RAOU).

A. E. BILLING, *C/o Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Private Bag, Wellington.*

[A photograph, unfortunately not reproducible here, together with the text, was submitted to the Rare Birds Committee which confirmed the identification on a unanimous vote — see Annual Report 1976/77. — Ed.]