

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1978



The 39th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in Lower Hutt on 20 May. The President, Mr B. D. Bell, presented his report on the activity of the Society during the year. Rediscovery of the Chatham Island Taiko was seen as the year's ornithological highlight, while Australian vagrants, particularly terns and grebes, continued to prove interesting. The need for careful identification of these species was stressed. *OSNZ News* had served an important need in catering for the diversity of members' interests and encouraging co-operation in current ornithological projects. The publication of the provisional *Bird Distribution Atlas* by the Society was a major advance made possible by the individual contributions of many members. A Summer Course held at Papamoa in the Bay of Plenty had been well attended, as had a survey of birds on the Kaipara Harbour. Further field activity by members was indicated by reports from the Society's various research schemes which the President summarised. These reports are being published in full in *Notornis*. The meeting was informed that the Council was currently reviewing the role of the Rare Birds Committee, submissions being invited from members. Finally the President paid tribute to the Regional Representatives who are essential to the well-being of the Society.

The election of officers resulted in one new councillor, a new editor and secretary; details on the front cover.

Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion on the role this Society should play in conservation issues. A wide range of opinions is held by members; this issue was again referred to Council for consideration. The normal programme for AGM weekends was altered this year, with both Saturday morning and afternoon being devoted to a symposium on the breeding strategies of native passerines. Six speakers contributed papers. This programme was well received and provided entertainment for members not involved with other meetings. However, it did result in the Regional Representatives having to meet on two occasions. On Sunday morning, David Crockett described the history of his search for the Taiko, illustrated by slides.

Once again our Wellington hosts provided a well-organised weekend, beneficial to the Society and enjoyable for all who attended.

P. D. GAZE, *Hon. Secretary*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### For Year Ended 31 December 1977



During the year membership increased by 84 to a total of 1258. This is the largest annual gain since 1954, when the increase was 90. 165 new members were admitted, 44 left by resignation and 37 were struck off because of being unfinancial. The Society now has 1 honorary life, 76 life, 787 ordinary, 68 junior, 11 family, 113 corporate body, and 101 husband and wife members, counting as two, to make the total of 1258.

The income for the year was \$11 624, which is \$1916 less than the previous year's total of \$13 540. Subscriptions were \$646 higher. Sales of back numbers of *Notornis* totalled \$1367, the largest amount on record. Society ties to the value of \$325 were sold. The profit from the Christmas cards dropped from \$4391 to \$126. The price had been kept at the same amount as before but, although more cards were sold, increased printing charges and additional postage rates meant that costs were barely covered. It is obvious that there will have to be an increase in the charge per packet for this year. The 1978 cards were printed during the year and they are shown in the Balance Sheet, at cost price, as stock.

Expenses totalled \$12 388, an increase of \$2563. *Notornis* and *OSNZ News* printing and distribution increased by \$1484. *Notornis* costs increased by \$587 and the cost of *OSNZ News* for the full year was \$1227. Society ties cost \$667; the sales of \$325 are shown in the Income. Reprinting of out of stock *Notornis* back numbers totalled \$1223. It has been decided by Council that no further reprinting will be done.

As a result of the increase in the expenses and the decrease in income, a deficiency of \$764 resulted, as against a surplus of \$3715 the previous year. For this present year it is hoped that, with a better profit on the sale of the Christmas cards and no expenditure for Society ties or back numbers, a surplus for the year should result. However, it should be pointed out that it is impossible to estimate increases in the various items of expenditure.

During the year the Projects Assistance Reserve Fund was credited with \$1154, royalties on the revised Field Guide; also with the interest earned by the Fund, \$446. Three cash grants, as detailed in the Notes to the Accounts, were made.

Investments with The Perpetual Trustees Co. Ltd., amounting to \$2700, matured during the year and were repaid by the Company.

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

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEARENDED 31 DECEMBER 1977


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1976 .	<u>INCOME WAS EARNED FROM</u>		
6 796	Subscriptions	7 442	
225	Transfer from Life Members	218	(Note I)
120	Donations	223	
4 391	Profit from Christmas Card	126	
323	Sale Back Numbers	1 367	
16	Sale Car Stickers	34	
-	Sale Society Ties	325	
38	Biology of Birds	81	
		<hr/>	
11 909	TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME		\$ 9 816
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
1 601	Interest	1 808	(Note II)
30	Royalties	-	
		<hr/>	
1 631	TOTAL INVESTMENT		1 808
		<hr/>	
13 540	TOTAL INCOME		\$11 624
	<u>LESS EXPENSES</u>		
	'Notornis' & 'OSNZ News'		
7 502	Printing and Distribution	8 986	
23	Annual General Meeting	-	
85	Audit Fee	120	
20	Donations	20	
152	General Expenses	203	
134	Library Expenses	98	
36	Nest Record Scheme	30	
190	Postages	281	
222	Printing & Stationery	275	
20	Royal Society Affiliation	20	
-	Society Ties	667	
474	Travelling Expenses	465	
967	'Notornis' Reprinting	1 223	
		<hr/>	
9 825	TOTAL EXPENSES		\$12 388
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3 715 (Surplus)	DEFICIT FOR YEAR		764
	TRANSFERRED TO		
	ACCUMULATED FUND		
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THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1977

<u>1976</u>	<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
3 572	Cash at Bank of New Zealand	3 730	
373	Amounts owing to Society	255	
28	Bank of New Zealand Savings Account	68	
5 500	Term Deposits Bank of New Zealand	2 400	
100	Stock of 'Notornis'	100	(Note III)
	Stock of 1978 Christmas Cards	5 084	
<u>9 573</u>	<u>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</u>		<u>\$11 637</u>
	<u>INVESTMENTS</u>		
3 000	Local Body Stocks	3 000	
	The Perpetual Trustees Company		
7 000	Limited Group Trustee Investments	4 300	
	BNZ Finance Company Limited First		
5 889	Ranking Debenture Stock	6 288	
	Development Finance Corp. of NZ		
5 000	Secured Debenture Stock	5 000	
<u>20 889</u>	<u>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</u>		<u>\$18 588</u>
1 000	Library at Valuation		<u>1 000</u>
<u>31 462</u>	<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>\$31 225</u>
	<u>LESS LIABILITIES</u>		
3 023	Amounts owed by Society	2 745	
656	Subscriptions in Advance	566	
	<u>Reserve Funds</u>		
5 340	Projects Assistance Reserve	6 295	(Note IV)
2 028	Life Subscriptions	1 968	
1 000	Publications	1 000	
<u>12 047</u>	<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>\$12 574</u>
<u>19 415</u>	Value of Accumulated Funds as Below		<u>\$18 651</u>
	<u>ACCUMULATED FUNDS</u>		
15 700	Balance at 31.12.76	19 415	
3 715 (Surplus)	Deficit for Year	764	
<u>19 415</u>			<u>\$18 651</u>

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC)

- NOTE I Life members transfer: 10% of Balance at 31.12.77
- NOTE II The interest earned on the Projects Assistance Reserve Funds Investments has been credited direct to the Fund
- NOTE III Stocks of 'Notornis' and Valuation of Library are at Standard Values. No attempt has been made to value these assets accurately
- NOTE IV Projects Assistance Reserve  
Movements in this Reserve Fund during the year are:

	\$	\$
Balance as at 1.1.77	5	340
<u>Plus</u> Royalty on Revised Field Guide	1	154
Interest earned by Fund		446
		<u>6 940</u>
<u>Less</u> Cash Payments		
Farewell Spit Training Course	260	
NZ Dotterel Survey	200	
Telescope	185	
		<u>645</u>
Balance as at 31.12.77		<u><u>\$6 295</u></u>

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 1977 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: 27 February 1978

THOMPSON & LANG  
Chartered Accountants  
Auditors

## DONATIONS 1977

The Society gratefully acknowledges the following donations of \$1.00 or more received during the year.

Mrs G. Dudley \$4; W. M. Burrows \$2; Miss N. D. Tanner \$4; Dr & Mrs E. T. Dawson \$1; L. S. Rickard \$14; G. Guy \$1; E. St. Paul \$4; D. K. Hines \$4; Dr C. J. Ralph \$2.89; S. R. Emmens \$10; Mrs P. A. Howlett \$5; D. M. Cunningham \$4; C. J. Forman \$2; G. I. Hunt \$4; I. E. Cooksley \$2; Mrs N. Dyson \$2; Mrs L. Collingwood \$4; R. E. Satherley \$4; Mr & Mrs A. B. Cochrane \$1; J. D. Tulloch \$6; J. F. Castle \$4; J. C. Davenport \$4; Mrs J. S. Armstrong \$14; R. Jackson \$2; Mr & Mrs K. T. Taylor \$3; P. Warren \$4; R. G. Mueller \$20; Mr & Mrs R. Pullen \$1; A. H. Grootegoed \$4; M. Heine \$4; Mr & Mrs W. Davis \$5; Mrs P. M. Campbell \$1; G. Watola \$1; D. Robertson \$2; Mrs S. Gray \$2; I. W. Johnson \$4; R. A. Creswell \$3; R. Cometti \$4; G. Wightman \$2; Mr & Mrs W. P. Coleman \$3; Miss R. G. Harper \$5; Mr & Mrs C. H. Barfoot \$5; Miss D. A. White \$10; Mrs M. I. Taylor \$2; Mr & Mrs J. E. Morton \$2; Mrs S. M. Widgery \$24.69; Ms R. A. Spragge \$4.76.



## NEST RECORD SCHEME

### Report for Year Ended 30 April, 1978

12 363 cards covering 147 species are now on file. This year 52 members contributed 679 cards covering 71 species. The Cape Pigeon is recorded for the first time.

Chris Lusk, working in the Wairarapa, produced 107 cards of 29 species. This is a notable and consistent effort, as he supplied 78 cards in 1977 and 102 in 1976. The value of the Scheme in giving opportunity for individual activity is shown by the detailed observations Chris has made.

Members unable to take part in group or regional activities could contribute their personal observations through the Scheme and by so doing would be making a worthwhile contribution to such national schemes as the provisional atlas.

Notable contributors this year have been Paul Sagar (104 cards), Tony Whitaker (87), Ray Pierce (56) and Mary Bomford (46).

34 Colonial Cards were received covering Gannet, Black Shag, Pied Shag, Little Black Shag, White-throated Shag, Spotted Shag, New Zealand Dotterel, Pied Stilt, Black-backed Gull, Black-billed Gull, Black-fronted Tern, Caspian Tern and Chaffinch. During the year, cards on 16 species were lent to members for analysis.

It is encouraging to note the great increase in card contributions from 334 in 1977 to 679 this year; probably due to the encouragement from Regional Representatives and to the impact of *OSNZ News*.

My sincere thanks to all contributors, to those who have encouraged members to take part, and to my wife, Ruth, whose assistance has been most valuable.

DAVID E. CROCKETT, *Convener*

## LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

J. Batham, Ben D. Bell, M. Bomford, M. Buchler, D. J. Campbell, T. Crocker, R. Crockett, J. Douglas, K. Fletcher, G. Foreman, P. D. Gaze, R. Genet, B. J. Gill, A. Gordon, A. H. Gordon, J. H. Goulding, G. Halstead, M. Halstead, K. C. Harrison, R. Healey, Graeme Hill, Geoff Hill, J. E. Hilton, P. A. Howell, J. R. Jackson, G. Jellicoe, B. R. Keeley, M. E. M. Lane, C. S. Lauder, C. H. Lusk, M. McColl, M. Meads, K. Miller, P. Miller, C. Miskelly, G. J. H. Moon, H. Morgan, C. O'Donnell, V. O'Donnell, R. Pierce, M. H. Powlesland, R. G. Powlesland, S. M. Reed, M. Round, M. Rule, P. M. Sagar, J. H. Seddon, D. Shand, M. J. Taylor, C. R. Veitch, A. H. Whitaker, D. E. Widgery.

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## LIBRARY REPORT

Once again we are most grateful to those who generously donated 46 items to the library this year. A supplementary list covering additions during the last two years will be available shortly.

Borrowing has remained steady at 146, but the abolition of 'book rate' in postal charges has penalised the private borrower. I feel that there is still a great need for people willing to review relevant material from some of the overseas journals, perhaps for publication in *OSNZ News*.

The exchange with the Ornithological Society of Bavaria has been reopened and we also received back numbers of *Anzeiger* dating from 1957. The exchange with *Vogelwarte Helgoland* has been closed owing to duplication of journals being received.

Our grateful thanks to the Director and Council of the Auckland Institute and Museum for the safe housing of the library, and to the Museum Library staff for their kind help at all times.

A. J. GOODWIN, *Hon. Librarian*

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## RARE BIRDS COMMITTEE

### Report for Year Ended 30 April, 1978

*Members:* F. C. Kinsky (Convener), B. D. Bell, Sir Robert Falla.

During the period June 1977 to April 1978 the Rare Birds Committee received four submissions which were considered, and the results are set out below.

A) The sighting of a Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), Nelson, 1 January 1978. This submission was rejected by the Committee on a unanimous vote.

B) Grey Phalarope (*Phalaropus fulicarius*), Bay of Plenty, June 1977. This submission was well documented, contained excellent photographs and was accepted by the Committee on a unanimous vote.

C) The sighting of two Whiskered Terns (*Chlidonias hybrida*), Lake Horowhenua, Levin, September/October 1977. This submission was unanimously accepted by the Committee.

D) The sighting of a Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), Lake Horowhenua, Levin, 11 & 14 December 1977. This submission was rejected unanimously by the Committee after considerable discussion.

F. C. KINSKY, *Convener*

## MAPPING SCHEME REPORT

This year's report can be brief because the *Provisional Atlas*, published early in May 1978, summarises the results of the Scheme since it began in September 1969.

One thousand copies of the Atlas were printed; many of these were used to fill pre-publication orders, and remaining stocks continue to decline as new orders are received.

The present atlas is tagged "provisional" because Council believes that members will make strenuous efforts to detect and correct shortcomings in the maps, now that they are available for detailed study; another publication will then be needed to include the new information.

The publication of a definitive atlas in the near future will need both new information and money. The first depends on renewed enthusiasm among field observers and the second on selling all copies of the *Provisional Atlas*.

There is, however, a limit to the time that can be devoted profitably to improving the present atlas. While good coverage of all habitats in every square is an attractive objective, the advantages of this are offset to some extent by the fact that the longer the period of observation, the greater the chance of recording species that have briefly strayed outside their normal range; to map such records could be misleading. A further problem is that maps based on pooled observations, collected over many years, cannot reflect the rapidly changing distributions of species such as Spur-winged Plover and Black-fronted Dotterel. It has required a little over seven years to collect the information on which the present maps are based and, in my view, efforts to improve them should be restricted to the next two years (say to the end of 1979) so that the definitive atlas covers a period of approximately ten years. After 1979, new observations that require substantial revision of the maps could be published as short notes including, where possible, some indication of whether the change results from recent expansion or retraction of range, or merely from defects in the earlier information. A new atlas could then be prepared after a further 5-10 years of intensive field surveys, say in the 1990s.

Once again, it is a pleasure to thank Dr J. A. Gibb of Ecology Division, DSIR, and Dr G. R. Williams of the New Zealand Wildlife Service for the support of their respective organisations; without this help there would be no atlas. We are also grateful to a small group of Wellington ornithologists and their wives who, at very short notice, devoted their day of rest to converting 130 piles of pages into 1000 collated sets of the atlas. Others, whose professional help was essential to the undertaking, are listed in the Atlas itself.

P. C. BULL, *Convener*

## BEACH PATROL — INTERIM REPORT

1977 was another average year with 2 451 kilometres of coast being patrolled to find 4426 dead sea-birds. This is an average of 1.81 birds per kilometre covered, the lowest recovery rate since 1972.

Patrols were carried out on all sections of coast except Fiordland. In some areas, patrols were not as regular as in past years. Totals for each section of coast are:—

<i>Coast</i>	<i>Km</i>	<i>Birds</i>
Auckland West	1276	2483
Taranaki	120	100
Wellington West	94	458
Westland	2	1
Auckland East	418	419
Bay of Plenty	88	64
East Coast N.I.	16	7
Wairarapa	50	11
Canterbury North	41	97
Canterbury South	63	218
Otago	11	17
Southland	75	171
Wellington South	160	331
North Coast S.I.	18	21
Outlying Islands	19	28

My thanks are due to all who took part in the Beach Patrol Scheme during 1977.

C. R. VEITCH, *Scheme Organiser*

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## CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

On behalf of the Society I extend our thanks again to Mrs Janet Marshall whose paintings of the Kakapo and Pied Tit featured on this year's cards. More than 6,700 packs were sold during the year including 2,500 packs of mixed cards from previous years. Proceeds from these sales, less postage and packaging costs, only just recovered total printing costs involved, so that the major profit from this year's venture will not be reaped until 1978/79.

The Pied Tit cards were in great demand and in view of their popularity an offer for a further supply at a reduced cost was accepted. These cards and the remaining Kakapo will be offered during 1978, together with a new design, the Pied Stilt. Regretfully, increased postage and distribution costs necessitate an increase to \$1.50 per pack in order to maintain a reasonable return on our undertaking.

I would also thank the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society for addressing brochure envelopes, Wellington members who prepared brochures for distribution and all those Auckland members who readily assisted with the packing and despatch.

R. N. THOMAS, *Convener*