

dessicated Prions. A Broad-billed Prion was picked up just before it died at Lochiel, 20 miles from the sea, and another flew aimlessly around over the tideline at Awarua Bay.

A feature of the course was the warm co-operation extended by Southland Acclimatisation Society. O.S.N.Z. members greatly appreciated permission to visit the Game Farm, and Roger Sutton was a tower of strength. We were glad, indeed, that he seemed to enjoy taking part in the course as much as we enjoyed having him with us.

A public meeting held at Southland Museum on 24th January was attended by 55 members of O.S.N.Z. and kindred organisations. The President opened the meeting and discussed results so far achieved, drawing attention to the value of this and similar organised study courses, which not only collect valuable information but also provide a useful basis for follow-up work by members resident in the areas studied. Mr. Kinsky spoke on the Banding Scheme, a selection of slides by Messrs. T. M. Smith, J. G. Timlin and B. D. Heather was shown, and the meeting ended with a beautifully illustrated talk on Fiordland coast by Mr. J. Mackintosh.

All were disappointed at the absence on holiday of Mrs. Olga Sansom, who, however, performed signal service to the Society by contributing an article describing the aims and objects of the course to one of the local papers. Several press notices recording progress and findings appeared during the week.

Proverbial Southland hospitality was extended by Mrs. Linscott, Thornbury, whose house was a haven for lunching ornithologists on the day of the western beat; by Mrs. Lobb, Lower Matura, whose splendid aviary was a delight to visit; and by Mrs. Barlow, Invercargill, who turned her house into a conference room for one of the most rewarding discussion groups of the week. To these ladies and to those others who in so many ways helped to make the course successful and the camp enjoyable, the Society tenders its grateful thanks.

— A.T.E.



REPORT OF DELEGATE TO INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS at Ithaca, New York, 16th - 24th June, 1962

I have the honour to report that I was able to attend this Congress accredited as a delegate of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. I was also in my capacity as a member of the International Committee of the Congress, required to attend the pre-Sessional and post-Sessional meetings of that Committee, at which a decision was made that the next Congress would be held in the United Kingdom, Dr. David Lack, President.

The Congress was attended by about 800 delegates, all of whom were comfortably housed in the campus buildings of Cornell University. Generally, facilities and organisation were excellent throughout.

The large number of papers necessitated the holding of three concurrent sessions which meant of course that no participant could possibly attend all the sessions of interest and it was at times difficult to make a selection. However, there were some attempts at grouping

the papers and most of us managed to attend the sessions in our special fields. The duties of chairmanship were shared out and I was able to undertake one half-day chairing the session in which Dr. Westerskov presented his paper on the Royal Albatrosses at Campbell Island. The other direct New Zealand contribution was that of Dr. B. Stonehouse, who presented a short paper on the Adelie Penguins, Cape Royds, Antarctica.

There were a number of papers of outstanding interest to New Zealand ornithologists and it would be invidious to try and make a full selection. A notable study ably presented was that of Dr. Robert Carrick, of Canberra, on the Internal Regulation of a Population of White-backed Magpies.

New techniques in field experiment were reported by some of the contributors, e.g. an ingenious method of altering the colour of eyelids in some of the northern gulls with consequent radical effect on the behaviour patterns.

Sound recordings and analyses thereof were widely used and some excellent papers were forthcoming on this subject. Special committees, including an international group concerned with bird banding, met during the course of the Congress and the evening film sessions and lectures were of a high order. No less impressive were the visits to institutions in the area such as the Ornithological Laboratory at Sapsucker Woods. This fine reserve was in fact visited every morning at daybreak by parties of members who returned to the Congress for breakfast at 8 a.m. Other and more extensive excursions were equally popular.

Printed summaries of practically all the papers were available and it is expected that the full report of the Congress will be available within a much shorter time than is usual with these international fixtures. I should perhaps add that in the week preceding the Congress I was able to attend in New York City a meeting of the International Council for Bird Protection and was there accredited as national representative from New Zealand. To this I am afraid my only contribution was a short and hastily prepared summary of recent developments in New Zealand in respect of the organising of conservation authority and the work of the Wildlife Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, with rare and vanishing species.

— R. A. FALLA

— ★ —

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST FROM THE 10th AND 11th ANNUAL REPORTS OF THE BANDING COMMITTEE

The tenth report deals with all birds banded and recovered between 1/4/59 and 31/3/60. A report on birds banded overseas and recovered in N.Z. is also included. The number of birds banded was 12,782, so that the grand total rose to more than 53,000. 81 species have now been banded in N.Z. Species banded for the first time were:— Silver-grey Fulmar, Spur-winged Plover, Antarctic Skua, S.I. Fantail, Redpoll and Rook.

The following are among the more noteworthy or significant recoveries:—