

field-worker. An excellent chart (p. 80) for the identification of storm-killed prions owes much to New Zealand research. The drawings (p. 185) done to show the plumage patterns of the Spur-winged Plover and allied species might one day be useful in New Zealand. The sketches (p. 188) of the heads of the three difficult migratory dotterels from Asia are helpful but not entirely convincing. But so wisely and thoroughly have the authors fulfilled their task that the voice of carping criticism is hushed. The book is a 'must' for the serious student of Australian ornithology; and the enthusiastic amateur could easily spend his money far less wisely than on acquiring a copy for his shelves.

— R.B.S.

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## PERSONALIA

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Congratulations to Mr. Roy H. Traill, a foundation member of the Society, on being awarded an M.B.E. in the New Year Honours.

Several well-known ornithologists and writers on natural history have recently visited New Zealand and been entertained in one locality or another by several of our members.

Among the visitors have been: John Warham, R. M. Lockley, Gerald Durrell, Professor V. C. Wynne-Edwards, Lt. A. Y. Norris, R.N., from Britain; Jan Strijbos, from Holland, and Jean Delacour, from France and U.S.A.

21 Australian and one N.Z. members of the R.A.O.U., with the President and Brian Bell as guides, toured New Zealand during October-November, 1962. The tour was most successful. The visitors logged 114 species. In a number of centres members of the O.S.N.Z. were able to meet fellow bird-watchers from across the Tasman.

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## OBITUARY — A. S. WILKINSON

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Alexander Stanley Wilkinson, whose death occurred at Levin on December 28th, will be remembered in New Zealand ornithological circles as the cutodian of Kapiti Bird Sanctuary whose untiring work on that sanctuary ensured its reclamation from the ravages of browsing animals.

When he took up his duties on the island in 1924, it was overrun with wild goats and sheep and it was during the eighteen years of his stay on the island that it was freed from these animals, which had eaten out the undergrowth from much of its area.

With the help of a trapper and others, at least 300 goats and 1500 sheep were destroyed. This campaign, with those accounted for before he took over in 1924, removed a very serious threat to the future of the island as an effective sanctuary.

Mr. Wilkinson had a deep interest in the native birds and plants and throughout his residence on the island he took notes of the habits and occurrence of the birds of the island and its waters. In collaboration with his wife, he published, in 1952, in book form, under the title of "Kapiti Bird Sanctuary," a summary of his observations. This book was illustrated with many fine photographs taken by himself.