

and by his even more skilful wife. Their photographic achievements included a picture of a Whitehead feeding a young Long-tailed Cuckoo in a Whitehead's nest.

Mr. Wilkinson was a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union for more than forty years, for much of that period as a member of the council representing New Zealand; and was a foundation member of both the Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. He was a member, too, of the Royal Society of New Zealand for a great many years. He was awarded the Silver Jubilee Medal in 1935 for his work on the island. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

The present flourishing state of the Kapiti bush and sanctuary stands as a memorial of his work and it is fitting that his ashes and those of his wife are to find a last resting-place on the island that they both loved so well.

— R.H.D.S.



RECORDING SCHEME

A note in *Notornis* X, 128, announced that Classified Summarised Notes would no longer be published as such, explained the considerations which led Council to make this decision, and mentioned the inauguration of a Recording Scheme. The following is a short explanation of how it is proposed to work the Scheme, and what service it can be expected to provide.

The intention is that the Recording Scheme shall function as a Central Registry of unpublished ornithological information. The scheme as conceived has a dual purpose, firstly to ensure that all available information is recorded and nothing lost, and secondly to encourage co-operative field study of New Zealand birds and to co-ordinate the results of field work in different parts of the country. Instead of piecemeal publication of minor items, these will be recorded within the framework of the scheme, on species files which will be kept in triplicate. As soon as sufficient material has been gathered on any given species, steps will be taken to have it summarised for publication. As time goes on the gaps in our recorded knowledge of distribution and behaviour of certain species will become increasingly obvious, and positive steps can then be taken to close the gaps. When special enquiries are undertaken by the Society the scheme will be in a position to act as clearing house for the collection of information. Members working on specific subjects will of course have access to all relevant material collected under the scheme.

It is hoped eventually to extend the scheme to include locality lists, lists of museum accessions, whereabouts of study skins and mounted specimens of rare birds, etc. If the scheme works as planned it should be of considerable value to the Society. Its success will depend on the support of members who provide the material, and on the extent to which members use the scheme to obtain information which they require.

The present system whereby R.O's. collect, classify and send notes to the Editor once a year, is well established and should continue.

The Editor will extract from material received such items as are considered suitable for publication as Short Notes, and the balance will go to the Recorder for the species files. The 1962 batch of notes has been received and will now be recorded. A considerable amount of information extracted from private letters and replies to R.O. circulars is already on record, and this includes a few useful locality lists compiled by regional parties on field days, etc. All available notes on the 1962 dispersal of Royal Spoonbill, White Heron and Little Egret have been sent for summarising.

Many useful notes lie dormant in the notebooks of individual members. Notebooks may be mislaid or accidentally destroyed and their valuable contents lost for ever. If members care to send in their notes, past or present, they will be listed, indexed, filed and preserved. Several senior members have already agreed to provide such material and it is hoped that more will do so as time goes on. Some members are gathering notes with a view to eventual publication. If publication is likely to be long delayed, it is suggested that as a precaution, copies of these notes might be deposited with the Recorder in case the originals are lost; they could if necessary be marked "Not for publication without consent of originator."

An Annual Report on the progress of the scheme will appear in *Notornis*, listing the names of those who have supplied material and indicating localities and species on which further information is urgently desired.

As Recorder, I would welcome any suggestions for increasing the scope or improving the working of the scheme. The more notes that are sent in, either through R.O's or direct to me, the better the scheme will work. At this end I will do my best to ensure that the records are well kept. I ask for the co-operation of members in providing material to make the scheme a comprehensive and worthwhile asset to the Society.

— A. T. EDGAR



NEW MEMBERS to 25/1/63

- Baker, R. R., 55 Moa Street, Taihape
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Cragg, Miss P. J., C/- Mr. Allan Cragg, 1 T.V.E.P.B. Blk., Tokoroa
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