

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wellington, 23rd May, 1964

62 Members and friends attended, representing 12 Regions.

As in 1963, the time spent on formal business was shortened by distribution of copies of the Society's and Card Committee's Accounts, and the President called upon the Secretary to summarise Annual Reports, which will be printed in full in *Notornis*, and to outline important decisions taken at the Council Meeting.

Membership at 31st March, 1964, was 849, an increase of 49 since last year. The financial position is satisfactory, and thanks are due to the Hon. Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer and Card Committee. A Minor Expeditions Reserve Fund and a Special Publications Reserve Fund have been created. A substantial legacy has been received from the Estate of the late Mrs. I. I. Lenz, Dunedin. Final decision on disposal of this asset has been deferred until the cost of initial financing of the Kermadec expedition and other cash requirements are more accurately known. The thanks of the Society are due to the Librarian, Miss Enid A. Evans, and her helpers.

The Nest Record Scheme has had a record year, and it is hoped that 1964/65 will produce even more cards, and that other regions will follow the excellent example of Canterbury, which in 1963/64 contributed nearly half the total cards received.

A preliminary report of the Beach Patrol Scheme showed that 47 members patrolled 790 miles of coast. No major wrecks were reported; the corpse of a Red-tailed Tropic Bird was found north of Aotea harbour in October.

The Recording Scheme has been considerably expanded, and the main activity in 1963/64 has been collection of material for the Checklist Committee. It has been decided that Annual Locality Reports shall be transferred to the Recording Scheme. Members are asked to send in field notes through R.O.'s or direct to the Recorder. All notes received will be recorded on species files, and steps are being taken to summarise and publish results as material becomes available.

Dominion Museum now controls the former O.S.N.Z. Banding Scheme, and Messrs. A. Blackburn and P. C. Bull are O.S.N.Z. representatives on the Consultative and Advisory Committee.

Council accepted with regret the resignation of Mr. E. G. Turbott as Convenor, Checklist Committee, and appointed Mr. F. C. Kinsky as his successor. Members will be glad to learn that Mr. Turbott will continue to assist the Committee in a consultative capacity, and that work on preparation of the Checklist is going ahead.

Production of the Field Guide has been temporarily held up but is again under way and publication should not be long delayed. Mr. R. B. Sibson is in close contact with the publishers.

It has been decided to improve the appearance and format of *Notornis*, and to publish one volume per calendar year, starting in 1964 with three numbers (June, September, December), and thereafter four numbers per year. This will bring *Notornis* into line with similar overseas publications.

A conference of Regional Organisers, held during the week-end of the A.G.M., proved to be valuable and stimulating as a means of exchanging ideas, and is to be repeated in May, 1965, when the A.G.M. will be held in Christchurch.

Study Courses are to be held in Taranaki (Labour Day Week-end, 1964) and Kaipara (January, 1965). Preparations for the 1964/65 Kermadec Expedition are well in hand. A team has been selected, certain additional scientific personnel are being sought, and a sub-committee is busy working on administrative arrangements.

Dr. R. A. Falla (North Island Vice-President) and Mr. B. D. Heather (Editor) were re-elected to Council, no other nominations having been received. There were five nominees for the four vacant seats on Council. Messrs. B. D. Bell and K. Miers were appointed Scrutineers and reported the results of their count of postal votes to the President. Messrs. D. McGrath, N. B. Mackenzie, R. B. Sibson and E. G. Turbott were declared elected. Messrs. Chambers, Worth and Chambers were re-elected Hon. Auditors and thanked for their services to the Society.

Under General, Mr. J. R. Jackson demonstrated a nestbox which has been widely used in Canterbury: he then spoke on the Banding Scheme, with particular reference to the question of access to recovery records: and on the matter of illustrations in the Field Guide. Messrs. A. Blackburn and K. Miers briefly replied: Dr. R. A. Falla explained the implications of a nation-wide Banding Scheme controlled by Dominion Museum, and the reasons for selection of illustrator for the Field Guide.

Mr. E. Dear spoke on the introduction of Saddlebacks to Kapiti in 1925, which a 1928 survey proved to have been unsuccessful: and mentioned the Royal Spoonbill Count, to take place at Manawatu Heads in June 1964.

Mr. J. R. Jackson spoke on editorial matters. Mr. A. Blackburn announced that steps had been taken to ensure that in future any controversial papers would be submitted to referees without delay.

Mr. A. Blackburn delivered a Presidential Address (Saddleback behaviour in August). Mr. J. L. Kendrick played tape recordings of Saddleback calls.

After the meeting Mr. P. Morrison showed the film "A Place to Live." Mr. B. D. Heather expressed the thanks of the meeting for the privilege of viewing this outstanding production.



LIBRARIAN'S ANNUAL REPORT, 1963 - 64

Cataloguing of the reprints donated by Dr. H. G. Deignan has continued. 963 have been catalogued during the year, so that the total number available to members is now 1663.

Once again I wish to express my sincere appreciation of the work that Miss C. Bernrieder has done. Without her help, it would have taken very much longer to prepare this collection for use. I have been most grateful for the help that both she and Miss McIntyre have given. Mrs. J. Eaton, an ex-librarian, has also given valuable assistance.

Two circuits are at present in operation, and 42 items have been borrowed by members.

ENID A. EVANS, Hon. Librarian

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1964

Last Year	Current Liabilities		Last Year	Current Assets	
159	Sundry Creditors	150 0 0	613	Bank of New Zealand	2956 5 9
90	Subs. in Advance	130 2 6	56	Sundry Debtors	59 10 5
15	"Notornis" Index prov.	35 0 0			
100	Loan	— — —	669		3015 16 2
364		315 2 6		Stocks on Hand:	
	Reserves:		158	Banding Scheme	77 16 5
539	Life Subscriptions	400 0 0	300	Booklets & Sundry Publications	300 0 0
300	Christmas Card Scheme	300 0 0	458		
—	Publications Fund	139 2 6		Investments:	
—	Expedition Funds —		700	Auckland Electric Power Brd.	700 0 0
—	Kermadec	5 0 0	—	Dunedin C.C. Debentures	1000 0 0
—	Other	25 0 0	700		1700 0 0
839		869 2 6		Library:	
	Accumulated Funds:		500	As Valuation	500 0 0
	Balance 1/4/63	1123 11 3			
	Bequest	3250 0 0			
	Excess of Income				
	over Expenditure	60 16 4			
		4434 7 7			
	Less transfer to Expedition Fund	25 0 0			
1124		4409 7 7			
2327		£5593 12 7	2327		£5593 12 7

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1964

Last Year	Expenditure		Last Year	Income	
563	Cost of Quarterly Magazine, "Notornis"	656 4 11	715	Subscriptions	755 16 5
32	Postages	39 12 2	—	Life Subscriptions	42 0 0
69	Printing & Stationery	52 1 0	17	Donations	18 16 8
58	General Expenses	82 14 4	55	Interest Received	85 18 0
12	Income Tax	14 17 11	25	Surplus on Field Week-ends	38 9 11
79	Contribution to Banding Scheme	80 0 0	72	Miscellaneous Profits	45 5 8
30	Other Schemes	— — —			
6	Depreciation	— — —			
35	Excess of Income over Expenditure	60 16 4			
£884		£986 6 8	£884		£986 6 8

Auditors' Report to Members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Incorporated) —

We report to the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Incorporated) that we have examined the books, accounts and vouchers for the Society and also those relating to the Card Committee for the year ended 31st March, 1964. We certify that the balance sheets for the Society and the Card Committee are properly drawn up to show the true financial position of the Society at that date. We have accepted the values placed by the Treasurer of stocks on hand.

20th May, 1964

CHAMBERS, WORTH & CHAMBERS, Auditors

CARD COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EARNED SURPLUS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1964

	This Year	Last Year
If we deduct the cost of printing the cards from the sales we have a Gross Profit of	289	345
Deduct the following expenses —		
Advertising	133	80
General Expenses	15	12
Exchange and Postage	22	26
Donation	25	20
Sundry Services	9	35
Packing Expenses	12	10
Block Maintenance	20	—
which total	£236	£183
Leaving an operating profit of	53	162
Add interest	27	22
So that the Surplus is	£80	£184

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1964

	This Year	Last Year
We own:		
Cash at Bank	963	833
Printing Blocks	40	40
Less what we owe others	75	25
Leaving us with	£928	£848
This comprises past years' surpluses	848	664
Plus the current year's surplus	80	184
	£928	£848

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1963 - 64

The membership of the Society has increased by 44 to 849, 73 going out and 117 coming in. Of the total, 6 were resigning as at 31/3/64.

Income and Expenditure. The ordinary profit for the year was £18/16/4. The £42 Life Subscriptions for 1963-64 added to this makes a total of £60/16/4.

Life Subscriptions. £42 paid this year has by resolution of Council been included in Current Subscriptions and the £139/2/6 balance in this account as at 1/4/63 has been transferred to Publications Reserve Fund.

The cost of printing and distributing the journal "Notornis" increased by £93.

Legacy from the estate of the late Mrs. J. I. Lenz, of Dunedin. Just before the end of the year we received from this estate £2250 in cash and £1000 in Dunedin City Council debentures.

We thank Messrs. Chambers, Worth & Chambers for continuing voluntarily to audit our books.

On behalf of the Society and also personally I thank Mr. D. F. Booth, Assistant Honorary Treasurer, for the very large share he took in the work of the Treasurer's office.

H. R. McKENZIE,
Hon. Treasurer, O.S.N.Z.

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CARD COMMITTEE REPORT, 1963 - 64

Whilst the current year's trading shows a surplus, it was not as successful as in previous years. Increased printing costs make it difficult for the committee to keep the cards to a reasonable price. Although the number of cards sold was similar to that of previous years, the profit margin was lower and costs, especially advertising, were greater than usual.

Despite increased costs it is confidently expected that the scheme can continue in the future and show a small surplus as well as providing a service to our members.

We express our appreciation to Mrs. Avis Acres for painting the original paintings and also to those Auckland members who assisted with the packing.

B. S. CHAMBERS, Convenor

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CHECKLIST COMMITTEE

Mr. E. G. Turbott, Convenor, felt unable to undertake this demanding task in view of his appointment as Director of the Auckland Museum, and resigned.

Council accepted his resignation with regret, and appointed Mr. F. C. Kinsky as Convenor. The other members of the Checklist Committee are Messrs. B. D. Bell, D. H. Brathwaite, Dr. R. A. Falla, Professor B. J. Marples, and Mr. R. B. Sibson. Dr. C. A. Fleming and Mr. E. G. Turbott have agreed to serve in a consultative capacity.

NEST RECORD SCHEME

Annual Report for Year Ended 31st March, 1964

A record total of 731 cards was received during the year. This figure exceeds the previous highest annual intake by a large margin and is an increase of over 400 on 1962/63. Colonial cards are now being used (a most interesting record for a colony of House Sparrows comprising 14 nests, all located along 12 feet of one branch of a pine tree, was sent in by Mr. J. Hilton of Christchurch), thereby reducing the number of standard cards with single entries. Therefore, although the general collection now contains 3669 cards, there are actually considerably more nest records. As ever, much credit is due to those who continued their regular support of the scheme, but the standard of contributions from a number of members taking part for the first time was very encouraging. Canterbury members really excelled themselves this year and contributed a large percentage of the total. I should like to thank all those who sent in cards, whether few or many, and appeal for continued support in the coming season.

New species added to the collection for the first time were Wandering Albatross (11), Light-mantled Sooty Albatross (4), Banded Rail (1), South Island Weka (2), Southern Skua (1), Antarctic Tern (3) and Welcome Swallow (16). The Albatross, Skua and Tern records were from Campbell Island and were sent in by Mr. A. Wright, together with records of Lesser Redpoll, Sooty Shearwater and Grey Duck, also from Campbell. The Banded Rail and Weka records were from Dr. M. F. Soper, while the Welcome Swallows were all from Northland. Mr. J. R. Jackson, in addition to sending many new cards, sent in a long list of additions to previous Kea and Kaka records. Also, in collaboration with Miss M. M. Davis, Mr. Jackson forwarded a summary of detailed observations of Black-billed Gull colonies in Canterbury. Mrs. I. G. Urquhart sent in (in addition to cards) details of very interesting observations on a colony of White-fronted Terns, giving incubation period data.

The practice of publishing a complete list of cards for each species every two years will continue and the next list will appear with the 1964/65 report. The last complete list (and full details of the scheme) was published in *Notornis* X, p. 251.

Sufficient cards are now available for analyses of Song Thrush (507) and Blackbird (422). Members wishing to undertake work of this sort should write to the Organiser.

The following contributed cards during the year:

Over 100 — D. G. Dawson, Miss M. M. Davis.

Over 50 — B. D. Heather, J. Hilton, J. R. Jackson.

25 or over — A. Blackburn, Dr. M. F. Soper.

Other contributors: J. H. Allan, R. Bateman, R. H. Blanshard, the Misses Bull, D. M. Calvert, T. R. Calvert, C. N. Challies, J. C. R. Claridge, J. A. Cowie, Miss R. M. Doake, A. T. Edgar, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Fooks, Miss A. J. Goodwin, P. M. Gross, Mrs. J. M. Hamilton, Mrs. R. Hows, R. W. Jackson, B. R. Keeley, J. L. Kendrick, S. R. Kennington, J. A. Lees, H. Lyall, H. R. McKenzie, Mrs. R. V. McLintock, C. A. Pyle, Mrs. I. G. Urquhart, A. Wright.

J. C. R. CLARIDGE, Organiser

RECORDING SCHEME

Report for the Year 1963 - 64

Collection of information for the Checklist Committee has been the main activity. About 200 lists were sent out to R.O's. and individuals and a fair number had been returned by the end of the Society's year. A considerable volume of information has come in since then, including an excellent annotated list covering Southland, Fiordland and Stewart Island, compiled by Mrs. Barlow from the field observations of Southland members. As the Checklist Committee has asked that material be made available by August 1964 and as compilation of collected information will take some time, I will be grateful if R.O's. and individuals who are preparing lists will send them to me as soon as possible.

A valuable accession to the scheme is the tabulated results of quarterly wader counts on Otago coast; over a period, these will provide a clear picture of wader movements in the region. Manukau and Miranda counts have been published in *Notornis* for many years. Regular counts from Wanganui, Gisborne and Waimakariri estuaries are helping to build up an overall picture; it is hoped that similar systematic recordings will be made in other wader areas.

A number of interesting notes on birds seen during expeditions to inland areas is also on the files. During the early days of O.S.N.Z. many locality species lists were published in *Notornis*. With the development of the Society and its journal publication of such papers is no longer necessary or desirable but it is still important that the information should be recorded and filed, so that it is available for study. Please send in any such notes so that they may be placed on record.

Although Classified Summarised Notes are no longer published as such, material should still be collected and forwarded to me for incorporation in species files. The Recording Scheme is like the Nest Record Scheme — the more members contribute to it, the better the use that can be made of the accumulated information. As soon as sufficient material is available on any species, steps will be taken to have it summarised for publication in *Notornis*. As an example, we have in the past two years gathered and filed a great deal of information about the distribution and population of North Island Kokako; before long it will be worth while to collate and summarise this material for publication. As time goes on and if sufficient notes are sent in, regular publication of species summaries will be a practical possibility.

The following is a list of contributors:—

Northland — R. S. Barrett, Mrs. Barron, D. E. Calvert, L. W. Delph, A. T. Edgar, P. Gross, Mrs. Hows, J. A. Lees, D. G. McMillan, R. H. Michie, M. Ross, G. Wightman.

Auckland — Miss J. Coles, Mrs. Hewitt, F. P. Hudson, J. A. F. Jenkins, Miss McIntyre, D. V. Merton, C. F. Parsonson, R. B. Sibson, M. A. Waller.

South Auckland — R. T. Adams, J. E. Coulthard, Miss A. J. Goodwin, H. R. McKenzie, Mrs. H. M. McKenzie, C. A. McCall, G. M. Maning, W. Renouf.

Waikato — D. B. Jenner, J. L. Kendrick, Mrs. M. L. Templer, W. S. Sutherland.

Volcanic Plateau — M. J. S. Black, C. D. Blomfield, R. W. Jackson, H. Lyall, G. F. Yerex.

Bay of Plenty — Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. McIntock, R. St. Paul, R. Weston.

Gisborne — A. Blackburn, J. S. Martin.

Hawke's Bay — N. B. MacKenzie.

Taranaki — M. G. Macdonald.

Manawatu — E. Dear, A. R. Lacey.

Wanganui — J. Bartlett, D. E. Crockett, R. W. Macdonald, W. Pengelly, Wanganui Museum.

Wellington — B. D. Bell, C. N. Challies, C. A. Fleming, W. James, F. C. Kinsky, C. J. Lindsay, D. G. Medway, J. O'Brien.

Marlborough — J. A. Cowie.

Nelson — I. E. Langbein, M. F. Soper, D. Zumbach.

West Coast — P. Grant, A. B. Munden.

Canterbury — D. G. Dawson, J. R. Jackson.

Otago — J. H. Allan, Miss S. I. Anderson, Dunedin Naturalists Field Club, Mrs. Kearns, M. Keillor, Mrs. Pennycook, W. T. Poppelwell, Mrs. L. E. Walker.

Southland — Mrs. M. Barlow, B. D. Heather.

Stewart Island — R. H. Traill.

(E. & O. E.)

A. T. EDGAR, Recorder



REVIEW

The Book of the Huia, by W. J. Phillips, Whitcombe & Tombs Ltd., 30s.

A tremendous amount of research and enquiry has resulted in a book of absorbing interest, and one which will have a wide appeal. Part One is descriptive of the Huia, and summarises what little is recorded of its habits, food, and nesting; and a reader knowing the Saddleback cannot fail to be impressed by the extreme similarity of behaviour in the two species. The second part is devoted to a fascinating story of Maori association with the bird. In Part Three the author discusses its extinction, and postulates that the disappearance of the bush before the advancing tide of settlement, and not collecting, was the greatest contributing factor to extinction. In this connection, a statement of Buller's might be re-quoted: "Collectors were then obtaining large numbers of specimens for the European markets. Eleven Maoris scoured the wooded country between the Manawatu Gorge and Akitio, bringing in 646 skins." In Part Four, which occupies half the book, the author divides the known and probable area where the Huia existed into fourteen localities, and by an historical survey of each locality, demonstrates clearly that its range was wider than is generally accepted. The author is confident that the Huia will be rediscovered. The last quoted 'probable sighting' was on 12/10/61 on the Waikare-iti Track at Waikaremoana! A fleeting glimpse of a Tui such as attended my honey tin two years ago, with a pure white terminal band to its tail, would confound the most hardened observer. Many will find the book an indictment of a past generation which, by its cupidity and crass stupidity, brought many of the world's interesting and beautiful birds to extinction, or near extinction; but with all our increase in knowledge, are we doing any better to-day? I think not.

— A. B.