

## NOTICES

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### BEACH PATROL SCHEME TO BE REVIVED

The bodies of many seabirds are washed up on New Zealand beaches every year, and the examination of such birds can provide a great deal of useful information. Sometimes the specimens are of immediate interest because of the rarity of the species or because the body happens to carry a leg-band which shows the age and place of origin of that particular bird. Even records of unbanded and common birds, however, can provide information on distribution, dispersal and causes of mortality. For such studies, we need a large number of records extending over several years and covering as much of the coast line as possible. No single worker can hope to collect data of this kind by himself, and the Beach Patrol Scheme was therefore introduced to allow the collection of such data on a co-operative and national basis.

The Society obtained special cards on which members filled in the details (measurements, identification, date, locality, etc.) of the birds they found; the cards were then sent to the Dominion Museum for classification and safekeeping. These cards have been out of print for some years, but it is now intended to revive the scheme and new cards are being printed.

The success of the scheme depends on the correct identification of the specimens and on the active support of members. It must be emphasised that **some seabirds are very difficult to identify correctly.** In the main centres, however, this problem can be overcome to some extent by studying reference collections and by consulting with other ornithologists. The present scheme aims to keep members in contact with each other's work by means of annual reports and to provide any other help that may be possible.

Members wishing to take part in the scheme should write to Mr. P. C. Bull (131 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt) who will send them a supply of cards and detailed instructions for using them.