

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1959 - 60

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR

President: Mr. P. C. BULL

N.I.V.P.: Dr. R. A. FALLA

S.I.V.P.: Mrs. L. E. WALKER

Secretary: Mr. G. R. WILLIAMS

Treasurer: Mr. H. R. MCKENZIE

Editor: Mr. R. B. SIBSON

Assistant Editor: Mr. A. BLACKBURN

Members of Council: Mr. E. G. TURBOTT, Mr. J. C. DAVENPORT

Mr. A. BLACKBURN

As required by the Constitution, three members of Council retire at this Annual General Meeting. These are: Mr. P. C. Bull, Mr. H. R. McKenzie and Mr. G. R. Williams. All were eligible for re-election, but Mr Bull did not wish to stand again. Nominations were called for to fill the vacancies and, as no others than the following were received, they are declared elected:—

President: Mr. A. BLACKBURN

Treasurer: Mr. H. R. MCKENZIE

Secretary: Mr. G. R. WILLIAMS

All members of the Society, I am sure, are sorry to see Mr. Bull retiring from Council after six years of splendid service, three of which have been as President. I should like to thank him sincerely on behalf of our Society. We are most sorry to see him go. At the same time, we heartily welcome our President-elect, Mr. Blackburn.

Society and Council business was carried on by four Council circulars this year: Among the subjects dealt with were the proposed Field Guide to New Zealand Birds, a proposed periodical listing in Notornis of all papers at present appearing on New Zealand birds, the arranging of the Society's participation in this Science Congress, matters concerning the Nest Record, Banding, Regional Organisers and Beach Patrol Schemes, annual subscriptions, field study week-ends and so on. Most of these topics will be dealt with as this meeting proceeds.

As you will hear from the Treasurer's report, there has been an increase in members this year, well above the average for the previous five years. At this very moment our total membership has probably passed 800 for the first time — a creditable achievement on what is, I suppose, officially our twentieth birthday.

The Society is indebted to the organisers of the Labour Day Field Week-end at Auckland for making it the success it was ornithologically, socially and financially, and thanks Mr. T. A. Voss for the donation of Vol. II of Scott & Delacour's "Waterfowl of the World" to the O.S.N.Z. Library. Mr. K. Cairns, the Regional Organiser for Wairarapa, deserves special commendation for his organisation of a very successful Bird Study course at Masterton in February and the Society is indebted to all those who took a part in ensuring its success.

Finally, it gave pleasure to the Society to learn that Dr. R. A. Falla had received the Decoration of C.M.G. in the 1959 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

G. R. WILLIAMS, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1959 - 60

The membership of the Society is now 793, being Hon. Life 1, Life 65, Endowment 365, Ordinary 361 and Juniors paying 5/-. 11. Most juniors are paying 10/- and are included with Ordinary members at present. Of the total, 31 are overdue and 14 are resigning as at 31/3/60. 74 new members joined and 5 were reinstated. 70 died, resigned or were written off. The real gain in membership however was 20, owing to defaulters for two years being included last year and only for one year this year.

The year has been moderately successful financially. Careful consideration however will have to be given to the provision annually of sufficient funds, if the schemes for the interest and enjoyment of members are to be continued and further developed and our journal maintained at a high standard.

The magazine of the Society, "Notornis," has been further enlarged and improved at relatively favourable figures. The printers helped in this by voluntarily lowering their charge. The Society owes much to those who have supplied the photographs, all of which have been donated.

The Banding Scheme has had the benefit of a subsidy of over £80, not shown in the books, from the Wildlife Branch of the Internal Affairs Dept., for the purchase of all metal bands used. We are very grateful for this substantial assistance.

The Society is grateful to those who gave donations during the year and to those who voluntarily raised their subscriptions. Others, usually husband and wife, greatly assist financially by paying two subscriptions and taking only one copy of "Notornis." Some further results from the Presidential Appeal have come in. Those who contributed to this appeal by donations and increases in Life, Ordinary and Junior subscriptions have provided a good foundation, which has benefited all.

The Christmas Card Scheme has had a further good year and will be reported by Mr. B. S. Chambers.

The profit from the Labour Day Field Week-end for 1959 at Auckland, £32/2/11, is mainly car expenses handed back as donations to the Society by the car owners. Hearty thanks are tendered to the donors.

The cost per member of printing and supplying "Notornis" was 12/2½. Other expenses were 1/10. The Internal Affairs Dept. grant per member for banding amounted to 2/-. It may therefore be said that members received direct benefits amounting to 16/0½.

Our thanks are again proffered to Messrs. Chambers, Worth and Chambers of Auckland for auditing the books free of charge.

H. R. McKENZIE, Hon. Treasurer

CARD COMMITTEE REPORT

Once again I am able to report on a very successful financial year. Last year we sold more cards than ever before even though we were supplying retail stores. Although we had increased sales, it was felt that some of the stocks we were carrying were in excess of what we can sell. These have been valued at a more realistic figure, yet we are still left with a net profit similar to that of the previous year. We are grateful to the Forest & Bird Protection Society for permitting us to circularise their members, and in appreciation we donated £20 to them, as was the case last year.

I take pleasure in thanking Mrs. Avis Acres for the painting of the designs for the cards. They were appreciated by all who saw them. The packing and posting of the orders was carried out by Miss McIntyre, Mr. Sibson and his family and other helpers. This task takes considerable time and patience and the efforts of these members was greatly appreciated.

In conclusion, I thank the members of this Card Committee for their assistance during the year and also the members of the Society who helped make the venture worthwhile.

B. S. CHAMBERS, Convener



NEST RECORDS SCHEME

With the growth of the Society's nest record data information about limits of New Zealand nesting seasons is more exact than hitherto, at least for a number of species. Available data, however, is still insufficient for defining suspected variations in different parts of the country of clutch sizes, peak laying, hatching and fledging dates respectively, together with hatching and fledging success. While contributors to date have been responsible for improving our former inadequate understanding of nesting seasons' limits, very many more records are wanted still from all over the country. Contributions from Northland, Westland and Southland would be of particular value. This is a field in which almost anyone can help. Our past contributors show nest data can be obtained without much difficulty, irrespective of age, busy occupations or physical handicaps, in town gardens or rural habitats.

During the year two applications were approved by Council to study nest data of kingfisher and fringillids respectively. Council, at Organiser's suggestion, considered setting up a committee for examining future applications to borrow records and to give guidance if required, in analysis. At its direction suitable inquiry was made overseas about records' possible analysis by punch-card machine. Several new species were added this year to the collection which now totals about two thousand one hundred records.

Continued thanks are due to Dr. R. A. Falla for permission to house this collection at Dominion Museum.

Contributors for the year follow as under:

Misses M. R. Trower, B. L. Goertz, J. McColl, P. Davys, Mesdames A. Secker, C. D. Leahy, J. West. Messrs. B. D. Bell, C. N. Challies, N. Ewing, H. L. Secker, P. Hyman, A. Blackburn, A. Wright, R. W. S. Cavanagh, T. Hartley-Smith, J. R. Jackson, D. Merton, H. R. McKenzie, R. St. Paul, Dr. M. F. Soper (over 100), W. R. Silcock, W. T. Parham, K. Miers, N. B. MacKenzie, P. Morrison (over 50), S. R. Kennington, E. W. Crack, S. S. McDonnell, B. Enting.

Total Accessions now are:

Stewart Island Kiwi (1) Great Spotted Kiwi (1) Yellow-eyed Penguin (6) Little Blue Penguin (14) White-flipped Penguin (7) Fiordland Crested Penguin (1) Little Grebe (1) Fairy Prion (4) Fluttering Shearwater (6) Fleshy-footed Shearwater (1) Allied Shearwater (1) Grey-faced Petrel (8) Diving Petrel (4) Gannet (4) Black Shag (13) Pied Shag (9) Little Black Shag (1) Little Pied Shag (4) King Shag (6) Spotted Shag (3) Reef Heron (10) White-faced Heron (5) Bittern (2) Canada Goose (10) Mute Swan (3) Black Swan (13) Paradise Duck (4) Grey Teal (9) Brown Duck (2) Grey Duck (16) Mallard (28) Shoveler (4) Black Teal (6) Harrier (38) Bush Hawk (2) Pheasant (4) Californian Quail (5) North Island Weka (3) Pukeko (44) Coot (2) Black Oystercatcher (11) Variable Oystercatcher (5) Pied Oystercatcher (22) Spur-winged Plover (3) Banded Dotterel (65) N.Z. Dotterel (18) Pied Stilt (64) Black Stilt (1) Black-backed Gull (50) Red-billed Gull (19) Black-billed Gull (16) Black-fronted Tern (13) Caspian Tern (6) Fairy Tern (2) White-fronted Tern (31) Bush Pigeon (3) Rock Dove (46) Kaka (2) Kea (9) Red-fronted Parakeet (2) Shining Cuckoo (2) Morepork (1) Little Owl (6) Kingfisher (14) Rifleman (14) Rock Wren (1) Skylark (56) Fantail (39) Pied Tit (9) Yellow-breasted Tit (9) Northern Robin (10) Southern Robin (10) Brown Creeper (1) Whitehead (4) Yellowhead (7) Grey Warbler (27) Songthrush (364) Blackbird (294) Hedge-sparrow (56) Pipit (15) Bellbird (8) Tui (5) White-eye (45) Greenfinch (37) Goldfinch (144) Lesser Redpoll (21) Chaffinch (45) Yellow-hammer (17) House-sparrow (58) Starling (66) Myna (8) White-backed Magpie (8).

H. L. SECKER, Organiser



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY, 1959-60

During the year, 50 items (chiefly separates) have been added to the library. 35 periodicals are now received regularly on exchange, in addition to various serial publications which appear only at irregular intervals.

21 items have been borrowed by members.

A start has been made on the binding of periodicals. To date, Auk, Bird-Banding, Emu, Ibis, Ostrich and Wilson Bulletin have been bound, and the work is continuing.

After being housed for many years in a very small, inadequate room, the library has been moved to new quarters. It now has ample accommodation in the New Zealand Room of the new Auckland Museum Library building.

ENID A. EVANS, Hon. Librarian

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1960

Current Liabilities				Current Assets			
Last Year				Last Year			
111	Sundry Creditors	139	4 1	6	Cash at Bank of New Zealand	164	5 11
43	Subscriptions in Advance	66	3 1	400	Cash at P.O.S.B.	418	13 7
12	Provision for Vol. 8 Index	27	0 0	30	Sundry Debtors	46	2 8
166				9	Estimated Recovery of Subscriptions in Arrears	12	0 0
			232 7 2	445			641 2 2
	Reserve Account —				Stocks on Hand —		
	Life Subscriptions			28	Printing & Stationery	44	0 0
	Endowments	400	0 0	451	Back numbers of "Notornis" and other publications	372	9 6
	Additions 1959/60	5	0 0	479			416 9 6
400	(Invested in Stocks)		405 0 0		Plant at Cost Less Depreciation:		
724	General Reserve 1/4/59	803	8 2		Addressograph at cost		8 16 8
79	Add 1960 Surplus	57	16 5	17	less depreciation		32 3 5
803			861 4 7	28	Library, purchases to date		
1369			£1498 11 9	400	Investment Fund — A.E.P.B. 5% stock	400	0 0
				1369		£1498	11 9

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/3/60

Expenditure			Income		
Last Year			Last Year		
350	Printing "Notornis"	400 17 0	500	Subscriptions	528 11 9
59	Postages	58 7 2		Add Arrears estimated to produce	12 0 0
35	Printing and Stationery	52 13 7	9		
30	General Expenses	35 1 9			540 11 9
38	Banding Scheme, Less Donations, £4	5 15 0	-	Donations, General	26 1 0
-	Surplus Back Numbers "Notornis" written off as values deemed to be unrealisable	52 4 0	24	Auckland Field Week-end Surplus	32 3 11
6	Depreciation	8 8 2	41	Profit on Sale of Back Numbers of "Notornis" etc.	33 18 11
79	Excess of Income over Expenditure	57 16 5	23	Interest	38 7 6
597		£671 3 1	597		£671 3 1

We report to the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Incorporated that we have examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the Society for the year ended 31st March, 1960, and certify that the above balance sheet is properly drawn up to show the true financial position of the Society at that date. We have accepted the values placed by your Treasurer on "stocks on hand."

11th May, 1960

CHAMBERS, WORTH & CHAMBERS, Auditors

CARD COMMITTEE

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1960

Last**Year**

If we take total sales and deduct the cost of these sales we are left with a			
424	Gross Profit of	.....	401 1 6
From this we deduct our overhead —			
124	Advertising	.....	159 12 10
9	Depreciation of Blocks	.....	5 0 0
20	Donation	.....	20 0 0
9	General Expenses	.....	5 13 0
13	Printing and Stationery	.....	11 5 0
39	Postages	.....	17 4 6
13	Packing Expenses	.....	5 12 6
26	Sundry Services	.....	25 0 0
			<hr/>
253			249 7 10
This leaves us a Trading Profit of		.....	151 13 8
Add Donations Received		.....	2 10 0
Interest Received		.....	12 8 7
			<hr/>
			14 18 7
			<hr/>
171	Giving a Net Profit of	.....	£166 12 3

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1960

We have —

338	Cash at Bank	.....	635 6 7
305	Stocks valued at	.....	116 13 4
40	Printing Blocks valued at	.....	40 0 0
			<hr/>
683			791 19 11
80	Less what we owe others	.....	42 18 2
			<hr/>
Leaving us our Accumulated Funds —			
	Balance 1/4/59	.....	602 17 10
	Add Net Profit	.....	166 12 3
			<hr/>
			769 10 1
	Less Taxation	.....	20 8 4
			<hr/>
603	Which now total:	.....	£749 1 9

We report to the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Incorporated that we have examined the books, accounts and vouchers of the Card Committee for the year ended 31st March, 1960, and certify that the above balance sheet is properly drawn up to show the true financial position of the Society at that date. We have accepted the values placed by your Convener on "stocks on hand."

11/5/60

CHAMBERS, WORTH & CHAMBERS, Auditors

REPORT ON BEACH CONTROL SCHEME

Following discussion at the Society's last Annual General Meeting, Council decided to revive the Beach Patrol Scheme (See "Notornis" 8: 268). One thousand Specimen Record and five hundred Beach Patrol Cards have been printed at a total cost of £17/5/11, and a sheet of instructions has been prepared. So far 7 members have requested supplies of cards.

A preliminary analysis is being made of the results obtained before the previous supply of cards became exhausted, and it is proposed to submit a summary of this analysis for publication in "Notornis" later this year, and thereafter to publish annual progress reports. The existing collection of cards contains details of 2,557 birds, the numerically more important species being *Pachyptila salvini* (540), *Pachyptila turtur* (547), *Puffinus griseus* (280), *Pachyptila vittata* (194), *Puffinus gavia* (102), and *Eudyptula minor* (102). Thirty-one members contributed to the scheme; most of the 287 recorded patrols were made during the period 1951-54. The Organiser's thanks are due to Mr. B. W. Boesen, who has put in a great deal of time checking and tabulating the card collection.

P. C. BULL, Organiser

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REVIEWS

A Treasury of New Zealand Bird Song (An album of three 45 extended-play records), by Kenneth and Jean Bigwood. Published by A. H. and A. W. Reed. 45/-.

Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bigwood, bird-lovers may now sit quietly at home and hear the voices of eighteen native birds, including such rarities as Takahe and Kotuku — which can hardly be classed as songsters — and of twelve introduced birds, most of which are real singers. An imaginative commentary, with quotations from many sources and, surprisingly enough, notes on the edible qualities of some of the vocalists, is contributed by Gordon Williams, who has also written the text of an accompanying booklet. Thirty portraits are evidence enough of the photographic skill of Kenneth Bigwood.

Most of the recordings were made in the South Island and the tone quality is generally excellent. When the Keas are calling, the listener, by closing his eyes, may easily imagine that he is up near the snow-line in the Southern Alps; or when the Kakas are giving tongue, that he is back in the unravaged forest. It was a sound principle to put the calls of Kea and Kaka side by side, as the juxtaposition clearly brings out how different the calls of these two closely-related parrots are. This principle might well be carried further. Their voices confirm that the Pied and Yellow-breasted Tits are very close sub-species. But what of Whitehead and Yellowhead? Perhaps in due course it will be possible to hear in close succession the calls of these two puzzling birds; and also those of the North Island and South Island Robins, of Red-fronted and Yellow-crowned Parakeets, and — don't say it is too ambitious — of Cook's and Pycroft's Petrels. The Bigwoods are now in a position to prove local differences in the singing of the Bellbird.