

## SOME FOOD OF YOUNG GULLS AND TERNS

During the banding activities among gull and tern colonies during the 1959-60 season it was possible to make some brief observations on what some of these birds were feeding to their young. At Kaikoura Peninsula, the chicks of the Red-billed Gulls (*L. scopulinus*) were being fed almost exclusively on a euphausiid shrimp (*Nyctiphanes australis*). Specimens were taken and identified by J. C. Yaldwin. On the Wairau River, at a colony of Black-backed Gulls (*L. dominicanus*) some 20 miles from the sea, the parents were feeding the young on a predominantly 'army worm' (*Persectania ewingi*) diet, but there was some other material which was not determined.

On the Waihopai River, a major tributary of the Wairau flowing from the south, some Black-fronted Terns (*C. albobriatus*) were observed flying to and fro between a wheat crop and the river-bed. The terns were flying over the crop and were dropping down at intervals to pick something from the top of the wheat. They then flew off to the river-bed with something in their bills. An examination of the crop showed a heavy infestation of 'army worm' which was climbing up the wheat straw. Once they reached a certain height they were apparently vulnerable to the terns. On the river-bed the terns had newly flying chicks. Although they were not actually seen to feed the 'army worm' caterpillars to the chicks, it would be safe to presume that this was being done.

— BRIAN D. BELL



## NOTICES

## INCREASE IN SUBSCRIPTIONS

In accordance with the Constitution of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, Inc., and notice given to members, a Special General Meeting was held at Auckland at 7.30 p.m. on 8/11/60 to consider a motion to increase certain classes of subscription. The President, Mr. A. Blackburn, occupied the Chair.

The motion read: "That members' subscriptions be increased: Junior, from 5/- to 10/-; Ordinary, from 10/- to £1; Life (Over 30 years of age), from £10 to £20. To provide that members not requiring "Notornis" shall pay 10/- and that Endowment members' subscriptions shall remain at £1."

The motion was carried unanimously by the meeting of fifteen members, including four members of Council.

A member stated that he would give notice of motion for the 1961 Annual General Meeting to the effect that, from 1/4/61, the classes Ordinary and Endowment, both being at £1, be merged and titled Ordinary, and that members wishing to support the Society further be classed as Endowment members on payment of £1/10/-.

The several reasons for the increase are:

(1) The Treasurer's Report, "Notornis," Vol. 9, p. 23, shows that each member receives benefits in excess of 16/-. It is therefore obvious that those paying 10/- are being subsidised by those paying £1.

(2) The gap from 5/- subscription to 16/- for services for Juniors is too great.

(3) Life subscriptions at the old rate of £5, on the basis of investment at 5%, bring in only 5/- p.a. and £10 produces 10/- p.a. £20 will provide £1 p.a. The subscriptions of present Life-members cannot be raised arbitrarily. Life-members at the rate of £5 and £6/6/- and young Life members at £10 could cancel their Life memberships and pay £1 annually. It is obvious that elderly members at present on the £10 rate would not be expected to do this. Some Life-members have made generous donations. These are recorded on their ledger cards. They may well be considered to be the equivalent of further Life-subscription payments.

(4) The journal "Notornis" must be maintained at its present high standard and at times will need to be enlarged.

(5) The Schemes of the Society, Banding, Nest Recording and Beach Patrol, are being greatly expanded and will now cost much more. They provide interest for every member who wishes to take an active part in bird study.

Council hopes that no further subscription increases will be necessary for many years. The officers who give up so much time and money in doing all the work of the Society are grateful to members for lifting the burden of financial stringency and giving them freedom to carry on without anxiety and worry. It is hoped that all members will join in the study of birds and enjoy it.

#### BANDING REPORTS FOR SALE

The full and detailed Ninth and Tenth Annual Reports of the Banding Committee for the years ending 31/3/59 (38 pages) and 31/3/60 (42 pages) are now available at 5/- each and may be obtained from Mrs. Hetty McKenzie, Box 45, Clevedon, Auckland.

#### NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Members are requested to send nest record cards to the Organiser, Mr. H. L. Secker, 14 Clyma Street, Upper Hutt, by 28th February, 1961.

Play your part in the ultimate clarification of precise limits of New Zealand's nesting seasons, peak laying times and clutch-size variations by a contribution.



#### SPECIAL APPEAL

##### BACK NUMBER VOL. 9, No. 1

The June, 1960, issue of "Notornis" is in very short supply. Will members who do not keep their back numbers please send this copy to:—

Mrs. Hetty McKenzie,  
Journal Despatch Officer,  
P.O. Box 45,  
Clevedon.