

TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 1960 - 61

OFFICE BEARERS FOR THE YEAR

President: Mr. A. BLACKBURN

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

Asst. Editor: Mr. A. BLACKBURN

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

The Constitution requires three members of Council retire at this Annual General Meeting. This year they are: Dr. R. A. Falla, Mr. R. B. Sibson and Mr. E. G. Turbott. All are eligible for re-election. Nominations were called for to fill the resultant vacancies, but only one was received — that of Mr. E. G. Turbott for the position of Member of Council, and I have pleasure in declaring him elected. Later, this meeting will be asked for nominations for the positions of N.I.V.P. and Editor and if more than one nomination is received for either post, an election will be held by ballot. Mr. F. C. Kinsky was appointed by Council to fill the place among the office bearers made vacant by the election of Mr. Blackburn to the Presidency. He will be due to retire at next year's Annual General Meeting, as by Constitution, he serves only for the remainder of the term of the Council member he replaces.

Society and Council business during the year has been concerned with advancing the plans for the publishing of the Field Guide to New Zealand birds, with making changes in the subscription rates for membership of the Society, with the Wader Course at Farewell Spit last January, with the Society's banding policies, a visit to New Zealand by the R.A.O.U. in 1962 for one of their well-known "camp-outs," changes in the publication dates of "Notornis," and so on. All these subjects will be dealt with during the course of this meeting and will be open for discussion.

We come of age this year and with this occasion our membership stands at about 800 and we are financially sound.

The Wader Course at Farewell Spit was a great success and we are grateful to all those who helped make it so, especially Mr. B. D. Bell and the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs.

The Society thanks the Librarian, Miss E. Evans, for another year of most valuable service, and Miss M. McIntyre for her help in the running of the library.

G. R. WILLIAMS, Hon. Secretary

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1961

Current Liabilities				Current Assets			
Last Year				Last Year			
139	Sundry Creditors	98	14 3	164	Bank of New Zealand	134	5 9
66	Subscriptions in Advance	93	14 1	419	Post Office Savings Bank	431	4 5
27	Provision for Index to Notornis	20	0 0	46	Sundry Debtors	19	16 0
232			212 8 4	12	Subscriptions in arrears estimated to realise	4	0 0
	Reserve Account —			641		589	6 2
400	Life Subscription and Endowment A/c.	405	0 0		Stocks on Hand —		
5	Add additions 1960/61	34	0 0	44	Printing & Stationery	26	0 0
405			439 0 0	-	Banding Scheme	99	18 0
	General Reserve —			372	"Notornis" Back Numbers and sundry publications	327	16 0
803	Balance 1/4/60	861	4 7	416		453	14 0
	Add Library valuation	300	0 0		Addressograph at cost		
	„ Transfer from Card Committee	300	0 0	9	less depreciation	7	10 2
		1461	4 7		Library — Purchases to date	47	6 10
+58	Less excess of Expenditure over Income	14	15 9	32	Add valuation of previously acquired	300	0 0
861			1446 8 10		Investment Fund —	347	6 10
1498			£2097 17 2	400	Auckland Elect. Power Brd. Stock	700	0 0
				1498		£2097	17 2

BALANCE SHEET

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31/3/61

Expenditure				Income			
Last Year				Last Year			
401	Printing "Notornis"	386	2 7	529	Subscriptions	536	18 1
58	Postages	60	2 2		Add Arrears expected to		
53	Printing & Stationery	76	5 10	12	produce	4	0 0
6	Banding: Banding scheme	52	9 5				
	Banding reports	27	12 1	541			540 18 1
	Free issue to operators	23	5 6	26	Donations, General		29 15 1
		103	7 0	32	Field Week-end:— Whakatane		19 8 3
35	General Expenses	15	11 11		Surplus back numbers "Notornis,"		
52	Back Numbers "Notornis" —			34	etc., profit on sale		38 17 3
	804 expected to be unsaleable	50	5 0	38	Interest		49 6 7
8	Depreciation	1	6 6		Excess of Expenditure		
58	Excess of Income over Expenditure	—	— —	—	over Income		14 15 9
671		£693	1 0	671		£693	1 0

We report to the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand Incorporated that we have examined the books, account and vouchers of the Society for the year ended 31st March, 1961, 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."

10th May, 1961

CHAMBERS, WORTH & CHAMBERS, Auditors

CARD COMMITTEE

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1961

Last Year			
	After deducting the cost of the products sold from the sales we are left with a		
401	Gross Profit of		364 17 8
	From this we deduct the following expenses —		
160	Advertising	162 5 0	
5	Depreciation	10 0 0	
6	General Expenses	1 0 0	
20	Donation	20 0 0	
17	Postages	19 18 2	
25	Sundry Services	21 0 0	
17	Stationery	11 9 9	
249			245 12 11
152	Leaving us a profit on sales of cards of		119 4 9
12	To this we added: Interest Received		15 19 1
3	Donations		1 18 7
166	So that the Net Profit for the year is		£137 2 5

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st MARCH, 1961

Our Assets consist of:			
40	Printing Blocks	35 0 0	
635	Cash at A. & N.Z. Bank	568 19 7	
117	Stocks	75 0 0	
792	and Total:		678 19 7
43	From this we deduct what we owe others		92 15 5
749	Leaving us with		£586 4 2
This balance is made up as follows:			
	Profits to 31st March, 1960	749 1 9	
	Profit for year ended 31st March, 1961	137 2 5	
	Less the cost of Local Bodies Stock which has been handed to the Society	300 0 0	
			£586 4 2

TREASURER'S REPORT, 1960 - 61

The membership of the Society is now 792, being Hon. Life 1, Life 66, Endowment 357, Ordinary 331 and Junior 37. Of this total 9 are resigning as at 31/3/61. 21 defaulters written off in the current year would have made the total 813 had they been carried forward as previously. The real gain in membership is therefore 20, the same as last year.

Subscription rates for 1961-62 will be 10/- Junior, £1 Ordinary and £20 Life over thirty years. A proposal is coming forward to the effect that there be an Endowment rate of £1/10/-.

Financially the Society is getting into a sound position and it is expected that its several branches of activity can now be proceeded with confidently. This should be possible for many years at the £1 rate of subscription.

The printing of "Notornis" has cost a little more but we have had good value. The printers give excellent service on good terms. The cost would be much greater only for the photographs supplied free; this year by Dr. M. F. Soper, Dr. K. E. Westerskov, Messrs. G. J. H. Moon, F. C. Kinsky, D. A. Urquhart, H. J. Harrington, A. J. Heine, F. O'Leary and P. Morrison. Cordial thanks are tendered these gentlemen for their gifts of such excellent work.

The Banding Scheme has been further developed, largely owing to a generous grant of £100 by the Wildlife Branch of the Internal Affairs Department. The continued co-operation of the Department is greatly appreciated.

The Executive has been heartened again this year by the receipt of handsome donations and other assistance. Much service of a more or less intangible nature, not to be valued in money, has been freely given. It must be recognised that the Society owes much of its stature to those who travel long distances to business meetings, to entertain members, to receive visitors and to further our schemes.

The Christmas Card Scheme has been continued by Mr. B. S. Chambers and his helpers and will be reported by him.

Our thanks are again proffered to Messrs. Chambers, Worth and Chambers for auditing the books free of charge. It is realised that this is done at a very busy time of year.

H. R. McKENZIE, Honorary Treasurer



LIBRARY ANNUAL REPORT, 1960 - 61

During the year 53 separates have been added to the Library, and the 35 periodicals received on exchange have continued to come regularly. Some progress has been made with the binding of periodicals.

39 items have been borrowed by members. Circulation of journals has continued, and three circuits are in operation.

With the greatly increased work in the Museum library, which has to be done without any extra assistance, it has been impossible to devote as much time as is desirable to the Ornithological Society's library. I am therefore, very grateful to Miss M. McIntyre for the many hours she has given to working in the library.

A list of the library's holdings of books, pamphlets, separates and periodicals has been prepared. The list of books, pamphlets and periodicals is appearing in *Notornis*, while the list of separates will appear in the following number. The library now contains nearly 700 items (exclusive of individual periodical parts).

ENID A. EVANS, Hon. Librarian



NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Annual Report for Year Ending 31st March, 1961

The collection now stands at more than 2,500 cards representing 97 species. The year saw the Black Petrel, the Crested Grebe, White-faced Storm Petrel and the Wrybill added to the list. The time has come to redesign the layout of the nest record card as its printing blocks have become worn, and to look at the possibility of printing a second card for colonial nesting gulls and terns. During the summer Dr. K. Westerskov of Lower Hutt demonstrated various New Zealand zoology problems at a field naturalists' zoology course run at Ohakune by the Council of Adult Education of the Victoria University of Wellington.

Following correlation of the Society's nest record data with the relevant literature records the Organiser rendered to Council details of improved understanding of New Zealand's overall clutch size limits, also of its overall nesting seasons' limits based on egg dates. These details still remain, however, very inadequate for kiwis, grebes, crakes and psittacids in particular, while definition of provincial nesting seasons' limits and provincial clutch size limits respectively for all species must await more nest data accumulation.

Further nest data is also required for getting better understanding of the factors affecting nesting times, species nest-site selection in relation to vegetation or other profiles, incubation periods, brood size variability, and fledging success.

This year's contributions follow as under:

Over 50 — Dr. M. F. Soper, Messrs. D. V. Merton, B. D. Heather.

Over 25 — Messrs. D. Brathwaite, D. C. Dawson, A. Wright.

Also Miss M. R. Trower, Mesdames C. Cox, M. McGrath, Messrs. E. Dear, H. L. Secker, E. W. Crack, B. D. Bell, N. Ewing, B. Enting, H. R. McKenzie, W. Bird, J. R. Jackson, P. Jackson, M. G. Jackson.

Total accessions now are:

Stewart Island Kiwi (1) Great Spotted Kiwi (1) Yellow-eyed Penguin (6) Little Blue Penguin (20) White-flippered Penguin (7)

Fiordland Crested Penguin (1) Crested Grebe (1) Little Grebe (1)
 Fairy Prion (14) Sooty Shearwater (1) Fluttering Shearwater (7)
 Fleshly-footed Shearwater (1) Allied Shearwater (1) Black Petrel (1)
 Grey-faced Petrel (9) White-faced Storm Petrel (2) Diving Petrel (26)
 Gannet (4) Black Shag (14) Pied Shag (9) Little Black Shag (1)
 Little Pied Shag (5) King Shag (6) Spotted Shag (3) Reef Heron (17)
 White-faced Heron (5) Bittern (2) Canada Goose (14) Mute Swan (3)
 Black Swan (15) Paradise Duck (4) Grey Teal (9) Brown Duck (2)
 Grey Duck (16) Mallard (29) Shoveler (7) Black Teal (6)
 Harrier (41) Bushhawk (3) Pheasant (6) Californian Quail (5)
 North Island Weka (3) Pukeko (49) Coot (2) Black Oyster-
 catcher (18) Variable Oystercatcher (5) Pied Oystercatcher (43)
 Spur-winged Plover (12) Banded Dotterel (79) N.Z. Dotterel (19)
 Wrybill (2) Pied Stilt (79) Black Stilt (1) Black-backed Gull (96)
 Red-billed Gull (21) Black-billed Gull (22) Black-fronted Tern (17)
 Caspian Tern (7) Fairy Tern (2) White-fronted Tern (40) Bush
 Pigeon (3) Rock Dove (48) Kaka (2) Kea (22) Red-fronted
 Parakeet (2) Shining Cuckoo (2) Morepork (2) Little Owl (8)
 Kingfisher (16) Rifleman (22) Rock Wren (3) Skylark (61)
 Fantail (45) Pied Tit (9) Yellow-breasted Tit (11) Northern
 Robin (10) Southern Robin (11) Brown Creeper (1) White-
 head (4) Yellowhead (9) Grey Warbler (34) Song Thrush (394)
 Blackbird (321) Hedge-sparrow (60) Pipit (16) Bellbird (8)
 Tui (5) White-eye (48) Greenfinch (46) Goldfinch (157) Lesser
 Redpoll (27) Chaffinch (50) Yellowhammer (19) Housesparrow (103)
 Starling (79) Mynah (8) White-backed Magpie (8).

H. L. SECKER, Organiser



DUNEDIN — MAY 12 - 14, 1961

Those who attended the A.G.M. and week-end events were well entertained. On two evenings showings of colour-slides by two very skilful photographers, Dr. M. F. Soper and Mr. G. Chance, revealed much of the beauty of such rare birds as Great Crested Grebe, Yellow-eyed Penguin, Rock Wren, Bush Hawk, Yellowhead; and members were very grateful at having the opportunity of seeing such fine studies in bird portraiture.

The two excursions closely followed the successful pattern set in May, 1955. On the Saturday morning a confident busload, defying the overcast skies and bitter weather, set off down the western side of the harbour, noting en route an instructive variety of shags. On the mole White-fronted Terns numbered 300-400 as in 1955. Several Black-fronted Terns were passing to and fro and the opportunity was taken to note how conspicuous their white rumps are against the general duskiness of their plumage. Some of these Black-fronted Terns were seen actually to rest on the gently heaving sea beyond the lines of surf. Off the mole a Gannet appeared and one Mollmawk came close enough to be diagnosed as Buller's. Flights of Spotted Shags would leave the cliffs and Stewart Island Shags in their bronze and pied forms were often in view. Meanwhile a watchful eye was kept on the lamb-sized young Royal Albatrosses on Taiaroa Head; and at

least three were seen to be fed, after adults had suddenly appeared gliding round the cliffs.

Lunch was taken in the bus or in the shelter of the sandhills out of the cutting wind. Meanwhile an incoming tide had been covering the Aramoana saltings, mustering the Godwits (c. 70), Banded Dotterels (c. 80), S.I. Pied Oystercatchers (c. 600) and a few Stilts. It was during a post-prandial stroll that the really surprising 'find' of the day was made. F.C.K. was the first to notice a smallish long-billed wader as it flew along the tideline and obligingly settled on a handy reef to which dry-shod access was still possible. In a short while several members were studying at quite close range their first Tattler. It was white underneath except for some very faint barring on the chest; and after it was heard to call several times, there seemed to be little doubt that it was of the Siberian race (*brevipes*). I.G.A., who made a close study of a Siberian Tattler at Waikanae over the summer of 1960-61, pursued this unusual vagrant with his tripod-mounted monocular for half a mile through the shivering shallows, a doughty paddle on such a day. Otago Harbour can thus claim to be the southernmost locality which a Tattler has been found to reach. On this high note we returned to the bus, where some hardy beachcombers had a pile of corpses for critical examination. Several young Sooty Shearwaters were very thin. Later we were to learn that Muttonbirds were coming ashore in thousands around the coast, weak and starving.

Next day several car-loads of visitors left hopefully in the rain for Taiaroa Head; but though the clouds lifted we were denied a closer look at the Royal Albatrosses. In the afternoon Wickcliffe Bay was our destination and here were found under the coastal scrub the Yellow-eyed Penguins which some of us were so keen to see. Song-thrushes were in good voice and on all sides Hedge Sparrows called from the scrub. In Papanui Inlet a Caspian Tern was greeted by the northerners as a lost familiar friend.

The thanks of the visitors are warmly offered to Mr. and Mrs. Walker and Brian Ellis, who organised such a successful week-end.

— R.B.S.



BEACH PATROL SCHEME

Interim Report for Year 1960

Work is still in progress on the detailed tabulation and analysis of the patrols made during 1960, but it is hoped to have the full report ready for publication in the near future. During the year all the Society's records of "storm-killed" birds (those published in "Notornis" as well as those entered on beach patrol cards) were collated. The records cover a period of twenty years and involve 6,959 specimens, mostly petrels. A summary of this material is being prepared for publication.

During 1960 a total of 228 completed beach patrol cards were received from 18 members; these cards record details of 1,091 specimens (44 species), i.e. nearly one sixth of the total number of specimens recorded during the previous twenty years. The geographic distribution

of the patrols may be summarised as follows: Auckland West Coast (15 patrols), Taranaki Coast (19), Wellington West Coast (114), Wellington South Coast (32), Marlborough Coast (16) and Otago Coast (16); the remaining 16 patrols were from scattered localities, mostly on the East Coast of the North Island. There is still a regrettable absence of reports from the Western and Southern Coasts of the South Island.

The patrols are representative of all months of the year; less than 50 birds were recorded each month from January to June, but numbers then increased to 66 in July and 459 in August and then declined to about 100 per month for the rest of the year. The high August figure is due mainly to some very productive patrols carried out at that time on the Auckland West Coast; then increased counts in August were much less marked in the Wellington Area.

The most numerous species (total for year in brackets) were: *Pachyptila turtur* (303), *Puffinus gavia subsp.* (160), *Puffinus griseus* (122), *Larus dominicanus* (94), *Pachyptila belcheri* (74) and *Eudyptula minor* (59). Among rarer species were *Phoebastria palpebrata* (2), *Halobaena caerulea* (2), *Procellaria cinerea* (1), *Procellaria westlandica* (1) and *Sterna fuscata* (6). The Sooty Terns (*S. fuscata*) are of particular interest because there were only six previous records of this tropical species in New Zealand. The 1960 specimens were found in July (1) and August (5) at Muriwai, Bethels (3) Foxton and Waitarere (Levin).

The organiser wishes to thank all those who have assisted in collecting such a fine set of records (collectively, members have tramped 225 miles on the beaches of the Wellington West Coast alone). Special thanks are due to Mr. B. W. Boesen, who has spent many hours in registering the cards as they come in, and in tabulating the records that the Society has collected over a period of twenty years.

Lower Hutt
5/5/61

P. C. BULL, Organiser



PERIODICALS IN LIBRARY

Of those marked * only those numbers of ornithological interest are received. Where individual numbers are monographs, they are usually catalogued individually, and will appear in the list under authors, while the serial title will be listed here. Square brackets indicate that holdings are incomplete.

*American Museum Novitates (American Museum of Natural History).

*American Museum of Natural History. Bulletin.

Aquila. (Magyar Természettudományi Társulat) Budapest. v. 50- 1943-
Ardeola; Revista Iberica de Ornithologia. (Sociedad Española de
Ornithologia) Madrid. v. 1- (1954-

Auckland Institute and Museum. Records. v. 1, No. 3- (1932-

Audubon Magazine (National Federation of Audubon Societies) New
York. v. [48] 49-54, [51] 52-57, 62- (1946-

Auk (American Ornithologists' Union) Cambridge, Mass. v. 66- (1949-
Baldwin Bird Research Laboratory, Ohio. Contributions. 17 (1931)
21 (1932)