

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand held its annual general meeting in the Auckland Museum on Friday, 25th May, 1951. The president, Mr. E. G. Turbott, presided over an attendance of about 60.

A postal ballot for the position of Christchurch Regional Organiser resulted in the election of Mr. E. W. Dawson. Other officers were re-elected unopposed.

Mr. H. R. McKenzie moved: "That a sub-committee consisting of Dr. W. M. Hamilton, Messrs. C. A. Fleming, E. G. Turbott and J. M. Cunningham, with power to add, be appointed to draft a new constitution, acceptable to the Registrar of Incorporated Societies; that this be presented to a general meeting for adoption; and that the society then make application to the Registrar for incorporation under the Incorporated Societies Act, 1908." At the request of the committee, Mr. J. M. Cunningham explained to the meeting the reasons that had prompted several members to discuss incorporation and committee reorganisation. The resolution was passed.

The eleventh annual report, for the year ended March 31, 1951, stated:—

"In presenting the eleventh annual report of the society, your committee is again pleased to record progress in its activities. Field work continues to interest members to an increasing extent, and this is reflected in 'Notornis,' of which four numbers were issued during the year. Finances, owing to the splendid support of endowment members, donations and further increases in membership, have been buoyant. Because of the increase in membership, the average cost of 'Notornis' per member dropped slightly to 6s. 10d. We now have 393 ordinary members, 125 endowment, 34 life and one honorary, a total of 553 (an increase of 69 over last year), and of these, only 29 were in arrears with their subscriptions. Printing costs are, however, expected to rise further during the coming year, and the society will also be faced with several other heavy increases in expenditure. Reserves to meet part of these have been provided accordingly.

"As is shown in separate reports, the ringing scheme is now on a firm footing, and the checklist compilation has continued steadily. During the year a nest records scheme was launched with satisfactory response from 14 observers. Mr. J. King (Box 448, Masterton), to whom all records should be sent and requests for cards made, reports that 67 cards were returned, referring to 20 species. Fuller details will be published in 'Notornis.' All those interested should remember that even the scantiest information, provided it is authentic, can be of value when correlated with records of similar species from other observers. What is particularly desired is an accurate record of the date of every visit, and the number of eggs and young present on each occasion. In no case should anything be assumed, e.g., the sex of the sitting bird when this cannot be definitely recognised. From these results clutch size and incubation periods, etc., can then be calculated. As the cards accumulate the information will be available for research workers.

"A report from the hon. librarian, Mr. E. G. Turbott, reads: 'As indicated in the journal, the society's library is housed at the Auckland Museum. Members should use the following address in writing to borrow books: 'The Librarian, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, c/o Auckland Institute and Museum, P.O. Box 27, Newmarket, Auckland, S.E. 1.' The society now benefits particularly in that the cataloguing and loan of our books is carried out by arrangement with an established library. Members will wish especially to thank Miss Enid Evans, librarian of the Auckland Institute and Museum, for her very generous help to the society. Miss Evans has already catalogued the library, comprising 86 books and pamphlets (33 of these added during the year), 10 current serial publications, and nearly 100 reprints. She also drew

up the new library list published in "Notornis," Vol. 4, No. 4. It is hoped that members will now make use of these library facilities by applying regularly for the loan of the society's books, pamphlets and journals. Of these some are not available elsewhere: it is of interest to note that our copy of the "Wilson Bulletin" is the only one received by a library in New Zealand. The total borrowings during the year have been 36. In addition, two members have asked to receive issues of "The Emu" and "British Birds" as they arrive. Ten periodicals are now taken currently: of these the society subscribes to two, "The Emu" and "British Birds," and the remaining eight come in exchange for "Notornis."

"Two further exchanges were arranged during the year, with "Bird-Banding" and the British Museum (Natural History). Five other periodicals are received currently on exchange, but only issues of ornithological interest, e.g., certain museum publications. The library is contained at present in a steel stack and on this is the card catalogue of author and subject entries in steel filing drawers."

"Your committee looks on the library as an increasingly valuable service to members, and reprints of the library list are available to those who desire them. It may be taken as a matter for congratulation that practically all important ornithological publications are now received in exchange for "Notornis."

"During the coming year, Miss H. Laing, of Masterton, is kindly assisting the hon. secretary-treasurer, and the society is fortunate in obtaining her help. The audit of the society's finances has again been carried out by Mr. F. E. Wells, and our thanks are offered to both of these."

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ended 31/3/1951.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs., 1950 and arrears	173	5 0	"Notornis"—		
Donations, general and Illustrations Fund . . .	11	8 1	Vol. 4, Nos. 1-4 . . .	75	13 10
Sales (back numbers) . .	24	5 3	Illustrations	65	17 5
Interest, P.O.S.B. . . .	8	6 4	Envelopes	4	15 0
Sundry	3	6	Stationery	9	13 3
			Typing Envelopes, Etc. . .	8	3 6
			Postages	12	15 0
			Library Expenses	5	6
			Excess of Income over Ex-		
			penditure, transferred to		
			Check-list Publication		
			Reserve	20	0 0
			General Reserve	20	4 8
	£217	8 2		£217	8 2

BALANCE SHEET as at 31/3/1951.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs. paid in Advance . .	182	10 0	Subs. in arrear, estimated		
Checklist Publication Re-			to realise	3	0 0
serve	20	0 0	Stationery on hand . . .	4	11 0
General Reserve	153	17 6	Cash	2	0 0
			Bank of New Zealand . .	17	4 1
			P.O. Savings Bank . . .	329	12 5
	£356	7 6		£356	7 6

(A more detailed Statement of Accounts, certified "audited and found to be correct.—F. E. Wells, 10/5/1951," was presented to the annual meeting, and copies may be obtained on application.)

The report of the Ringing Committee for the year ended March 31, 1951, stated:—"This is the first full year of the operation of the scheme, and we can report that every phase of operations has worked smoothly. Permits to handle the protected birds the society is authorised to ring have been issued to 15 members, 11 of whom have returned schedules. A number of interesting recoveries have already been made, including two gannets ringed at Cape Kidnappers and recovered in New South Wales.

"During the year a request for the society to encourage the ringing of banded dotterel was received from Messrs. C. A. Fleming and R. H. D.

Stidolph, and permission to ring these birds, and also New Zealand dotterel, has been obtained from the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs. Next season it is intended to make a special effort to ring white-fronted tern and banded dotterel. For the latter, colour rings will be available, and each district will be allotted a certain colour. The use of colour rings has already resulted in two recoveries. Of three New Zealand dotterel colour ringed at Mataitai, Clevedon, two have been seen, one where ringed more than three months later, and another has taken up its abode at Karaka, to the west. These records show that any confusion of colour rings used would invalidate such sight records, and members are particularly requested not to use rings of other than the allotted colours.

"Special permission from the Hon. Minister was also obtained for certain members to ring limited numbers of other species. Their records, together with those of members who have used other than the society's rings, will be included without distinction in the annual summaries of ringing operations. These will show numbers of birds ringed and recovered up to March 31 each year, and this year's summary will show that 837 birds of 16 species have been ringed by 11 operators, and that four have been recovered. Details of recoveries will, however, be published as soon as possible, and at the time of making this report, 12 have been made.

"A request was received for rings to be supplied to the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition, for use on Heard and Macquarrie islands, and this was complied with. The expedition has provided funds for the replacement of these rings, which have been despatched from America. Information of the operation of the scheme has been given to several overseas inquirers, including Australian States and representatives of the Federal Government. We look forward to close co-operation with the sponsors of the projected Australian scheme. We take this opportunity of again pointing out that protected birds may not be handled for ringing without written authority. It is by courtesy of the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs that this may be granted by the hon. secretary of the society."

The reports and financial statement were adopted.

The society's delegate to the 10th International Ornithological Congress, at Upsala, Sweden, Mr. R. B. Sibson, spoke entertainingly of his experiences there. He was accorded a hearty vote of thanks.

The National Publicity Studios had kindly made available a fine display of bird photographs, chiefly by Mr. K. V. Bigwood, and these proved popular.

Mr. Sibson had on display an interesting collection of specimens found on beaches after storms.

Thanks were expressed to the Director of the Auckland Museum for the use of the Museum's facilities, and Mr. Turbott extended an invitation to members to visit his home the following evening.

Before supper, members enjoyed a fine display of colour slides of birds by Mr. G. J. H. Moon, and a colour film taken at Miranda by Mr. N. M. Gleeson. These were greatly appreciated.

At a committee meeting held at the Kaiaua Motor Camp on 26th May, Mr. H. R. McKenzie's resignation from the Ringing Committee was accepted and Mr. R. B. Sibson, who was on the committee before his overseas visit, was appointed in his place. The Checklist Committee was reappointed. A hearty vote of thanks was passed to the editor, Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph, and appreciation expressed of his work.

On the day following the annual meeting, a field trip was held at the Firth of Thames, which was attended by about 35 members. A feature of the day for many members was the presence of a flock of about 1500 wrybill and an Asiatic whimbrel. Many members spent a pleasant evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Turbott. A further field trip was held on Sunday when parts of the Manukau Harbour were visited, including the farm of Mr. and Mrs. Urquhart, who provided afternoon tea.