

A Checklist Publication Committee consisting of Messrs. C. A. Fleming, J. M. Cunningham, R. H. D. Stidolph and R. B. Sibson was set up to investigate methods of publication, and the general committee was authorised to publish the Checklist.

The Constitution Committee consisting of Messrs. E. G. Turbott, J. M. Cunningham, C. A. Fleming and Dr. W. M. Hamilton, was re-appointed.

There was some discussion on the advisability of reprinting the early issues of the society's publications which were cyclostyled, and the meeting, Mr. Cunningham only dissenting on the ground of possible financial loss, endorsed the retiring committee's decision to reprint them, at a cost not to exceed £150.

Thanks were expressed to Mr. Dawson for arranging the meeting and to the Canterbury University College authorities for making a room available. Dr. R. A. Falla gave a commentary on his fine colour films of sub-Antarctic bird life. These were greatly appreciated and admired by those present, and the evening concluded with supper.

The field trip was held the day after the annual meeting. A busload of happy ornithologists left Victoria Square for, appropriately enough, Birdling's Flat. From here the party moved to Lake Forsyth, where an amazing congregation of waterfowl was observed. Though the early part of the day was fine but cold, a drizzle, which commenced while the party was in a patch of bush having tea, developed into heavy rain during the journey home. Members visiting Christchurch made further excursions to various estuaries the following day.

Editorial Consultative Committee.—The committee has appointed a committee of six as an Editorial Consultative Committee. It will act only as an advisory body on such matters as acceptance for publication of records which are in any way doubtful.

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INVESTIGATIONS OF PREDATORY BIRDS.—Harrier hawks have been ringed by research workers, and members are asked to co-operate in the investigations now taking place. An official statement reads: The Animal Ecology Section of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, in conjunction with the Ornithological Society of New Zealand, is carrying out an investigation of the harrier by marking the birds with metal bands on their legs. The bird is of considerable interest as a predator of both game birds and rabbits, yet very little is known about its behaviour and habits. Marking these birds should provide much information not only about their movements but also give some indication of how effective is the bounty system that is worked in some districts to control their numbers. Already some results have been achieved from this study, and a hawk which was marked in Hawkes Bay in April, 1952, was found near Lake Waitaki, North Otago, over 500 miles away, a month later. Anyone finding a marked bird is asked to send the ring to the Dominion Museum.

UNUSUAL PLUMAGED OYSTERCATCHER.—On April 14, 1952, on the tidal flats at Aramoana, near the entrance to Otago Harbour, were several flocks of South Island Pied Oystercatchers (*Haematopus finschi*). On the edge of the incoming tide, in close association with two pied oystercatchers and two stilts, was another oystercatcher with the head, nape, and throat a light fawn. Except for a few streaks of the same colour on its back, the rest of its plumage was white. The legs and bill were orange-red, but the colour of the eye was not seen. An incoming wave put to flight a flock of over 20 pied oystercatchers in the vicinity, and, as they flew past the bird we were observing it joined the flock where it looked very conspicuous in the centre of it. Present with I.T. and L.E.W. were two members of the Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club, Mrs. M. E. Hickman and Mr. J. G. Walker, who also observed the strange-looking oystercatcher.—I. Tily and L. E. Walker.