

During the weekend following the annual meeting, 24 members visited Masterton. On Saturday afternoon, after a visit to the Masterton Central School Museum, which contains many bird specimens, members were entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Cunningham at their home. In the evening, members and friends totalling over 100 viewed films of nesting black-backed gulls, gannets and others by Count F. C. Kinsky; the Danish research ship *Galathea*, by Mr. E. G. Turbott, and Campbell Island bird life and nesting white herons, by Dr. R. A. Falla. On Sunday, despite atrocious weather, a party of 31 visited Lake Ferry, Palliser Bay, and though the only bird of note seen was a southern skua, members availed themselves of the opportunity of renewing acquaintances.

## RINGING OPERATIONS.

### SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH, 1953.

(Compiled by P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt.)

The following is a statistical summary of the birds ringed and recovered during the past year. It includes a number of birds of various species outside the normal scope of the society's scheme, ringed by special permission of the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, and also some birds ringed with other than the society's rings, but details of which have been provided by the operators. No distinction is made in either case. The grand totals, by incorporating the totals published in "Notornis," Vol. 5, No. 1, thus include details of all ringing of which the records are on the Society's files up to 31 March, 1953. Recoveries are not given in full detail, some of them being grouped. All recoveries reported up to 1 May, 1953, are included.

#### BIRDS RINGED. (\* Denotes coloured rings also used.)

Species.	Operators and Where Ringed.	Totals for 1952-53		Grand Totals 31/3/53	
		Ringd.	Recovd.	Ringd.	Recovd.
ALBATROSS—Light-mantled sooty .....			1	23	11
ALBATROSS—Royal .....			1	374	13
ALBATROSS—Wandering .....				30	1
BLACKBIRD .....			32	308	42
*P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt .....		112			
H. L. Secker, Wellington .....		29			
CHAFFINCH .....				4	
CUCKOO—Long-tailed .....				1	
A. S. Wilkinson, Kapiti Is., 1936 .....		1			
DOTTEREL—Banded .....				43	
*J. M. Cunningham, Wairpa., Rangitikei .....		5			
*H. R. McKenzie, Firth of Thames .....		6			
DOTTEREL—New Zealand .....				5	2
*H. R. McKenzie, Firth of Thames .....		2			
DUCK—Grey .....				1	
DUCK—Paradise .....				4	
FANTAIL—Pied .....				19	3
GANNET .....			10	910	18
P. A. Stein, Hauraki Gulf .....		259			
K. A. Wodzicki and F. H. Robertson, Cape Kidnappers .....		161			
GODWIT—Bar-tailed .....				1	
GREENFINCH .....				12	
GULL—Black-backed .....			35	1365	51
J. M. Cunningham, Cape Palliser .....		17			
G. W. Gummer, Rangitoto Island .....		565			
L. Gurr, Nelson .....		9			
F. C. Kinsky, Baring Head .....		77			
W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth .....		1			
Mrs. Sansom, Bluff Harbour .....		6			
R. H. D. Stidolph, Palliser Bay .....		7			
GULL—Black-billed .....			9	1229	19
*E. W. Dawson, Ashley River .....		597			

Species.	Operators and Where Ringed.	Totals for 1952-53		Grand Totals 31/3/53	
		Ringed.	Recovd.	Ringed.	Recovd.
GULL—Red-billed			5	635	20
*J. M. Cunningham, Wairarapa		120			
L. Gurr, Nelson		118			
W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth		9			
E. G. Turbott, Three Kings Is.		67			
HARRIER			14	175	32
Mrs. Sansom, Southland		3			
J. S. Watson, Hawkes Bay		90			
K. Westerskov, Turangi		1			
HEDGESPARROW			2	29	3
P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt		4			
KEA				7	
KOKAKO				3	
MAGPIE—White-backed				1	1
MAGPIE—(Species)			1	1	1
Dept. Internal Affairs, Woodend, 1951		1			
OYSTER-CATCHER—Pied				1	
Mrs. Sansom, Southland		1			
PENGUIN—White-flipped			3	11	3
W. C. Clark, Lyttelton		11			
PETREL—Diving			1	52	4
PETREL—Giant				1	2
PETREL—Grey-faced				4	
C. A. Fleming, Hen Is., 1939		3			
PHEASANT				710	197
PRION—Fairly				51	
PUKEKO				2	
QUAIL—Californian				22	
RAIL—Banded				4	
SILVER-EYE				4782	183
B. F. Duder, Clevedon, 1951 and 1952		22			
SKUA—Southern				6	
SHEARWATER—Sooty				14	
SHEARWATER—Fluttering				5	
C. A. Fleming, Hen Is., 1939		1			
E. G. Turbott, Three Kings Is.		2			
SPARROW—House				7	
STARLING				80	
*C. A. Fleming, Wellington		4			
H. L. Secker, Wellington		43			
STILT—Pied			2	31	2
*H. R. McKenzie, Ardmore		9			
H. R. McKenzie and F. Murray, Ardmore, 1947		5			
A. F. Stokes, Ardmore, 1947		2			
STORM PETREL—White-faced				3	
TERN—Caspian				7	
P. A. Stein, Waiheke Is.		1			
TERN—White-fronted			4	1003	44
W. C. Clark, Lyttelton		3			
J. C. Davenport, Auckland		39			
L. Gurr, Nelson		52			
W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth		10			
THRUSH—Song			4	83	10
*P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt		20			
WARBLER—Grey				16	1
YELLOW-HAMMER				4	
Numbers ringed and recovered, 1952-53		2495	124	12079	663
Numbers ringed and recovered to 31/3/52		9584	539		
Numbers ringed and recovered 31/3/53		12079	663		

## RECOVERIES.

### ALBATROSS, Light-mantled Sooty (*Phoebastria palpebrata*).

49, ringed as an adult by J. H. Sorensen at Campbell Is. on 20/12/42, was reported nesting there during the 1952-53 season.

### ALBATROSS, Royal (*Diomedea epomophora*).

A5, ringed as an adult by J. H. Sorensen at Campbell Is. on 10/2/43 was reported nesting there during the 1952-53 season.

### BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).

One adult female ringed at Karori by H. L. Secker on 2/1/52, was retrapped at the same place on 21/12/52.

Birds ringed at Lower Hutt by P. C. Bull were recovered as follows:—Two colour ringed birds were seen (not trapped) where ringed 10 and 13 months after ringing; 19 birds were retrapped where ringed 3 to 14 months after ringing (numerous repeats); 10 birds were recovered dead up to one mile from where ringed and up to 9 months after ringing.

### GANNET (*Sula serrator*).

A young bird ringed at Horuhoru (Hauraki Gulf) by P. A. S. Stein on 14/2/53 was recovered at Tutukaka on 28/2/53, and another ringed at the same time was found 120 miles south of Sydney on 23/3/53.

Eight birds ringed at Cape Kidnappers by K. A. Wodzicki and F. H. Robertson were recovered as follows: One bird ringed as a young one on 15/1/51 was seen with unemployed birds at the colony on 1/2/53 (number read with binoculars); three young ringed in January and February, 1952, were recovered dead in May of the same year, one 40 miles north of Kaipara Heads, and two in New South Wales; four young ringed in February, 1953, were recovered dead, one at Whakatane in March, one at Muriwai in April and two in New South Wales in March and April respectively.

### GULL, Black-backed (*Larus dominicanus*).

A young bird ringed at Baring Head by F. C. Kinsky on 27/12/51 was shot at Karori Reservoir on 8/1/53.

A young bird ringed at Ngawe Point, Palliser Bay, by J. M. Cunningham on 30/12/51 was shot near Lake Ferry on 6/12/52.

Five young birds ringed by L. Gurr at Boulder Bank, Nelson, were recovered where ringed or at Nelson up to 11 months after ringing.

Young birds ringed at Rangitoto Is. by G. W. Gummer were recovered as follow:—One ringed on 14/12/52 was recovered at Kaipara Flats (Northland) on 19/4/53; another ringed on 9/12/51, was recovered at Pakiri on 4/6/52 (37 miles north of where ringed); nine birds were found near where ringed within four months of ringing and 17 birds were recovered in the vicinity of Auckland City up to nine months after ringing (most of them dead).

### GULL, Black-billed (*Larus bulleri*).

9128 ringed as a chick at the Ashley R. by E. W. Dawson on 20/11/51 was caught and released at Picton foreshore on 27/6/52; 10206, ringed as above on 3/12/50 was found nesting on the Waipara R. two miles from the sea on 11/1/53; seven other birds ringed as above were found dead from one to ninety miles from where ringed and up to 18 months afterwards; two were found dead at the mouth of the Ashley R. a week after ringing, which was followed by floods.

### GULL, Red-billed (*Larus novaeollandiae*).

11370 ringed as an adult at Great Is. (Three Kings) by E. G. Turbott on 8/1/53 was found dead at Devonport (Auckland) on 10/3/53 (some 250 miles south of where ringed).

Two birds ringed at Boulder Bank, Nelson, were seen about Nelson Harbour, and another followed a trawler in Tasman Bay.

A gull ringed at the Brothers Is. by J. H. Sutherland was seen at Ngauranga (Wellington) a year later (ring number read with binoculars).

**HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).**

13458 was ringed near Tikokino (Hawkes Bay) by J. S. Watson on 4/4/52 and was recovered at Lake Waitaki (North Otago) on 10/5/52 (about 500 miles south of where ringed). Other records from the Tikokino station are: Seven birds retrapped where ringed up to two years after ringing and six recovered dead from within a radius of about 15 miles of the ringing station and up to two years after ringing.

**HEDGESPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).**

Two birds ringed at Lower Hutt by P. C. Bull were recovered where ringed up to two months after ringing.

**DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).**

A bird ringed at the Brothers Is. by J. H. Sutherland on 27/4/51 was found alive at the place of ringing in February, 1953. The ring was removed at the convener's request as an example of the wearing qualities of the society's rings when used on petrels.

**MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina* sp.)**

A bird ringed by officers of the Department of Internal Affairs at Woodend Lagoon on 28/3/51 was recovered about a mile away during August, 1952.

**PENGUIN, White-flipped (*Eudyptula albosignata*).**

Of 11 birds ringed at Diamond Harbour (Lyttelton) by W. C. Clark, two were found dead where ringed less than a month later, and a third bird was caught and released with the ring in good condition five months after ringing.

**STILT, Pied (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).**

8595, ringed by H. R. McKenzie at Ardmore (Clevedon) on 5/10/52 as a young bird, was killed by a hawk at the same place on 30/10/52 at which time the young bird was flying. Another stilt ringed by the same operator at Ardmore on 22/1/47, was seen nesting in an adjacent paddock on 17/9/52, but as the ring number was not read, the exact identity of the bird is open to slight doubt.

**TERN, White-fronted (*Sterna striata*).**

Three birds ringed by L. Gurr at Boulder Bank, Nelson, were recovered dead shortly afterwards at the place of ringing. One bird ringed by W. Marsden at New Plymouth, was recovered dead a week later at the mouth of the Waiwakaiho Stream, which is close to the place of ringing.

**THRUSH, Song (*Turdus ericetorum*).**

A bird colour ringed by P. C. Bull at Lower Hutt was seen one mile from where ringed five months later (identified by colour combination). Three other thrushes were recovered dead up to one mile from the place of ringing and up to one month afterwards.

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**LIBRARY FUND ESTABLISHED.**—The society is now receiving large numbers of journals which, to be kept in good condition, should be strongly bound. A beginning has been made with some journals, of which we have issues for 10 or more years, but the grant the council is able to make annually to the library (at present £5) is insufficient for more than the binding of some of the current journals. A Library Fund has therefore been opened and members are invited to contribute to it. Members borrowing books regularly often ask if they can send postage in advance. As this would require keeping an account for each member, this is impracticable, and it is proposed to charge all postages in future to the library fund. Members borrowing books are, therefore, asked to send the approximate postage on each occasion, or if they prefer, to make a suitable donation to the fund.