

NOTORNIS

VOLUME SIX, NUMBER FIVE : JULY NINETEEN FIFTY-FIVE

EDITORIAL

This is the first issue of *Notornis* to appear under new editorship. In 1946 Mr R. H. D. Stidolph succeeded Professor B. J. Marples and Dr R. A. Falla as editor of *New Zealand Bird Notes*. Under his skillful direction that modest publication grew into *Notornis*, which now holds its place among the recognized ornithological periodicals of the world. Bob Stidolph was well qualified for the task of editor. As an active field naturalist he had contributed several papers to *The Emu* and more recently he added the Least Sandpiper to the New Zealand list; and as a journalist he knew most of the tricks of the printer's and publisher's trades. The Society owes him a debt which cannot easily be paid and wishes him a long retirement with many opportunities of watching birds without the burden of having to produce *Notornis* punctually four times a year.

Your new editor enters upon his duties with some diffidence. The high standard set by his predecessors has to be maintained. Occasions may arise when the publication of contributions has to be deferred till they have been critically examined. Even so, published papers may contain statements which do not tally with the experiences of other observers, and it is hoped that a vigorous correspondence column may further the interests of critical ornithology. Short communications are always welcome.

The change of editor has involved a change of publisher. The Society is grateful for the help it has received for nearly ten years from the Masterton Printing Company Ltd, and looks forward to a period of happy co-operation with the Pilgrim Press of Auckland.

The honorary secretary of the Society leaves for Europe in June and takes our good wishes with him. During his absence Mr E. G. Turbott has consented to act as secretary. Correspondence should be addressed to him at the War Memorial Museum, Auckland. Jock Brookfield will be away for about a year. We are delighted to hear that when he returns he will resume his position as secretary.

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1954 - 5

OFFICERS:

After the last Annual General Meeting Council members were:

President: Mr H. R. McKenzie

Editor: Mr R. H. D. Stidolph

Treasurer: Miss N. Macdonald

Secretary: Mr F. M. Brookfield

Mrs L. E. Walker, Dr R. A. Falla and Mr E. G. Turbott

Two positions, those of the South Island and North Island vice-presidents, were vacant, and in terms of the Constitution had to be filled by resolution of the Council. Mrs L. E. Walker and Mr P. C. Bull were appointed accordingly to the respective vacancies. Mrs Walker had been due to retire as a Councillor at the present Annual General Meeting, and we are obliged to Mr L. Gurr, who, for the time that remained, filled the vacancy caused by her promotion.