

## ANNUAL MEETING

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The Annual General Meeting was held in the room of the Royal Society of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, on the evening of 16th May. About fifty members and friends were present.

After the routine business of the Society had been expeditiously despatched, Dr. R. A. Falla gave an account, illustrated with slides, both vivid and amusing, of his recent visit to Macquarie Island; and the President, fresh from a scientific trip to Australia, explained the value of ringing in the study of the muttonbirds of the islands of Bass Strait.



## EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1957 - 58

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### OFFICERS — 1957-58

*President:* Mr. P. C. BULL

*N.I.V.P.:* Mr. E. G. TURBOTT

*S.I.V.P.:* Mrs. L. E. WALKER

*Secretary:* Mr. G. R. WILLIAMS

*Treasurer:* Mr. H. R. MCKENZIE

*Editor:* Mr. R. B. SIBSON

*Members of Council:* Mrs. O. SANSOM, Dr. R. A. FALLA  
Mr. J. C. DAVENPORT

According to the Constitution, the following three members of Council are due to retire: Mr. E. G. Turbott, Mr. R. Sibson and Mrs. O. Sansom, leaving vacant the offices of North Island Vice-President, Editor and Member of Council. Nominations for these posts were called for. None was received for that of North Island Vice-President, so this position will be filled, as the Constitution allows, by an appointment made by the incoming Council. Mr. Sibson was the only nomination received for Editor, so he is thereby elected unopposed. Three nominations were received for the post of Member of Council: Mrs. O. Sansom, Mr. E. G. Turbott and Mr. L. Gurr. A postal ballot was held, as required, and I have great pleasure in declaring Mr. E. G. Turbott elected. As he is now living in the South Island he was, of course, ineligible for re-election to the position of North Island Vice-President. It is very satisfying that at least 25% of New Zealand members of the Society eligible to vote *did* vote in the election, and I should like to thank them for their keen interest that made the ballot truly representative.

Council Business, during the year, was deeply concerned with financial matters — as a result of the President's circular members are aware of the Society's financial position. Business was carried on mainly by Council Circular — of which there were 5 during the financial year. It is essential for business to *be* carried on by this means as Council

members are dispersed from Auckland to Invercargill. The various Committees which now carry on a great deal of the Society's activities (and whose various reports will soon follow) are also well dispersed throughout the country.

The Council would like to thank all those who have taken part in the work of these committees and would also like to thank the Regional Organisers for what they have done to help the Society to function more fully. While on this subject, it might be a good idea if Regional Organisers would, in future, supply brief annual reports to the Secretary of the activities that have been arranged in their districts during the year.

Council would also like to thank Mr. R. V. Roberts for continuing his work in binding *Emu* for the Society, and Mr. B. D. Bell for arranging for the Blenheim excursion which is planned for the Labour Week-end. Details of the provisional programme will follow and we hope the outing will be well patronised.

The death of a distinguished member of the Society, Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, was a loss to ornithology in this country and Council extends sympathy, on the Society's behalf, to Mrs. Oliver and relatives.

Council has carefully considered (as was requested by the last Annual General Meeting) whether a more suitable time could be arranged for the A.G.M. than the present one of mid-May. The result of this investigation was, briefly, that in spite of any disadvantage a May meeting has, one at any other time of year would have more. For the present, therefore, there will be no change.



## TREASURER'S REPORT — 1957 - 58

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The membership of the Society is very satisfactory. Members consist of: Ordinary 492, Endowment 172, Junior 28, Life 64, Hon. Life 1; Total 757. Of these 45 are in arrears, while 30 have resigned. Those resigning as at 31/3/58 must be included as they were financial to the end of the current year.

The loss last year of £65 (being £142 less a debit item of £77 really belonging to the previous year) has been more than offset by a profit this year of £96. This has been achieved by the generosity of certain Government Departments and also by the exercise of stringent economies, which have meant much worry and hard work for the Executive. These workers, however, have been greatly cheered by the generous help of some members. Donations were £43.

The Life Subscriptions, £200, have been invested in Registered Stock at 5% with the Auckland Electric Power Board.

The cash balance, £152/7/-, is still not enough to meet financial obligations. These are: Creditors less Debtors, £79/12/9; Index for last two years to be printed, £24; Life Subscriptions and Endowments not invested, £40/5/-; Subscriptions in Advance, £37/10/-; Total, £181/7/9. It is hoped that the appeal to be launched in April will bring in sufficient to allow us to function more comfortably.

The amount of printing last year was greatly augmented through a grant of £50 by the Internal Affairs Department for the paper by G. R. Williams, "The Kakapo," and this year by a grant of £50 by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research for a paper by P. C. Bull, "Distribution and Abundance of the Rook in New Zealand." The Ringing Scheme was again assisted to the extent of £25 by the Internal Affairs Department.

Funds have been assisted by the fine effort of Mr. J. C. Davenport in handling the sale of publications and more gain is expected in the future.

Mr. Bruce Chambers is continuing the Christmas Card venture, having the ready help of some good members, and there is a good prospect of a considerable sum being gained for investment.

Our thanks are due again to Messrs. Chambers, Worth and Chambers for continuing to audit our books free of charge.

H. R. McKENZIE, Hon. Treasurer

14/5/58



## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY, 1957-58

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During the year 36 pamphlets and Reprints have been added to the library. Thirty-three periodicals are received regularly on exchange, these representing thirteen different countries. It is important to note that the majority of these journals are not held elsewhere in New Zealand.

Fifty-seven items were borrowed during the year, this being a considerable increase over last year's borrowings.

New rules for the circulation of journals were adopted by Council during the year and the circuits are now operating satisfactorily.

We acknowledge with thanks the donation by Mr. D. Galey of the book, "Eagles," by Leslie Brown. Again we have to thank Mr. R. V. Roberts for the work he has done in connection with the binding of periodicals and for his efforts to obtain missing parts.

(signed) ENID A. EVANS

Hon. Librarian

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We were interested in the statement of D. H. Binney (*Notornis* 7. 215) that he had seen Banded Dotterels (*C. bicinctus*) near the summit of Mt. Tarawera. On 6/1/58, when we climbed this mountain, we noted at least fifty Banded Dotterels scattered over the surrounding bare scoria slopes and right up to the summit (3700 ft.). There were also others on the two adjacent flattened tops of Tarawera.

K. F. WINSTONE, J. BASKETT, J. D. BATES

## NEST RECORDS SCHEME

### Annual Report for Year Ending 31st March, 1958

With more contributors this year than hitherto the collection now stands at some 1200 cards. Miss P. M. Lewis, Puketitiri, and Mr. N. B. MacKenzie, Pakowhai, deserve mention for contributing each more than fifty cards. There was one loan from the collection during the year, while liaison has been maintained, as hitherto, with the Organiser of the Nest Records Scheme of the British Trust for Ornithology, Oxford, England. With records accumulating for Blackbird and Songthrush, the Organiser once again draws members' attention to the importance of getting nest records for these species. Continued thanks are due to Dr. R. A. Falla for permission to house the collection at the Dominion Museum.

Contributors for the year and present accessions respectively follow as under:

Miss M. Buchler, Miss P. M. Lewis, Miss M. R. Trower, Miss H. Jacobs, Miss R. Ash, Dr. C. A. Fleming, Dr. M. F. Soper, Messrs. M. R. Roberts, D. H. Brathwaite, R. V. Roberts, D. G. McMillan, F. C. Kinsky, H. L. Secker, P. Morrison, B. D. Bell, D. Arthur, N. B. MacKenzie, N. Ewing, D. Griffin, W. E. B. Oliver, J. R. Jackson, S. S. McDonnell, J. P. Watt, J. C. Davenport, R. Cleland, H. Bohny, W. H. Secker.

Yellow-eyed Penguin (2) Little Blue Penguin (3) White-flippered Penguin (7) Little Grebe (1) Grey Faced Petrel (1) Gannet (2) Pied Shag (2) Black Shag (2) Reef Heron (5) White-faced Heron (4) Bittern (1) Grey Teal (8) Mute Swan (2) Black Swan (4) Paradise Duck (1) Brown Duck (2) Grey Duck (9) Mallard (5) Harrier (31) Pukeko (6) Black Oystercatcher (5) Variable Oystercatcher (5) Pied Oystercatcher (2) Banded Dotterel (25) New Zealand Dotterel (17) Pied Stilt (27) Black-backed Gull (27) Red-billed Gull (3) Black-billed Gull (7) Black-fronted Tern (3) Caspian Tern (2) Fairy Tern (2) White-fronted Tern (18) Bush Pigeon (2) Rock Dove (41) Kaka (1) Red-fronted Parrakeet (2) Shining Cuckoo (1) Morepork (1) Sacred Kingfisher (4) Skylark (7) Fantail (24) Pied Tit (5) Yellow-breasted Tit (2) Northern Robin (10) Brown Creeper (1) Whitehead (4) Grey Warbler (16) Song Thrush (256) Blackbird (226) Hedge Sparrow (43) Pipit (10) Bellbird (6) Tui (4) White-eye (33) Greenfinch (26) Goldfinch (119) Lesser Redpoll (11) Chaffinch (34) Yellowhammer (4) House Sparrow (36) Starling (39) Mynah (2) White-backed Magpie (1)

H. L. SECKER, Organiser



### RINGING REPORT —

This will be published as a separate supplement.

## EXCURSIONS

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The excursions which follow the annual general meeting are always eagerly expected. Wellington members this year are to be congratulated on the splendid innovation of a boat-trip around Port Nicholson, and perhaps even more so, on arranging that the normally choppy waters of Wellington's impressive harbour should be miraculously calm.

Soon after 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 17th, the ocean-going yacht Coongoola left the Wellington wharves with more than thirty members aboard. After a Reef Heron had been duly noted, we were soon smoothly heading for the harbour entrance with an occasional Gannet and Giant Petrel swinging past. Some White-fronted Terns and about twenty Blue Penguins, the latter appearing mostly to be in pairs, were fishing the main channel. A landing was made on Ward Island. Of special interest were four Spotted Shags, described by the local authorities as rather uncommon visitors to Wellington harbour.

Our next port of call was Somes Island where, as a special favour, we were allowed to land but not to wander far. For a while the sun broke through. Starlings chattered pleasantly among the pines, Dunnocks called from the scrub, Thrushes were proving that not even a succession of southerlies can stop their singing once they have made up their minds. Somes Island is the home of hundreds of Blue Penguins, some of which were ashore. Expertly it was explained that these are Blue Penguins with a difference, showing distinct traces of albosignatism.

Back near the big ships half a dozen Wandering Albatrosses were resting on the water or taking short flights. One apart from the others was such a white bird that the possibility of its being a Royal was keenly discussed. However, after our skipper had skilfully manoeuvred the Coongoola alongside, all on board were able to round off an unusual day with close-up views of a very white Wanderer, perhaps a little put out by the mill-pond calm; and obviously reluctant to make the effort of flight over such a windless surface.

An annual general meeting in Wellington without a subsequent trip to Waikanae is almost unthinkable. Accordingly on the Sunday morning after a leisurely start, three carloads met for elevenses at the President's home in Lower Hutt and then moved off for the west coast by way of Pahautanui Inlet, where a small area of saltmarsh was enlivened with Banded Dotterels, White-faced Herons and a flock of Chaffinches, mostly males. Not far away a Kotuku was eyeing the tideline.

At Waikanae a glimpse at the sanctuary pool near the motor-camp showed that it was becoming more mallard-dominated than ever: two Shovelers made a brave showing on behalf of the native wildfowl. The walk down the beach to the estuary in bright sunshine was delightful. The waders, gulls and terns usually associated with this estuary were all in fair numbers. Of special note were eight reischeki-type oystercatchers in varying degrees of blackness or smudginess; and about 320 Black-fronted Terns, mostly resting on the beach, a few dipping over the river; forming what is believed to be the biggest flock yet recorded in the North Island.

Most important of all, the two excursions gave a few of our many far-scattered members the opportunity to talk and exchange ideas.

— R.B.S.