

REPORT OF MEETING.

A meeting of members was held at Canterbury Museum on December 9, nine being present, with Dr. Falla in the chair. The main subject discussed was the question of a printed publication. It was decided that in future this should be printed, and that for convenience it should have the brief title, "New Zealand Bird Notes." The editors were instructed to carry out careful economy of space, and it was decided that authors be asked to meet the extra cost should they desire to include blocks or tables.

OBITUARY.

Members will learn with regret of the passing of Mr. S. Wilkinson, of Paraparaumu Beach, Wellington. He was a true bird-lover, and his death in the prime of life is a loss to the Society. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Wilkinson, of Kapiti Island, both of whom are members.

REVIEWS.

"The Emu," Vol. XLII, pt. 2, Oct., 1942. This number contains two New Zealand papers, and amongst others an interesting one of the Lyre Bird. "Where: Island Home of Petrels and other Birds," by L. E. Richdale, is an account of a small island, only 50 yards across, near Stewart Island. Seventeen species were recorded, of which seven were breeding. The estimated population of petrels was 2250. In addition to general notes on the fauna and flora, a large part of the paper deals with the activities of the Mutton Birds (*P. griseus*). "Review of the smaller Pacific forms of *Pterodroma* and *Cookilaria*," by Dr. R. A. Falla, deals with the systematics of a group of petrels. Though a paper principally of interest to specialists, it is a contribution towards the solution of one of the problems of classification in our area. There seems no doubt but that the notes and measurements of field workers, if properly taken, might be of very great assistance in such systematic work.

"The Royal Albatross," by E. L. Richdale. (Issued by the author, price 2/-.) This is a popular account of the life history of the bird and of the colony of Otago Peninsula, illustrated by a number of excellent photographs. It contains some controversial matter concerning the protection of the colony.

The following separates were donated by the British Trust for Ornithology: "Quantitative Studies in the Geographical Variation of Birds—the Common Guillemot (*Uria aalge* Pont.), by H. N. Southern and E. C. R. Reeve, P.Z.S., Ser. A, Vol. III., 1941. This bird has two forms, one with and one without a white line round the eye, and generally speaking the percentage of the "ringed" form increases from south to north. The paper deals with a study of this phenomenon, together with maps and mathematical treatment. It is an important subject for New Zealand ornithologists, as we have several dimorphic species here which require investigation.

"Report on the Redshank Inquiry, 1939-40," by J. F. Thomas. Brit. Birds, Vol. XXXVI. The Redshank is a bird which has spread