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CENSUS OF GANNETS IN NEW ZEALAND.

A periodical census of species of birds is of great importance in providing information in respect of the biological status of a species, whether it is on the increase or decrease, or whether the prevailing conditions of protection are effective enough to preserve it. A census gives information on many problems which are related to ecology and the control of Wild Life.

There are few species of gregarious habits during the breeding season of which numbers can be reliably estimated. The Gannets, breeding year by year on small islands or rocks, sometimes for centuries, are birds of which the breeding population can be accurately estimated and its trends surveyed. James Fisher and H. G. Vevers (1939 and 1943), assisted by a team of British ornithologists, have recently made a census of the North Atlantic Gannet (*Sula bassana*) which breeds on rocky islands around the British Isles, Iceland and the eastern coast of Canada. Fisher and Vevers were able to obtain the trends of population in different gannetries and assessed the world population of this species in 1939 as 165,600 breeding adults.

An estimation of the population of the Australasian Gannet (*Sula serrator*) in Australia is being undertaken by