

New Zealand Bird Notes

Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

Edited by R. H. D. STIDOLPH, 114 Cole Street, Masterton.

Annual Subscription, 5/- Life Membership, £5.

Price to non-members, 2/- per number.

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Vol. 2 No. 5 Published Quarterly. JULY, 1947.

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ANNUAL MEETING.

The Ornithological Society of New Zealand held its annual general meeting on May 23, 1947, in the National Club Rooms, Wellington. The president (Professor B. J. Marples) was in the chair and members were present from Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, Masterton, Hawke's Bay, Wanganui and Auckland.

No other nominations having been received, the officers, as detailed on page 89 were declared elected.

The annual report of the committee stated that the society had made substantial progress during the year. The membership had increased as at May 1, to 340, a gain of 100 since the same date last year. Removals from the roll by deaths, resignations and other causes totalled 22. There were 12 life members and 70 who had paid in advance, while 15 were in arrears for one year, four for two years, and four for three years. As the cost of printing "New Zealand Bird Notes" would be considerably higher next year, an increased number of members would be required to maintain the present standard of the publication. In this connection, the editor pointed out that during the year, four issues were published at regular quarterly intervals. The numbers averaged 22 pages a part. Contributions had been widespread, 23 members having contributed articles and 43 to the classified notes. Eight illustrations and three diagrams were included.

The financial statement showed a satisfactory position, though it was still desirable to build up a larger reserve. It included a number of items of expenditure necessitated by the change of secretaryship, and it was pleasing to note that donations of £4 4s. 8d. had been received, apart from special donations towards the cost of illustrations, etc. The possibility of reprinting the early cyclostyled bulletins had received attention, but, owing to the heavy outlay, which would be well over £100, this had been thought impracticable at the present time. Further exchanges had been arranged with overseas journals and institutions.

During the year, special investigations had continued, and these gave almost everyone a chance of contributing to their knowledge of birds. An example was provided by recent storms which washed ashore many petrels. If members patrolled their beaches after such storms much interesting material would come to hand.

It was decided to reissue, when required, numbers 1 and 2 of Volume 1 of "New Zealand Bird Notes," dated and marked as a reprint; the price to be 1s. 3d. or more at the editor's discretion.

The report of the ringing committee was received. Dr. R. A. Falla was elected to the committee, which it was suggested, should ascertain the Government's attitude to a ringing scheme.

Mr. C. A. Fleming reported on the progress of the gannet census. All the North Island gannetries had been visited or photographed, and these included the discovery by Major Buddle of a new colony. No definite information was available regarding South Island gannetries. Appreciation was expressed of the co-operation of the Air Department in photographing colonies from the air. Photographs were displayed at the meeting.

Dr. W. M. Hamilton, who visited the Great Barrier colony, said it appeared that numbers of young birds and eggs had been removed.

The following amendments to the Constitution, as circulated to members, were approved:—

(a) In clause 4, alteration of July 1 to April 1.

(b) In clause 5, alteration of July 1 to April 1.

(c) In clause 6, alteration of final words to "shall take office at the conclusion of the annual general meeting."

(d) Replace clause 14 by: "Notice is to be sent to each member, not later than April 1, advising them that nominations of officers under clause 6 close on April 14, the names of retiring officers to be given. The election of officers shall be by postal ballot, the result to be announced at the annual general meeting. Each nomination must be in writing, and signed by two members, and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. When no nomination is received for any office, the retiring officer shall be deemed to be re-nominated. Casual vacancies may be filled by appointment by the remaining officers."

A proposal by Dr. Hamilton that the society consider incorporation was referred to the incoming committee for consideration. It was decided that a draft new constitution also should be referred to the incoming committee with a view to calling a special general meeting for its adoption.

The hon. secretary's action in bringing under the notice of members an appeal of the Emergency Committee for the Relief of European Ornithologists was approved. Several donations had been received.

Votes of thanks were passed to the chairman, the hon. auditor, the hon. secretary, Dr. Falla and Professor Marples for their past services, and to Mr. Grant Taylor for making the National Club room available for the meeting.

Supper was served.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for Year ended 30th April, 1947.

INCOME.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs., 1946, and Arrears	118	5 0	N.Z. Bird Notes—		
Donations	4	4 8	Vol. 1, No. 11 and index	16	17 6
Sales (back numbers)	7	19 9	Vol. 2, Nos. 1 to 4	60	9 3
Interest, P.O.S.B.	2	14 2	Expenses of Transfer	2	5 9
			Envelopes	3	14 6
			Postages	9	11 10
			Exchange		8 6
			Stationery	7	6 9
			Subscription, R.A.O.U.	1	1 2
			Reprints Silvereye Paper, distributed 1946	2	4 11
			Excess of Income over Expenditure, transferred to General Reserve	29	3 5
	£133	3 7		£133	3 7

BALANCE SHEET as at 30th April, 1947.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs. paid in advance	77	5 0	Sundry Debtors	4	6 9
Extra Copies Reserve	4	10 0	Subs. in arrears, estimated to realise	2	0 0
General Reserve	112	13 4	Stationery on hand	5	9 0
			Cash		11 10
			Bank of New Zealand	29	6 7
			P.O. Savings Bank	152	14 2
	£194	8 4		£194	8 4

Audited and found correct.

F. E. WELLS, 1/5/1947.

(A more detailed audited statement of the accounts was presented to the annual meeting and copies may be obtained on application.)

A field excursion organised by the society was held in the Wairapa during the weekend following the annual meeting.

On the Saturday afternoon a visit was paid to the sanctuary of Messrs. Pike Bros., adjoining Carter's Bush, where several species of water-fowl were observed, including the grey teal. On Saturday evening, in Masterton, a film and slide screening was held. Mr. H. W. Hope Cross showed a colour film of bird life on Kapiti Island sanctuary and also one taken by Mr. E. G. Turbott, of the Auckland Museum, of the birds of Little Barrier Island sanctuary. A brief commentary on the Kapiti film was given by Mr. J. M. Cunningham, of Masterton, while Mr. Turbott supplemented the well documented film of Little Barrier. Slides were shown by Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph of birds in the Wellington district, including the Wairapa and Kapiti, and Mr. Turbott showed some of birds on sub-Antarctic and other islands.

On Sunday, in delightful weather, a visit was paid to Onoke Spit and to Pounui Lake, Mr. Norman Matthews's sanctuary in the Western Lake area. On the Spit the species seen included the black-fronted tern and members had an admirable opportunity of comparing the juvenile and adult plumages.