

# New Zealand Bird Notes

## Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

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

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### THE ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand was held in the Dominion Museum, Wellington, on May 28, 1948, at 8 p.m. Dr. R. A. Falla presided over an attendance of about 30 members, the president (Professor B. J. Marples) having sent an apology for his absence.

The minutes of the last annual general meeting, held on May 23, 1947, were taken as read, having been published in "New Zealand Bird Notes," and confirmed.

As no other nominations had been received, the officers, as detailed above, were declared elected.

The committee's report and audited financial statement were read and approved. In reply to a question, the chairman stated that the committee had the matter of a new constitution in view for action at a favourable opportunity.

The annual report for the year, 1947-48, stated: Your committee is pleased to report that the society has continued to make progress

throughout the year, the net increase of members (after allowing for deaths, resignations, etc.) bringing the total from 340 to 370. As in past years, many members prefer to pay several years' subscriptions in advance, and we now have 20 life members. Volume 2 of New Zealand Bird Notes is now completed with eight issues totalling 200 pages, and supplement, and we were able this year to include illustrations on art paper. A number of members have asked that we issue larger numbers of Bird Notes containing more illustrations. Such illustrations, which undoubtedly enhance the bulletins, are, however, extremely costly, a group of four pages costing the equivalent of 16 pages of type. An examination of the income and expenditure account shows that after providing for sundry normal expenses, our current income allows for four issues of Bird Notes, each of 24 to 28 pages.

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for year Ended 31/3/1948

INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs., 1947, and Arrears . . . . .	89	0 0	N.Z. Bird Notes—		
Donations . . . . .	2	13 9	Vol. 2, Nos. 5 to 7 . . . . .	83	0 9
Sales (Back Numbers) . . . . .	11	4 0	Reprint, Vol. 1, No. 1 . . . . .	5	5 0
Interest, P.O.S.B. . . . .	3	16 0	Envelopes . . . . .	5	2 6
Sundry . . . . .		8 11	Stationery . . . . .	2	17 3
			Postages . . . . .	5	14 6
			Subscription, R.A.O.U. . . . .	1	1 2
			Annual Meeting and Field		
			Trip, 1947 . . . . .	2	17 6
			Excess of Income over Ex-		
			pended, transferred to		
			General Reserve . . . . .	1	4 0
	£107	2 8		£107	2 8

#### BALANCE SHEET as at 31st MARCH, 1948.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs. paid in Advance . . . . .	105	10 0	Subs. in arrears, estimat-		
Extra Copies Reserve . . . . .	4	10 0	ed to realise . . . . .	2	0 0
General Reserve . . . . .	113	17 4	Stationery on Hand . . . . .	5	15 6
			Cash . . . . .	5	0 0
			Bank of New Zealand . . . . .	54	11 8
			P.O. Savings Bank . . . . .	156	10 2
	£223	17 4		£223	17 4

Audited and found correct.—F. E. WELLS, 27/4/48.

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

It is pleasing to note, the report continues, that donations amounting to £5 15s. to both the general fund and illustrations fund have been received, and it is hoped that members will respond similarly this year. New members have continued to require copies of the earlier issues of Bird Notes. Volume 1 (of 12 issues) is available at 15s., and Volume 2 at 10s. At the time an appeal was made for donations to a fund for sending food parcels through an American organisation to European ornithologists, it appeared that the forwarding of the money could be arranged. However, owing to currency restrictions, this has not been possible, and the money has been returned to the donors. The committee expresses its appreciation and thanks to Mr. F. E. Wells, A.R.A.N.Z., for kindly auditing the books of the secretary-treasurer. The latter reports that subscriptions for 1948 are coming in well, only about 130 not yet having been received. This prompt remittance is appreciated, as it saves a great deal of secretarial work in preparing further accounts.

The report of the Ringing Committee was read and approved. Dr. Falla gave some details of the steps being taken in the establishment of a ringing scheme.

The report of the Ringing Committee, May, 1948, presented by the convener (Mr. J. M. Cunningham) stated: During the year further inquiries have been made regarding sources of supply, and cost of rings, and it has been decided to launch a ringing scheme. It is hoped that the financing of this will be done through a grant, and application for this

has been made. It is not intended to ring all birds haphazardly, but to concentrate on such species as white-fronted tern, banded dotterel, ducks, gannets, etc. Details of administration and the method of keeping the records have been approved, and once the scheme is well under way it is planned that the Dominion Museum will handle the records. It is also proposed to publish a summary of ringing work to date, and all members who have ringed birds of any species are requested to inform the secretary at their earliest convenience. A synopsis of numbers ringed, with localities, dates (not necessarily of individual birds), is required to make this as complete as possible, together with records of retraps or outside records.

Mr. C. A. Fleming, in nominating Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy as an honorary member of the society, spoke of the valuable stimulus he had given to New Zealand ornithology during his recent visit to the country. Dr. Murphy was declared elected.

Following on a statement by the honorary editor that considerable material for publication was on hand, a discussion took place on possible methods of financing the publication of larger issues of "Bird Notes," as the present expenditure absorbed the whole current revenue. It was pointed out that the present high standard of "Bird Notes" was dependent to some extent on donations, and Mr. Fleming asked that greater publicity be given to the existence of the Publications and Illustration funds. Authority was given to make the next two numbers each of 36 pages, and the incoming committee was instructed to explore methods of increasing the annual revenue. It was suggested that members be asked, by means of a circular, for an expression of opinion regarding an increased subscription.

Dr. K. A. Wodzicki suggested that the practice of overseas societies be followed in the reading of ornithological papers at future annual general meetings.

Dr. Falla, leader of a recent expedition to the Snares Islands, gave an address on the expedition, illustrated by slides and films taken by members of the party.

Supper was served at the conclusion of the meeting.

The following day a field trip for members was held at the eastern bays of Wellington. After a walk along the coast, tea was provided by Mrs. Bird. The party then walked through the bush in Muritai Park, reassembling at Dr. Falla's residence, Day's Bay, for afternoon tea. Some interesting birds were observed and members had good views of riflemen and whiteheads.

The committee held a meeting during the day and it was decided to take steps to increase the current revenue. Members were reluctant to increase the subscription above 5s., but it was thought that the provision of an endowment membership class with a subscription of 10s might meet the position. This would give members the opportunity of showing in a practical form their appreciation of larger issues of "Bird Notes." As it would take some time to put into effect an endowment membership class, members were invited meantime to make donations to cover the increased cost of larger issues of "Bird Notes." A circular explaining this is enclosed in this issue.

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VISITATION OF FANTAILS.—We had an extraordinary visitation of fantails (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) on February 26, 1947, when some 40 or 50 of them spent the day in a clump of gum trees near our stable. The number given is fairly correct as two of my sons counted them twice over. There has been a great increase in fantails during the last two or three years.—E. C. Studholme, Waimate.