

SOCIETY'S ANNUAL MEETING.

About 40 members from various parts of New Zealand attended the annual meeting of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand on May 13, 1949, in the Dominion Museum. The president, Mr. C. A. Fleming, presided.

The annual report, which was adopted, stated:—

“During the year the death occurred of Mr Edgar F. Stead, a former vice-president of the society, and his passing will be regretted by all ornithologists. It was not long before his death that he had generously provided for the publication of a special Snares issue of ‘New Zealand Bird Notes,’ and it is a matter of regret that he did not live to complete further publications. The death has also occurred recently of Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, C.B.E. He was a member of the society and an ornithologist of international repute.

“As a result of appeals during the year, a considerable sum has been received in donations and this has enabled ‘New Zealand Bird Notes’ to be enlarged. Support has also continued for our Illustrations Fund. The hon. editor expresses his thanks to those who have contributed to the bulletin during the year.

“It is proposed to create a new class of endowment membership, with a subscription of 10/- per annum, and your committee confidently expects full support for this step, which should ensure the continuance of the finances in a sound and healthy state. Interest in ornithology continues to increase throughout the country, and has no doubt been stimulated by the rediscovery of the takahe and the visits of several prominent overseas ornithologists. This interest is reflected in the expanding membership, which at March 31 stood at 435, including one honorary and 26 life members. Of the remainder, it is of interest to note that 84 had paid their subscriptions in advance, some for several years, and 282 were up to date. Forty-two were removed from the roll through failing to respond to subscription requests.

“Your committee was pleased to appoint Mr. H. R. McKenzie as recorder during the year, and he will be taking over the handling of the society’s library shortly. It is expected that members’ use of this will grow as the library expands, and we are now receiving many of the world’s leading ornithological journals. Several further exchanges have been arranged during the year, and we will in future be receiving the ‘Ibis’ and ‘Condor’ and the ‘Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum.’

“Members continue to donate separates of many of their publications, and thanks are expressed to all those who do so. It would be further appreciated if members would help to make the library more complete by sending copies of their publications not already in the library. Mention may be made here of the generous gift by Dr. R. C. Murphy of the original edition of his book, ‘The Oceanic Birds of South America.’

“Once again Mr. F. E. Wells, A.R.A., N.Z., has kindly audited the books of the hon. secretary-treasurer, and his service is greatly appreciated.”

Officers, as detailed on page 137, were declared elected.

A resolution was passed amending clause three of the constitution to provide for endowment members. The clause was amended by the addition of the following words (after the words “five shillings”): “of endowment members, who will pay an annual subscription of ten shillings.”

The report of the Ringing Committee, which was adopted, stated:—
“The committee is this year able to report very substantial progress, and it is anticipated that rings will be available for distribution in a few months. The financing of the scheme has been satisfactorily

arranged, and a grant of £50 has been received from the Internal Affairs Department. An order is being placed for rings, in all sizes available, and coloured rings will also be obtained. Most of our native birds are protected, and permission must be obtained from the Department to handle birds with the object of ringing them. Permission has already been received for four species, and members wishing to ring may do so after receiving written authority from the secretary. Full details of the administration of the scheme and instructions regarding methods of making application to ring will be published in a later issue of N.Z. Bird Notes.—J. M. Cunningham, convener."

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

For the Year ended 31st March, 1949.

INCOME			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs., 1948 and Arrears	118	5 0	Printing N.Z. Bird Notes—		
Donations—			Vol. 2, No. 8; Vol 3,		
General	34	19 4	Nos 1 to 5	142	15 2
Illustrations	13	9 7	Illustrations	27	7 0
Snares Issue	16	15 0	General Expenses—		
Sales, Back Numbers	10	6 10	Envelopes	4	9 5
Interest, P.O.S.B.	5	17 2	Stationery	2	12 0
			Postages	10	7 0
			Exchange	8	2
			Subscription R.A.O.U. .	17	1
			N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol 1,		
			No. 2 reprinted, £5		
			17/-; less transferred		
			from Extra Copies		
			Reserve, £4/10/-	1	7 0
			1948 Annual Meeting		
			Expenses	7	2
			Sundry	1	6 10
			Excess of Income over Ex-		
			penditure, transferred to		
			General Reserve	7	16 1
	<u>£199</u>	<u>12 11</u>		<u>£199</u>	<u>12 11</u>

BALANCE SHEET as at 31st March, 1949.

LIABILITIES.			ASSETS.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Subs. Paid in Advance . .	137	5 0	Subscriptions in Arrears,		
Sundry Creditors; A/cs			estimated to realise . .	2	10 0
due but unpaid	36	15 0	Stationery on Hand . . .	5	9 0
Ringing Fund	50	0 0	Sundry Debtors, Reprints,		
General Reserve	121	13 5	Etc., owing	18	5 0
			Cash—		
			P.O. Savings Bank . .	293	19 7
			Bank of New Zealand .	23	11 4
			Cash in hand	1	18 6
	<u>£345</u>	<u>13 5</u>		<u>£345</u>	<u>13 5</u>

Audited and found correct.—F. E. WELLS, 5/5/1949.

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

It was resolved that the present members of the Ringing Committee should continue in office, and that future appointments should be made by the general committee of the society. The names of the present members are:—J. M. Cunningham (convener), K. A. Wodzicki, R. A. Falla and R. B. Sibson.

The incoming committee was recommended to arrange for a change of name of "New Zealand Bird Notes" at the end of the current volume, members to be invited to consider a recommendation from the outgoing committee that the new name be 'Notornis,' or alternatively, offer other suggestions.

Arising from a suggestion by Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph, the incoming committee was recommended to set up a Checklist Committee and to co-opt suitable members.

Mr. Cunningham spoke appreciatively of the great co-operation received from members of the committee, and expressed thanks to the Royal Society for the use of its room.

Mr. Fleming said he considered his term of office as president a great honour for him.

Mr. A. A. Boulton made reference to the high standard of the bulletin under Mr. Stidolph's editorship. Mr. Boulton's remarks were heartily endorsed by the meeting.

Dr. R. A. Falla gave a most enjoyable and interesting lantern and film display. He said the lantern section could be regarded as a short memorial to Mr. Stead, as many of his best slides were shown. His own films were of the highest quality and greatly appealed to those present.

EXCURSION TO KAPITI ISLAND.

The excursion to Kapiti Island on the day after the annual meeting gave a number of members the chance to fulfil a long-cherished wish. Many also added new species to their lists of birds seen, or had the chance to become more familiar with uncommon ones. All this, combined with a perfectly calm, warm, sunny day, made the expedition a highly successful and enjoyable occasion. The thanks of all are due to the organiser, Mr. C. A. Fleming, and to those who helped with the transport.

A party of 25 left Wellington on Saturday morning and arrived at Paraparaumu Beach to find the sun shining and the launch already anchored off shore. It took some time ferrying so large a party out to the launch, but even so Kapiti was reached by about eleven o'clock after a very pleasant trip. Spotted and black shags, black-backed and red-billed gulls, grey and paradise ducks and a white-fronted tern were seen on the way over, and even before landing the calls of the tuis and bellbirds on the island were easily heard.

Lunch was eaten early so as to leave as much time as possible free for exploring, and, as the bush round the house was simply alive with birds, most members were to be seen wandering around with sandwich in one hand and field glasses in the other. Tuis and bellbirds were everywhere, whiteheads, red-fronted parakeets and pied fantails were numerous, while a weka came along the track and shared in the lunch. It formed the target for many cameras and was even tempted to steal a spoon in the hope of providing further action pictures. Afterwards the party split up, a number of members having a steep but most interesting scramble up the bush tracks and one or two of the most active even reaching the summit of the island. The unfamiliar vegetation in the bush was interesting to South Island members, while to meet robins along the track so tame that they would continue to feed within two or three feet of a group of people, and to see kakas and pigeons feeding overhead, was a great thrill. The pied tit and grey warbler seemed to be rarer but they were seen by some members of the party, and calls were heard apparently belonging to the yellow-fronted parakeet, though the bird was not seen. The only sign of introduced species was the old nest of a blackbird.

When we returned from our scramble a huge kettle was boiling and provided a welcome cup of tea before we reluctantly embarked for the return trip. The sea was even calmer, and the sun finally setting behind the island left a wonderful silhouette against the sky. Black-fronted tern, fluttering shearwater and gannet provided three more species to our list, bringing the day's total to 21, before the excitement of landing and the drive back to Wellington in the dark.—B.J.M.