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ANNUAL REPORT
of the
NEW ZEALAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
for the year 1939-1940.

LIST OF OFFICERS:

President—Dr. R. A. Falla.

Vice-Presidents: (N.I.)—Dr. W. R. B. Oliver.
(S.I.): Mr. E. F. Stead.

Secretary-Treasurer: Professor B. J. Marples.

Regional Organisers:—Wellington District: Mr. R. H. D. Stidolph.
Auckland District: Mr. C. A. Fleming.
Christchurch District: Dr. R. A. Falla.
Dunedin District: Professor B. J. Marples.

LIST OF MEMBERS.

(With initials of members contributing to the Annual Report.)

Cadet A. L. M. Allan, R.N., The Barracks, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, Devon, England.
Miss N. Baker, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island.
D. Beggs, Training College, Epsom, Auckland.
Dr. Bell, 14 Ravenswood Road, St. Clair, Dunedin.
G.A.B.—Major G. A. Buddle, 7 Havelock Street, Auckland.
P.C.B.—P. C. Bull, "Ascot," Mangere, Auckland.
W. J. Burns, Russell Street, Upper Hutt.
J. L. Cameron, 45 Lees Street, Invercargill.
T. Cockcroft, Bank of New Zealand, Wellington.
C. Cooper, Owaka.
Miss E. Curle, District High School, Wyndham.
A.B.D.—A. B. Deeming, Opua, Bay of Islands.
R.A.F.—Dr. R. A. Falla, Canterbury Museum, Christchurch.
M. E. Fitzgerald, Rose Street, Tirau.
C.A.F.—C. A. Fleming, 226 Remuera Road, Auckland.
G.S.G.—School Group, Glenary School, Waikaia.
K.S.G.—School Group, Kimbell School, Fairlie.
E.W.H.—E. W. Hursthouse, Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, Wellington.
R.H.—Rowland Hutchinson, Remuera, Auckland.
N.J.J.—N. J. Jensen, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island.
J.J.—J. Johnson, Kaingaroa Forest, Rotorua.
A. Kirk, Civic Chambers, Lower Cuba Street, Wellington.
W.K.—W. Knight, Paraparaumu Beach.
Miss M. McBride, 15 Buick Street, Petone.

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LIST OF MEMBERS (Cont.):

L. W. McCaskill, Training College, Christchurch.
H.R.McK.—H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon, Auckland.
C. W. McLatchie, Hilderthorpe, North Otago.
B.J.M.—Professor B. J. Marples, Dept. of Zoology, Museum, Dunedin.
D.M.—D. Matheson, c/o D. F. King & Co., Pukemaori, Tuatapere.
P.M.—Mrs. P. Moncrieff, The Cliffs, Nelson.
J. Morrison, Glen Kowhai, Warkworth.
W.R.B.O.—Dr. W. R. B. Oliver, The Dominion Museum, Wellington.
E.P.—Professor E. Percival, Canterbury Univ. Coll., Christchurch.
S.D.P.—S. D. Potter, Muir Road, Remuera, Auckland.
N.P.—N. Potts, P.O. Box 18, Opotiki.
L.E.R.—L. E. Richdale, 23 Skibo Street, Kew, Dunedin.
School Group, St. Hilda's Collegiate School, Dunedin.

W.S.—Wesley Sanderson, c/o Dilworth School, Remuera, Auckland.
 Mrs. Sanson, The Manse, Woodlands.
 J. Shaffrey, Inchbonnie, Westland.
 F. G. Short, Pte. 8792, No. 1 Co., 27th M.G. Btn.
 R.B.S.—R. B. Sibson, King's College, Otahuhu, Auckland.
 B. Sladden, P.O. Box 52, Taneatua, Bay of Plenty.
 J. H. Sorensen, Southland Muscum, Invercargill.
 E.F.S.—E. F. Stead, "Ilam," Riccarton, Christchurch.
 R.H.D.S.—R. H. D. Stidolph, 114 Cole Street, Masterton.
 K. Thompson, Huia Dam, Huia.
 R. H. Traill, Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island.
 E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum, Auckland.
 A. Ward, 344 Crinan Street, Invercargill.
 A.H.W.—A. H. Ward, Te Kao, North Auckland.
 H. J. Wenham, Durham Street, Levin.
 A. S. Wilkinson, Kapiti Island.
 P.H.W.—P. H. Wood, Tuki Tuki, Colville.
 P. F. Yerex, Army Headquarters, Wellington.
 E.H.
 F.G.G.P.—F. G. G. Peake, Otago Museum, Dunedin.
 J.R.
 H.T.W.

INTRODUCTION.

After much preliminary work your executive committee is now able to present the first Annual Report of the Society. From preliminary circulars members will be aware of the aims and objects which may be summarised in the words of Clause 2 of the Constitution:

"The object of the Society is to encourage, organise, and carry out field work on birds on a national scale. The collecting of specimens of birds or their eggs plays no part in the activities of the Society, which is concerned with the study of living birds in their natural state. Though in favour of bird protection the Society is not actively concerned with this work, which is the province of an already existing body."

Until the first annual meeting was held in May, 1940, the Organising Secretary had had to do practically all the work and in some districts Regional Organisers had not even been appointed. Consequently there has been some delay in the task of collecting and collating the reports on birds submitted by members. There has been a good response especially in locality lists and these have been summarised as far as possible in the accompanying schedule in species. This list should not be regarded as a complete statement of distribution as it includes only observations submitted by members and takes no account of other information which may be available in published form elsewhere. It is hoped in subsequent years to make the record more comprehensive so that the Annual Report of the Society will give some fair indication of the distribution and status of native and introduced birds.

In addition to short notes and species lists supplied by

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members there are a number of special studies which deserve more extended notice. It is hoped that members will all eventually undertake some such intensive local investigations on the lines of those here recorded for White-eyes, Penguins, Brown Duck, etc. From several of these special reports the importance of banding is apparent and members are asked not only to keep a look out for banded birds but also to consider the possibility of some banding experiments of their own. As far as possible, the executive will endeavour to send out from time to time suggestions to observers. In passing, the importance of recording the exact dates of observations and approximate numbers of birds may be stressed.

With its small membership and nominal subscription of 5/- the Society will have some difficulty in carrying out its extensive programme unless

members are prompt in the payment of their subscriptions, notifications of any changes of address, and set endeavour to enlist new members. With some members already on active service and all affected by the present conditions of war and the uncertain future we cannot hope to do much more than keep the newly-formed Society alive. It is the only organisation in New Zealand dealing with the study of birds in the field. Many of its members are already members of the more comprehensive Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union and although it is not practicable to bring about an affiliation it is felt that the active stimulus to bird study by a local organisation in New Zealand should result in increased New Zealand membership, and interest, in the R.A.O.U.

SUMMARISED REPORTS.

In the following there have been listed only the species of birds mentioned in members' reports. The list is therefore in no way a complete distributional picture of any of them. Enough reports have been received however, to show the possibility of a more complete account being obtained in future years.

Vernacular and scientific names for the most part follow those used in Oliver's "New Zealand Birds" (1930).

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*).—Waipu watershed, Mangatoroto and Kara districts, N. Auckland, still in moderate numbers. Also on Kawau Island. Eggs found near Whangarei, 1938-39. (C.A.F.) Little Barrier Island, common.—(R.H.)

STEWART ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx lawryi*).—has been at Pegasus and Mason Bay, January, 1937. Marks indicated that they were fairly common though these marks stay a long time in the peaty soil and so would probably lead to an over-estimation of the number of birds present.—(L.E.R.)

LITTLE GREY KIWI (*Apteryx owenii*).—Wakapuwa, nr. Nelson. One reported leaving the mud flats during a spell of dry weather in the summer.—(P.M.) Dead male found near Takaka, May, 1940.—(E.F.S.)

LARGE SPOTTED KIWI (*Apteryx haasti*).—Seen and heard, Goulard Downs—(E.F.S.) Male killed near Greymouth, winter, 1940.—(R.A.F.)

KIWI (sp.?).—Heard on the Canterbury side of the main divide in beech forest and river beds up the Poulter, Hawdon and Mingha rivers.—(E.P.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Otago Peninsula. 70 breeding birds, 30 non-breeding birds and a number of visitors. Otago birds have been caught at various points as far north as the Ashburton River mouth. Breeds at points further south and in many places round Stewart Island.—(L.E.R.)

BIG CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes sclateri*).—Otago Peninsula, April, 1937, 39 and 40. Moulting. The usual numerous stragglers and moulters reported on eastern beaches from Otago to Cook Strait, April-July.—(R.A.F.)

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CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*).—Palliser Bay, a rare straggler.—(R.H.D.S.) Seen at Pegasus and Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, January, 1937, Catlins Coast, January, 1939. Kaka Point, August, 1937. Shag Point, February, 1939, Dunedin coastline, January and February, 1937-40. Karitane, Hampden, Moeraki, Waikouaiti, February, 1939.—(L.E.R.) Nesting, Jackson's Bay, Westland.—(H. Lowcay, per R.A.F.)

"VICTORIA" PENGUIN (Rockhopper) (*Eudyptes chrysocome*).—Seen each autumn on the Dunedin coast, 1937-40. Also at Karitane, Shag Point, Waikouaiti, February, 1939. Otago Peninsula, 26/11/37, adult came ashore in good health.—(L.E.R.)

ROYAL PENGUIN (*Eudyptes schlegeli*).—Waikouaiti, February, 1939, moulting.—(L.E.R.)