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ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
NEW ZEALAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
for the Year 1940-41.

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Dunedin: Professor B. J. Marples.  
Recorder: Mr. C. A. Fleming.

MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY:

The initials in front of the names indicate those members who have contributed notes for this report.

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- A.S.W. A. S. Wilkinson and Mrs. Wilkinson, Kapiti Island.  
S. Wilkinson, Paraparaumu Beach, Wellington.  
P. H. Wood, Tuki Tuki, Colville.  
Dr. Wodzicki, Box 280, Wellington.  
Major P. F. Yerex, Waiouru Military Camp.

## INTRODUCTION.

The appearance of the second annual report of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand indicates that members have continued their support and interest by contributing useful observations from all parts of the country.

The publication is again late owing to the somewhat tardy arrival of members' notes covering the period ending 30th June, and to the fact that the Committee is dependent on voluntary office help and duplicating, which cannot always be done to strict time-table. Contributions which were received too late for incorporation in this publication have been held over for the first quarterly bulletin.

The general notes still tend to reflect intensive observation

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in a few districts rather than to give a comprehensive survey of conditions of bird life throughout the country. Again, the special studies are such as to merit in many cases fuller treatment than the space in this report will allow; but the new policy of issuing quarterly bulletins and limiting the special studies to pre-arranged projects should give more satisfactory results in future.

## THE TASMAN NATIONAL PARK.

A short time ago it was suggested that the Society might decide to associate itself with the request to be made that the Government should declare an area of land near Nelson a National Park under the name of the Tasman National Park. The Committee discussed this question, and considered it desirable to bring it before the members of the Society, and

when the position is clarified after consultations with the local body authorities, the Society will give its approval in the form of a motion.

The area suggested is in the Torrents Bay district. It is almost 40,000 acres in extent, and consists of Crown lands and State Forest. It is mainly sloping, little altered since the visits of Tasman, Cook and D'Urville, but a variety of scenery is included. In few places could such a large area of untouched bush be so easily set aside for preservation, and this district is one of especial interest from the point of view of the fauna and flora.

The aim of our Society is the field study of birds, and there is no doubt that it will wish to give every support to a proposal which is designed to keep a large tract of land as unaltered as is still possible, where the native birds can be studied in something approaching their original surroundings.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

With a membership of 70 the Society is now fairly representative of bird observers. Members are reminded of the need for regular observation and contribution of notes, and of prompt payment of subscriptions due.

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#### REPORT OF RECORDER.

The indexing of books and pamphlets in members' libraries is progressing and it is hoped, ultimately, to use the index as a basis for the loan of books. The Recorder will be glad to receive further book lists from members, comparatively few having been received so far. Gifts to the Society's records in the form of photographs, reprints, books or manuscripts of ornithological interest, will be gladly received. A list of such material, which is available for consultation, will be published from time to time in the Society's publications.

The recorder wishes to acknowledge the following presentations:—

MR. E. W. HURSTHOUSE: Manuscripts and notes on *Eudiptula*, "The Breeding Behaviour of Penguins," B. Roberts. British Graham Land Expedition Scientific Reports, Vol. 1; current and back numbers of the "Emu."

MAJOR BUDDLE: A number of photographic negatives of New Zealand birds.

ANONYMOUS DONOR: Page from the M.S. diary of T. H. Potts; photographs of extinct bird bones; original water-colour and pen-and-ink sketches illustrating early papers on New Zealand birds by J. F. McCardell, F. E. Clarke, Sir W. L. Buller, J. Buchanan and F. Nairn.

C. A. FLEMING, Recorder.

#### BOOK REVIEW.

*Watching Birds*, by James Fisher. Pelican Books, 1940. 1/2d.

Here is a most excellent little book which should be possessed and studied by everyone who is interested in bird watching, and its price, in spite of 35 maps and illustrations, is low enough to place it within reach of everyone. As stated in its introductory paragraphs, the book is written by a scientist for amateurs, and its object is to introduce the study of birds to those who have no zoological training. In addition to brief accounts of the structure of birds and their classification, "introducing the bird watcher to the birds," there are chapters on such subjects as migration, numbers and courtship, and an especially valuable account of territory and the breeding-cycle. All of these are illustrated by interesting maps and drawings. Chapters are also included on the tools of bird watching and on what you can do. Parts of these are less useful to people in New Zealand as they deal with books, etc., relating to Great Britain, and some of the methods of note-taking described, though excellent, are perhaps too ambitious for most people to carry out. As the book is intended for English readers, many of the examples mentioned will be unfamiliar. This is not a serious disadvantage and it has, moreover, the very useful effect of drawing