

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 *Eudypula*, "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

attention to the problems which require study in New Zealand. We are in the fortunate position here of having a practically virgin field on which to work, and the experience of the northern hemisphere to guide us. To mention three striking examples, of which maps are given in the book. There are six sub-species of Wren in Great Britain and the adjacent islands, and a similar state of affairs is found here with the Tui and other birds. There are two forms of the Common Guillemot in the North Atlantic, one common in the south, the other in the north. We have several dimorphic species, such as the Fantails, pied and black; but their relative numbers have not yet been worked out. The Northern Gannet is the only numerous bird whose world population is anything like well-known. Our Southern Gannet is very similar, but no survey of its breeding-colonies has yet

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been made. These are only three of a number of problems discussed by Mr. Fisher which should give a lead to bird watchers in New Zealand, and his book as a whole should prove a great help to our Society in getting to work along modern lines.

B.J.M.

SUMMARIZED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*). Once on Ruahines. No recent reports except on Whareti, over 10 years ago. (C.A.F.). Kukumui Hills, south of Whangarei. Pair caught in a hole, winter 1940. Often heard. Tangihua Mts. S.W. of Whangarei, very common. (W.S.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Chaslands Beach, 1938. (J.J.)

CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes* sp.). Te Wae Wae Bay, 1937. (J.J.)

BIG CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes sclateri*). Adult male commencing moult, New Brighton Beach, 21/4/41. Sub-adult female (?) completed moult, Avonside, Christchurch, May, 1940. At sea about 50 miles off south Canterbury coast, May, 1941, shoals totalling many hundreds, swimming and porpoising. 2 adults full plumage including tail, stained with oil waste, Sumner, 29/6/41. (R.A.F.) Cape Campbell, Marlborough. 11/7/40. Two seen. (L.B.M.).

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). Young one under 10 days old, found at Nelson 4/1/41. (P.M.). One found dead North Brighton, 1/1/41. Adults moulting in nesting burrows have been killed by dogs, bodies found Feb., 1941. (R.A.F.). Mahina Bay, Wellington. Further notes on the nest site already described in the "Emu," Sept.-Oct., 1940. Male killed on the day the first egg was laid. Eggs laid Sept. 3rd and 5th. Female sat for 16 days. Left that night and did not return till the following night. It went on sitting and leaving the nest spasmodically till the 38th day. Left that night and did not return. The incubation period on the two previous occasions was 38 days. (E.W.H.). Motuihi Island. 2 dead birds Feb.-March, 1941. (P.C.B.).

WHITE-FLIPPERED PENGUIN (*Eudyptula albosignata*). Nesting grounds at Diamond Harbour examined by Mr. G. Guy. Numbers as usual and other nesting areas discovered, Nov., 1940. (R.A.F.).

CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*). L. Fergus, Eglinton Valley, 12/1/41. A pair with a small riding youngster. At the other end of the lake was another adult behaving as if it might have a sitting mate. (R.B.S.).

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*). Ward Baths, Rotorua, 6. Blue Lake, several; Hamurana, 2; Okere, 4. Other parts of Rotoiti, 6; Rotoehu 1; Rotoma, 7; Okataina, several; all April, 1941. (C.A.F.). L. Fergus, Eglinton Valley, 12/1/41. A pair with a small riding youngster. Roto-ngaio, L. Taupo Lagoon, 25/3/40, 1 pair. Pouto Pools, N. Kaipara, c. 40 birds mostly in pairs on pools hidden among sand-dunes and the beginning of grass-land. May, 1941. (R.B.S.). Ohau Channel, Jan. 1940, 3 pairs, one pair with 2 well-grown young living in the channel. Rere-whakaitu, 9/11/40, several pairs seen, 2 recently washed-out nests, one