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BULLETIN
OF THE
ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
NUMBER I. YEAR 1941-42.

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INTRODUCTION.

This Bulletin is the first issued under the new scheme of publication whereby, instead of a single annual report composed for the most part of classified notes, bulletins shall be issued at more frequent intervals and contain more general articles. It is intended that four bulletins shall appear each year, and though this may not be possible at present, it will be aimed at as soon as circumstances permit. Classified notes will be held over and published all together in the last bulletin of the year. A number, which arrived too late for inclusion in the last annual report, are already in hand. Correspondence from members wishing to make suggestions, exchange views and ask for advice will be welcomed. We hope that the more frequent publication will bring members more into touch with one another, and make the Society more united and active. Don't merely read the publications when they arrive; follow up the suggestions and make others of your own; write articles; ask questions; and, if possible, take part in the co-operative efforts. Don't forget that special investigations are on hand for this year—details of one are given in this bulletin—make sure that your personal observations are sent in to the organisers. In the case of distribution studies, evidence that a bird is not found in a district is as important, if not more important, as evidence that it is.

The attention of members is drawn to the fact that subscriptions are due at the beginning of the year, i.e., on July 1st. There are still a large number of subscriptions due for the current year and a few for the previous one. It is hoped that all members will continue to support the Society so that we may carry on during the war period and be able to expand our activities when better times return. It should be emphasised that the subscription of 5/- is only a minimum one; larger ones will be most welcome. The Society needs more members, more subscriptions and more donations. Please help in any way you can.

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RECORDER'S REPORT.

The indexing of New Zealand ornithological literature has proceeded so that over 200 authors and over 1000 books and papers on ornithology are now included. The response of members to the appeal for book lists has not yet been sufficient to warrant the beginning of a lending system. The Society now receives the current numbers of the "Emu." Members desiring to consult them should apply direct to the Hon. Secretary, enclosing stamps for postage.

C. A. FLEMING, Recorder.

INQUIRY INTO THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*).

Members of the Society are asked, as far as lies in their power, to examine likely waters in their districts.

The following questionnaire will serve as a guide to the kind of information required:—

Name of water.

Area.

Height above sea-level.

Type of water (e.g., bush surrounded; swamp surrounded; clear: peaty; muddy; shallow or deep, etc.).

Number of birds.—Breeder or visitors.

Any evidence of migration?

Any evidence of flocking out of the breeding season?

Have human operations, e.g., bush-felling or settlement, altered the character of the water?

Is the water liable to change its level from flooding, more than previously?

Are Great Crested Grebes also present? (Relevant to S.I. only.)

Size of broods.

Enemies.

Do you know of any areas where the dabchick has occurred only rarely and is not a resident?

In areas where dabchicks are absent, have you any evidence as to their former presence, and date of disappearance?

What waters do you know where the dabchick is certainly not resident?

In all matters concerning this inquiry communicate direct with R. B. Sibson, King's College, Otahuhu, Auckland.

If dabchicks are not present in your district do not fail to send in information to that effect.

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NOTE CONCERNING THE BANDED DOTTEREL INVESTIGATION.

Coloured celluloid bands (budgerigar size) suitable for marking young dotterel, can be obtained from local aviculturalists or from Hutchison Bros., Auckland, (at 1/3 per dozen). A limited number are available without charge to members who are at all likely to be able to catch dotterel chicks during future nesting seasons. Apply to R. H. D. Stidolph, Cole St., Masterton. It is hoped to restrict each colour to a definite breeding district. Do not put bands on any dotterel without communicating first with the organiser of this investigation, or confusion will result.

MOVEMENTS OF RED-BILLED GULLS IN THE AUCKLAND DISTRICT.

By P. C. BULL.

(Owing to Mr. Bull's absence overseas, this report has been condensed by the editors to enable publication.)

The following report is based on more or less regular "counts" of a common species throughout the year; similar regular counts by other members in the future may modify or confirm the conclusions reached. "Migrations" include both daily and seasonal movements, the latter connected with breeding, the former chiefly connected with obtaining food. Four general classes of movement may be recognised.

I. The Spring Movement.

All breeding adults migrate in spring from the wintering to the nesting region. The chief breeding place of Auckland Red-billed Gulls is at Moko-hinau Island, some 50 miles to the north, though birds from the Three Kings, Bay of Plenty and other colonies (including unrecorded ones) may enter the region. At Mangere, in Manukau Harbour, daily visits to paddocks are made by decreasing numbers of birds in June and July, except when unusual conditions (of weather, or owing to ploughing) bring them in irregularly. This cessation of regular winter visits is shown in Graph III. That a passage movement begins after midwinter is also suggested by