

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Journal. For some time we have known that we should devote more space in the journal to junior members. As an experiment in the August issue we put the least interesting items from the junior point of view in the four middle pages. In all copies issued to juniors these four middle pages were removed and four special pages for juniors substituted. This worked out cheaper than increasing the size of the journal, but it has disadvantages, for adults do not see the junior items, and children of adult members miss the junior items unless they are also members (in which case, of course, they would get their own copy). In an effort to overcome these disadvantages we have increased the November issue to twenty pages instead of the usual sixteen. This adds a good deal to printing costs but it has been made possible this year by a grant from the J. R. McKenzie Trust, to whom I am grateful. I invite those interested to write and tell us what they think about the new set-up. We may not be able to write a personal letter in reply to each one, but we shall certainly take note of all letters.

Branches and sections. Seventeen branches and sections are operating in various parts of New Zealand doing very good work indeed. I have frequently reflected on the obvious need for sections in the Southland and Marlborough areas, and I should be very glad to hear from anyone prepared to take an interest

in forming such sections. There is need for a section in the Wairarapa district also. We shall give every assistance to getting sections established.

The speeding years. By the time you receive this the present year will be drawing to a close. It has been one of the busiest years in the annals of the Society. Here at Head Office we have done our best to secure the protection of birds and our remaining indigenous forests. Each year the area of virgin native forests gets less and the position of some of our birds more precarious. Ministers of the Crown recently reiterated that if nothing had been destroyed in this country no progress would have been made. There is reason in all things but I am quite unable to accept the destruction of the past as an excuse for continuing it indefinitely. There must be a point where those who love indigenous New Zealand shall stand firm and say, "Thus far and no further—you shall not proceed". To those who have helped in any way this year, by recruiting members, by giving their time, by donating funds, and so on, I say thank you very much. I hope we shall be able to move onwards as an even bigger and better team next year. Until then, for the Council and Executive, Head Office staff and myself, I wish all members and friends a cheerful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The President.

A MANUNUI CORRESPONDENT WRITES:

We have just built our home on the banks of the Wanganui River, where there is plenty of native cover with totara, manuka, etc. For years there have been a pair of tuis here. This year they have a nest in a nearby totara tree.

One very rainy morning I found a baby tui on the ground. It had fallen from the nest. We decided to try to raise it. With an eye dropper we fed it on honey and water, or condensed milk and water. For solids we gave it fresh meat cut up fine. It has thrived and now flies over the house. In fact, today it disappeared and my wife thought it gone. When we came home my wife saw a bird fly from one tree to another. She called it and it flew to her. It was our tui. It is free to go, and it will be interesting to see what happens as it matures.

BIRD-WATCHING AS A HOBBY

By W. D. Campbell, M.B.O.U., with photographic illustrations by H. A. Thompson, B.Sc., M.B.O.U.

This crown octavo book of 138 pages is based on the author's personal observations of English birds and migrants. The text is free from technicalities and is written in a style understandable and interesting to both juniors and adults. Its eight chapters are a veritable feast of bird lore for bird lovers. The chapter headings are: Bird Watching as a Hobby, Structure, The Bird's Voice, Reproduction, Food of Birds, Migration, Classification, Recognition and Identification. Although the book deals specifically with English birds much information in it can be applied to New Zealand birds.

—A.M.J.