

forests and native forests without native birds."

The Society in 1947 backed the efforts of Professor W. R. McGregor of Auckland University College to prevent a continuation of the kauri logging in Waipoua Kauri Forest that had been started as a war measure. The Waipoua Preservation Society, Auckland, the Whangarei Progressive Association, and the Whangarei Native Forest and Bird Protection Society also actively supported the movement. The battle continued fiercely over a number of years, until in July 1962, 22,500 acres, which included the bulk of the forested area, was declared a kauri forest sanctuary.

One of the finest enactments ever placed on the statute books of this country was the National Parks Act of 1952. This Act has the purpose of preserving in perpetuity, as national parks for the benefit and enjoyment of the people, scenery of such distinctive quality or natural features so beautiful or unique that their preservation is in the national interest. In Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau those purposes have their highest expression, and it was inevitable that the Forest and Bird Protection Society should be deeply concerned when in 1959 it suspected that the Government appeared to be considering selling the power potential of the lakes to an industrial concern. Our fears were only too well founded, and the Government did in fact trade to an industrial organisation the right to destroy for ever the natural beauty of the lovely islands and shores of the lakes by submerging them under the water. Our Society was left with no possible alternative but to oppose by all lawful and proper means, including a public petition, this threat of desecration of a national-park area of tremendous importance to ourselves and to all who follow in our footsteps. Our efforts to secure some amelioration of the threat to the lakes still continues (see the editorial in this issue).

Almost from the Society's inception it was recognised that a connecting link with members was necessary, and with the object of providing this link, a bulletin was issued—first in the form of cyclostyled sheets, then as a printed letter and finally in magazine form entitled *Birds*, which was changed in March, 1933, to *Forest and Bird*.

In order to familiarise the public and members with our beautiful native birds the Society decided to publish two volumes containing pictures of birds in their natural colours. The first volume, *Forest-inhabiting Birds*, has now reached three editions, and the second volume, *Sea and Shore Birds*, is in its second edition. A further volume, *Open-country and Wetland Birds*, is in course of preparation.

As the mighty oak springs from the tiny acorn so our Society has grown from the handful of enthusiasts who met in Wellington on that memorable evening of 28 March 1923, to just on 10,000, and with the cooperation of these members it is hoped to increase the number well beyond that figure before the anniversary year closes.

With the distribution of membership over the whole of New Zealand it was decided to foster local interest by establishing branches and sections where the numbers warranted such action. Today we have 20 branches and sections operating and doing valuable work by holding instructive outings, talks, etc. In 1946 Canterbury Branch was constituted, followed by Auckland in 1947; Dunedin in 1952; Wellington and Waikato in 1954; Tauranga in 1955; Wanganui, Taranaki, Hastings-Havelock North and Napier in 1956; Whakatane in 1957; Timaru, Rotorua, Manawatu, Northland and Nelson in 1958; Southern Hawke's Bay in 1960; Southland and Wairoa in 1961, and Rangitikei in 1962.

In 1949 school groups were inaugurated to cater for the children at school, but, owing, no doubt, to the frequency of transfer of teachers, the strength of this innovation has not been maintained. It is hoped that branches and sections will endeavour to contact teachers with a view to forming new groups and reviving interest in the scheme. It must be recognised that the members of tomorrow are the children of today and that by inculcating in the children a love for our native birds and forests we are most likely to retain their interest in after years.

A feature of the Society's activities is the summer-camp movement. The first camp was held at Waikaremoana in 1953 and proved so successful that camps have been organised regularly ever since. Those for 1963 were held at Kaikoura and Kaikohe in January and proved a great success.