

## MORE BRANCH NOTES

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### Wanganui

The year has been a full one. In the Spring Flower Show the Wanganui Branch won an Award of Merit for a display of swamp-inhabiting birds. It was largely the work of Mrs. Sunderland. This display was greatly helped by birds lent by the Wanganui Museum. We also won first prize at the Rose Show for a decorated bay made with native flowers and birds. We have to thank Miss S. Izard, Miss D. Hall, Mrs. J. Earle, and Mr. N. Ginn for work in this.

During the year, we have had a large number of lectures and outings. On 20 March the committee and other members of the branch visited Bushy Park and were introduced to the late Mr. G. F. Moore, the owner of the property. It was very wonderful to see him in the surroundings he had loved for so many years. We talked to him while he was sitting in his favourite chair looking out on the wonderful bush.

Several interesting and informative trips were made during the year, such as those to Ohakune Mountain Road (unfortunately a rainy day), to Foxton Beach to observe the birds (spoonbills, banded dotterels, terns, and others were seen), to Mr. W. J. Tripe's property at Oxtou, to the gull colony at Kaitoke, and to Dawson Falls. On several evenings interesting and very informative films or slides were shown—Mr. J. Taylor's close-ups of native plants and flowers; Mr. Lattey's slides of native plants and flowers; Mr. Kinsky on banding of birds (a lecture given in the Memorial Hall Concert Chamber); Mr. Ginn showed his and Mr. Stephen's slides of wild flowers of Western Australia; the Internal Affairs' film "Legend of the Birds", and Mr. R. McDonald's one on the finding of the blue wattled crow.

### Southern Hawke's Bay

The programmes during the year included an illustrated talk at Pahiatua by Dr. J. F. Findlay on "Antarctica"; a joint evening with the Farm Forestry Association, where Mr. A. Cunningham spoke on "High Country Erosion"; a movie evening on "Bird Films"; a competition evening, and at Woodville an illustrated talk by Messrs. K. Lambert and N. France on "Deer-stalking in West Otago". The institution of a meeting at Pahiatua was a new and very successful venture which the committee hope to repeat annually.

Besides evenings meetings the section also held two picnics and a weekend trip to Kapiti. The first picnic was held at the Woodville Domain and was combined with the opening of the Klein Track. A bus-load of visitors from the Hastings Section and a few from the Manawatu shared a successful picnic with us at the Ngapaeruru Reserve, Mangatoro. Twenty-eight adults and thirteen children had an interesting day on Kapiti.

Thirty-six wekas were released in the Woodville Domain area and we hope that these birds will successfully re-establish themselves there.

### Auckland

The gorse on the Society's property at Onetangi, Waiheke Island, which had been cut some months previously, was sending up vigorous new growth after the manner of its kind, and as the cost of having it sprayed commercially was prohibitive the Bush Development Committee decided on a do-it-yourself campaign. Two knapsack spray pumps were bought and a third borrowed. Some hormone spray was also bought and committee members and others were notified of the project. The weekend 15-17 March chosen for the assault was calm and sunny. Several Auckland members travelled over by the Friday evening boat and reported for work with several Waiheke members at 8.30 a.m. the following morning.

The bucket brigade went into action, treading down tall grass to make a path to the stream, which fortunately never dries up, then up the hill to where the pumps were to be filled. By a wise provision the worst of the task was tackled first, the work becoming progressively less arduous (for the bucket carriers, anyway) as the field of operations moved down the valley and nearer to the stream. With all the containers full of water the bucket brigade could enjoy spells of inactivity and it was inevitable at such moment that newcomers arrived on the scene; but we hope that any impression of slothfulness was dispelled when the pumps returned one by one to be filled. The pump operators could have a spell, too, while somebody else took a turn at this, the heaviest part of the work.

In the meanwhile there seemed to be an endless supply of tea and good things to eat and the Society's tuis and pigeons entertained us with song and aerobatics. There were even ripe apples and figs on some old trees on the property. By 4.30 p.m. the gorse on that side of the valley had all been sprayed.

The following morning we did a little more work on the other side. We paid a quick visit to the area where young trees were planted last August and found some of them flourishing, though some were in less happy state. Then a delightful swin in the nearby sea for some, lunch, and the 3 p.m. boat home for the Auckland contingent.

Glossing over minor inconveniences such as gorse prickles in one's boots and spray pumps spilling down one's back, does this account of a working party at Onetangi sound attractive enough to bring able-bodied members flocking to the next gorse-spraying weekend? We hope to have another in November; so be sure to book early.

### ST FRANCIS WITH NZ BIRDS.

A stained glass window to be erected at St. Barnabas' Church, Rangiwhia, will show St. Francis with New Zealand birds. Native pigeon, fantail, and others are included, as well as kowhai and rata blossom.

The photo on the inside front cover of the May issue, showing trees killed by shingle brought down by erosion of high country, should have been credited to the N.Z. Forest Service (J. H. G. Johns, A.R.P.S.) and that on the back cover, showing two bad slips, slumping, and silting up of a valley, to the National Publicity Studios.