



Forest and Bird

JOURNAL OF THE ROYAL FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED



A Pycroft's petrel on Red Mercury Island, probably the main breeding ground of the species. (See page 4.)

OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY

To advocate and obtain efficient protection of our native forests and birds, the preservation of sanctuaries and scenic and other reserves in their native state, and to enlist the practical sympathy of both young and old in these objects.

ISSUED QUARTERLY

FEBRUARY 1969

Number 171



Senecio scorzoneroides, snow marguerite, a beautiful member of the subalpine flora of New Zealand.

ROYAL FOREST & BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY

of NEW ZEALAND Inc.

(FOUNDED 28 MARCH 1923)

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[G. J. H. Moon photo

A kingfisher taking its prey on the wing. The kingfisher is widespread throughout the country and is generally seen perched on telephone and power lines.

Changes in Wildlife Management and Control Recommended

MAN is probably the greatest predator the world has ever known. In the comparatively short period since he became the dominant mammal he has perpetrated almost unbelievable damage among other species, and the instinct to hunt and kill is still part of his character.

The urge to produce better weapons with which to wage war against his own kind has furnished him with the means to destroy lesser species utterly. Fortunately while some people have devoted their time and skill to the production of more destructive weapons, others have studied the intricacies, the wonder, and the beauty of nature. They have acquired understanding and have learned that widespread destruction of other species ultimately brings retribution in one form or another. Perhaps more important is that intelligent, thoughtful men now believe that other species in their own lands have a right to exist and to a place to live in.

The Wildlife Act 1953 imposed on sportsmen licensed to kill animals the responsibility for ensuring the protection of all absolutely protected wildlife. Notwithstanding that we have in our own Society many law-abiding citizens who, though following their instinct to hunt and kill, would never think of killing protected wildlife, we questioned the wisdom of an enactment which required an organisation consisting almost exclusively of those licensed to hunt and kill to be responsible for the safeguarding of protected species. Under the Act the first function of acclimatisation societies—and the first purpose for which the societies may spend money—is the protection of protected species. This was because the societies were to receive a large share in proceeds of the sale of licences to hunt and fish, licence fees being paid for the privilege of taking game or fish from public or private lands, rivers, streams, and lakes. It should be quite clear that licence fees are paid for the privilege of taking game or fish and are in no sense contributions to the funds of any particular society. Because this is so, and because the societies were to receive a large share of licence fee proceeds, it was considered equitable that in return they should accept the responsibility of ensuring the care of absolutely protected species.

In theory the plan seemed reasonable: in practice over 15 years it has proved to be a dismal failure. We therefore joined with a large number of others in requesting the Deputy Prime Minister to authorise an independent investigation into the whole of wildlife control. We made submissions to the Commission appointed; we urged that it should recommend the Government to end the present system and replace it with one which would be of greater benefit to all concerned. Our views found general support and the Commission recommended that acclimatisation societies should be relieved of their statutory responsibilities, that they should become fish and game societies, and that they should receive certain subsidies and grants.

In all the Commission prepared 32 recommendations for Government consideration, and these included one that there should be a National Wildlife Service under a Minister in Charge of Wildlife and a National Wildlife Commission of three permanent members.

Acceptance of the Commission's recommendations by the Government would end the present fragmented, haphazard system and be beneficial to sportsmen as well as to protected wildlife.

Gift of Four Islands Extends Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park

A GIFT to the Crown of Whakau (Red Mercury), Middle, Green, and Korapuki Islands in the Mercury Islands, off Whitianga, by the Maori owners was announced recently by the Minister of Lands, Mr D. MacIntyre.

TWO of the islands in the group, Double and Stanley, are already owned by the Crown and are flora and fauna reserves. The remainder, excluding Great Mercury, were owned by the Karaua, Whanaunga, and Hako families of the Ngatimaru tribe and they have gifted the islands.

The gift was a generous one by people who appreciated the aesthetic value of these islands and the need to preserve them intact for future generations, said Mr MacIntyre. All the islands were rich in bird and plant life and Red Mercury in particular was valued as the adopted home of the rare North Island saddlebacks transferred there from Hen Island by a wildlife expedition in 1966. It was also of historic interest because of the association with Count von Luckner, captain of a German raider who had been captured

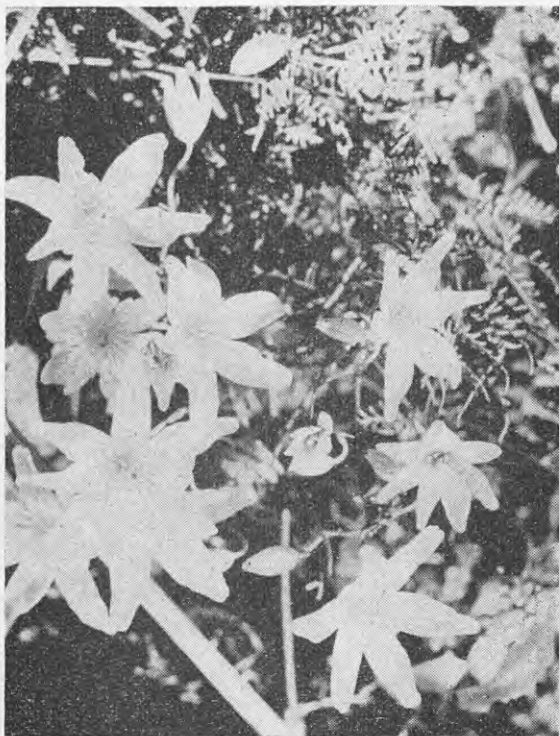
during the First World War. A bay on the island was now known as von Luckner's Cove.

Acquisition of the islands for reserves had been advocated by the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, said Mr MacIntyre, and the Crown had been prepared to purchase them at valuation, but the Maori owners preferred to make a gift of them to the Crown. This generous gesture was very much appreciated, and greatly encouraged the Crown in its efforts to acquire off-shore islands as reserves. Double and Stanley Islands were already included in the Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park and the four islands now gifted, containing some 560 acres, would be formally set aside as reserves for the preservation of flora and fauna and also added to the Maritime Park.



A grey-faced petrel on Whakau (Red Mercury) Island, the largest of the group recently gifted to the Crown.

[D. V. Merton photo



[D. V. Merton photo]

Clematis growing on Red Mercury Island.

Islands' Situation

The islands, about 16 miles north-east of Whangapoua Harbour, Coromandel Peninsula, are described as follows:

Whakau Island: Rises steeply from the sea on the northern, western, and eastern sides to a broken plateau of varying levels; the southern side falls more gradually. The surface is covered with fairly stunted pohutukawa, scrub, flax, and native shrubs, and considerable surface rock is exposed. Landing is possible only at von Luckner's Cove, on the northern side, in good south-westerly conditions and on the southern side in north-easterly conditions with very limited ground swell. Area: 502 acres.

Middle Island: Rocky and steep, rising sharply from the sea on all sides to a long, narrow ridge. Mainly volcanic rock with stunted native growth along the top ridge.

Landing is difficult on a rocky foreshore. Area: 25 acres.

Green Island: Rises steeply from the sea and is very exposed, with little vegetation except toward the top. Landing is possible only at the southern end on to a boulder beach in good weather with fairly calm seas. Area: 10 acres.

Korapuki Island: Rugged and rocky with a steep, badly indented shoreline on the northern, eastern, and southern coasts, but slopes reasonably to the western coastline to a boulder foreshore. Covered with ti tree, flax, pohutukawa, and native shrubs, with a few areas of open grassland on the northern cliffs. Landing is possible on the western and southern sides of the island. Area: 22 acres.

[Cover photo by D. V. Merton.]

New Zealand Now Has 58 Historic Reserves

THERE are now 58 historic reserves in New Zealand, with a total area of 3,341 acres, including 16 scenic, historic, and recreation reserves covering 399 acres, says the Director-General of Lands, Mr R. J. MacLachlan, in his annual report last year.

Of the 58 reserves, 17 are controlled by local authorities, 15 by Commissioners of Crown Lands, 13 by scenic boards, six by historic boards, and seven by other authorities.

Pompallier House

Pompallier House and its 2-acre site at Russell were made a new historic reserve under the control of the New Zealand Historic Places Trust, the report says. Three acres has been added to the Pick and Shovel monument site, commemorating the gold rushes of the 1860s near Lawrence, in Central Otago, to provide car parking facilities and open space. The old Taupo Courthouse has been established on the site of the Armed Constabulary Redoubt at Taupo as a reminder of early architecture and judicial administration in the district.

Commission Recommends Changed System of Wildlife Control

A NATIONAL Wildlife Service, as a separate division of the Department of Lands and Survey, has been recommended as the executive arm of a proposed National Wildlife Commission to deal with all aspects of wildlife management and research.

THE recommendation has been made by the Commission of Inquiry into the Organisation of Wildlife Management and Research in New Zealand in a report issued recently.

The commission, which consisted of Mr J. K. Hunn, Wellington, chairman, Dr R. K. Dell, Wellington, and Mr R. F. Stead, Amberley, has recommended that a Minister in Charge of Wildlife be appointed to ensure co-ordinated advice to the Government on wildlife policy and related financial matters.

Another recommendation is that a three-man commission of a Commissioner of Wildlife as chairman, a Director of Wildlife Research, and a Director of Wildlife Management should be appointed by the State Services Commission.

It is also suggested that the Director-General of Forests and the Director-General of Lands should be additional statutory members of the commission as and when necessary to deal with important aspects of noxious animals policy.

The Commission of Inquiry suggests that a representative Wildlife Advisory Council should be established by statute, with an independent chairman, to advise the Minister and the Commission.

Department of Lands and Survey Best Choice

Finding that at least 54 organisations are concerned with aspects of wildlife, the commission says four departments—Forest Service, Internal Affairs, Lands and Survey, and Marine—were competing for the honour of servicing the wildlife organisation. The commission says: "The Department of Lands and Survey's advantages are paramount in its control of fauna protection reserves,

ownership of wildlife habitat, and potentiality as a base for developing a National Parks and Wildlife Services, including noxious animal control policy."

The commission recommends that New Zealand should be divided into four wildlife conservancies based on Rotorua, Palmerston North, Christchurch, and Dunedin, each with its own conservator and staff, and that the conservancies should be subdivided into a minimum of wildlife districts as rational ecological units, about 16 in all.

Acclimatisation Societies Should be Renamed

It recommends that the acclimatisation societies should be renamed fish and game societies and that their statutory functions should be transferred to the National Wildlife Commission. The societies should be encouraged to amalgamate to form one society in each wildlife district and the federation of rod and gun clubs in each of the three Government acclimatisation districts—Rotorua, Taupo, and Southern Lakes—should be invited to consider whether they would convert to fish and game societies to fit in with the new order.

The commission recommends that the transition to the proposed new organisation of wildlife management and research should be phased over several years.

It is suggested a representative Wildlife Advisory Council should be established by statute, with an independent chairman, to advise the Minister and the commission.

Research Work

The commission recommends that research work on certain species of animals should be transferred from the Marine Department, the

Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and the Department of Internal Affairs to the National Wildlife Service.

It suggests that the National Wildlife Commission should receive all revenue from fishing and shooting licences, assume liability for all expenditure (except any incurred by

societies), and pay an annual grant to societies of some \$3,000.

Noting the possibility of the need to increase licence fees, the commission recommends that this question should be examined and discussed with the four proposed federations.

President Replies to Critics of Commission's Report

SHORTLY after the issue of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into the Organisation of Wildlife Management and Research in New Zealand criticism of the commission's recommendations was made in the Press by spokesmen for the New Zealand Deerstalkers' Association and the Wellington Acclimatisation Society.

The President of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, Mr R. C. Nelson, replied to this criticism and supported the recommendations. His statement was as follows:

"On 20 December 1967 a deputation waited on the Deputy Prime Minister (Mr Marshall). The deputation consisted of 11 representatives of angling, shooting, and conservation organisations, having the support of up to 100 kindred organisations throughout New Zealand.

Dissatisfaction with Existing System

"It expressed its complete dissatisfaction with the existing system of wildlife management and control, and requested that an impartial committee be set up to carry out a thorough investigation.

"Mr Marshall promised earnest consideration, and subsequently a committee was appointed, later being given status as a commission.

"It consisted of Mr J. K. Hunn (chairman), one of the most capable Departmental administrators the country has ever had, Dr R. K. Dell, director of the Dominion Museum, and Mr Roland Stead, a farmer with wide knowledge of acclimatisation society activities, and a member of a family well known in nature-study circles.

"The Commission called for submissions and sat at Wellington, Rotorua, and Christchurch between 12 June and 17 September, taking evidence at public hearings on 22 days. Members visited 22 field and research stations, and submissions were received from 116 societies, universities, boards, Departments of State, and individuals.

Valuable Document

"The 200-page report of the Commission is the result of months of painstaking investigation and deliberations; it is a valuable document. It does not recommend that all acclimatisation societies be abolished. It does recommend that they be renamed Fish and Game Societies, indicating their correct function, and that their present responsibilities by Statute be undertaken by a National Wildlife Commission—these responsibilities being mainly the protection and preservation of absolutely protected wildlife, responsibilities which obviously should be carried out by a Department of State."

A Delightful Stay on Kapiti Island

By W. H. PRESTON-THOMAS

LAST spring I had the opportunity of a delightful 2½ weeks' stay on peaceful Kapiti Island. Having been asked to act as ranger until the permanent appointee arrived, I was able to live alone amid the island's beauty of bush bird life and appreciate the views of the mainland, with snow-clad mountains in the background, and of the South Island.

Wild Creatures Fearless

It was most pleasing to see how fearless most of the wild creatures were. One of my jobs was to feed the birds, and the large parrot-like kakas would perch on my head or shoulders to take dates from my fingers.

The wingless wekas would run round my feet, picking up date fragments which fell to the ground, and were often joined by tuis.

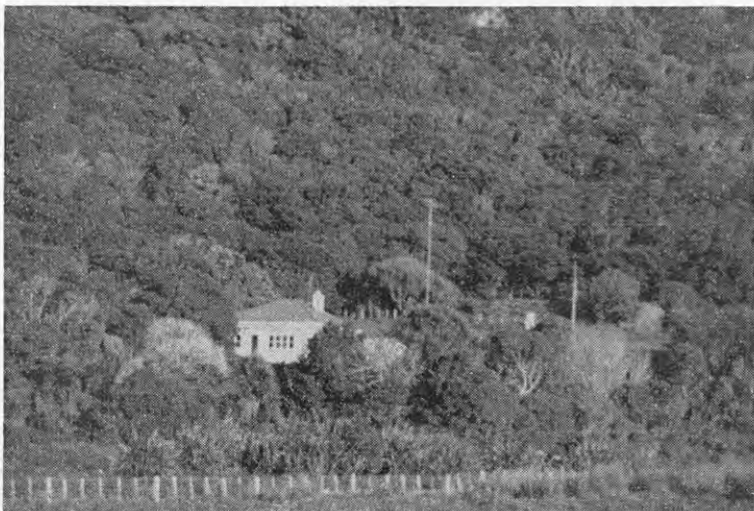
Kaka's Nose Tweak

One kaka in particular, Charlie, would lean down with his face by my cheek and give a little squawk for another date; once when I was busy feeding the others he leant forward and gave the tip of my nose a gentle tweak! Needless to say, he got another date at once. The wekas had a nest under a fern about 2 ft from the main path and one could go within a yard of it and see a bird on it with



The author feeding dates to kakas by hand.

The ranger's cottage on Kapiti Island in its bush setting.



two chicks, which soon would take titbits from my hands.

On the lawn just outside the office windows large native pigeons and pukekos could be seen feeding just a few yards away, their brilliant colours lovely in the sunshine. Also there were bellbirds and tuis round their bowl of sugar-water. In the trees were native

robins, red-headed bright-green parrakeets, the odd whitehead and saddleback, and of course many fantails. I twice saw kiwis on the lawn and penguins round the house and whare at night, and seals came on to the beach.

One afternoon I accompanied a party of officials to the trig station (1,700 ft), which was a pleasant but fairly rugged walk through thick bush containing numbers of other birds.

Wekas' Curiosity

The well-known curiosity of the wekas was shown twice. Once a discarded tin was left overnight in the scrap bucket, but had vanished by morning to be found later by the wekas' nest. Another time I lay face down on the lawn to enjoy a sun bathe when I felt gentle tugs at my metal wrist-watch strap and found that they had been made by a weka.

There was much overcast or wet weather during my stay and at these times pukekos and pigeons liked to browse on the lawn, where the feeding platform was placed. One could look over the lawn and across the paddock and sea to the mainland, studded at night with the lights of the townships and cars moving along the main road.

Having helped the permanent ranger and his wife to become established, I returned home with the thought that I would like another sojourn on lovely Kapiti Island.



A tui on the feeding platform taking sugar-water.

Donations to Waikaremoana Lodge Fund

THE following donations have been received for the Waikaremoana Lodge Fund:

| | \$ |
|--|-------|
| J. A. S. Howard, Marton | 1.00 |
| E. Dear, Palmerston North | 1.00 |
| L. B. Williams, Napier | 25.00 |
| L. H. Lloyd, Hastings | 5.00 |
| J. S. Heighway, Hastings | 2.00 |
| Miss N. Tanner, Hastings | 1.00 |
| Mrs C. F. Osboldstone, Havelock North | 2.00 |
| Wairoa Section | 60.00 |
| Hastings-Havelock North Branch .. | 10.00 |
| Mrs M. E. Somerville, Wairoa .. | 1.00 |
| L. and W. B. Young, Hamilton .. | 20.00 |

These donations bring the amount available for building to \$5,884.86. It is hoped to have the building erected this summer.

However, about another \$1,000 is required urgently to enable all essential interior services to be done, and a much larger amount is needed to complete the lodge inside and outside.

The final plan, which was approved at the last Council meeting, provides for five 4-bunk rooms and sleeping room for four on the wall seats of the communal room. The original plan had to be modified because of the big increase in building costs and lack of funds, but the lodge is still designed for the maximum comfort and privacy for family groups.

The Waikaremoana Lodge Building Committee is appealing to all members, as well as branches and sections, to support the endeavour to build this lodge. Donations should be sent to Mr Ivor Sinton, Rutherford Street, Wairoa, who is the treasurer of the lodge building committee.

Three Lakes Now Part of Northland Domain

LAKE Waikare (100 acres) has now been included in the Taharoa Domain, north-west of Dargaville, which already includes Lakes Taharoa (720 acres) and Kai Iwi (80 acres), the Minister of Lands, Mr Duncan MacIntyre, said recently.

"The 1,275-acre domain has a tremendous potential for development as one of the main recreational areas of Northland," Mr MacIntyre said. "There is water skiing on Lake Waikare and safe swimming, sailing, and boating on the other lakes. The domain is close to the Trounson and Waipoua kauri forests and within easy distance of the west coast beaches."

Until recently the lakes were almost unknown to the public. Originally they were part of the 20,000-acre Omamari Farm Settlement block, which the Department of Lands and Survey is developing as farm units.

The domain is 5 miles by metalled road from Maropiu, on State Highway No. 12. It is controlled by the Hobson County Council as domain board.

Do You Want to Get Away from it All?

Spend that Weekend or those Few Days
in the Relaxed Atmosphere of
BUSHY PARK

Kai Iwi
(15 miles north of Wanganui)

FINE OLD HOMESTEAD —
LOVELY GROUNDS —
220 ACRES NATIVE BUSH —

Make your own programme. Electric stove, hot water, and other facilities available.

Bring your own rations and bedding.

Charges:

Members - - - \$1 per night
Non-members - - - \$1.50 per night
Children under 15 - - - Half rates

Custodian: Mr Donald Muir, c/o Bushy Park Homestead, Kai Iwi, via Wanganui. Phone 49-734 Wanganui.

This Property was Gifted to the Society by the late Mr G. F. Moore before his death.

Private Scenic Reserve and Wildlife Refuge Being Developed near New Plymouth

By ALAN FIELDING

FOR the purposes of conservation, research, education, and the wise management and utilisation of its natural resources, New Zealand has developed a system of refuges, reserves, sanctuaries, parks, and forests.

One such area, which is privately owned, is Te-Wahi-o-Marumaru (The Place of Refuge), of 105 acres, situated on Upper Mangorei Road, 11 miles from New Plymouth. It is largely covered in mature podocarp-hardwood forest and dissected by a number of rocky streams that cascade through miniature gorges. It is this "place of refuge" that Taranaki members are working on to create a private scenic reserve and wildlife refuge.

It lies very near to the top of the road, and close to the boundary of Egmont National Park's Pouakai Range. From the entrance on a fine day one can see the country from Egmont's summit to Paritutu Rock and from the Kaitake Range to the Kawhia coastline. The land, with an altitude about 1,400 ft, is gently sloping; through it flows the Pukekotahuna Stream, which further down joins the well-known Te Henui.

Despite the altitude, high rainfall, and very occasional light sprinklings of snow, the area enjoys much fine, warm weather.

Typical Egmont Forest

The climate is clearly reflected in the vegetation. This is typical Egmont forest, consisting of *Podocarpus* (in particular totara, matai, and miro), *Dacrydium* (in particular rimu), and a number of associated hardwood or broad-leaf species (among which are kamahi, rata, mahoe, hinau, tawa, black maire, toro, and tree ferns). The form of the forest in this area is established by the dominance of rimu and rata. Less conspicuous, perhaps, but more numerous are the heavy growths of liverworts, mosses, and ground ferns

(especially crown fern, kidney fern, and filmy fern), and kiekie.

This forest supports a considerable fauna. Not at all welcome, but present in large numbers, are the opossums. In much smaller numbers are pigs, goats, cats, weasels, hedgehogs, and rats and various common exotic birds.

Indigenous species of birds include kereru, tui, korimako, piwakawaka, miromiro, riroriro, titi-pounamu, koekoea (long-tailed cuckoo), pipiwharau (shining cuckoo), popokatea (whitehead), tauhou, ruru, kahu, kotare, pihoihoi, and kiwi (North Island). The presence of the pekapeka (long-tailed bat) is suspected.

Along the stream banks can be seen numerous glowworms, and in these streams are freshwater crayfish. Both the native kokopu and the introduced brown trout live here with the native long-finned eel.

On one side of the property, near the entrance to the forest, is about 2½ acres of pasture. A little less than half this is low lying and slightly swampy and here we are establishing a water-fowl habitat. A bulldozer has enlarged the basin to give almost an acre of open water. Surrounding this will be a large meadow of grasses, sedges, and reeds, interspersed with flax, cabbage tree, kahikatea, pukatea, and the like.

Eventually the swamp and lake should provide feeding and nesting places for many indigenous aquatic birds, such as the pukeko, coot, shag, heron, stilt, rail, crane, bittern, duck, teal, and fernbird.

Native Plant Nursery

A small area adjacent to the swamp is to be planted up soon. Any seeds of plants native to Taranaki can be used for this purpose, and any contributions would be extremely welcome. It is also planned to establish a

small native plant nursery, to be used as the Taranaki Branch's source of native flora for various planting projects.

Other plans for the reserve include full fencing, erection of a residence, establishment of forest aviaries, and the liberation of some less common species. As the venture is entirely private, these additions are expected to take a long time.

For entry to Te-Wahi-o-Marumaru members may apply to the owner at 77 Belt Road, New Plymouth.

Loans for Ruapehu Lodge Repaid

The net earnings of the Ruapehu Lodge at 31 December 1968 were sufficient to repay interest-free loans advanced to the Society toward the cost of construction of the lodge.

Mrs Du Pont again drew the numbers.

The following were successful in the ballot:

| | \$ |
|---------------------------------------|-----|
| Mr and Mrs Fooks | 100 |
| Mr and Mrs J. H. Holt | 50 |
| Miss J. Coles | 20 |
| Mr D. M. Willis | 50 |
| Mr E. E. Williamson | 40 |
| Mr N. Ginn (second) | 100 |
| Miss Izard | 200 |
| Messrs J. H. and A. G. Taylor | 100 |
| Mrs A. A. Greville | 40 |
| Miss S. Green Price | 10 |
| Miss G. A. Craston | 50 |
| Mrs I. E. Coulter | 20 |
| Mrs D. S. Green | 20 |
| Miss N. P. Turner | 20 |
| Wanganui Tramping Club | 20 |
| Mrs D. McRae | 100 |
| Hugh and Beverley Price | 10 |
| Miss J. M. Johnson | 10 |
| Miss S. G. Lynch | 20 |
| Mrs D. E. Weston | 20 |
| Miss M. W. Young | 80 |
| Mr J. R. Roberts | 40 |
| Mr W. J. Burns | 10 |

1,130

The Executive acknowledges with grateful thanks the help given by these members, most of whom also made donations to the fund.

Land Bought for Abel Tasman National Park

Nearly 800 acres of land adjoining Abel Tasman National Park has been bought by the Government, the Minister of Lands, Mr Duncan MacIntyre, announced recently.

"The purchase includes the land which was 'sold' earlier this year to an American buyer," said Mr MacIntyre. "When the Government learned recently that the buyer could not complete the purchase, it renewed negotiations and has succeeded in buying not only most of the land previously up for sale, but also the Anchorage, one of the finest beaches on the coast.

"We now have in public ownership the 19 acres of Tonga Island, beach areas in Tonga Roadstead and Awaroa Inlet, and coastal features such as Shag Harbour and Reef Point.

"Bringing this land into the park will protect the popular coastal track system which links the road end at Marahau, near Kaiteriteri, with the northern road terminal at Totaranui. Furthermore, all islands, inlets, rocks, and reefs within 1½ miles of the coast will now be within the park.

Block at Torrent Bay

"The most valuable of the eight areas in the purchase is a block of 40 acres in Torrent Bay at the Anchorage," Mr MacIntyre said. "This land links the main national park area with other park lands near Anchor Bay and Te Karetu Point, close to where the French explorer Dumont d'Urville anchored in 1827.

"Two areas totalling 173 acres are on the Awaroa Inlet.

"Four of the other areas form a compact block of 464 acres which includes Tonga Swamp, with a beach frontage to the Tonga Roadstead, Tonga Hill, Reef Point, and Shag Harbour.

"The remaining block of 90 acres is in an isolated area, on Awaroa Hill. Probably only part of this, the part in forest, is suitable for inclusion in the park."

The Minister added that the vendor, Miss R. Z. R. Richardson, of Nelson, was a granddaughter of Dr Ralph Richardson, a pioneer who took up land at Torrent Bay in 1857.

Multiple Use of Forests Advocated by Working Party

A HINT that New Zealanders should hesitate before locking away any more large areas of forest land as parks or reserves dedicated to a single purpose has been given by the 15-man multiple-use working party of the Forestry Development Conference.

THE day must come when reserving more large areas of land solely for timber production, water conservation, or recreation will be regarded as a foolish waste of land resources," says the chairman, Dr N. H. Taylor, a former director of the Soil Bureau of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

"Only an excessively land-rich country could ever practise single-purpose forestry indefinitely," he says. "Even the United States, with its vast resources, has been forced in recent years to adopt multiple use as official policy. New Zealand, a small country with limited land resources, must inevitably adopt a similar policy."

The working party recognises many uses for forests. Forests provide fresh clear water supplies and prevent soil erosion and flooding. They produce wood for some of the nation's biggest industries. They create a scenic environment for wildlife to thrive in and man to enjoy.

Key Objectives

The working party considers that the key objectives of forest management in New Zealand must always be timber production and watershed protection, Dr Taylor says.

"The importance of timber production needs no emphasis. However, the role of watershed protection forests in the national economy is, in comparison, less well appreciated. Pure water in regular supply is a national resource of the first magnitude. In all mountain forests, soil and water conservation must be the first priority of land use."

Recognising the primary importance of timber production and watershed protection does not imply that the working party disregards values such as scenery preservation, recreation, and wildlife conservation.

However, observes Dr Taylor, unless management objectives are given priorities, multiple use could lead to gross land mismanagement and administrative chaos.

Minor and Local Conflict

At present, there is only minor and local conflict between production and protection interests, he says. The mountain forests contain little timber that is merchantable by present-day standards. On the other hand, almost all commercial forests, native and exotic, are so situated that their watershed protection value is minimal or unlikely to be impaired significantly if logging is carried out with normal care.

Dr Taylor warns that there is room for conflict between uses as the demand for timber grows and/or new forests are established on steeper land at higher altitudes. Conflicts between the various forestry interests are inevitable, he says, but strife can be mitigated if the problems are anticipated.

"The greatest step forward that could be taken would be for the timber industry itself to seize the initiative and voluntarily develop suitable areas for recreation, scenic, or wildlife purposes."

Scenic Values

The working party considers that attempts should be made to enhance the scenic values of forests, Dr Taylor says. This can be done by planting to repair existing damage done to scenery by road construction, logging, and building and by the designation of scenic areas where plantings will be made of attractive trees. In planting for beauty, three basic principles must be aimed at: variety, harmony, and contrast.

Dr Taylor emphasises that the greatest single contribution of forestry to the tourist industry is the maintenance of attractive background scenery.

Importance of Unspoiled Countryside

"An unspoiled countryside is as important in attracting tourists as are the more publicised tourist centres," he says.

The working party has noted that in developing areas for recreational purposes the Forest Service has shown the way by establishing forest parks, such as Tararua and north-west Nelson, which are managed on multiple-use principles. More forest parks are planned. However, the working party thinks that production forest owners should allow the public limited or seasonal access to their forests when such access does not conflict with forest activities. This would apply particularly to those forests near centres of population or alongside major highways.

Facilities desirable for full recreational use of forests by the public include scenic roads, picnic areas, camping grounds, and tracks.

Public Education Necessary

Public education is necessary to obtain public support for forest conservation, says Dr Taylor. The working party intends to press for an educational programme on multiple-use forestry, with the basic theme that those who have the privilege of entering

forests also bear responsibility for caring for them.

In Switzerland, where 90 percent of the national forest area contributes to timber production, legislation provides for all forests to be managed primarily for water conservation and also for all forests to be available for recreation.

Soil and Water Conservation Should be First Purpose of Forest Management

COMMENTING on the foregoing statement, the President, Mr R. C. Nelson, who is a member of the multiple use working party of the Forestry Development Conference, said:

"The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society has always contended that whenever it is applicable soil and water conservation should be the first purpose of forest management. Because this is so, we have advocated the retention of native bush on all areas subject to erosion, and this is a policy generally endorsed by the Forest Service.

"Otherwise timber production would take priority in commercial forests. However, this would not be applicable to areas set aside as parks and reserves under the control of the Department of Lands and Survey."

Forest Service Holding a Photographic Competition

IN its fiftieth anniversary year, 1969, the New Zealand Forest Service is offering prizes for photographs of subjects related to forestry or the forest industries.

Photographers are invited to enter their pictures in a competition, from the results of which the Forest Service hopes to obtain pictures it can use for displays, for illustrating its calendar and its publications, and for other purposes. There is a possibility that

some entries may find a place at Expo 70 in Japan.

There will be two classes in the competition—black and white prints and colour prints. Prizes for each class will be \$100, \$50, and \$25. Entries close on 31 March.

Copies of rules and entry forms are available from the Publicity Section, New Zealand Forest Service, Private Bag, Wellington.

Bird Observations over the Years

In the August issue of "Forest and Bird" H. P. Kidson, of Wanaka, listed the birds he had observed round his house and the lake over some nine years. In the following article he describes bird observations he has made in different parts of New Zealand.

SOME 20 years ago German owls were frequently seen and heard in Wanaka, but now they are rare. It is probably well known that they often built their nests in rabbit burrows. On the road near our cottage the bank had been tunnelled in several places. When I first saw an owl staring at me from the mouth of one of these burrows I really did feel that I was "seeing things".

It is natural for us to think of black-billed and other gulls as feeding on water animals and insects and we fail to realise how much of their food is taken from the air. We are at first astonished, too, to see them in their hundreds following a plough in good pasture land to gather the life in the soil. Many people will have watched terns taking flies from the surface of streams and in the air above. No bird flight I have seen in our country is more deft and more graceful and the swallow design of the gull's wings and tail adds beauty to the whole action.

Updraught Feeds Birds

For some time I wondered why a group of gulls flew backwards and forwards above a strip of bare tussock on our property. By watching carefully I found that they were taking flying grass grub beetles. Soon afterwards I met a man who lived at the mouth of one of the Canterbury gorges. He told me that he had long been puzzled by flocks of gulls that almost constantly hovered over an area near where the river issued from the foothills. He came to realise that the gulls were feeding on moths and other insects that were being borne upward by an air current. He verified the presence of a steady draught by sending smoke aloft from small grass fires. This reminded me of what a well-known central European ornithologist who visited New Zealand told us about the location of stork colonies. It was discovered that their favoured location was a place with a natural

draught, which saved them much labour in getting air borne. An interesting consequence of this discovery was the establishing of aerodromes in the regions favoured by the storks to take advantage of air currents.

Gulls Eating Berries

One day last summer we were up the west branch of the Matukituki River and were interested in a busy group of black-billed gulls feeding on a small tussock flat. It became clear that they were gathering the small berries of the native heath (*Leucopogon fraseri*). There was a dense mat of these plants there. The berries are very small and one would think that the gulls' bills would be too large and clumsy for them to pick the berries off their stems, but that was not so. (As children we, too, thought it worth while to take the berries. We called them Maori oranges.)

Great Hatch of Flies

Recently we were standing looking down on to the Waiau River on its course between Lakes Te Anau and Manapouri. The river has cut a gorge in the flood plains about 200 ft deep and 300 ft wide, the sides being partly bare and partly clothed in beech forest. It was a calm, warm, sunny day. We had an uninterrupted view of perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of river. It was clear that there was a great hatch of flies in progress and all the birds of the region seemed to have been told of it. In the still pools the trout were rising. In the air above there were many hundreds of black-billed gulls and terns sweeping back and forth taking the insects above the water. The whole river gorge was alive with this swarm of birds in constant, interweaving, sunlit flight. It was a pageant of immense and graceful activity. When we came along

the bank an hour or two later the hatch was over and almost all the gulls had disappeared.

A Royal Bird's Dignity Upset

During the Second World War the National Reserve and the Home Guard established posts on the Otago Peninsula. This meant repairing old roads and tracks and forming new ones. One of these roads went close to the albatross colony at Taiaroa Head. The birds, young and old, seemed surprisingly little disturbed by these activities and we were able to watch them very close up.

One day we saw a ewe grazing near a full-grown chick on its nest. When the ewe got close enough the chick stood up and gave it a smart peck on the rump with its heavy beak. The ewe turned and charged the bird and sent it sprawling on its back in a most undignified way. No harm was done except to the dignity of the royal bird. It was only too clear that that had been deeply injured.

Weka Kills Rabbits

An incident that is perhaps far more important to record occurred, appropriately enough, at Weka Pass, in North Canterbury. I was one of a group of geology students, under the direction of Professor "Bobby" Speight, studying the interesting natural features of that region. We had halted on a knoll overlooking a grassy hollow among the rocky outcrops. Soon we were aware of an unexpected drama taking place in the hollow below. Scattered on the sward there were perhaps a dozen rabbits, three or four adults and six or eight young ones.

Many of us have seen a small group of rabbits crouching paralysed by fear while a stoat chooses the one he decides to take for his meal. These rabbits we had come upon were mesmerised and immobilised in the same way by the threatening presence of a weka. The bird proceeded to go round the group killing them it seemed with a powerful peck at the back of the neck.

It was over 60 years ago since this happened and I cannot be exact, but we saw the weka kill perhaps six rabbits (probably all young ones) before the drama ended. It would be interesting to know if other readers have ever seen a weka at work in this way.

When the Government decided in the 1880s to introduce weasels, stoats, and ferrets to try to destroy the rabbits that had become a menace to the country the well-known Canterbury runholder George Tripp warned them that "weasels will destroy the wekas in the country, and these birds are now destroying all the young rabbits they come across". His warning went unheeded.

To Attend International Park Course in Canada and U.S.A.

MR P. H. C. LUCAS, Assistant Director of Administration (National Parks and Reserves) in the Department of Lands and Survey, has been admitted as a participant in the Fifth International Short Course in Administration of National Parks and Equivalent Reserves to be held in Canada and the United States in August-September this year.



Mr Lucas was recently awarded a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust fellowship to study the administration of national parks and reserves in North America, and attendance at the international course will form part of his study programme.

The international course is jointly sponsored by the University of Michigan, the United States National Park Service, and the Conservation Foundation. It is held for the benefit of administrators, professional personnel, and conservation leaders responsible for the establishment and development of park and wildlife conservation systems and associated tourist programmes throughout the world.

The course combines addresses and discussions on such issues of relevance to New Zealand as park planning and organisation and the role of tourism with field visits to parks and recreation areas in Canada and the United States.

Resolutions of International Organisations of Interest to New Zealand

AMONG the resolutions adopted by the Latin-American Regional Conference of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, last year was the following, which is of particular interest to New Zealand:

Nothofagus Forests

Recognizing the great scientific interest of the complex of *Nothofagus* forests in the southern part of South America, and the need and opportunity for continuing the excellent research recently undertaken in Chile and Argentina by further detailed investigation of many problems, such as distribution, biotic associations and effects on the forest habitats of introduced species, and

considering the various existing and potential threats to the continuing existence of adequate samples of all types of *Nothofagus* forests for the purpose of such studies, and

considering further that the *Nothofagus* forests of Chile and Argentina constitute the main area of this genus in the world, that these two countries have the centre of dispersal of *Nothofagus* and that the forest is in an unchanging biological equilibrium,

the IUCN Latin-American Regional Conference on Conservation of Renewable Natural Resources, meeting at San Carlos de Bariloche, Argentina, on 2 April 1968,

recommends that international organizations and governmental and academic authorities concerned collaborate in bringing *Nothofagus* research within the scope of the International Biological Programme and, in particular, in ensuring that samples of all types of forests are selected and classified on check-sheets of the Section on Conservation of Terrestrial Communities of IBP, with a view to guaranteeing their status as study areas and meeting the future needs of science.

Bird Preservation

The Pan-American Section of the Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation, meeting at Caracas, Venezuela, passed the following resolutions on birds of prey and the introduction of exotic species of birds:

Protection of Birds of Prey

Having noted that birds of prey and owls have recently suffered a drastic decline in numbers as a result of indiscriminate shooting and trapping, the destruction of habitat, and particularly the wide use of pesticides which poison their prey and in turn poison the raptors or render them infertile, and

having noted that in some countries bounties are still paid for destruction of raptors,

the ICBP Pan-American Section meeting at Caracas, Venezuela, on March 18-24, 1968,

urgently recommends that all species of birds of prey including owls, without exception, be given protection in all countries, that every effort be made to ensure enforcement by protective legislation, that where it is necessary to destroy individual birds for the protection of property, this be done only after careful study by biologists showing necessity and under strong governmental safeguards, that payment of bounties for killing birds be abolished, that the use of pesticides dangerous to birds of prey and owls be strictly controlled, that scientific studies be conducted with a view to increasing the population of endangered birds of prey including owls, and that efforts be made to educate the public to an understanding and appreciation of their value and interest.

Introductions of Exotic Species

Noting that introductions of exotic species of birds and other animals (including

fishes) have often resulted in the introduction of dangerous diseases, some of which affect man himself, and have led to damaging competition with desirable native animals, and predation upon species with consequent reduction or extirpation of such native species, and deleterious economic effects,

the ICBP Pan-American Section meeting at Caracas, Venezuela, on March 18-24, 1968,

recommends that governments prohibit the importation of exotic birds and other animals (including fishes) for purposes of liberation and that restocking with local native species be encouraged.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

NOTICE is hereby given that the 41st Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Wellington on Saturday 31 May 1969 at 9.30 a.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies.
2. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at New Plymouth on 1 June 1968.
3. Business arising out of minutes.
4. Consideration of Annual Report and Statement of Accounts.
5. Councillors who are retiring under Rule 9 (5) (a) and (b) and who are eligible for re-election: Mrs A. J. Du Pont and Messrs David Bowie and H. D. Saunders.
6. Election of three members to the Council under Rule 9 (1) (d).
7. Declaration of names of members appointed to the Council by branches and sections in terms of Rule 9 (1) (b) and (c).
8. The Council recommends that the rules be amended as under to provide for the election of a Deputy Chairman (proposed amendments italicised):

COUNCIL

Election and Retirement

Rule 9 (1) There shall be a Council of the Society (in these Rules referred to as "the Council") which shall consist of:

- (a) (i) The President (who shall be chairman of the Council).
- (ii) *The Deputy President.*
- (iii) The Honorary Treasurer.

PROCEEDINGS

- Rule 9 (6) At the first meeting of the Council after the Annual Meeting in each year the Council shall before proceeding to any other business elect the following:
- (a) The President.
 - (b) *The Deputy President.*
 - (c) The Honorary Treasurer.
 - (d) The members of the Executive (other than ex-officio members). Such persons shall take office immediately upon their election, and the President, *Deputy President*, Honorary Treasurer, and members of the Executive shall hold office until their successors are elected in the following year.

NEW RULE 12

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

There shall be a Deputy President. The Deputy President shall in the absence or incapacity of the President exercise all those duties and privileges normally exercised by the President.

All rules hereafter to be renumbered.

9. Consideration of remits received in accordance with the rules.
10. Appointment of Auditor.
11. General.

D. A. McCURDY,
Secretary.

Wellington,
10 January 1969.

The Most Urgent Issue Facing the World Today

THE article below is from the July-September 1968 issue of the "Bulletin of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources". The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society is a national member of the Union.

The statement, which was issued by Population Reference Bureau, Inc., shows clearly why New Zealand, with greatly overpopulated and underprivileged neighbours not far distant, should spare no effort to keep the country fertile and productive by preventing the loss of soil and by keeping control of its bountiful water supply.

The world needs all the food we can supply, and the need will be so much greater as the years pass. For our own sakes, and as a solemn duty, we should do all in our power to prevent destructive flooding and the loss of soil by controlling the raindrops where they fall on our steep hillsides and mountain slopes.

On 1 January 1968 the world contained an estimated 3.4 billion people, based on United Nation figures: 70 million more than a year earlier. By January 1969 the human population will have passed the 3.5 billion mark.

During 1968, approximately 118 million babies will have been born and almost 49 million will have died. This represents 324 thousand births and 133 thousand deaths a day—225 births and 93 deaths a minute.

In 1953, the world population stood at 2.5 billion. The next billion is expected by 1969. The *next* billion is expected only 14 years later, in 1983. If present trends continue to the end of the century, the world population will total 7 billion or more by the year 2000.

In 1967 the most rapidly growing region in the world was Middle America, where the population will double in about 20 years if present rates continue. About a third of the people now living in the world are under 15 years of age. In the "under-

developed" countries the figure approaches one half.

The seven countries which now have a population of over 100 million account for at least 58 percent of the total world population. They are: India, with 523 million people; USSR, 239 million; United States, 201 million; Pakistan, 126 million; Indonesia, 113 million; Japan, 101 million; and, by far the largest, Mainland China—on which reliable information is not readily available—the U.N. estimate is 723 million, and other unofficial estimates run as high as 900 million. These seven, plus the other 16 countries with a population of 25 million or more, account for 73 percent of the world total.

The world is roughly divided into two groups: the "have" countries and the "have nots". About a third of the world's people live in the "have" nations, where per capita income is high, literacy is almost universal, and there are ample food supplies.

The "have not" countries, which contain more than two billion people, face a very different situation. Africa, for example, has the highest death rate in the world. It also has the highest infant mortality rate, the highest illiteracy rate, the lowest per capita national income, and the lowest life expectancy. Asia (except for Japan) and Latin-America (except for Argentina, Chile, and Uruguay) are in positions only slightly more favourable.

The United Nations points out that the most characteristic difference between the "have" and the "have not" countries is the birth rate. In the "have" countries birth rates have been brought down into approximate balance with modern low death rates. The "have not" countries have experienced a phenomenal decline in death rates—especially since the end of World War II—but there have been no comparable declines in birth rates. As a result, rates of natural increase in these countries have gone up startlingly, from 1 percent to 2 percent to 3 percent and more. The world's highest

growth rates are in El Salvador (3.7 per cent), the Dominican Republic (3.6), and Venezuela (3.6). Most often the countries with the highest population growth are those in which the resulting high proportion of dependent children poses serious economic and social problems.

One direct aspect of the present population situation is the growing imbalance between the rate of food production and human reproduction. Each day over 190,000 more people sit at the world's breakfast table. Yet the additional third of a billion calories needed to provide for this multitude even a starvation diet are not being produced.

Grant from J. R. McKenzie Trust

The J. R. McKenzie Trust Board has made a grant of \$300 toward the cost of the Society's work among children. The Junior Section of "Forest and Bird" is largely financed from this grant.

Members are reminded that the J. R. McKenzie Trust is the major shareholder in McKenzies (N.Z.) Ltd. This results in 30 percent of the profits of McKenzies stores being made available to the Trust Board established by the late Sir John McKenzie.

Notes from Branches

AUCKLAND BRANCH

A bus-load of Auckland Branch members visited places of interest in the Raetihi district last Labour Day weekend. Highlights of the trip from Auckland included the first glimpse of snow on the slopes of Mt. Ruapehu, the colourful horopito near the road, and the Makatote viaduct.

Mr Tom Shout, of Raetihi, a foundation member of the Society, who had been of considerable help in arranging our itinerary, met us on arrival and later joined us for the evening. Mr Hislop, a park board ranger, spoke on the Tongariro National Park and showed slides.

On Sunday morning we visited Buchanan brothers' station at Tangiwai, stopping briefly to view the scene of the 1953 railway disaster. Paradise duck assemble in huge flocks on the station in the non-breeding season and indiscriminate shooting is not allowed there. The flocks had dispersed when we were there, but at close range we saw several pairs, some with ducklings.

Our next point of interest was the Ohakune mountain road, where the bus was able to take us to 4,000 ft. We noted the change from kamahi and rimu to beech and kaikawaka and walked down a track to admire the Mangawhero Falls. A heavy shower and bitter wind sent us back to the bus and the more genial climate at the lower entrance to the Blyth Track. We walked along this track for some distance, happy to find Prince of Wales feather ferns beside the track and to see and hear whiteheads, pied tits, and rifleman wrens. At the entrance to the park we went a short distance along a recently formed nature walk which would be worth another visit.

That evening Mrs Satchell showed some of her beautiful slides of New Zealand native plants, and Miss van de Velde showed a film strip of flower

culture in Holland, including some treasured hot-house specimens—white arum lilies!

On Monday morning we travelled to Pipiriki on a winding road with bush along much of its length. A wealth of *Clematis indivisa* and some *C. parviflora* were in bloom. We stopped to listen to bellbirds at one point.

There is little left of Pipiriki now that the hotel has gone and the river boats no longer travel the Wanganui River from its wharf. Masses of white arum lilies growing wild set some to speculating on the fortune to be made if only they could be transported to Holland.

—P. Fooks

WELLINGTON BRANCH

Last month the Wellington Branch held a junior nature day, and Mr Eric Lennie led 27 junior members to Queen Elizabeth Park (north of Paekakariki), where among the small lagoons, swamp land, and other waterways many wading birds were observed at close hand. They included pukeko, white-faced herons, dab chicks, and a flight of 65 mallard ducks. During lunch, which was taken near the sea, some of the party took the opportunity of going for a swim.

In a nearby bush area an identification of trees was made, Mr Lennie showing the children points of interest about them. Also seen during the day were harrier hawks, pheasants, kingfishers, and magpies.

Junior members are reminded of the other two events listed for them in the Wellington Branch programme, on 14 May and 16 August.

—Gilbert McCaul

Preservation of Special Areas in State - owned Indigenous Forests

AT the last meeting of the Society's National Council Mr R. C. Nelson, the National President, made the following comments about the remaining indigenous forests in New Zealand:

AS a rough figure there are about 14,000,000 acres of indigenous forests or forested lands remaining in New Zealand. Of these not more than 2,000,000 acres can be called commercial stands, and of those perhaps only about 1,300,000 acres are fully productive. Of the fully productive forests probably 80 percent are State owned, the remainder being privately owned.

There is no control over privately owned commercial forest cutting, except that if milling of a forest is considered likely to cause immediate erosion, milling can be forbidden by the Soil Erosion and Rivers Control Council, but in these circumstances the owners are entitled to full compensation for the loss of cutting rights, a formidable consideration from the Government's point of view.

The State-owned commercial forests will be made to last as long as possible, but ultimately these forests are listed for cutting and will be felled. In general they will be replaced by exotics, with the exception of comparatively small areas of kauri forest in which selective felling takes place and regeneration is encouraged, some beech forests, and also some areas of podocarp forest on the West Coast where the land is not suitable for exotics. Elsewhere, cleared indigenous forest areas not replanted with exotics are to be handed to the Department of Lands and Survey for development as farms.

This is Government policy and the New Zealand Forest Service must carry it out—with the following possible exceptions. Forests which might be classed as unique, having unusual plant associations or rare plants, or forested areas in districts where no other indigenous forests exist might be set aside as reserves, perhaps as botanical sanctuaries, forest parks, or other form of reserve. It is in this connection that I request special interest by members. Generally it is

too late to protest when the Forest Service has authorised cutting in some particular stand, but it is willing to consider any representations to have special areas preserved if sufficient reasons can be produced. Will all interested therefore make a point of looking over all State forests not already reserved with the view of having special areas preserved; where good reasons can be shown for preservation the Forest Service will give them careful consideration. Each case will be treated on its merits, but now is the time to start looking about. Reasons for preservation must be sound and must be more substantial than simply that an area is of native bush.

At present forested areas are estimated to be as follows:

| | Million acres |
|---|---------------|
| Total forested area | 15.465 |
| Exotic forests | 1.3 |
| Indigenous forests | 14.1 |
| Merchantable indigenous timber | 1.3 |
| Merchantable indigenous and exotic timber | 2.665 |

Non-merchantable timber stands are as follows:

| | Million acres |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|
| Approximate total | 11.5 |
| State owned (Forest Service) | 5.3 |
| Maori owned | .8 |
| Other freehold | 1.6 |
| Unoccupied Crown Lands | 1.4 |
| In national parks and reserves | 2.4 |

It is estimated that the area of national parks and reserves is 5.68 million acres. In this area indigenous timber occupies 2.4 million acres and of this merchantable timber occupies 200,000 acres.

There are six forest parks functioning as such, though all are not yet gazetted. These cover about 1.7 million acres.

Protection forests not in parks or reserves total about 4.5 million acres of non-productible forest.



Motupipi School Wins Nature Study Shield for 1968

MOTUPIPI School won the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's Shield last year with 136 points. Collingwood District High School was second with 114 points, and Henley was third with 107 points. There are five sections in the competition—plants, ferns, shells, minerals, and area study—and each entry receives a certificate denoting a classification of excellent, very good, or good. These certificates carry with them points for the school as follows: Excellent, 10 points, very good, 5 points, and good, 2 points; each entry gains half a point for the school, with a maximum of 25 points. Children in each class may get an excellent mark regardless of entries from higher classes; that is, a child in Primer 4 is not trying to compete with one in Standard 3.

The shield is a fine piece of workmanship, made by Mr P. Kitchingman, a jeweller whose name will be familiar to older Nelsonians, and on it are inscriptions which date back to 1928. It was donated by Mrs Perrine Moncrieff, well known throughout New Zealand and overseas as an outstanding ornithologist, to encourage the study of nature by school children. For many years school children were encouraged to write nature diaries, the best entry winning the shield for the child's school, and there were also two book prizes, for the senior and junior sections. In recent

years it was felt that this system was not in accord with modern educational principles, and the focus of the competition was shifted from the individual to the school.

The judges found both the standard and the number of entries last year to be extremely high and noted that much time and care had been taken by the children. The judge of the fern collection (Mr T. W. Kibblewaite) commented on one entry: "The wonderful variety, especially of filmy ferns was a delight to see. It is very doubtful if a better entry could be found in any age group in New Zealand." Another entrant used photographs to illustrate a collection of plants and trees, and this also would score very high marks in any competition in the country.

The shield committee of the Nelson Section had hoped to be able to have an exhibition of the entries at the local A. and P. show, but owing to the difficulties of finding suitable accommodation and of preventing damage to the exhibits, it was reluctantly decided to abandon the idea for that year at least. The section wishes to thank the following judges for their work: Shells, Mr and Mrs Ray Anderson; native trees and plants and area study, Messrs J. Cross and B. Ashby; minerals, Mr J. Stanton; and ferns, Mr T. W. Kibblewaite.

Area of Westland National Park Increased

"EIGHT thousand acres of magnificent scenery" on the southern side of the Copland Range in the Southern Alps has been made part of Westland National Park, the Minister of Lands and Forests, Mr Duncan MacIntyre, announced recently when opening a new visitors' centre for the Westland National Park Board at Fox Glacier township.

The new building includes a hall, a natural history museum, and garages for a fire tender and ambulance.

Two blocks of land—8,072 acres of Karangarua State Forest and 523 acres of scenic reserve and Crown land—had been added to the park, Mr MacIntyre said.

The area of the park is now 218,852 acres, and its western boundary extends to the main road by the Karangarua River and to the ridge of the Copland Range.

The whole of the Copland Track, which leaves the main highway 16 miles south of Fox Glacier township and provides access to Copland Pass and Mount Cook National Park, is now within the park.

THE JUNIOR SECTION*

ALONG THE TRACK

(Thirty cents will be paid for each item published in "Along the Track". Please give your age when you write.)

Whangarei—Sometimes my father takes us to Waro Limestone Reserve, about 12 miles north of Whangarei. The limestone rocks are in all shapes and sizes. Some look like old castles and some like wild animals; others are piled on top of each other. We found deep holes and caves under the rocks.

All kinds of trees grow in the reserve. We saw karaka, totara, puriri, titoki, fuchsia, kohekohe, lancewood, towai, and tree ferns. Some trees and climbers even grow on the rocks.

Once we found a beehive under a ledge of rock. The next time we visited the reserve we found that a storm had broken the honeycomb and the bees had gone.

We saw fantails, grey warblers, waxeyes, and thrushes in the bush. We also saw a fantail's and a thrush's nest.

—Alister Harlow, 8 years

Huntly—I live on the west side of the Waikato River, about 6 miles from Huntly. At the end of our road is Lake Rotongaro.

One morning as we were feeding our cattle we came over the crest of a hill and surprised a blue heron. These birds live near the boundary of our farm in a small swampy plantation. We think that they might be nesting there.

Last August we had some blacked-backed gulls on the farm. I should like to know if these birds are protected.

How many types of hawks or falcons are there in New Zealand? I should also like to know if any are native, and if they are, how are they identified from other species?

My brother came across several pied stilts' nests and found all the eggs in them smashed. At first we wondered if a hawk had broken them, but some one said that the pukeko had a habit of tramping through nests. Is this a likely cause?

—John Campbell, 15 years

[Black-backed gulls come within the Second Schedule of the Wildlife Act as partially protected wildlife. They may be killed only when injury or damage to any property or land has arisen. The occupier of the land or any person authorised by the occupier may kill on the land.]

There are two native birds of the falcon family in New Zealand: harrier hawk (kahu), which has large, long, rounded wings and slow flight, and bush hawk (karearea), which has smaller, pointed wings, a dark back, eye-stripe, and fast flight.

The damage to pied stilts' eggs may have been due to several causes and could be determined only

by observation. Pukekos are known to feed on young birds and eggs; so also are harrier hawks, hedgehogs, and some forms of gulls.]

Wellsford—We visited Little Barrier Island on a dark day, but I had been ashore only about 2 minutes when I saw two little black and white tomtits flitting from branch to branch.

About half way along the track to the warden's house, in a small clump of bullrushes, in some mud were some freshly made kiwi tracks. As we approached the house we saw native parrakeets, bellbirds, and tuis. When we entered the gate to the house the place became alive with birds. I wondered why there were so many there, but after lunch I realised why there were so many birds: the warden's wife came out with a bucket of sugar-water syrup and poured it into a long ponga trough. Immediately hundreds of bellbirds, tuis, and white-eyes flocked to the trough. They were so tame that when I put some syrup into my hands they came and sat on my finger to drink it.

After my mother had taken photographs of me with the birds on my hands we went inside and the warden showed us a weta and a kiwi egg. The weta was 10 in. long. We then walked through the back and saw many tomtits and heard the very rare stitchbird. When we arrived back at the house it was time to return to the boat. When we were about a mile out to sea I looked back and the island had gone, covered up by mist and cloud.

—Leigh Johnson, 12 years

Marton—A few days ago I was walking past a creek when a blue heron flew past. After a few minutes in the air it hit a barbed-wire fence and caught its wings. I think it may have broken its neck. When I freed it, it just dropped to the ground. I gave it to a friend of mine and she said she was going to stuff it or give it to a museum.

Recently I found two chaffinches' nests. One had two chicks in and the other had three. The nests are very neat.

—Susan Tidy, 13 years

Whangarei—Last summer our family went on the cream trip round the Bay of Islands. I was very lucky to see the first blue penguin in my life. The boat was stationary and when the penguin dived we could see all its movements, for the water was clear. What I found most interesting about the bird was that it appeared to be flying in the water and not paddling like a duck.

—Susan Shand, 11 years

FOR SALE (Post Free)

| | \$ c | | \$ c |
|---|-------|---|-------|
| POSTERS (THREE PICTORIAL, IN COLOUR) | | "THE SPELL OF STEWART ISLAND", by Gertrude Dempsey - - - - - | 3.00 |
| PROTECT YOUR NATIVE BIRDS AND FORESTS (each) - - - - - | 0.15 | "THE MILFORD TRACK", by A. H. Reed - - - - - | 0.75 |
| RECORDS | | "FLORA OF N.Z.", Vol. 1, by H. H. Allan - - - - - | 10.50 |
| "A TREASURY OF N.Z. BIRD SONGS", three "Kiwi" records (45 r.p.m. extended play) each containing the songs and calls of 10 different birds - - - - - | 5.00 | "ROCK GARDEN PLANTS OF SOUTHERN ALPS", by Phillipson and Hearn - - - - - | 4.75 |
| Supplementary Record No. 4 - - - - - | 1.75 | "A GUIDE TO TREES", by Rae West - - - - - | 0.65 |
| COLOUR SLIDES | | "MOUNTAIN FLOWERS AND TREES", by Nancy Adams - - - - - | 1.35 |
| "N.Z. FLORA AND FAUNA", each - - - - - | 0.20 | "NATIVE PLANTS", by Sheila Natusch - - - - - | 0.45 |
| BOOKS | | "N.Z. FLOWERS & PLANTS IN COLOUR", by Dr J. T. Salmon - - - - - | 6.50 |
| "BIOLOGY OF BIRDS" - - - - - | 1.33 | "FIELD GUIDE TO ALPINE PLANTS OF N.Z.", by Dr J. T. Salmon - - - - - | 5.60 |
| "BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND", by Falla, Gibson, and Turbott - - - - - | 4.50 | "NEW ZEALAND FORESTRY" - - - - - | 3.00 |
| "BOOK OF THE HUIA", by W. J. Phillipps - - - - - | 3.00 | "NEW ZEALAND NATIVE PLANT STUDIES", by William A. Davies - - - - - | 4.75 |
| "MORE NEW ZEALAND BIRD PORTRAITS", by M. F. Soper - - - - - | 3.25 | "PLANTS OF NEW ZEALAND COAST", by Lucy B. Moore and Nancy M. Adams - - - - - | 1.50 |
| "A NATURALIST IN NEW ZEALAND", by Mary Gillham - - - - - | 3.50 | "THE STORY OF THE KAURI", by A. H. Reed - - - - - | 6.30 |
| "NATIVES FOR YOUR GARDEN", by G. C. Jackson - - - - - | 1.50 | "TREES AND SHRUBS OF NEW ZEALAND", by A. L. Poole and N. M. Adams - - - - - | 2.50 |
| "NELSON PILGRIMAGE", by A. H. Reed - - - - - | 1.85 | "TUATARA, LIZARDS, AND FROGS OF NEW ZEALAND", by R. Sharell - - - - - | 3.50 |
| "BULLER'S BIRDS OF NEW ZEALAND", - - - - - | 14.70 | "WAIPOUA KAURI FOREST", by W. R. McGregor - - - - - | 0.50 |
| "NEW ZEALAND BIRDS AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM", by Mrs P. Moncrieff - - - - - | 1.25 | "WESTLAND'S WEALTH", by N.Z. Forest Service - - - - - | 2.00 |
| "THE TAKAHE" (an Ornithological Society Publication) - - - - - | 0.50 | "KNOW YOUR N.Z. BIRDS", by K. E. Westerskov - - - - - | 2.25 |
| "NATIONAL PARKS OF NEW ZEALAND" - - - - - | 3.50 | "HERITAGE DESTROYED", by Dr J. T. Salmon - - - - - | 0.85 |
| N.Z. NATIONAL PARK HANDBOOKS— | | "NATURE TALKS TO NEW ZEALANDERS", by Crosbie Morrison - - - - - | 1.75 |
| "ABEL TASMAN" - - - - - | 0.50 | "BOOK OF FERNS", by Greta Stevenson - - - - - | 1.48 |
| "ARTHUR'S PASS" - - - - - | 0.75 | "NEW ZEALAND FERNS", by Crookes and Dobbie - - - - - | 5.50 |
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| "FIORDLAND" - - - - - | 0.75 | "BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS" - - - - - | 0.75 |
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| "ALPINE GARDEN, TONGARIRO" - - - - - | 0.10 | "THE BEETLE BOYS", by M. and E. Johnston - - - - - | 0.50 |
| "TARANAKI FALLS, TONGARIRO" - - - - - | 0.10 | THE WILDLIFE ACT. The Act, 45c a copy. Regulations 8c, and the Amendment Act 1959, 5c. | |
| "UREWERA" - - - - - | 1.07 | | |
| "WESTLAND" - - - - - | 1.00 | | |
| "JUNIOR NATURALIST", by Crosbie Morrison - - - - - | 1.75 | | |
| FIAT BOOK OF N.Z. TREES - - - - - | 1.25 | | |
| "MEN ASPIRING", by Paul Powell - - - - - | 3.50 | | |
| "KAPITI DIARY", by Amy K. Wilkinson - - - - - | 1.00 | | |

APPEAL FOR BEQUESTS

Is there any cause more worthy of bequests by public-spirited citizens than the objectives of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, which is working wholly and solely for the welfare of New Zealand, present and future? Here is a suggested form of bequest:

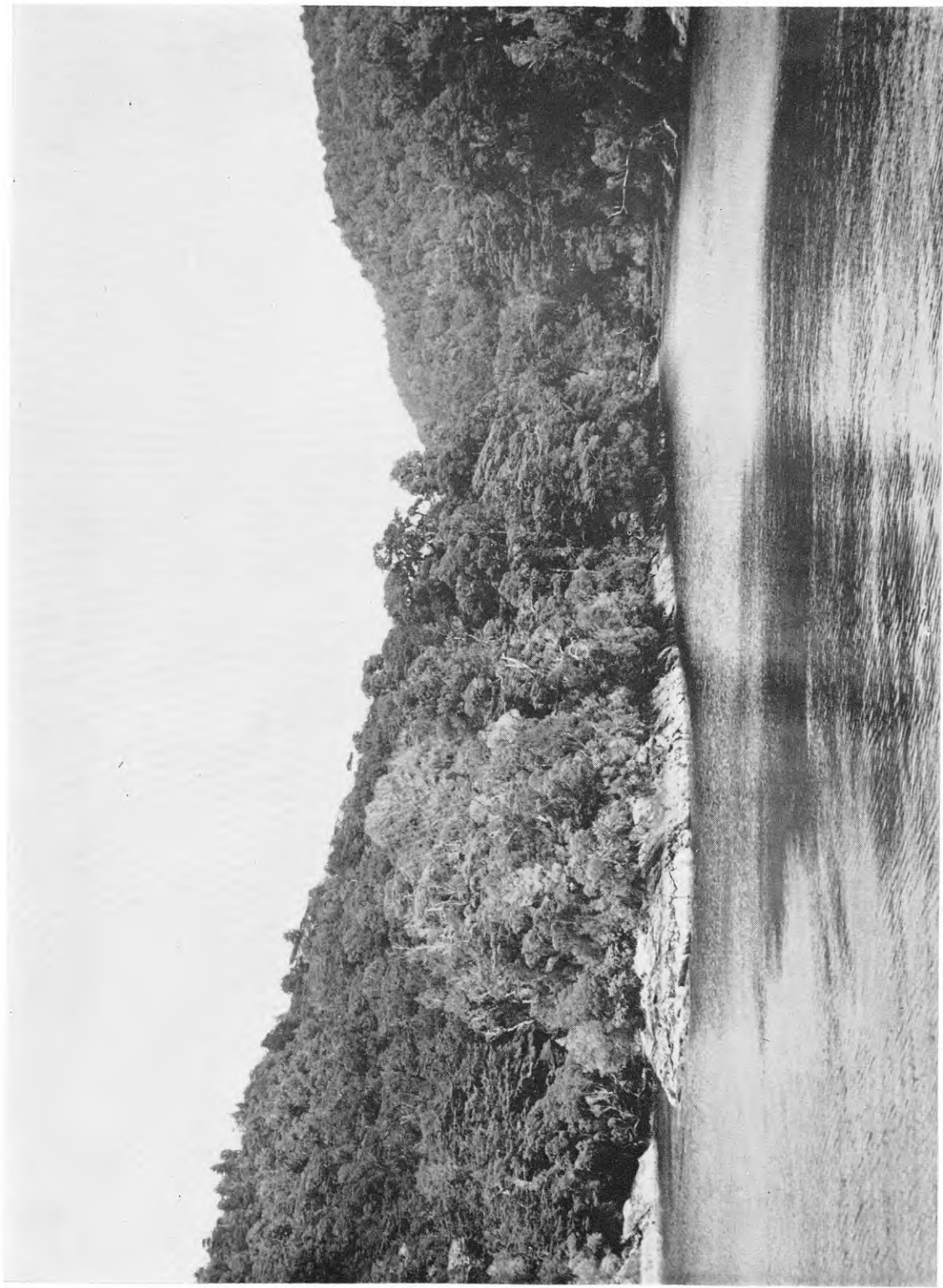
"I give and bequeath the sum of to the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand (Incorporated) and I declare that the receipt of the Secretary for the time being of the said Society shall be a complete discharge to my executors of the legacy hereby given to such Society."

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SOCIETY

The Society invites all those who realise the great economic and aesthetic value of our native birds, and who wish to preserve our unrivalled scenic beauties, to band together with it to carry out its objects.

The subscriptions are: Life Member \$30; Endowment Members \$2.50; Ordinary Members \$1.50; Family Membership: Husband and wife \$2.50, husband, wife, and child \$3.25, husband, wife, and two or more children \$3.50, Family Endowment Member \$4; Junior Members (under 17 or at school) \$0.75 per annum. Endowment Members are those who desire to contribute in a more helpful manner towards the preservation of our birds and forests.

This magazine is issued to all members without charge.



Pickersgill Harbour, Dusky Sound. This is the spot where Captain Cook moored the Endeavour in 1773.



The Eglinton Valley, a well-known part of Fiordland National Park, Southland.