

# Forest and Bird

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## Final Refuge

**T**HE Prime Minister, the Minister of Electricity, and the Minister of Lands, Forests, and Environment visited Fiordland National Park on 8 July to look over Manapouri and Te Anau and meet representatives of organisations who are desperately anxious to avoid any alteration in the levels of Lake Manapouri or fluctuations in the levels of Lake Te Anau.

Fiordland National Park is probably the greatest national park in the world — and, we think, the most beautiful — containing unique birds and bush and majestic mountains which enclose beautiful lakes. Fiordland National Park is controlled by a national park board under the general direction of the National Parks Authority. The National Park Act places on these bodies a heavy responsibility in that it directs as follows:

3. (1) It is hereby declared that the provisions of this Act shall have effect for the purpose of preserving in perpetuity as national parks, for the benefit and enjoyment of the public, areas of New Zealand that contain scenery of such distinctive quality or natural features so beautiful or unique that their preservation is in the national interest.

(2) It is hereby further declared that, having regard to the general purposes specified in subsection one of this section, national parks shall be so administered and maintained under the provisions of this Act that —

- (a) They shall be preserved as far as possible in their natural state;
- (b) Except where the Authority otherwise determines, the native flora and fauna of the parks shall as far as possible be preserved and the introduced flora and fauna shall as far as possible be exterminated;
- (c) Their value as soil, water, and forest conservation areas shall be maintained;
- (d) Subject to the provisions of this Act and to the imposition of such conditions and restrictions as may be necessary for the preservation of the native flora and fauna or for the welfare in general of the parks, the public shall have freedom of entry and access to the parks, so that they may receive in full

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**COVER:** *Celmisia coriacea*, the largest of our mountain daisies. This photo by Arthur P. Bates was taken in Otiira Valley, Arthurs Pass.

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