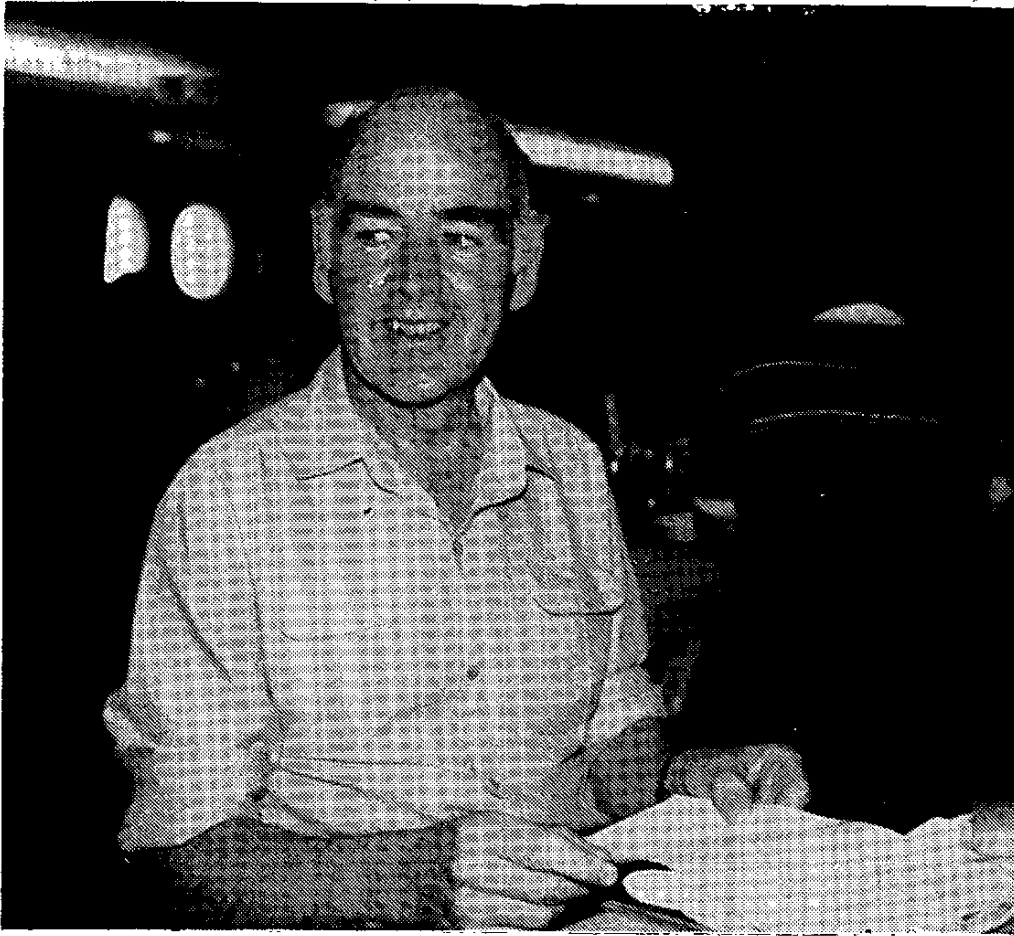


BRIAN A. ELLIS (1928-1993)



Brian Ellis began his interest in birds as a schoolboy in Christchurch and Otago. In Dunedin, this was fostered by the Society's first secretary, Professor Brian Marples. His involvement with birds continued throughout his life until his untimely death in February 1993.

Brian was strictly an amateur: he was trained in accountancy and business management, and spent much of his working life with Smith and Smith's but later moved into medical equipment. He retired only a few years before his death. It was his business administration skills which he brought to the Society when he became its Secretary from 1967 to 1973. Later, only a few months prior to his death, he helped clear up a backlog in the Society's accounting and set some procedures in place to avoid such problems occurring again.

Brian took part in many field activities both on his own and with groups. He made the first observations on White-faced Herons nesting in New Zealand and had a particular interest in some introduced finches, especially the Cirl Buntings, which visited his property in Karori, Wellington.

He was regional representative for Otago until he moved north to Wellington. He later moved to Auckland and became regional representative there until forced to retire due to ill health.

While Brian's major contribution to the Society was in making available his business acumen, he did participate in many group activities and these took him to many parts of the country. He had several overseas trips and took the opportunity on these to extend his knowledge of bird species and distribution.

He wrote "The New Zealand Bird Watcher's Book" when he settled in Auckland which is a useful aid to beginners in ornithology in New Zealand.

He also had an association with other related groups: in conservation, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society which he represented at the ICBP World Congress in Yugoslavia in 1978. He was chairman of the Miranda Naturalist Trust from 1980-86.

Many of us were looking forward to him taking a more active roll in field ornithology in his retirement but this was not to be. We share his wife's and family's loss and extend the Society's sympathy to Nancy, Marion and Stephen.

Brian D. Bell

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