

OSNZ news

Edited by PAUL SAGAR, 38A Yardley Street, Christchurch 4,
for the members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Please note that sightings recorded in this Newsletter are subject
to confirmation.

No. 30

March, 1984

NOTE: Deadline for the June issue will
be 21st May.

Red-headed Flaxbirds go international

On a recent visit to the Larington National Park in southeast Queensland the curator of the Green Mountain Botanic Gardens told me that he had noted Lewin's Honeyeater feeding on New Zealand flax, which was flowering for the first time after introduction there. These birds were sporting red foreheads from the presence of pollen collected during pollen feeding. This has been reported for Bellbirds, Tuis and other species feeding on flax (see *OSNZ news* 23 & 24).

JOHN FENNELL

New Book

For those interested in estuaries, there will be a new guide available soon: *Animals of the Estuary Shore: illustrated guide and ecology* by Dr Malcolm B. Jones, published by the University of Canterbury Press. This book includes keys and general ecological information on the birds and other littoral fauna, and is based on studies of the Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Christchurch.

R. N. HOLDAWAY

Banded SIPO returns

A SIPO K-4797, banded by Alan Baker at the Avon-Heathcote Estuary as an adult male, has returned to breed on the same patch of stony sheep pasture at Springvale, Alexandra for the thirteenth successive season. Each year he has been mated with an unbanded female. The male has a yellow plastic band on each leg but these are showing signs of wear and may not last much longer. In contrast, a green plastic band and the numbered metal band seem to be in good repair.

PETER CHILD

RAOU Congress

The 81st Annual Congress of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union took place at the University of Auckland Conference Centre from 9-11 September 1983, with 116 registrants, including 18 from Australia. Most of the 26 papers and supporting displays were on the congress theme, Studies Towards Conservation, and provided a thorough coverage of current work on the rarer avifauna of this part of the world. Other reports focussed on habitat problems and on aspects of predator control.

Field trips to Tiritiri Island and to the South Auckland wader haunts, and excursions to Little Barrier Island, gave visitors a first-hand experience of local ornithology. Social breaks, plus the Congress Dinner all contributed to the lively atmosphere of an excellent meeting. Congress convener was Dick Veitch with supporting organisation principally in the hands of John Craig and Brian Gill, assisted by Wildlife Service staff and OSNZ members.

MICHAEL TAYLOR

Black Stilts - sightings wanted

The Black Stilt project had another satisfactory season raising chicks during 1983/84. However, we are having considerable difficulty in locating chicks that have been colour banded over the past 3 seasons.

The techniques involved in this project are egg manipulation and cross fostering. This means that in any 1 year over 50% of the chicks reared are fostered by either hybrid stilts or Pied Stilts. It has now become obvious that the light hybrids and Pied Stilts are taking their young with them when they migrate to the coast and points further north. We do not expect these young birds to return to the MacKenzie Basin until they are ready to breed, at 2 or 3 years. However, in the meantime they have become 'lost' birds.

In brief, during the 1981/82 season we reared 13 Black Stilt chicks of which

6 were colour-banded, in 1982/83 18 chicks were reared, of which 10 were colour-banded. It is far too early this season to have any final figures but the team is confident that 30 chicks will be reared. At the time of writing (4/1/84) 18 chicks have fledged and 13 of these are colour banded.

OSNZ members can assist with this project by checking carefully any large concentrations of Pied Stilts, and recording the colour combinations of any banded birds. I cannot stress enough the care needed when reading the colour combinations. We have yet to record a juvenile Black Stilt outside the confines of the MacKenzie Basin. Therefore any sighting of a colour banded Black Stilt is going to be of the utmost importance. If banded stilts are seen please contact your RR or nearest office of the Wildlife Service.

RON NILSSON

Goldfinch nests easy prey for Harrier

A macrocarpa hedge at the back of our house had 3 Goldfinch nests and each was plucked out by a Harrier. The nests were taken away one after the other and the young birds devoured amidst great agitation by the adults. As 1 nest was carried off a chick fell out and the Harrier came back for it after the others were eaten.

C. & J. TULLY

Beach Patrols

The Beach Patrol Scheme for 1983 ended on 31 December and so I would appreciate your records from patrols, even nil results, sent in as soon as possible please. The most notable result from patrols in 1983 was the wreck of Long-tailed Skuas along the western North Island coastline during January and February. Any members needing beach patrol and/or specimen record cards please let me know.

RALPH POWLESLAND

Banding Mail Bag

In *OSNZ news* 28 we reported the recovery of a juvenile Giant Petrel with an East German band. Although 2 requests have been sent to Vogelwarte Hiddensee we have not received the original banding data. However, we will try again.

Another interesting recovery is that of a 6 months old Masked Booby. The bird had been banded on Philip Island (Norfolk Islands) and was found about 10 km NE of Hamilton.

A-73802 Greenfinch, banded as a juvenile female on 15/2/83 at Courtenay (Canterbury) by the Canterbury Passerine Research Group, was recovered dead on 13/7/83 at Blenheim. The bird had been killed by a cat.

D-146515 White-fronted Tern, banded as a pullus at Kaikoura on 24/12/82, was recovered dead on Warriewood Beach, New South Wales, on 4/9/83.

R-40596 Southern Royal Albatross, banded as a pullus on Campbell Island on 16/8/82, was recovered in August 1983 sitting on the beach at Praia do Quintuao, Brazil (30°15'S, 50°15'W). The bird was unable to move and was transferred to the Zoological Gardens at Sapucaia du Sul, where it died on 21/8/83.

R-30458 Wandering Albatross, banded on Adams Island, Auckland Islands, on 30/12/72 as a breeding adult. The bird was captured alive on 25/7/83 off Bellamy, New South Wales (34°24'S, 151°00'E) and released after CSIRO band 140-39840 was added to the other leg.

RODERICK O. COSSEE

Chatham Island Taiko Expedition 1983-84

At the conclusion of our latest Chatham Island Taiko Expedition, which was in the field from 23/8/83 to 16/1/84, 23 individual Taiko had been banded and there had been 5 recaptures. This season 11 Taiko were captured, weighed, measured and banded before release. This total comprised 8 new birds and 3 recaptures.

One of the 3 recaptures had been recaptured in November 1982, when a radio transmitter had been attached to its central tail feathers. When recaptured in November 1983 the transmitter had been lost, probably when the tail moult occurred. This confirmed the effectiveness of the technique of attaching a transmitter to the tail feathers of a bird not able to be recaptured regularly. This finding augurs well for our

major attempt at radio telemetry next spring.

The main objectives of the latest expedition were to continue monitoring the Taiko population and to prepare for the radio telemetry phase of our work. These aims have been achieved most satisfactorily.

Our base camp facility has been prepared and modified for this latest phase of the continuing search for the breeding ground. Two large 15 metre wooden masts have been erected and these will carry an array of aerials for communication and radio telemetry. In addition, a large double-sided mapping table was constructed and pivoted, in order that bearings obtained from the telemetric tracking can be plotted accurately. Using this technique it should be possible to pinpoint an area for intensive burrow searching. Five sites have been selected and access developed to place the 10 metre pipe masts which will hold the aerials necessary for tracking Taiko fitted with miniature transmitters. The tracking network will be erected during September 1984, ready for the first transmitters to be attached to Taiko caught later in the spring.

My sincere thanks to team leaders Alastair Gordon, Bill Ringer and Mike Imber for their most enthusiastic and loyal support, and to the members of my January work party for their outstanding support and interest in the Taiko Project.

DAVID E. CROCKETT, *Expedition Leader*

Band and Tag

Now the 1983/84 banding year is over we would like to remind banders that all banding schedules covering this period must be forwarded to the Banding Office as soon as possible. Another reminder is that a lot of permits expire soon, therefore please check your permit and, if it applies to you, forward it to us, together with an application form for renewal. When renewing permits it is also a good time to reconsider your banding programme and to evaluate whether it meets your specific needs. If an extension appears necessary, apply for it with your permit renewal and we will see what we can do for you.

The 1982/83 bird banding report is in its final stage, after a few major holdups, and will be available soon. The report gives information about the number of birds banded per species and grand totals for all years, totals by age and sex for each species, a summary of recoveries processed during the year and

a table with the number of birds per species for each permit/operator.

Please order your copy now.

The banding computer file is now updated to January 1984 and lists recoveries for 126,811 individual birds. However, the file is not complete because a sizeable list of errors, all relating to the early 1970's, have to be corrected.

We are considering the addition of 2 new band sizes to our already extensive list of supplies:

— a band with a diameter of 2.0 mm for Grey Warbler and other small species that may benefit from these small bands.

— a flipper band for Rockhopper Penguin and other penguins of similar size. We would like to receive submissions as soon as possible (together with leg measurements) for species that may be suitable for the 2.0 mm size bands. Information regarding requirements for penguin bands would also be useful.

New permits issued during the past 6 months cover South Island Fernbird, Black-backed Gull, Whitehead, Long-tailed Cuckoo, South Island Kaka, Chatham Island Snipe, Black-winged Petrel, Rockhopper Penguin, Erect-crested Penguin, Yellow-eyed Penguin, Southern Skua, Rock Wren, Cape Pigeon, Antarctic Tern, Redpoll, and Canada Goose.

RODERICK O. COSSEE

Totorore Expedition

The most recent letter (9/2/84) from Gerry Clark reports 'We had a most interesting voyage down here (Punta Arenas) and discovered a small colony of Rockhopper Penguins on Isla Solitario, off Isla Byron — one could say actually in the Golfo de Penas.

Then another large colony on Isla Bonaventure, near to Isla Duque de York, in Canal Concepcion. About 1,000 birds, but with a colony of Magellanic Penguins and, believe it or not, a number of Macaroni Penguins as well — all breeding. We made truly amazing observations of Red Phalaropes — commonest bird in Chilean waters from the Golfo de Penas to south of Duque de York. Our best find was a colony of at least 30,000 Black-browed Mollymawks on Isla Diego de Almagro. That will take some explaining as we were forbidden by the Armada to go there. We also saw Pink-footed Shearwaters off Duque de York (southernmost record) and have seen lots of Great Shearwaters and even some Chinstrap Penguins in the Straits of Magellan'.

GERRY CLARK

Regional Roundup

Auckland: In a minor change of venue, the region's monthly meetings will in future be held in the Supper Room rather than the Schoolroom of Auckland Museum. With attendances of 50-100 the greater space and comfort will be welcomed.

Notable recent results have included the finding of a Fairy Tern's nest in the Wildlife Refuge at Mangawhai from which 2 chicks hatched in January, the recovery of a Long-tailed Skua in full moult during a west coast beach patrol on 5/2/84, and the first successful rearing of chicks by Gannets which have nested on the mainland cliffs at Muriwai. The 6 young birds have been banded and earlier it had proved possible to discern the band numbers on 2 adults at this site. These were respectively 4 and 5 years old and had been reared on the nearby island colony. Records are still being collected from the annual February census of the South Kaipara dune lakes: it appears that several observers were fortunate enough to see Bitterns and that Dabchicks are still present on some of the lakes. (M. J. Taylor).

South Auckland: S. Davies counted 36 Red-necked Stints at the Karaka shellbanks on 24/11/83 and there were 35 present during the summer census. 3 Terek Sandpipers were seen at Access Bay, Firth of Thames, by Tony Crocker on 24/9/83. A rather pale, first-year Ringed Plover was found and photographed by Brian Chudleigh at Access Bay on 9/11/83. This is the second time that this species has been recorded in New Zealand. The first was seen in the Firth of Thames 13 years ago and was more colourful when found. The bird has remained and has been seen by a number of keen wader watchers. Anyone sighting it during February or March should look carefully for signs of breeding plumage or any colour changes. (Beth Brown)

Waikato: The Kawhia and Aotea Harbour summer census in November 1983 was finally achieved on the Wednesday, after Sunday's count was postponed owing to bad weather. A great turnout of boats and members enabled both harbours to be covered. The counts included 4575 Bar-tailed Godwits, a big increase on the November 1982 count of 2514, and 52 Knots which are usually absent from these harbours. (Betty Seddon)

Bay of Plenty: The NZ Dotterel-Variable Oystercatcher survey proved to be a very time-consuming and exhausting business for 3 members but the results seem well worth all the effort. The

count included 68 pairs of NZ Dotterels, with 24 nests also being found. Some pairs bred very early last summer and 1 pair had a running chick on 9/10/83. (Paddy Latham)

Hawkes Bay: During the weekend of 5-6/11/83 6 Hastings/Napier members assisted Wildlife Service officers and Wairoa OSNZ members with a Canada Goose nest count and bird census at Wairoa. The weekend was very rewarding and provided the only major coastal bird survey completed in the Wairoa area for a good many years. Some new records were obtained and included the sighting of Spur-winged Plovers and Golden Plover. It is hoped to complete a further survey in 1984 when the emphasis would be centred on the Mahia Peninsula.

Highlights of field trips during September to December 1983 included a good view of nesting shags at Lake Purimu; an Arctic Skua seen to win a fish from a tern; and a Long-tailed Cuckoo seen to fly across a gap at Bellbird Bush and land in tall beech, from which it called for about 7 minutes. (Kathleen Todd)

Taranaki: A visit to the Black-backed Gull colony on the north side of the Waitotara River on 20/11/83 revealed many nests with 1-3 eggs and more than 1000 birds in the vicinity of the colony. No attempt has been made to accurately assess the number of nests in the colony but it appears to have increased in size over recent years. A Bittern was seen at the nearby lagoons and 3 Variable Oystercatchers and 4 SIPOs were present near the river mouth but disappointingly, no migratory waders.

Barrett Lagoon on the outskirts of New Plymouth continues to provide good habitat for a variety of species. Increasing numbers of Paradise Shelduck appear there (50 on 10/1/84), with a few NZ Scaup and Shoveler being present regularly. The Australian Coot made its first appearance there in early 1983.

Recent counts of Whiteheads in northern parts of Egmont National Park give the clear impression that the species is more numerous now than formerly. It is hoped that some interesting information about bird numbers and distribution in the Park will be available after the conclusion of a short term survey being carried out there for the Department of Lands and Survey.

Beach patrols during 1983 produced no particularly unusual finds but a very freshly dead Wandering Albatross (now in the Taranaki Museum) was found on a New Plymouth beach in late December 1983. (D. G. Medway)

Wellington: Prions continue to dominate beach patrols. 89 of the 98 birds picked up between Waikanae and Te Horo on 23/1/84 were prion species, 23 were identified as Fairy Prions, 2 as Broad-billed and the rest were unidentifiable.

The regular sighting of a Nankeen Night Heron at Lower Hutt has sparked considerable interest. However, the bird was born, bred and banded at the Wellington Zoo. (Russell Thomas)

Marlborough: Mrs Schroder reports seeing a frigatebird at the Cape Campbell lighthouse in October. Also in October, Bill Cash visited the Vernon Lagoons and reported Royal Spoonbills scattered over the area. The largest flock seen was of 12 birds but groups of 2 birds (probably pairs) were feeding in various parts of the lagoons. (Pauline Jenkins)

Nelson: In November Tim Watson saw and photographed a Lesser Frigatebird at Farewell Spit.

This year 500 Black-backed Gull chicks have been banded with yellow bands. All these birds were raised on the Boulder Bank.

Alvin Brett says he often hears Kakas on the Hope Saddle at night, and has seen NZ Falcons in the Buller Gorge and at Kawatiri. (Jenny Hawkins)

Canterbury: The Wilson's Phalarope was present at Ellesmere when Canterbury members visited the lake on 3/3/84. Now the bird is starting to assume breeding plumage it will be interesting to keep detailed notes of its development. Other birds present at the lake that day included 730+ Pied Stilts, 1000+ Banded Dotterels, 60 Knots, 65 Red-necked Stints, 3 Curlew Sandpipers, 2 Bar-tailed Godwits, 1 Golden Plover and 2 Pectoral Sandpipers. (Paul Sagar)

Otago: 2 Royal Spoonbills were at All Day Bay lagoon, near Oamaru, on 23/1/84. (A. G. Hocken)

Compiled by PAUL SAGAR

Martins return

The martins have returned to Berwick earlier than usual this summer (see OSNZ news 23 & 28). A Fairy Martin was seen first, on 29/12/83, with a Tree Martin being seen in 11/1/84. The Tree Martin has remained in the area and we have seen it foraging, using our clothes line as a perch. This bird is well feathered, without the fluffiness of 2 birds present last summer. The Welcome Swallows are not very settled with it and have tried to harrass it, only to be greeted by an assertive rasping response with open beak.

ALISON NEVILL

BALANCE SHEET

31 DECEMBER 1983

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)

REPORT OF TREASURER TO MEMBERS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1983

1. MEMBERSHIP

	31.12.82	31.12.83	Increase (Decrease)
N.Z. Ordinary	753	728	(25)
N.Z. Husband and Wife	210	212	2
N.Z. Junior	95	88	(7)
N.Z. Family	13	13	-
N.Z. Institutions	51	46	(5)
N.Z. Life Member	57	56	(1)
Honorary Life Member	1	1	-
Overseas Individuals	82	69	(13)
Overseas Institutions	74	75	1
Overseas Life Members	20	20	-
	<u>1,356</u>	<u>1,308</u>	<u>(48)</u>

During the year 124 new members were admitted, 74 left and 98 were struck off as unfinancial, a net decrease of 48. Notornis was sent to 50 other organisations in exchange for their publications.

2. INCOME

The excess of income over expenditure after transfers to Reserve Funds was \$4,081, an increase of \$2,829 from the previous year. Income from the sale of greeting cards was up \$2,067 from the previous year. Subscription income closely matched the cost of printing and distributing "Notornis" and "O.S.N.Z. News". The result for the year was better than expected mainly due to the printing costs for "Notornis" having been held.

3. INVESTMENTS

Many investments and deposits fell due in December 1983 and these have been held as interest earning bank deposits during early 1984, pending settling down of interest rates.

ASSETS

	1982	1983
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Bank of New Zealand current account	\$ 4,957	\$36,977
Bank of New Zealand savings account	316	417
Amounts owing to the Society	353	843
Bank and short term debentures	43,820	35,680
Stock of "Notornis" (Note 1)	100	100
Stock of Greeting Cards (Note 2)	7,845	5,568
Advances - for future costs	<u>1,000</u>	<u>250</u>
	58,391	79,835
<u>Investments</u>		
Fixed term debentures and bank deposits	1,930	-
<u>Library - at valuation (Note 1)</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$61,321	\$80,835

LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Liabilities

Amounts owed by the Society	\$ 5,489	\$ 4,608
Subscriptions paid in advance	<u>985</u>	<u>1,156</u>
Total Liabilities	6,474	5,764

Reserves

Life Subscriptions (Note 3)	4,066	4,168
Robert Falla Memorial Reserve (Note 4)	1,242	1,315
Projects Assistance Reserve (Note 5)	23,395	32,092
Bird Distribution in N.Z. Atlas Reserve (Note 6)	792	8,063
Publication Reserve	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Total Reserves	30,495	46,638

Accumulated Funds

Balance at beginning of year	23,100	24,352
Excess of Income over Expenditure for Year	<u>1,252</u>	<u>4,081</u>
	<u>24,352</u>	<u>28,433</u>

TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES & ACCUMULATED FUNDS \$61,321 \$80,835

For and on behalf of the Council

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.

B. Brown
Chairman

G.M.H. Peterson
HON. TREASURER

Discount travel to AGM

Air New Zealand 10% discount vouchers will be available from RRs but members should inquire about the various discount fares already available from Air New Zealand, such as 2 for 1 and thrifty fares, both of which are much cheaper than 10% discount!

R. S. SLACK

Probable Fan-tailed Cuckoos in inland Canterbury

On 26/11/83 Mr N. A. Thornton was fishing in the Hurunui Valley and observed 3 birds which he could not identify. Fortunately he had binoculars at hand and was able to observe the birds for about 15 minutes. At the time of the sightings Mr Thornton was 300-400 m downstream from the confluence

of the Sisters Stream with the Hurunui River. On the same day his companion, Mr L. Dell, saw a similar bird near Jolly Brook, about 1 km further upstream. Mr Dell's sighting was independent of Mr Thornton's but it may have been 1 of the 3 birds observed by Mr Thornton, as 1 flew off upstream.

Mr Thornton consulted his bird literature and tentatively identified the birds as Fan-tailed Cuckoos. He provided me with the following information.

Behaviour — 3 birds were seen within 20-50 m of each other, diving into trees, chasing and flying in circles. A feature of their behaviour which he emphasised was the flickering and fanning of the tail when a bird alighted or just before take-off.

Description — size about that of a Starling; head, back and sides bluish

grey; underparts cinnamon brown, reminiscent of the underparts of a male Chaffinch; tail dark, barred with white; wings dark. Another bird had greyer underparts and brownish upperparts. This description although incomplete hints at the possibility of a juvenile bird.

Overall, I believe the description is consistent with a Fan-tailed Cuckoo. The occurrence of vagrants in New Zealand at the time these birds were observed is in keeping with the weather, as the Christchurch Meteorological Service recorded strong winds from the westerly quarter during 16-19/11/83.

The only previous record of Fan-tailed Cuckoo in New Zealand was at Governor's Bay, Lyttelton, in June 1960 (*Notornis* 11: 108).

G. A. TUNNICLIFFE

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

TWELVE MONTHS ENDED 31 DECEMBER 1983

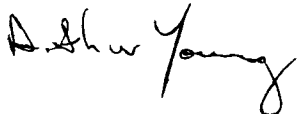
<u>GENERAL INCOME</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Subscriptions	\$21,469	\$21,049
Transfer from Life Subscriptions Reserve	452	463
Donations	275	271
Profit from sale of Greeting Cards	1,432	3,499
Profit from sale of Back Numbers	665	562
Profit from sale of Car Stickers	17	32
Profit from sale of Society Ties	41	37
Profit from sale of Biology of Birds	203	4
Total General Income	24,554	25,917
<u>INVESTMENT & OTHER INCOME</u>		
Interest earned by all funds	6,821	6,719
Royalties on Field Guide to N.Z. Birds	5,995	6,478
Sales of Provisional Atlas	44	86
Grants received for Atlas Publication	-	7,250
	12,860	20,533
Less: Royalties credited to Projects Assistance Reserve	5,995	6,478
Interest credited to Reserves	3,622	4,013
Atlas sales credited to Atlas Reserve	44	86
Atlas grants credited to Atlas Reserve	-	7,250
	9,661	17,827
Investment and other income retained in General Funds	3,199	2,706
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,753	\$28,623
<u>COSTS AND EXPENSES</u>		
Printing and distribution of "Notornis" & "OSNZ" News	\$22,745	\$21,041
Audit Fee	400	495
Beach Patrol Scheme	196	-
Book Plate Award	50	-
Cost of Annual General Meeting	24	-
General Expenses	147	130
Junior Award	50	25
Library Expenses	60	68
Nest Record Scheme	152	-
Postages	753	323
Printing and Stationery	512	407
Cost of Summer School	-	850
Royal Society Affiliation	378	-
Regional Representatives Allowance	140	420
Subscriptions to other Societies	65	65
Travelling Expenses	829	718
TOTAL COSTS AND EXPENSES	26,501	24,542
Excess of Income over Expenditure transferred to Accumulated Funds	\$ 1,252	\$ 4,081

The accompanying notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with these financial statements.


ARTHUR YOUNG

The Members
The Ornithological Society of New Zealand (Inc)

In our opinion, the financial statements on pages 2 to 5 fairly present the financial position of the Society at 31 December 1983 and the results of its activities for the year ended on that date.



Auckland, New Zealand
23 February 1984

THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

31 DECEMBER 1983

GENERAL ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

The general accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of results and financial position under the historical cost method of accounting have been adopted by the Society.

PARTICULAR ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES

Particular accounting principles which materially affect the measurement of excess of income over expenditure and financial position have been applied as follows:

1. SUBSCRIPTION INCOME

No subscriptions in arrears have been included in income. Subscriptions in advance have been excluded from income. Life Subscriptions received are included in the Life Subscriptions Reserve, from which 10% of the closing balance is annually transferred to current income.

2. ROYALTY INCOME

Royalties on the sale of Field Guide to N.Z. Birds are deducted from income and credited to the Projects Assistance Reserve.

3. SALES OF BIRD DISTRIBUTION IN N.Z. ATLAS

Proceeds from the sale of the Provisional Atlas are deducted from income and credited to the Atlas Reserve.

4. INTEREST EARNED

Interest earned by investment of Reserve Funds is credited to those Reserves.

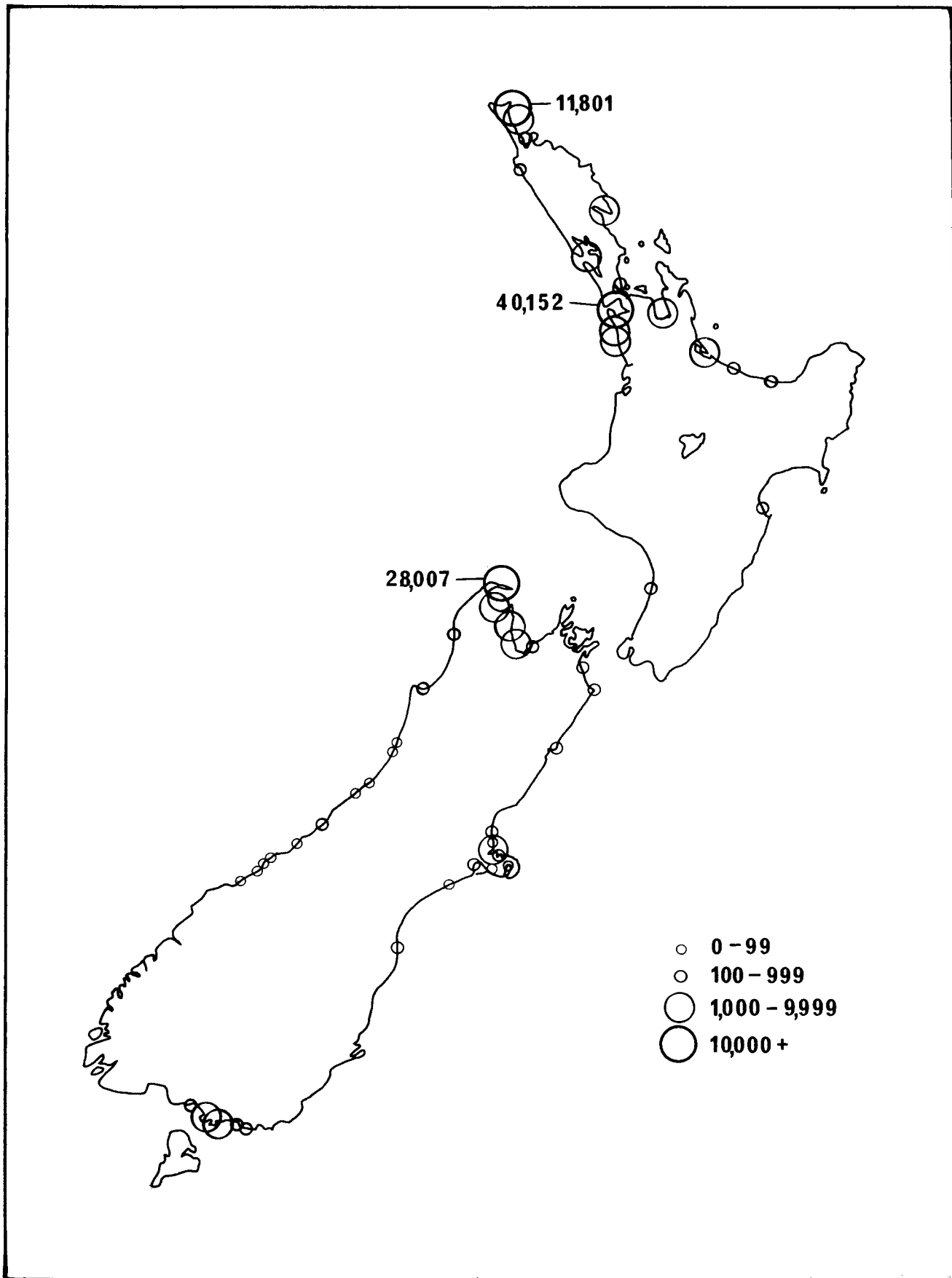
THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF N.Z. (INC.)

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

31 DECEMBER 1983

1. <u>Stock of "Notornis" and Library</u>		
These are included at a nominal value.		
2. <u>Stock of Christmas Cards</u>		
These are Christmas Cards printed in 1982 and held for sale in future years. They are recorded at cost.		
3. <u>Life Subscriptions Reserve</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 3,394	\$ 4,066
Life subscriptions received	640	-
Interest earned	484	565
	4,518	4,631
Less Transfer to Current Income, 10% of balance	452	463
Balance at end of year	\$ 4,066	\$ 4,168
4. <u>Robert Falla Memorial Reserve</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 1,142	\$ 1,242
Contributions received	28	-
Interest earned	172	173
	1,342	1,415
Less Grant	100	100
Balance at end of year	\$ 1,242	\$ 1,315
5. <u>Projects Assistance Reserve</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$18,929	\$23,395
Royalties on Field Guide	4,996	6,478
Interest earned	2,840	2,807
	27,765	32,680
Less grants made	4,370	588
Balance at end of year	\$23,395	\$32,092
6. <u>Bird Distribution in N.Z. Atlas Reserve</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 650	\$ 792
Atlas sales during year	44	86
Interest earned	98	115
Grants received	-	7,250
Costs incurred	-	(180)
	\$ 792	\$ 8,063

FIGURE 1 — Distribution and numbers of migratory waders in New Zealand, November 1983



National Wader Count — November 1983

This report summarises the results of the first ever New Zealand National Wader Count, held during November 1983. Over 100 members participated in the counts and a good proportion of wader haunts was covered during the month. While members were encouraged to concentrate on counting the arctic migratory species, especially Bar-tailed Godwits, Knots and Turnstones, counts of NZ waders were made when time permitted. Consequently in Table 1, where no Banded Dotterels or Pied Stilts are recorded for a region does not necessarily mean that these species did not occur there.

Total numbers: A summary of wader totals by region is given in Table 1 (Page 8). The grand total of over 142,000 waders counted during the survey is certainly impressive. As expected, Bar-tailed Godwits were the most abundant of the migratory waders, followed by Lesser Knot, Turnstone and Golden Plover. However, a closer look at the totals reveals some surprises within these 4 species. The 71,671 Bar-tailed Godwits seems lower than the number I expected, and in 1977 Dick Veitch estimated that about 100,000 visited NZ each summer. On the other hand, the 5,514 Turnstones is a little higher than I guessed. Numbers of Knots and Golden Plovers appear to be within the expected range. Totals for the rarer migratory waders are most interesting because in the past it has been difficult to estimate their total numbers from locality reports.

Distribution: An indication of the number of waders counted at each locality is shown in Figure 1, and the localities where more than 1,000 waders were counted are listed in Table 2. These show that the important areas, during the summer at least, are in the north (Parengarenga to Kawhia), Nelson and Southland. However, this does not mean that members should not count waders in other areas, because it is important to determine which localities are important in each region, and future counts may necessitate additions to the list, particularly if important wintering/passage areas are determined.

The effort and coverage in most regions was very good but to obtain a better picture of wader distribution and numbers future surveys should include counts from Lake Wairarapa, Gisborne area, Taranaki, and Otago.

Localities covered during the November 1983 survey were:

Far North/Northland: Parengarenga

TABLE 2 — Localities where 1000+ waders were counted during November 1983

Location	Number
Manukau Harbour	40,152
Farewell Spit	28,007
Parengarenga Harbour	11,801
Tauranga Harbour	9,618
Kaipara Harbour	9,401
Firth of Thames	9,265
Whangarei Harbour	8,689
Kawhia Harbour	5,174
Houhora	2,050
Golden Bay	1,830
Waimea Estuary	1,787
Motueka Estuary	1,716
Avon-Heathcote Estuary	1,658
Aotea Harbour	1,240
Awarua Bay	1,030

Harbour, Houhora Harbour, Rangaunu Harbour, Waimango Swamp, Mangonui, Hokianga Harbour, Whangarei Harbour. Auckland/South Auckland: Kaipara Harbour, Firth of Thames, Manukau Harbour, Mangawhai-Ohura Estuary. Waikato: Kawhia Harbour, Aotea Harbour.

Bay of Plenty: Tauranga Harbour, Ohiwa Estuary.

Hawkes Bay: Ahuriri Estuary.

Manawatu: Manawatu Estuary.

Marlborough: Vernon Lagoons, Lake Grassmere, Kaikoura Peninsula.

Nelson: Farewell Spit, Golden Bay, Motueka Estuary, Waimea Estuary, Nelson Haven.

West Coast: Karamea Estuary, Orowaiti Lagoon, Porari Rivermouth, Punakaiki Rivermouth, Cobden Lagoon, Grey-mouth Airport, Blaketown Lagoon, Hokitika Rivermouth, Taramakau Rivermouth, Lake Ryan, Okarito Lagoon (part), Paringa Rivermouth, Karangarua Rivermouth, Haast Rivermouth, Okuru Rivermouth, Waitoto Rivermouth, Mahitahi Rivermouth, Whakapohai Rivermouth.

Canterbury: Ashley Estuary, Waimakariri Estuary, Avon-Heathcote Estuary, Lyttelton Harbour, Akaroa Harbour, Lake Forsyth, Lake Ellesmere, Ashburton Rivermouth, Lake Ki-Wainono.

Southland: Awarua Bay, Waituna Lagoon (part), Waimatuku, Riverton Estuary, Fortrose, Invercargill Estuary.

Species distribution: The northern harbours and Farewell Spit were the most important areas for both Bar-tailed Godwits and Knots. Most Turnstones were found at Farewell Spit (1,792) with good counts also being made at Parengarenga Harbour (800), Invercar-

gill Estuary (514+), Manukau Harbour (521), Bay of Plenty (439), Awarua Bay (300+), and the Waimea (220) and Motueka (210) Estuaries. Golden Plovers were fairly evenly spread between Hawkes Bay (61), Firth of Thames (64), Kaipara Harbour (60), and Houhora Harbour (50). Among the rarer species most Red-necked Stints (125) and Curlew Sandpipers (49) occurred at Lake Ellesmere, while Manukau Harbour and the Invercargill Estuary were favoured by Sharp-tailed Sandpipers.

Next — a winter count: Why count waders in winter? Well there are 3 main reasons (1) To determine the numbers of overwintering migratory waders. Many species of migratory waders do not breed in their first year and these birds remain behind in the wintering grounds. Therefore a count will give us an idea of just what proportion of the population visiting New Zealand are juveniles. (2) To determine the number and distribution of our own breeding species at this time of year. Where are the important wintering areas for SIPO and Pied Stilt? Winter counts at Manukau Harbour and the Firth of Thames over many years have shed important information on the use of these areas by Wrybills; it would be most interesting to have similar information for the other species. (3) The Australians claim that a substantial proportion of our Banded Dotterels spend the winter across the Tasman. They counted 5,669 and 4,645 Banded Dotterels during their National Wader Counts in June 1982 and June 1983 respectively. They plan another winter count during June 1984 and this will be our opportunity to establish just what proportion remain in NZ and which areas they favour.

Plans for the winter count will be discussed at the AGM in May. However, do not wait until then, contact your RR now and enlist yourself as a participant.

The success of the November 1983 wader count was due to the efforts of every participant. Thank you for your assistance; now we can look forward to more fun and interesting results from the winter 1984 count. Special thanks must go to the national and regional coordinators — Beth Brown, David Crockett, Jenny Hawkins, Brian Bell, Mark Bellingham, Alison Davis, Paddy Latham, Betty Seddon, Michael Taylor, Kathleen Todd, Lindsay Davies, Pauline Jenkins, Stewart Lauder and Wynston Cooper. E & O E

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TABLE 1 — Waders counted in New Zealand, November-December 1983

Species	Far North Northland	Auckland S. Auck.	Waikato	B o P	Hawkes Bay	Manawatu Wanganui	Nelson	Marlb.	West Coast	Canterbury	Southland	Total
S.I. Pied Oystercatcher	603	7 106	639	67	2	-	3 435	79	51	816	667	13 465
Variable Oystercatcher	132	8	10	-	-	-	91	14	6	3	1	265
Golden Plover	51	154	-	25	61	25	2	-	1	4	45	368
Grey Plover	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Banded Dotterel	1	4	1	-	5	-	43	15	56+	335	25	485
N.Z. Dotterel	63	31	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	106
Large Sand Dotterel	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
Mongolian Dotterel	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Ringed Plover	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wrybill	-	66	-	3	-	1	-	-	-	101	-	171
Far-Eastern Curlew	1	17	-	-	-	1	7	-	-	1	1	28
Asiatic Whimbrel	12	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Whimbrel species	-	13	-	1	-	1	13	-	-	-	-	28
Bar-tailed Godwit	9 990	30 883	5 675	8 967	321	385	12 025	128	358	1 511	1 428+	71 671
Marsh Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Terek Sandpiper	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Grey-tailed Tattler	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	4	8
Turnstone	824	1 097	4	439	6	1	2 022	212	-	25	884+	5 514
Lesser Knot	11 498	18 277	52	94	9	145	16 526	4	12	97	120+	46 834
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	-	20	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	49	77
Pectoral Sandpiper	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	5	-	6
Curlew Sandpiper	-	23	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	49	4	78
Sandpiper species	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4
Red-necked Stint	3	55	-	16	5	2	11	14	-	125	-	231
Pied Stilt	93	1 884	20	-	275	3	38	36	20	547	182+	3 098
Black Stilt	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Wilson's Phalarope	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
TOTAL	23 274	59 653	6 413	9 619	686	564	34 214	505	504	3 623	3 412	142 467