

The Annual Meeting of the New Zealand Bird Protection Society took place in Wellington on August 1, 1927. There was a large gathering of members and the public, including school children. The President (Sir Thomas Mackenzie), occupied the chair. After the formal business of electing the officers, the evening was devoted to the showing of films and lantern slides of birds and their haunts. The scope of activities of the Bird Protection Society was widened by the inclusion of the native flora in its sphere of protection.

During the early part of the year a visit of inspection to the southern islands of New Zealand by the Government steamer *Tutanekai* gave the opportunity to study bird-life on these outposts of the Dominion. Advantage was taken of this by Messrs. W. H. Guthrie-Smith, W. R. B. Oliver, and others interested in nature, including Dr. G. Einar du Rietz, of Upsala, and Mr. G. M. Turner, of Stewart Island. All the islands were visited and some thirty-five species of birds were noted. A magnificent series of photographs, including many of the Albatross and Penguin colonies, was taken by Mr. Turner.

By an Order in Council dated May 5, 1927, the Carunculated Shag was added to the list of absolutely protected birds.

Another book on New Zealand birds has been added by Mr. Johannes C. Andersen, whose work on *Bird Song and New Zealand Song Birds* contains much valuable information about a number of indigenous and introduced birds in New Zealand.

W. R. B. OLIVER,  
Hon. State Secretary.

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**A Note from England.**—Mr. E. M. Nicholson, author of *Birds in England* and *How Birds Live*, both of which books were reviewed in the July number of the present volume of *The Emu*, writes from Hertford College, Oxford, to disclaim that he is "a mere youth of 19 or 20 years, still under the wing of Julian Huxley." He has, in fact, reached the advanced age of 23 years, and he met Huxley for the first time within ten days of reading the *Emu* review. Referring to a suggestion that there is an insular note in his books, Mr. Nicholson says: "If writers like myself struggle unsuccessfully against insularity it is largely the fault of ornithologists abroad, who do not observe the sort of thing we want to know—I mean the majority of them. It is, and must continue, the exception rather than the rule for a man to have simultaneously the time, money, health, and not least intelligence necessary for fruitful observation in many parts of the world. If you in Australia, for instance, could describe your birds along the lines of Burkitt or Eliot Howard, it would not be hard to transmute the findings into terms of our experience here."