

best to protect the birds from vandals." As no mention is made of anyone else, such a statement appears to give the impression that that Society is responsible for all that has been done for the albatrosses. The position is as follows: In 1937 the Otago Branch of the Royal Society of New Zealand, upon hearing of the existence of an albatross nesting at Taiaroa Head, took steps to give the bird some protection. The Harbour Board was approached for permission to erect a man-proof fence across the headland leading to the birds, but as finance was the chief obstacle the Forest and Bird Protection Society was confidently asked for assistance in such a practical scheme for bird protection. Although we were told that the granting of such help would infringe the constitution of the Society, a subscription list was opened to receive donations. According to the books of the treasurer of the Royal Society the sum of £20 was handed over. In the meantime, however, the fence was erected, at a cost of £49, and a debt thus created which has not yet been fully liquidated.

When the vandalistic action of the stoning of the birds was committed in November, 1938, a second fence was erected, this time by the Harbour Board and at a cost of £54. Further trouble caused the Board to erect, in 1939, a third and most effective fence, costing £129, while at the same time Parliament passed the Otago Harbour Empowering Bill, which enabled the Board to frame a by-law rendering liable to a heavy penalty any person caught on the albatross reserve without authority. The above expenses do not include the cost of the material which was taken from stock.

It will be apparent from the above account that the contribution of the Harbour Board was the major factor in effecting the preservation of the colony.

LITERATURE

Harrop, A. J., 1939, *My New Zealand*, London.

McCormick, R., 1884, *Voyages of Discovery in the Arctic and Antarctic Seas*, London.

A Change of Name.—In *The Emu*, vol. XXXVII, Jan. 1938, p. 244, Iredale correctly introduced the name *Heteroprion desolatus dispar* for the Heard Island form of *H. desolatus*. As pointed out by Falla, this subspecies has "a slightly wider bill with slightly more swollen contour, and the measurements show a definitely longer tail."

Unfortunately Bianchi (*Faune de la Russie*, vol. 1, part 2, p. 523, Jan. 1913) placed Vanhoffen's nude name *Prion dispar* as a synonym of the typical form, thus preventing its use for any other bird.

On account of that I propose the new name of *Heteroprion desolatus heardi* for the bird named *H. d. dispar* by Iredale, 1938.—GREGORY MATHEWS, Sydney, N.S.W., 8/2/42.