

It is hoped that the recommendations of gentlemen so well qualified to advise on such matters will be of great value and assistance in dealing with the general administration of this unique sanctuary.

Mr. J. L. Bennett is still caretaker of the island, and continues to render valuable service in this respect. The following extracts from his annual report may prove of interest to the general public :—

“During the year 197 goats and two cats were destroyed on the island.

“The total number of opossums trapped was 2,397, and the sale of the skins realized £780 15s. 2d. As the total expenses were £213 15s. 2d., a profit to the Department of £567 resulted.

“I have now finished my observations of every gully and spur on Kapiti, and find that about 140 acres on the north of Taiapiro and 200 acres south of waterfall must be trapped this winter.

“Bird-feed : Owing to the unseasonable spring and early summer the bird-feed is again very scarce ; even on the karaka-trees the berries did not reach maturity.

“Birds : Tuis are greatly reduced in numbers, also whiteheads and fantails, but still numerous enough for all the feed there is for them. On the other hand, bell-birds and robins show a very noticeable increase. A few years ago robins were seldom seen ; at present they are in evidence everywhere. Blue herons are also on the increase ; wekas are very numerous ; pigeons, kakas, parakeets, &c., are numerous.

“Bush : Kohekohe, mahoe, passion-flowers, and fuchsia are all showing signs of recovering from the damage done to them by the opossums.”

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