

So many importations have turned out to be destructive pests that the very greatest care must be taken before any further introductions of birds or beasts are made into the Dominion. Evidence before the Society is accumulating as to the great destructiveness of the German owl, and there seems no way to deal with this pest other than by offering a bounty for its destruction. One of our members has on his own account offered a bounty of 2s. 6d. per head, and it was not long before he had received a considerable number. Where the nests had been secured there was undoubted evidence of the severe raid made on our smaller birds such as the fantail, tomtit, pipit and robin. Efforts were made by the Executive to induce the Acclimatisation Societies to join in a programme of suppression of this pest, but I am sorry to say that we did not get much encouragement. Unfortunately, the funds of the Society are barely sufficient to carry out the work already on hand, and the investment of the income from the Trust Funds only permits of it being used for educative purposes, so that we have to depend on our membership fees for an income which is too small to allow of our devoting any substantial sum for the purposes of destroying this bird. As I have already said, we have procured some very good films of birds in their native state, and it is proposed to have these shown in different parts of the Dominion, particularly amongst the schools. There can be no question that engaging the interest of the children attending the schools is one of the best methods of increasing the interest in the preservation of our native birds and forests, and no effort should be spared to see that the children have reliable information placed before them regarding the value to this country of our native birds and bush. I do not think there is any medium for conveying this information like the film. As a further means of education we will have available next month the Bird Album, which has been in preparation for the last eighteen months, and as each plate will be fully described, this should prove to be a valuable adjunct to the Society's bulletins.

The future policy of the Society should be in the direction of opening branches in not only the main centres, but also in the smaller towns throughout the Dominion. Although many members communicate with the Wellington office and continually supply useful information, yet if the Society is to fulfil its functions adequately it must extend its organisation in such a way as to gather in the native bird lovers from all parts of the Dominion. The membership must be considerably added to if an income is to be obtained sufficient for the Society's needs, and this can only be done by having centres established as I suggest. The Society is well served by its voluntary workers—all officials