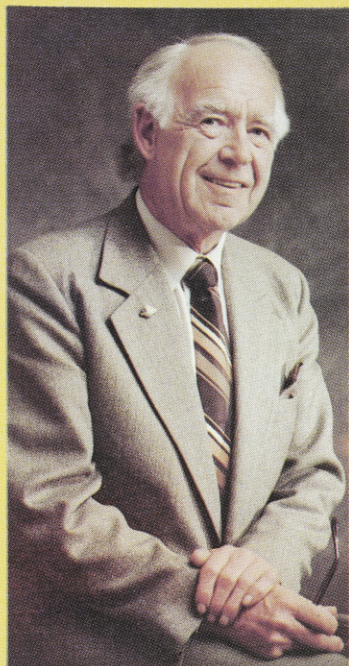




# Bulletin

# 1



The appointment of David Collingwood in 1975 as the Society's first full time

technical officer marked the beginning of the most important decade yet for conservation in New Zealand. With Manapouri just behind us, few anticipated the fast rising tempo of well founded conservation demands. Within months he was appointed the Society's first Conservation Officer and over the next ten years faced the challenges of Okarito, Pureora, and Whirinaki. These great battles put huge strains on the Society's resources, both management and technical. The Society's strength and success over this period must be chronicled elsewhere, but David Collingwood must be proud to retire assured that much has been achieved during his term of office. He leaves with our best wishes and grateful thanks.

A.A.T. Ellis

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## Immigrant Killers

Introduced predators and the conservation of birds in New Zealand

Carolyn King



## Immigrant Killers

by Dr Carolyn King

The catastrophic devastation of New Zealand's native birds is one of the world's best-known conservation horror stories. Over the last thousand years, since the arrival of the first people in these islands, about 55 species and subspecies of native birds have been made extinct or nearly so. The reason for this slaughter is largely that the predators that came with the settlers found a land where no ground predators had ever been known. Today, 11 per cent of the world's rare or endangered species are from New Zealand and its outlying islands — an unenviable record.

What can be done to preserve what birdlife remains? Many people assume that, since stoats, weasels, ferrets and cats all prey on native birds, they should be controlled as vigorously as possible. This book calls that assumption into question and reaches some provocative conclusions. Carolyn King is a reknowned expert on the stoat and weasel in particular. She has worked as a scientist with the DSIR Ecology Division and the NZ National Parks Authority. She is currently working as a scientific editor for the Royal Society of New Zealand and is general editor of a major reference work, *The Mammals of New Zealand*, to be published by OUP in 1987.

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