
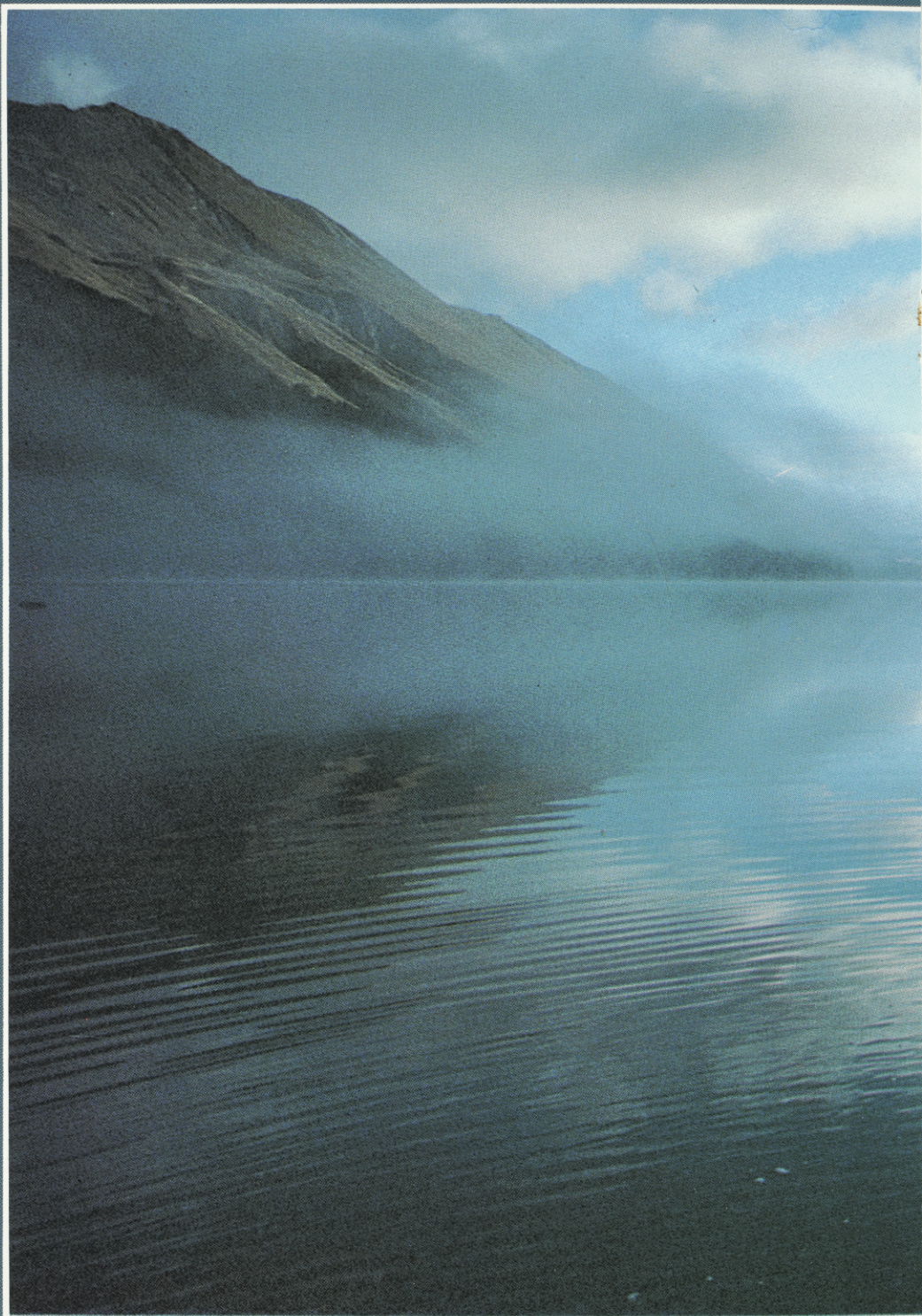


**M**etre-high red tussocks used to spread across the vast Southland plain but today they have been replaced by farmland. In western Southland, at the Mavora Lakes and in the nearby Gorge Hill Scientific Reserve, are found the largest areas of red tussock left in the province. These low altitude red tussock grasslands may hold the key to the survival of the rare flightless takahe (*Notornis mantelli*).

Mavora Lakes, once a pastoral lease but now under direct Crown control, is very popular with Southland holidaymakers. There is widespread support for the Mavora Lakes and their surrounding mountain lands and river valleys to be permanently protected as a National Reserve.

This photograph, looking up North Mavora Lake to the Livingstone Mountains, was taken by Barney Brewster as part of a number to be chosen for the Society's 1986 High Country calendar. This particular photograph does not appear in the calendar, but has been used for the Society's new poster (details in the mail order catalogue).

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will help with the Society's pastoral lease campaign, our major fundraising campaign in 1985. The thrust of the campaign is to give more prominence to the truly "forgotten habitats" of the South Island high country and seek greater protection for them. 



# New Zealand High Country