



## JS WATSON CONSERVATION AWARDS

The following awards have been made for 1986:

### Ross Galbreath — \$2000

Ross intends to write a historical study of the beginnings of fauna conservation in New Zealand, with special reference to the establishment of island reserves, particularly Little Barrier Island. At present he is engaged in writing a biography of Sir Walter Buller, pioneer New Zealand ornithologist.

### Alison Davis — \$1500

Alison's research on the N.Z. shore plover is directed to the conservation management of this species. This knowledge should enable shore plover to expand on other islands, and be less vulnerable to extinction.

### Colin Miskelly — \$750

This money will help support Colin during the second field season of his thesis. He is studying the N.Z. snipe on The Snares and South East Island. Canterbury Branch of Forest & Bird have also helped him with their Stocker Scholarship last year.

### David Allen — \$750

David is studying the behavioural ecology and aspects of song of the Whitehead on Little Barrier Island, and his thesis will provide a greater understanding of the bird's biology.

## Bushy Park Management Plan

The draft plan for the Society's forest reserve adjacent to the Bushy Park Lodge is now available for comment. If you wish to read or comment on the plan, please write to: The Secretary, RF & BPS, PO Box 631, Wellington, enclosing \$15 to cover reproduction costs and postage.

## MOUNTAINLAND CONSULTANT

A. Cunningham  
B.Sc. (NZ) Dip.For. (Canb.)  
Registered Soil Conservator

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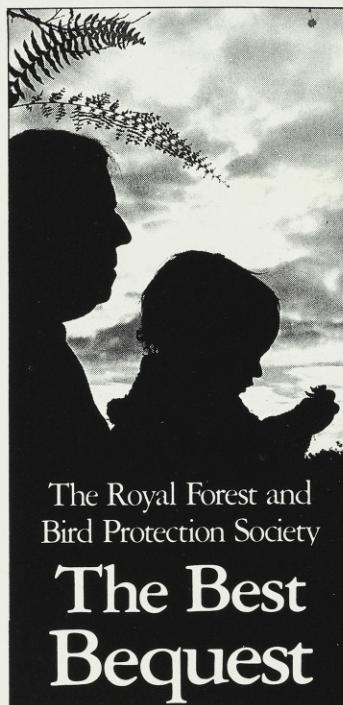
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### Special Forest and Bird Offer

\$16 including post and packing only from N.Z. Nature Books, P.O. Box 32-037, Devonport, Auckland 9.

## Acknowledgements

The sandflounder illustration used in the article on page 15 of the August 1986 magazine was taken from the book *Between the Tides*, by Mike Bradstock (Reeds).



The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

## The Best Bequest

## The best bequest

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## OBITUARY

### Mrs H. L. BRIFFAULT (1903-86)

With the passing of Violet Ada Briffault (nee Rucroft) on 2nd May this year, the Society lost a Distinguished Life Member, longtime Councillor and one of its early stalwarts.

Mrs Briffault (Vi, Ru or Briff as she was affectionately known) had four great loves — natural history, music, history and the Christian faith. These interwoven threads provided the continuity of her life, and she was intensely active in all of them. A music teacher by profession, her love of nature began in the 1930's in the notorious fogs of London, where she was studying at the Royal Academy of Music. Longing for the clear air and fresh open spaces of home, she returned to New Zealand after the war, settling in Whakatane in 1950 and founding the Eastern Bay of Plenty Branch of the Society.

In Norman Potts (1886-1970), the pioneer East Coast lawyer/botanist, himself a distinguished member of the Society, she found a catalyst for her growing love of the New Zealand flora. There were frequent visits, letters and exchanges of plants. Her Society involvement centred on the education of youngsters, and a vigorous planting programme of native trees and shrubs throughout the district. Her own garden in Whakatane was a showplace, unusual for its conspicuousness of common as opposed to rare plants.

Her contribution to conservation, in particular her untiring efforts to have the Urewera National Park gazetted in 1954, was recognised by the honours of Vice-President in 1969, the Loder Cup in 1971, and the Queen's Service Medal in 1977. A woman of remarkable character and uncompromising principle, Briff has had a lasting impact on those who knew her, and laid solid foundations for those who follow.

Mark Smale

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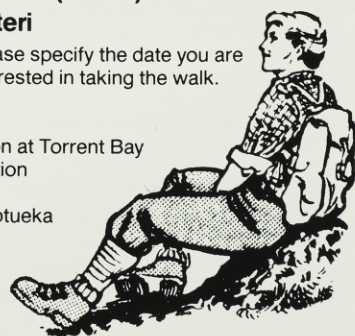
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