



New Telephone Lines

Head Office now has three main lines all on the *one number* — (04) 728-154. All members please take note.

In the Rainforest

Anyone whose interest was stimulated in the excellent book *In the Rainforest* by Catherine Caufield (reviewed in our November 1986 magazine) will be pleased to know it can be bought in paperback (Picador) for \$13.95. This is somewhat of a reduction on the hardback price.

Queen Elizabeth II Scholarships 1986

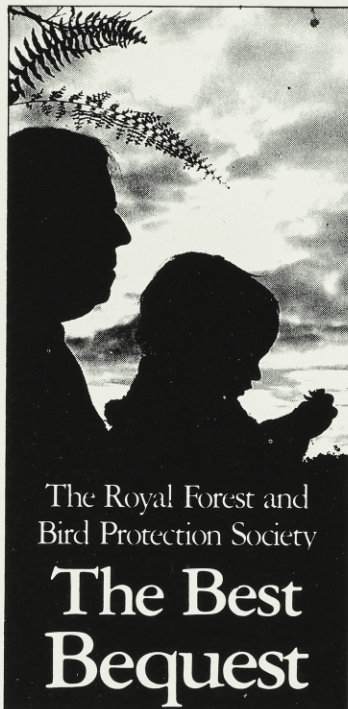
The Society has granted a total of \$4,000 to five post-graduate students to help them with their expenses in researching conservation projects.

Sean Weaver and **Ian McDonald** are studying species regeneration after native logging in Fiji, and the dynamics of species in unlogged forest. These studies are particularly topical as the Society moves into conservation in the South Pacific.

Andrew Young is researching the effects of breaking up large areas of continuous lowland forest into small, scattered fragments. This work should make a significant contribution to our practical knowledge of how best to conserve lowland remnant habitats.

David Allen, in preparing his thesis for his Masters degree, is studying the behaviour of the whitehead in order to provide a greater understanding of the bird's management. He will be working on Little Barrier Island; the scholarship will help with travel costs.

Terry Green, also working on Little Barrier Island, is studying the ecology of the red and yellow crowned parakeets. Although the populations in the wild are not in immediate danger, their numbers are small and their range restricted.



The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society

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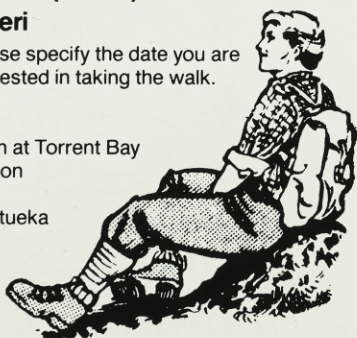
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Joint Campaign Easter Gathering

This year's Easter Gathering (April 17-20) is to be held in the scenically spectacular Glacier Region of South Westland. There you will have the chance to view the great kahikatea forests, fur seals, penguins and many other natural wonders that we want to see protected as a World Heritage site for the South-West of New Zealand. Book now as the Easter Gathering is always very popular. Write to PO Box 756 Nelson for details.

Erratum

Biologists, some unkind people have said, are those who cannot handle the mathematics of other scientific disciplines. Well, it looks as though I have added fuel for their points of view.

Astute readers of "Native bird management" in the November issue of *Forest & Bird* will have noticed that, in the script alongside the graph showing the number of native bird species in forests of different size (page 9), I refer to Little Barrier Island as being 30,000ha in size. In fact, Little Barrier Island is 3,000ha, not 30,000.

When I wrote the article, the figure of 30,000ha was firmly in my mind. It led me to draw the conclusion that, for North Island kokako, there are no single tracts of forest remaining in which they are likely to survive long-term. That remark should now be qualified, and the emphasised sentence in the first paragraph of page 8 should read "For North Island kokako, there may be no such areas left".

I use the words "may be" deliberately. Present forest tracts like Pureora (24,000ha) and Whareorino (30,000ha) are large enough to sustain kokako on the evidence of island biogeographic studies. However, the presence and effects of introduced competing animals are enough to suggest that the minimum area required to sustain kokako long-term is much larger than island biogeographic studies predict. One simply cannot be confident that remaining North Island forests are large enough.

Apart from this point, my conversion error does not impinge upon other statements within the article. I hope that readers will accept my apology with a knowing smile and a tut! tut! and further ponder the questions my article sought to raise.

Murray Williams,
Wildlife Scientist

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Tour costs of approximately \$500 from Wellington and \$650 from Auckland include return air travel to Hokitika, tour coach, motel and lodge accommodation, all meals and expert guides.

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