



The World of Birds

A Southern Perspective

November – December 1990

Late in 1990, New Zealand will be the bird capital of the world. Two large international conferences will be held here as a recognition of New Zealanders' outstanding achievements in the study and conservation of our remarkable and unique birdlife.

The 20th Conference of the International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) will be held in Hamilton from 19-27 November 1990. Formed in 1922, the ICBP is a federation of over 330 member organisations with representatives in 100 countries. This will be only the second time they have met in the southern hemisphere.

The event will start with two days of workshops (for invited specialists) on topics such as 'Seabirds on Islands', 'Birds and Tourism' and 'Conservation of piciformes' (woodpeckers, toucans, honeyeaters). During the Conference proper, international conservation issues are to be discussed and world bird conservation priorities for 1991-1994 will be set. A variety of nature tours will provide a mid-Conference break and then the last three days will be devoted to special symposia of four very topical bird conservation topics: birds and tourism, management of threatened birds, conservation of biological diversity, and bird conservation in the South Pacific.

A week later, from 2-9 December 1990, the 20th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Christchurch. Only held once before in the southern hemisphere, this will be a marvellous opportunity to see, hear and learn about all aspects of the study of birds. A wide

variety of topics of interest to birdwatchers, conservationists and learned scientists will be covered. The organisers are expecting to provide facilities for a programme of 500 spoken symposia and contributed papers, 500 poster papers and a wide range of special interest group and round table discussions. A continuous programme of bird films will be shown, many birdwatching trips around Canterbury have been arranged, and a mid-week field excursion programme and 'Country Fair' at Mount Hutt station will let participants relax, and sample a slice of New Zealand rural hospitality.

A unique programme of conducted tours has been organised to display off our magnificent natural heritage. The real gem being offered is a subantarctic cruise to our pristine southern islands which abound with fascinating wildlife – flowering plants, albatrosses, penguins, seals and whales.

Why not join in these exciting events? – this will be your only opportunity to share New Zealand's natural heritage with so many like-minded people from overseas. There is also a requirement for a number of volunteers to assist at the venues. These assistants will have the opportunity to participate more closely in the daily operations.

Write now for the World of Birds Final Circular, a 30-page information booklet outlining these events (and more!!!). Offers of assistance and requests for the Final Circular should be forwarded to:

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