

On the advice of that Department, the previous system of data recording and reporting, which was considered to have provided ample data of the special nature dealt with for present purposes, was revised. New forms were adopted for use by the field staff, anglers, and fishing-lodge and hire-launch proprietors from which data can be obtained for estimating fish yield and angling pressure.

Investigational visits to both districts were made by the senior Fresh-water Fisheries Officers of the Marine Department.

Benefit has accrued to the Department from its representation on the Fresh-water Fisheries Advisory Council.

(8) *Field Observers' Reports*

Progress was made, by the issue of "Conservation Directives" and guidance in the field by specially qualified officers, in the training of all members of the field staff in observing and reporting. A fund of valuable knowledge is being accumulated from this source.

(9) *Field Records and Library*

Further improvement was made in the systematic recording and mapping, with many photographs, of wild-life data. Additions relating to special activities and staff training were made to the Branch library, and use was made of more general technical literature held elsewhere.

(10) *Other Research Work*

(a) The Department participated in the framing of plans, sponsored by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, for the setting-up by that Department of an organization to conduct research into problems affecting feral animals.

(b) Officers of the Branch closely collaborated in a wild-life survey undertaken by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and much recorded information was made available.

(c) Officers participated in visits by the American Museum of Natural History Expedition to the Snares Islands, Lake Brunner, and islands in the Bay of Plenty.

(d) Further assistance was given to representatives of the Harvard University Museum of Comparative Zoology in their investigation regarding wapiti.

Much benefit accrues to the Department from the experience gained by officers of the Branch thus working with overseas scientists and from the co-operative relations thus established.

(e) Clutches of eggs were collected and forwarded to Cambridge University for a research project being conducted there.

(f) Blood smears of wallabies, opossums, and waterfowl were supplied to the Zoology Department, Victoria University College, for research into hæmatozoan parasites.

(g) Field-survey data respecting pollution of water were collected on behalf of the investigating departmental committee in the Rotorua and Southern Lakes Acclimatization Districts.

C. ADMINISTRATION OF ANIMALS PROTECTION AND GAME ACT, 1921-22

(1) *Absolutely Protected Birds*

Increased efforts were made to effect an improvement in the difficult matter of affording protection in remote regions. A gratifying growth of public sentiment in favour of protecting native bird-life is, however, apparent.