

## TENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The tenth annual conference was held on Friday and Saturday, 25 and 26 August, 1961, in the Zoology Theatre, Otago Museum, Dunedin. Seventy-five people enrolled. The first morning was devoted to the following contributed papers:

- "Some observations on the ecology of the human skin" ..... Mary J. Marples  
 "A freshwater pond" ..... Jean Byars  
 "Some aspects of the ecology of a dam in Central Otago" ..... T. G. Marples  
 "Semi - quantitative measurements of canopy composition as a basis for mapping vegetation" ..... I. A. E. Atkinson  
 "Vegetation types of high mountain grasslands in the South Island" ..... C. J. Burrows

The afternoon was taken up with a symposium on "Fiordland Ecology":

- "Rocky shore zonation in a southern New Zealand fiord" E. J. Batham  
 "Atlantic salmon in Southland" D. Scott  
 "Geological factors affecting Fiordland ecology" ..... B. L. Wood  
 "Herd composition and effective reproduction of wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*) of Eastern Fiordland" ..... K. H. Miers  
 "Relationship between soil and forest type on Secretary Island" ..... P. Wardle  
 "The altitudinal gradients in forest composition and structure at Blanket Bay, Secretary Island, and in the Hollyford Valley" ..... A. F. Mark and F. R. Sanderson

The whole of the second day was taken up with the symposium "Exploitation of Populations"; all contributions to which are published in this Proceedings. For the first time in the history of the Society, typescripts of papers were sent to the chairman of the symposium, Professor J. E. Morton, some time before the conference. Professor Morton was thus able to give a prepared summing-up address in the afternoon, following which there was very active discussion for the remainder of the session.

A very successful social gathering attended by sixty-three members and friends was held at 5.30 p.m. after the formal session on Saturday. Following this there was an enjoyable display of slides by various members.

An interesting collection of exhibits had been brought together by local members and was on display throughout the conference. It included:

Collecting apparatus used in the Zoology Department, Otago University. Funnels, nets, grabs and traps of standard design. Special limnological gear, including an interval transect sampler used by Mr. T. G. Marples to map plankton densities in a small dam.

An artificial cascade used by Dr. D. Scott for raising stream animals.

Cultures of pathogenic fungi displayed by Dr. M. J. Marples, together with diagrams illustrating their ability to grow on soil, rats, opossums, hedgehogs, rabbits and cats, as well as on man.

Twigs and wood sections illustrating the growth rates of woody alpine species (D. P. Warde).

Plants of *Bulbinella hookeri* illustrating the effect of day-length on dormancy and on emergence of the raceme (Dr. M. Holdsworth).

Plants of *Griselinia littoralis* showing how its growth rate is increased by phycomycetous mycorrhizas (Prof. G. T. S. Baylis).

A collapsible field oven fired by a small primus stove, a portable tape recorder modified for field use when hands are too busy or too cold for note-taking, and an evaporimeter protected against frost damage (Dr. A. F. Mark).

Explanatory material relating to the Hooper's Inlet excursion (Prof. B. J. Marples).

On Sunday, 27 August, in perfect weather, a party of 50 travelled down the Otago Peninsula in two buses to visit the Marine Biological Station maintained at Portobello by the University of Otago, and an area of dune and salt meadow at Hoopers Inlet. Dr. Alan Mark was in general charge of the arrangements.

The outward journey by the top road provided a general view of the Dunedin area with its ancient snow-tussock disclimax surmounting the hills behind the city. A low spring tide at Aquarium Point revealed the great richness of this locality in marine filter feeders, and a picnic lunch at the station itself gave opportunity of examining the newly completed laboratory and the space now available beneath it for expansion of the public aquarium. Dr. E. J. Batham, Director of the Station, was in charge of this part of the programme.

In the afternoon, Professor B. J. Marples showed the area behind Allans Beach, in which members of his Department had made a study of the general processes of succession, of the size of the animal populations, and of the autecology of some of the most prominent organisms. A moa-hunter site was also examined under the guidance of Mr. P. Gathercole.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Ninth Annual General Meeting was held in the Zoology Theatre, Otago Museum, Dunedin, at 7.30 p.m. on Friday, 25th August, 1961. The President, Mr. A. L. Poole, took the chair and there were approximately 50 members present.

The meeting stood in memory of Mr. C. M. Smith (immediate Past-President), and Mr. Poole paid a tribute to Mr. Smith.

The minutes of the previous annual general meeting were read and confirmed. The annual report and statement of accounts were discussed and adopted.

Mr. Atkinson reported on the Society's scheme for collecting information on native communities worthy of preservation but at present not protected in any way. The Council had received 45 replies to a circular sent to 116 selected people asking for information. From this response it had been possible to draw up a tentative list of 36 native communities which would possibly disappear within 10 years if no examples were preserved. Further progress was dependent on the time which individual members were prepared to spend in collect-

ing the necessary information on which a case for preservation must be based.

The question of the Society's affiliation with the Royal Society was raised. Mr. Allen reported that it had been decided to leave the matter in abeyance because it would have meant raising the annual subscription.

Mr. Atkinson reported that the Society was now officially incorporated.

Mr. Druce suggested that in future the nature of the excursion should be changed from a general sight-seeing trip to that of a visit to a particular community or a number of communities which had been studied beforehand by people able to demonstrate interesting features on the spot.

Dr. Wardle suggested that since it was eight years since Mr. Holloway had put forward his recent climatic change hypothesis, the time was ripe for the Society to hold a symposium on this topic.

The formal meeting was followed by the Presidential Address given by Mr. Poole and entitled "Reserves", after which members adjourned to supper.