

20TH INTERNATIONAL ORNITHOLOGICAL CONGRESS**CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND, 2 - 9 DECEMBER 1990**

The 20th International Ornithological Congress was held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, from 2 to 9 December 1990. Over 1 200 people registered for the Congress to hear seven plenary papers, 50 symposia and 36 contributed paper sessions, special interest groups and round table discussions. At times there were more than eight concurrent sessions. There were over 200 posters, 48 films, philatelic and museum displays;

There was a strong seabird flavour throughout the entire Congress. One of the seven plenary papers described the ecological, behavioural and physiological mechanisms which interact to regulate reproduction in albatrosses. Symposia which included seabird studies included long-term population studies, physiology, energetics and reproduction, environmental contamination, feeding ecology, diving physiology, brood reduction

and seabirds as monitors of changing marine environments. Many of the posters also reported on seabird studies.

The IOC Standing Committee for the Co-ordination of Seabird Research, under the chair of Dr D.N. Nettleship, met during the IOC to discuss seabird researches and future needs, recent technological innovations for examining activity budgets of seabirds and the establishment of computerized colony registries. These meetings discussed topics such as nomenclature, seabirds at sea, the use of seabirds monitors of changing marine environments, bibliographies and satellite tracking of birds away from breeding islands.

E.J. Woehler, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine CA 92717, U.S.A. Received 13 May 1991.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BIRD PRESERVATION**20TH WORLD CONFERENCE, HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND, 19-27 NOVEMBER 1990**

The 20th ICBP World Conference was held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, from 10 to 27 November 1990. Approximately 300 people from some 65 nations attended the Conference.

The programme was comprised of five symposia, four workshops, the ICBP business session, and a variety of birding and social events. The seabird focus was the meeting of the ICBP Seabird Specialist Group (SSG), held over two days, with the theme of 'Seabirds on Islands: Threats, Case Studies and Action Plans', convened by Drs J. Burger, M. Gochfeld and D.N. Nettleship, although other seabird issues were raised during the symposia. This workshop was organized to focus attention on the conservation of island-breeding seabirds around the world. The subject had been identified by the SSG at the 19th ICBP meeting in Canada in 1986 as one of prime importance, given the large number of threats facing seabirds on islands. The objectives of the workshop were to i) identify and review processes that will influence the prospects for species' conservation, ii) identify islands and/or species facing immediate threats and iii) to ensure communication of experiences and solutions from species to species, or from one site to another.

The three categories of threats (pollution, fisheries interaction, predation and human disturbance) were reviewed by I.C.T. Nisbet, D.C. Duffy and D.C. Schneider, and J. Burger and M. Gochfeld,

respectively. Then followed 16 case studies, such as Ascension Island, Amsterdam Island, Greenland and the Chatham Islands, where immediate conservation problems have been identified. Five examples of management plans, conservation strategies and educational programmes were then presented as general solutions for present and future conservation issues.

As a result of these presentations, the SSG formulated five resolutions for the business meeting the following day. The five resolutions concerned the high incidental mortality rates of seabirds through interactions with fisheries (drift nets, gill nets, trawl nets and longlines), the lack of data required to assess the degree of competition between seabirds and fisheries operations for commercial fisheries species, and the eradication of introduced animals from islands. The SSG also called on the government of New Zealand to increase conservation efforts in the Chatham Islands, and to establish research programmes that include annual monitoring of seabird species especially prone to incidental mortality as a result of commercial fisheries activities around New Zealand. Both resolutions and the request to the New Zealand government were adopted unanimously in the ICBP business meeting.

E.J. Woehler, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California, Irvine CA 92717, U.S.A. Received 13 May 1991