

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

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SUMMARISED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

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NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*). Kaikohe, 26/2/43, skull found in scrub. (C.M.R.)

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). Okupe Bay, North Auckland, 1/2/43, nest with one egg under matted growth on sand-hills. Bird found and killed by dog. (C.M.R.) Opihi, Port Underwood, 11/10/42, nest with two eggs. (J.E.)

DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*). Ponui Island E., 1/1/43, about 50 in loose flock feeding among gannets and fleshfooted shearwaters. (T.M.R.)

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capense*). Waikanae Estuary beach, old corpse, 14/8/43. (K.A.W.)

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*). About 10 seen to follow a steamer up Whangarei Harbour, winter, 1942. (W.S.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 23/10/42, one found alive half a mile inland; Wellington Harbour, 20/1/43, four seen. (H.R.McK.). Wellington wharves, 4/5/43, three seen; 5/5/43, 12 seen. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, 24/6/42, one spent the day near the wharf. (D.N.F.C.)

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*). On about five miles of beach north and south of Waikanae River mouth, 35 corpses, 10 to 14 days old, collected 31/1/43; 12 ancient corpses, 14/2/43; fresh corpse, 3/7/43; single bird in flight, 8/5/43. (K.A.W.)

- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*). Ponui Island, 5/12/42, about 12; 20/12/42, two; 1/1/43, 1500 or more feeding with gannets and diving petrels; 7/2/43, about 150. No more seen up to April, 1943. (T.M.R.)
- BULLERS SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*). Ponui Island, 5/12/42, six; 12/12/42, one; 1/1/43, eight; 16/3/43, one. (T.M.R.)
- SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*). Kartigi Beach, Moeraki, 11/10/42, unbroken line flying south low over the water. (I.T.) Taieri Beach, 16/10/42, hundreds. (B.J.M.)
- SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). One at Piha, 12/7/42, and one at Muriwai, 19/7/42, were evidently storm-wrecked during the autumn movement away from southern Australia. Although neither of these had come ashore recently, they must still have been in New Zealand waters not far short of midwinter. Further discoveries show that they were off the New Zealand coast in the spring and even in mid-summer. H.R.McK. picked up a dissicated corpse at the south end of the Firth of Thames, 2/1/43, and a little later P.C.B. got one at Waikakae. 21/2/43, at least six specimens, reduced to skin, feathers and skeleton, were retrieved at Muriwai. They had probably come ashore about the end of January. (R.B.S.)
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*). Waitawa Bay, Clevedon, 5/7/42, eight, flying; Waiti Bay, 24/8/42, many hundreds. (H.R.McK.) Off Orere, Clevedon, 16/8/42, about 2000 in tight flocks on the water; Ponui Island, 30/11/42, about 50, feeding; 1/1/43, odd groups of 10 or so over a wide area. (T.M.R.) Ohariu Bay, Makara, 17/3/43, passing south in a continuous line, about 60 at the mouth of the bay at one time. Watched for an hour but they still came. (H.L.S.)
- ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*). Waipu Beach, October, 1942, one found dead; December, 1942, one, dead, in Whangarei Harbour. (W.S.)
- WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*). Auckland, one came ashore in mid-February, 1943. The very small patch of white feathers on the chin point to its being of the sub-species *Steady*. Its measurements were: Wing, 385; tarsus, 63; bill 52 mm. (R.B.S.)
- GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*). Karamuramu Island. One burrow dug out by dog, dead bird and much incubated egg obtained; one other burrow occupied; 30/8/42, this burrow dug out by the dog and much incubated egg exposed. (H.R.McK.) Whangarei, 5/1/43, five corpses on 300 yards of beach visited. (W.S.)
- WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*). Near Wellington wharf, 16/4/43. (H.L.S.)
- WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche cauta*). Waikanae Estuary, single corpses on 31/1/43, 13/2/43, 14/3/43 and 3/7/43. (K.A.W.)
- LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*). Auckland, 1/9/42, very old corpse. (R.B.S.)
- RED-TAILED TROPIC BIRD (*Phaethon rubricauda*). Muriwai, 21/5/42,

corpse which had clearly been on the beach several weeks. Wing, 330; tarsus, 28; bill, 65 mm. One red tail feather, not fully grown, 172 mm. (R.B.S.)

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Clevedon River, August, 1942 to April, 1943, 12 to 30. Further out about coast and islands only odd ones seen. Battle between a shag and an eel in the river at Clevedon, February, 1943. A shag came to the surface with a large eel, estimated at 2 feet 6 inches. The shag thrashed the eel on the water. The eel repeatedly twisted round the shag, which then released it, dived again, got a fresh grip, and surfaced and thrashed again and again. Finally the shag swallowed the eel, tail first, and flew heavily away with the eel's head projecting from its beak about 3 inches. (T.M.R.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, often seen; nesting colony on cliffs along the Ruamahunga River; 28 nests. (E.O.W.) Gollan's Valley, Wellington, 4/10/42, colony visited but no nests and probably abandoned; Konini, North Wairarapa, Mangatainoka, and Makakahi Rivers, common; counts made of 10 to 12 birds in a day's tramp, 6-8/11/42. Waikanae Estuary, regular counts were made during 22 visits. The numbers varied considerably, from single ones to as many as 34. The largest number were observed from the beginning of December, 1942, until about the third week of February. A steady decline in numbers observed during the following months was followed by a complete disappearance of the bird in the middle of May at the opening of the shooting season. (K.A.W.)

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*). Clevedon River, August, 1942, to April, 1943, usually 12 to 30; further out along coast and islands often seen in fair numbers. (T.M.R.) Queen Charlotte Sound, Anakiwa, 5-9/3/43, not uncommon; Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 10/3/43, one. (K.A.W.) Hakataramea River, South Canterbury, 15/11/42, one. (C.W.McL.)

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*). Whangarei, 15/6/42, 26. (W.S.)

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*P. melanoleucus*). Pakihi Island, Kakawa Bay area, Clevedon, up to 30 white-throated and up to five white-breasted often seen; does not breed, and only a few present in breeding season. (H.R.McK.) Ponui Island area, August, 1942, to April, 1943, a few, scattered; white-breasted not nearly as common as white-throated. (T.M.R.) Wairau River, Blenheim, July, 1943, 30 to 35 white-breasted; 5/12/42, two white-throated. (J.E.) Waikanae Estuary, up to six birds seen at a visit, January to April; none in late autumn and winter; all but one seen were white-throated. Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 10/3/43, 15 birds seen in a day, 12 being white-breasted. Queen Charlotte Sound, 5-9/3/43, several seen daily, mostly white-throated. (K.A.W.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, seen on Ruamahunga River. (E.O.W.) Lake Gunn, Eglinton Valley, 12/42, pair seen. (D.N.F.C.)

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocorbo punctatus*). Ponui Island, Clevedon, August, 1942 to April, 1943, several dates, one to 150; probably nesting on Tarakihi Island. (T.M.R.) Wairau River, 7/43, 40, roosting on breakwater; Port Underwood, 3/43, 1000 or more. (J.E.)

GANNET (*Morus serrator*). Whangarei, 13/6/42, over 100 fishing in Parua Bay. (W.S.) Gannet Rock, off Thumb Point, Waihake Island, nesting colony of some thousands; fledglings ready to fly and sitting birds at same time. (T.M.R.) Seen in ones or twos in the Wellington district at various dates in January to March. (H.L.S.) Seven, near Kapiti Island, 19/11/42; Paraparaumu Beach, 22/11/42, number diving in the wake of a whale. (R.H.D.S.) Waikanae Estuary, 11/7/42, two feeding; Queen Charlotte Sound, 6-8/3/43, abundant, up to 20 seen in six or seven mile trips. (K.A.W.) Wairau Bar, 18/11/42, four; 18/12/42, eight; Port Underwood, 5/43, five. (J.E.) Taieri Mouth, 12/1/43, seven together; 13/3/43, four adult and one immature. (B.J.M.)

PARADISE DUCK (*Casarca variegata*). Rawakawhia Lake, 25/11/42, pair. (R.H.D.S.) Wairau River, 31/1/43, pair. (L.G.) Wairau Lagoon, 19/8/42, five males and one female; 5/6/43, 100 to 150, both sexes present; Wairau River, 28/7/43, 400 to 500. (J.E.) Baring Head, 2/12/42, pair, with young. (H.L.S.) Often seen in Gore district; common up Dart and Routeburn Valleys and near Queenstown, 1/43. (W.A.W.)

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*). Counts at Skull Creek, Whangarei Harbour, 1942, 7/1, 2; 21/3, 40; 26/4, 21; 3/5, 43; 30/5, 100; 14/6, 100 to 200; 5/7, 50; 12/7, 36; 26/7, 70; 1/8, 19; 8/8, 2; 16/8, 6; September, October, and November, four; December, none; 9/1/43, 30; none nested; 3/10/42, Ruakaka Creek, two ducklings remaining of a brood of 10 three weeks previously; 10/10/42, nine newly hatched young. (W.S.) Near Warkworth, 20/8/42, nest with 11 eggs. (C.M.R.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, present in small numbers. (E.O.W.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 25/9/42, nest with five eggs; May and June, 1000 or more in the lagoon. (J.E.) Waikanae Estuary, regular counts made during 22 visits; number varied from single birds in the breeding season to about 300; this number present from the end of December to the end of April, and probably represents the whole population of the district. The birds almost completely disappeared for three months after the shooting season, in May, 1943. Wairau Bar, substantial flocks, but supposed to have decreased owing to the presence of Black Swan. (K.A.W.)

GREY TEAL (*Querquedula gibberifrons*). Poolburn, Central Otago, 4/5/43, male shot; two others reported about the same time, one in Central Otago and one at Lake Waihola. (B.J.M.)

BROWN DUCK (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*). Whangarei, three seen during 1943. (W.S.)

SHOVELLER (*Spatula rhynchotis*). Ngawhakabutu Lake, 19/11/42, about 12; Rawakawhia Lake, 25/11/42, eight. (R.H.D.S.) Wairau Lagoon, Blenheim, 6/43, plentiful. (J.E.)

BLACK TEAL (*Fuligula novaeseelandiae*). Tauranga, seen once. (M.H.) Queenstown, common; young suffer from the eels. (W.A.W.)

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*). Rumahunga River, reported several times; once with five young. (E.O.W.)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Rawakawhia Lake, 25/11/42, up to

50; many; Grey-Mallard cross. (R.H.D.S.) Linton, 8/43, at least three pairs on Manauatu. (H.L.S.) Waikanae Estuary, occasional visits of one to two pairs; looked like a cross between Grey and Mallard. (K.A.W.)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*). Clevedon, 9/8/42, one seen (T.M.R.)

BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*). Whangarei, seven seen. (C.M.R.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 2/8/42, five seen. (H.R.McK.) Rawakawhia Lake, 25/11/42, ten, three families of two, three and three young, about half-grown. (R.H.D.S.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 3000 to 4000 on big lagoon; very few nesting this year, only 20 nests counted during September and October. (J.E.) Waitaki Lake, 15/11/42, eight seen. (C.W.McL.) Green Island Lagoon, Dunedin, nest with four eggs reported in May, 1943. (B.J.M.)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*). Onoke Spit, Palliser Bay, 30/3/41, five; Onoke Lake, 6/4/41, 12. (R.H.D.S.) Waikanae Estuary, disappears almost completely from August to the end of November; later always present in varying numbers from one to 150. Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 10/3/43, 14, mostly in winter plumage. (K.A.W.) Wairau Bar, 9/42, 20 to 30 seen. (J.E.) Wairau River, 28/1/43, four. (L.G.) Dart Valley, 1/43. (W.A.W.) Ettrick, Otago, none seen after 19/11/42 after nesting; reappeared 30/7/43. (E.S.G.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Whangarei, Skull Creek, 9/8/42, three nests, no eggs; 23/8/42, 40 nests, no eggs; 15/9/42, three nests, one egg each; 10/10/42, first egg hatched; 5/12/42, all young flying, three pairs nested on Pirate Island and last young flew from there about 14/1/43; about 25 chicks reached maturity. (W.S.) Clevedon River and Ponui Island area, August, 1942 to April, 1943, in mouth of river, none to 100; 26/10/42, two very young chicks in nest. (T.M.R.) Matautau, Clevedon, during breeding season, six to 20; rest of year, 60 to 150. (H.R.McK.) Te Whiti, Masterton, 28/7/40, three; 17/8/41 and 27/8/41, one; 7/9/41, two. Onoke Spit, Paliser Bay, breeding colony, 1/11/42, 16 nests, with two eggs each; five with one egg; 37 adults. (R.H.D.S.) Porirua Harbour, 4/8/43, two, one posturing as though courting. (H.L.S.) Wairau River, Blenheim, 19/12/42, 30 to 40, feeding on small flounders; 7/43, 50 to 60. (J.E.) Queen Charlotte Sound, 6-9/3/43, six or seven seen daily; Waikanae Estuary, three to 20 present during whole year, most in February and March. (K.A.W.) Kaka Point, 10/5/43, a number seen and reported previously to have nested in the district. (D.N.F.C.)

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*). Whangarei, about four seen at Ruakaka and five at Skull Creek. (W.S.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 28/12/42, two seen with White-fronted Terns. (J.E.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*). Ponui Island, Clevedon, 4/10/42, some thousands feeding; 20/12/42, several thousands nesting on north end of Ponui and small islet to west; 1/1/43, thousands of nests, young and eggs at all stages; another colony on Tarakihi Island; 14/3/43, colonies deserted. (T.M.R.) Matatai and Wai-

- tawa Bay areas, Clevedon, usually a few, up to 50; no nesting attempt last season. (H.R.McK.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 20/12/42, 200 to 300 on Southern Boulder Bank, counted 60 eggs; 7/43, 20 to 30. (J.E.) Waikanae Estuary, absent between second week of August and mid-November, at other times in varying numbers up to hundreds; 21/3/43, about 1000, with large percentage of juveniles. (K.A.W.)
- BLACK-BACKED GULL** (*Larus dominicanus*). Baring Head, 26/2/43; two eggs, one young in down, six fledglings; estimated 50 to 60 nests. (H.L.S.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 200 to 300 laying on islands in the lagoon, 28/12/42; young disgorged eels and caterpillars from the "salt weed." (J.E.) Gore, extremely common on riverbed and cultivated land. (W.A.W.)
- RED-BILLED GULL** (*L. novaehollandiae*). Whangarei, not many in summer, several hundred in winter, not known to nest. (W.S.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 26/4/43, 1000 to 1500 at river mouth during flood. (J.E.)
- BLACK-BILLED GULL** (*L. bulleri*). Evans Bay, 29/5/43, three. (H.L.S.) Wairau, Blenheim, uncommon at estuary, quite common on mud-flats in lagoon, 20/12/42. (J.E.)
- SOUTHERN SKUA** (*Catharacta antarctica*). Whangarei, 31/5/42, one seen over Skull Creek; stormy, strong S.E. wind. (W.S.)
- POMARINE SKUA** (*Stercorarius pomarinus*). Clevedon Estuary, 14/2/42. I reported this bird last year as an Arctic Skua. I am now practically certain that it was a Pomarine Skua. At the time I knew nothing of the existence of the Pomarine but drew in my notebook a sketch of what I thought to be the feet at the end of its tail. This would be the paddle-shaped vertical projecting feathers. I later learned from Alexander's "Birds of the Ocean" that the feet do not project, also that the colouring tallied. It loitered near my boat for some time, about 15 feet above the water. (H.R.McK.)
- ARCTIC SKUA** (*S. parasiticus*). About coast of Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, 26/10/42, one chasing terns, light phase; 8/11/42, one, dark phase; 29/11/42, one in Clevedon Estuary, dark phase; one off Ponui; 20/12/42, one; 1/1/43, one. (T.M.R.) Waikanae Estuary, 28/12/42, three chasing white-fronted terns. (K.A.W.) Taieri Beach, 12/1/43, two together. (B.J.M.)
- NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus reischekii*). Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 25/11/42; pair, one all black, the other with a patch of sooty white on the breast. (J.E.) Otenerau Bay, Arapawa Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, 12/1/39, four, two with white feathers on the lower abdomen and narrow white alar bar, other two jet black. Ship Cove, 28/11/39, pair breeding, one totally black, other mottled white on lower breast, few white feathers on rump and narrow white alar bar; nest in shingle, 8 feet from H.W.M., one egg. Mataikona, east coast, Wellington, two, one jet black, other with whitish feathers on body under wings, a few near the vent and white alar bar, 5/1/41. (R.H.D.S.)
- S PIED OYSTERCATCHER** (*H. finschi*). Wairau Bar, Blenheim, up

- to about 50 usually present. (J.E.) Gore, about six in December and January; not seen in April. (W.A.W.) Waikouaiti, 22/11/42, flocks of 18 and 24. (I.T.)
- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER** (*H. unicolor*). Pickersgill Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, 14/1/39; nest in gravel, 6 feet above high water mark, two eggs; both birds all black; Long Island, 28/11/39, three pairs. (R.H.D.S.) Mouth of Shag River, 19/11/42, two. (I.T.) Taieri Beach, 29/3 to 16/4/43, three. (G.W.G.)
- BANDED DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius bicinctus*). Whangarei, 20/5/42, about 200; July and August, over 100. (W.S.) Clevedon, increase in 1943; 22/9/42, nest with three eggs. (H.R.McK.) Lyall Bay, 30/1 and 7/2/43, two. (H.L.S.) Wairau River mouth, Blenheim, present all the year; 1/43 and 4/43, about 200 seen. (J.E.) Waikouaiti, 22/11/42, six seen. (I.T.) Hakataramea riverbed, South Canterbury, common at end of August; adults near Queens-town end of January. (W.A.W.) Sydney, N.S.W., 29/9/41, male in full breeding plumage; Dr Serventy had last seen eight or ten about a week before; 6/10/41, and later, none seen; 14/3/42, Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne, Victoria, five, all in eclipse plumage, no trace of a breast band; 21/3/42, Wiribee, 40 miles west of Melbourne, 500 to 1000 in scattered parties everywhere; of 100 examined fairly carefully none had a trace of a breast band; 22/3/42, Fisherman's Bend, about 20; one had a darkish brown upper breast, just suggestive of the very first traces of a band (P.C.B.)
- WRYBILL** (*Anarhynchus frontalis*). Onoke Spit, Palliser Bay, 1/11/42, one. (R.H.D.S.) Waikanae, 21/3/43, two with banded dotterels. (K.A.W.)
- KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*). Mataitai, Clevedon, 5/11/42, two, with godwit; 3/4/43, three, with godwit. (H.R.McK.)
- PECTORAL SANDPIPER** (*Pisobia pectoralis*). Firth of Thames, 9/42, one. (R.B.S.)
- GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica*). Mataitai, Clevedon, spring arrival, 20/9/42, 20; 23/9/42, 75; 3/10/42, 220; 7/10/42, 600; 17/10/42, 800; 26/10/42, 1000; 5/11/42, 650 and on to 6/12/42. Summer population—January, up to 1400; February, 400. Autumn movement—Much colour noted from 27/2/43. 12-18/3/43, T.M.R. and others reported a great number, estimated at up to 5000, certainly a large migration movement. 19/3/43, 450, 40% very red, 10% partly red, 50% very pale. 2/4/43, A. Mills reported 2000, another movement. Wintering in New Zealand—12/4/43, 150, all pale; 9/5/43, 80 to 85, all pale; 16/5/43, 77 to 80, all pale except three. (H.R.McK.) Wairau Bar, Blenheim, 1/9/42, five appeared; 17/9/42, 24; 25/9/42, 120; February, 1943, 400 to 500; 20/4/43, 30 to 35; June, 1943, nine; July, 1943, two. (J.E.) Waikouaiti, 22/11/42, flocks of 40 and 34. (I.T.)
- PIED STILT** (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). Whangarei, June to December, all birds with perfect markings; from December onwards birds with black on the head and underparts begin to appear, some almost completely black. (W.S.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 15 pairs nested; four eggs in most nests; also 10 non-breeders; all but two

- pairs left in November, these reared late broods; 6/2/43, 34 newly arrived; 100 by 28/2/43. (H.R.McK.) Opuā, 12/8/43, several seen. (M.A.E.D.) Wairau, Blenheim, 20/12/42, 50 to 60; July, 1943, 20 to 30. (J.E.) Konini, North Wairarapa, abundant locally. (K.A.W.) Hakataramea River, South Canterbury, 15/11/42, nests with two to three eggs. (C.W.McL.) Taieri Beach, 16/10/42, with eggs, usually four. (B.J.M.) Ettrick, Otago, 26/11/42, two young; deserted half-incubated egg, peculiar colour, almost white with black spots, 49.0 by 31.2 mm. (E.S-G.)
- N. I. WEKA (*Gallirallus greyi*). Whangarei, very rare; habitat destroyed. (W.S.) Gisborne and south of Gisborne, 23-26/4/43, not uncommon even in places with very little native bush. (K.A.W.)
- WEKA sp. Deep Creek, Marlborough, 6/2/43, heard in bush at dusk. (L.G.)
- BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*). Whangarei, common; eat periwinkles after smashing the shells; 18/1/43, nest with four eggs in short rushes 2 inches above high water mark. (W.S.) Kawakawa, Clevedon, five or so about small creeks on sea-front. (H.R.McK.)
- MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*). Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin; at least three seen during the past winter on several occasions. (B.A.E.)
- PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*). Whangarei, 24/10/42, first chick seen; 7/42, egg found on road. (W.S.) Ahipara, Kaitiā, 10/8/42, flock of 25. (C.M.R.) Clevedon district, a few small parties. (H.R.McK.) Tauranga, very common. (M.H.) Konini, North Wairarapa, 6/11/42, abundant locally. (K.A.W.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, once common but disappeared; 12 liberated 1942, but none remained. (E.O.W.) Wairau Lagoon, Blenheim, 7/43, about 50; another colony on the Opawa River; becoming a nuisance by eating crops. (J.E.)
- WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*). Clevedon River, 1/9/42, one reported; 16/9/42, one reported at Mataitai; these did not stay; Miranda, two reported as having been present in the river for some months in 1941; not seen since there up to May, 1943. (H.R.McK.) Wairarapa Lake, 15/5/43, two reported; 3/6/43, one reported. (R.H.D.S.) Waiau Estuary, 11/42, two; Blenheim, one (J.E.) Waikouaiti, one reported present for some time winter, 1943. (B.J.M.)
- REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*). Whangarei Harbour, 12/9/42, two nests with one egg, one nest with two eggs, and two nests with three eggs; 5/1/43, same place, three full grown chicks in caves and two chicks about a week old in a nest. (W.S.) Ponui Island, Clevedon, 8/42 to 4/43, a few scattered all round the coast; three nesting sites known. (T.M.R.) Pakihi Island, Clevedon, 1942-43, up to 20 in the area, 15 once seen in a flock, but usually scattered. Several young seen. (H.R.McK.) Between Petone and Wellington, 16/4/43, two. (E.O.W.) Ohau Bay, 17/3/43, one. (H.L.S.) Days Bay, fight with *L. dominicanus*, which finally got the heron's fish; Queen Charlotte Sound, rather common, several adults and juveniles 6-8/3/43. (K.A.W.)

- BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Whangarei, Mata and Ruakaka, probably about six birds. (W.S.) Hatfield's Beach, Orewa, 24/5/43, one; Waipu, 26/5/43, one. (C.M.R.) Waikanae, on small inland lakes, 13 and 27/2/43, one; 21/3/43, 15; 4/4/43, 18; 8/5/43, three; 6/6/43, two; 3/7/43, one. (K.A.W.) Wairau Lagoon, Blenheim, eight to ten during winter. (J.E.) Havelock, 23/1/43, two. (L.G.)
- PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*). Tauranga, very common in lower areas. (M.H.) Gollans Valley, Wellington, 4/10/42, one; Paraparaumu, 27/7/43, one. (K.A.W.) Shannon, 4/8/43, one. (H.L.S.)
- BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus australis*). Clevedon, as plentiful as last year; had good breeding season. (H.R.McK.)
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*). Clevedon, some increase on last year's small numbers. (H.R.McK.) Tauranga, very common in town and country. (M.H.) Gollan's Valley, Wellington, 4/10/42; at least two pairs; beyond Brown Owl Plateau, Upper Hutt Valley, 10/10/42, common; Mata-Hia, near Ruatoria, 25/4/43, common. (K.A.W.) Waihopahi River, 12/1/43, at least 12 seen. (L.G.) Waikouaiti, 17/11/42, two reported. (I.T.)
- PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Single bird fed on puriri berries, Remuera, 25/4/43. (C.A.F.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, fairly common. (E.O.W.) Dunedin, 30/7/42, pair courting. (I.T.)
- ROCK DOVE (*Columba livia*). Island Bay, 1/3/43, dropping to the sea like terns. (H.L.S.)
- BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). Whangarei, occasionally see a few miles north of Awanui. (W.S.) Clevedon, 9-10/5/43, one seen closely. (H.R.McK.) Tauranga, one found dead on the beach. (M.H.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, 3/1/43, nest with two fully fledged young, 30 feet from ground in large *Astelia*. The nest was made of a few sticks and a little dry grass. Adults swooped at the observer and came very close without actually striking. A week later the young had flown, though one was about, but later they were never seen. The parents are always about but never seen together. Feathers of white-eye, pigeon and starling recognised in the nest. Two magpies were once watched attacking a Bush Hawk. Each time one flew in to attack the hawk turned on its back and defended itself with its feet. Large numbers of feathers floated to the ground and all appeared to belong to the magpies. The fight lasted three minutes, and the hawk then made off. (E.O.W.) Single bird over Karori, Wellington, from Makara direction, 11/4/43. (C.A.F.) Occasionally seen in Gore district and said to breed about 11 miles away, near Kaiwera. (W.A.W.) Masterton, single bird in pine belt in town, 3/9/43. (J.M.C.)
- NANKEEN KESTREL (*F. cenchroides*). Oruawharo, Kaipara, winter, 1942; size and colouring described leaves little doubt of identity; pretty habit of hovering for some time, then darting away. It was about for several weeks in open farm and scrub country where there is little bush. (H.R.McK.) An exact description given to me by a soldier, bird seen near Masterton, July, 1942. (R.H.D.S.)
- HARRIER (*Circus approximans*). Whangarei, 10/7/42, mating call first

- heard. (W.S.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, plentiful, except from October to January; probably goes to nest lower down the valley. (E.O.W.) Konini, North Wairarapa, plentiful, a count of about eight birds on a day's tramp on barren country; 6-8/11/42, Wai-kanae Estuary and coastal belt from Paekakariki to Otaki, common, but in slightly smaller numbers than last year. (K.A.W.) Karori, 18/7/43, one, first for months. (H.L.S.) Wairau, Blenheim, 28/12/42, nest with two eggs. (J.E.) Gore, 24/12/42, nest with one young and two eggs; later young gone and eggs added. (W.A.W.)
- MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, common in bush and open country. (E.O.W.) Dunedin, frequently heard at Opoho and other localities near the city. (D.N.F.C.)
- LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*). Wairau River, Spring Creek, 25/1/43, heard calling. (L.G.) Dunedin, 8/2/43, scolding heard, and an owl was seen surrounded by sparrows. It hopped nearer and then made a sudden swoop at one, but apparently missed, and flew away. (I.T.) Alexandra, report of an owl seen to sweep on a flock of goldfinches which were alighting in a tree, and catch one. (B.J.M.)
- KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*). Single bird over Remuera, 16/7/43. (R.B.S.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, scarce, perhaps decreasing (J.W.St.P.) Clevedon, Mount London area, several heard on three trips made. (H.R.McK.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, always present in small numbers. (E.O.W.) Marion, Hollyford Valley, 1/43. (D.N.F.C.)
- KEA (*N. notabilis*). One found dead on Wairau Boulder Bank, Blenheim, April, 1943. (J.E.)
- RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanorhamphus novaezelandiae*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, always present in small numbers. (E.O.W.)
- PARRAKEET sp. Whangarei, December, 1942, one seen in Kukumui Hills; 25/1/43, two seen at Mata. (W.S.)
- WHITE COCKATOO (*Kakatoe galerita*). Clevedon, about March, 1921; about 12 in pine trees; very noisy; said to live in upper Clevedon-Hunua Gorge; about September, 1942, Whakatiri, Clevedon, one reported; Orere, Clevedon, two reported.
- ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*). Near Warkworth, 20/8/42, three seen; said to have spread from Kawau. (C.M.R.) Reported and seen in several places near Dunedin—Maungatua, Woodside, Pine Hill, Wakari, Ross Creek. (I.T.)
- SHINING CUCKOO (*Lamprocoryx lucidus*). Whangarei, 2/10/42, first heard; 1/12/42, many seen and heard in pear and plum trees; "Pear slug" first appears at this time; saw a pair of adult birds feeding one another on "slugs" and squeaking like young ones, 15/12/42; 16/1/43, pair of warblers feeding two young cuckoos. (W.S.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, two apparently adult cuckoos, feeding on caterpillar on ragwort, called to two passing warblers. The call sounded harsher than the usual call of the young cuckoo. The warblers came back and fed the cuckoos. There appeared to be no previous connection between them. Mr Cook, 27/12/42,

- saw two warblers feeding a cuckoo which he took for granted was a young one. On 28/12/42, it was feeding itself. Two weeks later two warblers were feeding their own young at the same place. Does the adult cuckoo demand food of the warbler? (J.W.St.P.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, fairly common from end of September to end of December. One watched feeding, and 15 out of 23 insects taken were the black, hairy, magpie moth caterpillars. (E.O.W.) Gollans Valley, Wellington, 4/10/42, single birds heard. (K.A.W.) Burnham, heard continually between 17/11/42 and 6/1/43 the limits of observation. Waihopai young one fed by warbler. (L.G.) Dunedin, 29/9/42, first song; 30/12/42, two seen together. When one caught a black hairy caterpillar the other flew to it, begged with fluttering wings and was fed. This happened whenever the first found food, though the second could also catch and eat food itself. Song only occasional towards the end of January. (I.T.) Dunedin, several reports of song, 1-8/10/42. (D.N.F.C.)
- LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Urodynamis taitensis*). Single bird spent two days in a Remuera garden in April, 1943. (M.A.F.) Clevedon, 11/10/42, one reported flying S.E. (H.R.McK.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, seen only four times in last five years. (E.O.W.)
- KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*). Whangarei, nests started from late September onwards; young birds start to appear in late December and January; 1943, no young till January 10 (W.S.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 9/5/43, one thrashing an already dead mouse on a branch and one with crab on same tree. (H.R.McK.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, not common but numbers increase in breeding season. (E.O.W.) Masterton, one found choked by a mouse. (R.H.D.S.) Common in Nelson, Queen Charlotte Sound and Wairau districts, 3/43. (K.A.W.)
- KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gigas*). Near Warkworth, 8/42, call heard. (C.M.R.)
- RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, commonest native bush bird; earliest nest, 10/9/42; latest, 2/1/43; both parents feed young. (E.O.W.) Dunedin, nest in an old gig in a garden for several years; building began, 1/10/42; 8/1/43, another pair building under the eaves of a garage in same garden; 12/1/43, second nest being built in the gig. (D.N.F.C.) Taieri Beach, 21/1/43, nest with young on a small cliff in open, hilly country with no bush near. (B.J.M.)
- PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Whangarei, immatures seen on the road in early September, 1942. (W.S.)
- FERN-BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*). Whangarei, common on gumfields, but only in damp, rushy land; 4/10/42, seven in a group. (W.S.) Kaukapakapa, Kaipara Line, 7/2/43, one in swamp. (C.M.R.) Tauranga, fairly common, found in all swamp and scrub areas. (M.H.)
- GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*). Whangarei, 19/8/42, pair building in pine tree; 22/10/42, young left nest, the first in the district. (W.S.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, common; earliest nest,

- 10/9/42; latest, 30/11/42. (E.O.W.) Dunedin, Purakanui, 28/1/43, one feeding shining cuckoo; 8/2/43, at least four seen with three cuckoos. (I.T.) Halkett, Canterbury, 27/9/42, nest begun in Kowhai, 12ft up; 14/10/42, four eggs; 30/10/42, hatched; 2/11/42, young flew. (H.S.G.)
- YELLOW-BREADED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala*). Hilderthorpe, North Otago, 11/1/3, one seen. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, 19/1/43, one with white breast and back very black. (I.T.) Starlings reported to destroy tit's nests. (D.N.F.C.)
- WHITE-BREADED TIT (*P. toitoi*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, always present, but slowly decreasing. No young seen. (E.O.W.)
- S. I. ROBIN (*Miro australis*). Routeburn Valley, 12 miles from Kinloch, common; Whare Flat, Dunedin, one seen April, 1943, and reported to be seen frequently. (W.A.W.)
- FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Whangarei, 19/8/42, pair building; young left nest 21/10/42. (W.S.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, seldom seen about five years ago, but now common. (E.O.W.) Wellington, Kelburn, 7/43, first black one seen in two years; Queen Charlotte Sound, rather common, 6-8/3/43; of six pairs only one bird was black. (K.A.W.) Dunedin, counts were made of the numbers of pied and black birds seen daily; especially in the garden it is likely that the same birds may have been counted several times, but the figures suggest a ratio of about four pied to one black bird. An increase in numbers also seems possible. Approximate total of daily counts, 1/6/42 to 31/5/43—inside the garden, 204 pied and 51 black, i.e., 25%; outside the garden, 215 pied and 47 black, i.e., 22%. Total count, 1/8/41 to 31/5/42—133 pied and 17 black, i.e., 13%. Total count, 1/8/42 to 31/5/43—353 pied and 89 black, i.e., 25%. (I.T.)
- YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala*). Reported common in Routeburn Valley. (W.A.W.)
- WHITEHEAD (*M. albicilla*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, always present in the bush in flocks of 15 to 20; seen feeding fledged young in October, January and February, 1942-43. (E.O.W.)
- BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*). Dunedin, constantly observed in city suburbs; chase noted 6/9/43. (I.T.) Dunedin, Whare Flat, 4/43, very common; Gore district, common in bush, usually in fairly large flocks. (W.A.W.)
- WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, always present, but much more numerous in autumn and winter. (E.O.W.) Hilderthorpe, North Otago, 28/3/43, first arrivals of the season, three weeks earlier than usual; about 300; 16/6/43, considerably more, estimated at 500. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, 13/8/42, noted eating both stem and cap of the Inky-Cap Fungus (*Coprinus?*) (D.N.F.C.) Dunedin, 13/7/42, two together, one singing a trilling song. Remained motionless, with head lowered and tensed body, for about a quarter of an hour. The other fluttered around, never more than a foot away, and kept up a continuous twitter. At times it would press itself close alongside the first. 1/9/42, flock of 20 to 30 singing in a tree, and to judge from the sound at

least as many more out of sight. As they sang they kept turning their heads this way and that. This performance was watched for half an hour, and later a few were still singing. Ten pairs were noted sitting close up to one another. They did not sing, but preened their own, and sometimes their partner's feathers. 13-16/12/42, seen carrying nesting material; 17/12/42, young one being fed; 6/2/43, still feeding young; 8-21/2/43, song heard; 1/3/43, partial albino with right wing partially and left wing almost all white; a bird answering to this description was reported about five miles to the north.

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*). Tauranga, seen taking nectar from the flowers of *Pittosporum crassifolium*. (M.H.) Konini, North Wairarapa, 6-8/11/42, not uncommon, three to four observed daily; Queen Charlotte Sound, 6-9/3/43, rather numerous; Pelorus Bridge, a few only compared with the exuberant bellbirds. (K.A.W.) Nest far out on a horizontal pine branch; built of dry spruce twigs, 6 to 9 inches long, broken off by the bird; nest finished in about four days; young hatched in two weeks, and three left the nest ten days later. Two broods in the season, one year two and three young, another four and three. (D.N.F.C.) One seen on the ground feeding on nectar from the garden fuchsia. (H.D.S.)

BELL-BIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, none since report of last year; Moumoukai Valley, 26/10/42 and 5/11/42, two reported with two young; Mangatangi Valley, 3/43, three reported. (J.W.St.P.) Waiti Bay, Clevedon, 3-5/11/42, three seen feeding on flax flowers and heard for some weeks, but no more after heavy storm. (H.R.McK.) Tauranga, fairly common. (M.H.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, common in Tararua range but never seen here. (E.O.W.) Hilderthorpe, North Otago, 23/5/43, one the first seen here, arrived but did not stay; 4/7/43, one seen. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, chasing noted in July, 1942; 1/8/42, feeding on berries of *Coprosma robusta*; much chasing in May, 1943. (I.T.) Dunedin, 28/11/43, nest with one egg in macrocarpa hedge. (D.N.F.C.)

BLUE WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas wilsoni*). Moumoukai and Mount London areas, Clevedon, throughout the year many heard and quite a few seen; difficult to observe. One day I circled within a large area of bush, seeing and hearing none until I sat out on a hill near my house at 4 p.m., when about six called in the area I had covered. 24/1/43, saw a young bird at 6 feet, full grown but not fully feathered; parents not present. Hunua, 6/43, one heard. Mangatangi Valley, 3/43, five reported. Clevedon, 21/2/43, one heard; 13/1/43, three heard. Otau Hills, 11-13/6/42, several heard. Head of Ness Valley, May, 1943, one heard. These and previous reports establish the habitat of the crow in this part of the country as from Kaiaua to Clevedon and Orere to Hunua. (J.W.St.P.)

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*). Ness Valley, Clevedon, common in nesting season; all gone in February. 12/4/43, Kawakawa Bay, six miles from Ness Valley, close flock of 50 or so; local migration to

- coast indicated? (H.R.McK.) Tauranga, seen feeding on the seeds of the Milkweed, *Euphorbia peplus* and *E. helioscopia*. (M.H.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, breeding common; late nest, 12/3/43, three young. (E.O.W.) Wellington, 3/7/43, male chasing female; 10/8/42 and 12/4/43, song heard. (H.L.S.) Waihopai, Blenheim, 13/1/43, nest with two eggs, 6 feet up in manuka bush; 14th, three eggs; cold, bird not sitting; 15th, four eggs, bird sitting closely; 25th, three young, apparently just hatched, and one egg; 4/2/43, three young; 5th, young left the nest either late this night or early next morning. (L.G.) Dunedin, 23/9/43, coming to table for pieces of apple, but retains only the pips, which are husked and the kernels eaten. (I.T.) Gore, very occasionally seen. (W.A.W.)
- CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*). Karori, Wellington, gradually getting commoner during March; 16/3/43, fighting; 12/4/43, song heard. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, 9/8/42, about half usual song; 10/5/43, first song, only one or two notes, really a continuation of the call note. (L.G.) Dunedin, 8/8/42, song heard repeatedly; heard daily in September and until 13/1/43; occasionally in May. (I.T.) Bold Peak, Kinloch, numbers seen. (D.N.F.C.)
- REDPOLL** (*Acanthis cabaret*). Whakatiri, Clevedon, 7/10/42, flock of about 20, the first I have seen in the district. (H.R.McK.) Karori, Wellington, August; very rare, generally common in summer and numbers halved in winter. (H.L.S.) Halkett, Canterbury, 29/10/42, nest with four eggs; 1/11/42, nest with three eggs; 11/11/42, nest with five eggs; 13/11/42, nest nearly complete. (H.S.G.)
- GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*). Mount Bruce, Masterton, breeding in small numbers; late nest, 12/3/43, with four young. (E.O.W.) Karori, Wellington, song heard 22/2/43, 19/4/42 and 2/5/42; no movement noticed like the Redpoll; song persistent throughout January, but only in snatches. (H.L.S.) Halkett, Canterbury, 11/11/42, nest in gorse fence 5 feet from ground, three eggs, fourth egg laid next day. (H.S.G.) Hilderthorpe, North Otago, many here all the summer and autumn, 100 to 200; two nests in lucerne trees, 9/1/43, one with three half-fledged young and one with four newly hatched. (C.W.McL.) Waikouaiti, 26/12/42, nest being built at tip of green bough of pine tree, both sexes building; foundation completed 7 feet from ground; 27/12/42, lining started, thistle down being used; 28/12/42, nest complete and one egg laid; 1/1/43, five eggs. (L.G.) Dunedin, 7/1/43, partly built nest; 3/3/43, last young seen fed. (I.T.)
- SPARROW** (*Passer domesticus*). Male with white lower half of each wing and female with large white patch on upper middle wing. (H.R.McK.) Karori, Wellington, 25/1/43, female collecting nest material; 7/6/42, male courting, attacked by female; 25/7/43, male courting, seen eating seeds of dandelion and dock. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, 3/11/42, a pair took possession of a nesting box which had a mirror fixed in its ceiling to give a view of the interior. The female spent most of one day and part of the next attacking her

reflection, before she got used to it. Only the male seemed to bring material to the nest. (I.T.) Dunedin, several carrying nest material and visiting nest, 4/43 and 5/43. (B.J.M.)

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Wellington, 13/9/42, still flocking; 23/9/42, full song. (H.L.S.) Blenheim, 5/2/43, nest on ground under small gorse bush, made of tussock; three young; left nest early next morning. (L.G.) Song heard in Dunedin district, 17/11/42 to 18/2/43. (I.T.)

THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*). Masterton, regular song commenced 31/5/43; part songs, 1st, 22nd, 25th, and 26th May; first full song, 31/5/43; last year full regular song, 5/5/42. (J.M.C.) Konini, North Wairarapa, second to Blackbird in numbers; 150 to 200 observed in a day's tramp, 6-8/11/42. (K.A.W.) Wellington, song, 15/3/43; sub-song, 3/7/43; fight, 27/6/43; chase, 4/7/43. (H.L.S.) Marlborough district, first song, 1/8/43. (J.E.) Dunedin, 6/5/43, song loud but only about three notes of the full song; 10/5/43, quite long burst of song. Burnham, waking time of thrush, 14/12/42, 3.27; 17/12/42, 3.48. (L.G.) Hilderthorpe. North Otago, song, 4/7/43. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, 24/5/43, bird with white head. (I.T.) Dunedin, 18/2/43, partly white bird; 3/4/43, bird with brown wings and white speckled body. (D.N.F.C.) Dunedin, 11/9/42, chasing noted, also 10 and 17/3/43; 11/3/43, first song; three songs heard between 8.00 and 8.30; occasionally during April; continuous song from 15/5/43. (B.J.M.) A few about Homer 1/43. (D.N.F.C.)

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*). Tauranga, common; partial albinos frequent. (M.H.) Masterton, part songs, 8/7/42 onwards; first full song, 22/7/42, every day from 5/8/42 to last week in December; autumn songs, March, 1943; first songs, 10/8/43, not regular until 13/8/43. (J.M.C.) Wellington, sub-songs in July, song general by 15/8/43. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, two birds splashed with white. Waikouaiti, 22/11/42, birds seen with white back, speckled back and white underside, rest black. (I.T.) Mataura, black and white blackbird seen on a farm for about 10 years, recently found dead; a few about Homer, 1943, and a few on Bold Peak, Kinloch, 2/43. (D.N.F.C.)

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*). Tauranga, not common, but seen in ones and twos in town and country. (M.H.) Mount Bruce, Masterton, 1941-42, eight nests found, all with four eggs; 1942-43, ten nests found, all with three eggs. (E.O.W.) Usually noted as having a skulking and unobtrusive behaviour, but on moving to another part of Wellington the birds were of a much more open, and friendly disposition and would make short flights ahead of one walking, after the manner of a Pipit. (A.A.B.) Wellington, 10/4/43, song, also in July; 18/7/43, territorial aggressiveness; 20/12/42, nest with four eggs. (H.L.S.) Halkett, Canterbury, eggs laid, 2-3-4/10/42; nest blown down and one egg broken; another laid on 5th. (H.S.G.) Dunedin, 22/7/42, first song, quite definite; also on 24 and 25/7/42. (L.G.) Dunedin, song heard in June, July and August; 1/8/42, pair seen chasing; song heard

- up to 16/1/43; 23/3/43, short song and occasionally in April and May; 25/6/42, earliest song in day, 7.47; 30/6/42, earliest song, 7.52 (I.T.) Dunedin, 15/10/42, nest found; 20/10/42, young heard in it; 14/11/42, nest with four eggs, three young reared; commonly there is one addled egg. (D.N.F.C.)
- LARK** (*Alauda arvensis*). Wellington, partial song in July; 4/8/42, general song. (H.L.S.) Burnham, waking times, 14/12/42, 3.27; 17/12/42, 3.30; Blenheim, 10/1/43, nest with three eggs. (L.G.) Dunedin, song heard daily by end of August; 5/5/43, occasional song. (I.T.)
- STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Konini, North Wairarapa, very abundant. Unlike other districts, owing to the presence of many old trees and stumps, nesting is almost exclusively in tree-holes, and not on or close to houses. Kapiti Island, or possibly one of the smaller ones, is the roost probably for the whole district between Paekakariki and Waikanae. (K.A.W.) Wellington, 16/11/42, flock of 50; 6/6/43, bill losing black. (H.L.S.) Wairau, thousands roost in gum trees. (J.E.) Waihopai, Blenheim, large roost, estimated at 10,000 birds. (L.G.) Halkett, Canterbury, 23/10/42, nest with one egg; four others laid on successive days; 25/9/42, 7/10/42, nest with one egg; three others laid on successive days; 27/10/42, one hatched; 28th, three hatched; 29th, four hatched. (H.S.G.) Dunedin, 11/6/42, twice seen removing material from sparrow's nest; several other times seen to enter sparrow's nests. (I.T.) A few about the Homer, 1/43; large flock on Bold Peak, Kinloch, 2/43. (D.N.F.C.)
- MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*). Tauranga, pairs or small parties here and there. (M.H.)
- ROOK** (*Corvus frugilegus*). I can confirm the presence of a new colony at Pirinoa, near Palliser Bay; 23/4/43, 39 counted in one flock; inquiries made among residents gave the following information:—About 1930, three were seen at Pirinoa; to-day there are 40 to 50, and a fair number have been poisoned or shot. Mr Holmes, of Te Hopai, reports that about 1936 two visited his property and tried to nest, but magpies chased them away. The following year six rooks were seen; the next year, about 18; and in 1940, about 24. The breeding place has not yet been located, but it is believed to be the western side of Wairarapa Lake. There is possibly another colony at Hinakura, in the east coast district, beyond Martinborough. Rooks have been reported there but their presence is not yet confirmed. 29/5/42, one was recorded at Te Wharau, which is only a few miles from Hinakura. (R.H.D.S.)