

THE EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*) IN NORTH AUCKLAND.

By C. A. FLEMING.

Oliver (1930) gives "Waitakerei Range" as the distribution in New Zealand of this parakeet, which entered the fauna as a "cage escape." At present (1944) the distribution is more extensive and reports from the periphery of the range suggest that the bird may still be advancing. For that reason this note is recorded. The bird has long been established in the Waitakerei area, from Titirangi to Muriwai. I have no reports from south of Manukau Harbour, and the closely settled Auckland isthmus has apparently prevented its spread S.E., though there have been occasional records from eastern suburbs (S.D.P.). I have no records from the North Shore Peninsula south of Dairy Flat, but from there west to Kaukapakapa the bird is common, and there appears to be continuity south to Kumeu and Henderson. Throughout the area bounded by the Kaipara to the west, I found the rosella abundant as far north as Tauhoa, Wellsford, and Warkworth between July, 1943, and January, 1944, and Mr S. D. Potter has records from Leigh on the East Coast, though local observers there do not report its presence, and it is not yet a permanent resident. It seems absent from the South Kaipara Heads peninsula (R. B. Sibson), from Okahukura Pen., from the Kaiwaka-Maungaturoto area, and from Pahi and Huketere Peninsulas (C.A.F.), and was absent, at least until a few years ago, from east coast localities north of Leigh. At Silverdale and Tahekeroa, both now well within the range, residents report that the bird was rare or absent four to six years ago.

The range includes native bush, *Pinus* plantations, farming and orchard land with frequent relics of bush or planted shelter belts, and gumlands, usually with some pines. The birds occur in conspicuous and noisy flocklets or in pairs, so that any further spread in range should not be hard to record, even on rapid journeys through the country.

THE RED-BILLED GULL IN DUNEDIN.

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Having noticed that a varying number of gulls visited our school grounds during the previous year, we became interested in their habits, and in 1943 decided to tabulate their attendance. Our classroom is on the top floor of a two-storeyed building and the windows overlook a flat, grassy playground of about $2\frac{1}{4}$ acres. In wet weather this area is too soft and soggy for children to play on, and it was usually under these conditions that we saw the most gulls.

First of all, we drew up a chart which was divided into four columns. The first was reserved for the date, the second for the number of gulls, the third for a weather record on the previous night, and the fourth for comments. The project commenced on March 31,