

KNOT (*Tringa canutus*) **INLAND**.—It is seldom that the Knot is reported in an inland locality in New Zealand. On February 4, 1945, one was seen feeding with stilts in shallow water, about two inches deep, on the north-eastern shores of Lake Wairarapa, at a point about 20 miles from the sea. The bird was watched from a distance of not more than 20 feet and even at that distance it continued feeding, keeping its head down, with its bill in the water for minutes at a time. The bill was held more or less vertical while feeding. Its bill, slightly longer than the head, was straight and black; the legs, rather short, were dark brown; the back, slate grey, browner on the lower portion and mottled; there was a brownish, almost black, edge to the folded primaries; the chest, head and neck were flecked slaty; the underparts white; the flanks barred brownish slate and white; there was a slight, whitish eyebrow; a darker line through the eye, and the tail was barred. When it flew, a white rump became conspicuous. The sharp call on the ground resembles "ee-yick," the second syllable higher pitched than the first; in flight it uttered "gwit." In size it was slightly larger than the banded dotterel. —J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

STARLING AS A PET.—At Opua, Mrs. M. A. E. Deeming writes, three starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) chicks hatched on December 6, 1944. Twelve days later the young were deserted. Two were dead when found and the third was brought home and hand fed on grass grubs, huhu grubs and wetas. The bird became a great pet and learnt to talk when it was about 4½ months old. It was also a good singer and mimicked the notes of other birds. A greensfinch (*Chloris chloris*) caught as an adult, lived in captivity for 12 years.



Photo: A. S. Wilkinson.

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*) incubating, Kapiti Island.