

II.—GANNETS ASHORE AT THE MERCURY ISLANDS.

By P. C. Bull and C. A. Fleming.

During naval service in 1942, P.C.B. examined a stack off Huruhi Bay, Great Mercury Island on August 10. The stack is marked by a dotted circle near a 17-fathom sounding off the south-west coast of the Great Mercury Island on Admiralty Chart No. 2543. There were some signs of guano and Lieut. J. Holt, then commanding officer of H.M.N.Z.S. Humphrey, said he had seen gannets nesting there in pre-war days. This was confirmed by the son of the occupier of the Great Mercury. On October 2 a single gannet was resting on the stack, but during several periods spent in Huruhi Bay between the above dates none was seen ashore.

On October 20, C.A.F., accompanied a Whitianga fishing launch to the stack. This and another stack closer to the Great Mercury are locally known as "The Sisters," and the presence of gannets ashore at times was again confirmed by the fishermen. At 12.30 p.m. the stack was examined from the launch which cruised slowly round about 20 yards offshore. The rock is conical, about 2 chains in diameter, and supports a little taupata and much mesembryanthemum, some patches of which were dead. There were no gannets ashore, but considerable suggestion of their presence—white staining of the rocks and a noticeable smell. No nests were recognised, and since breeding was in full swing by this date at gannetries in Hauraki Gulf, the islet must be regarded as a roost only, at least in the 1946 season.

RECORDS WANTED.—Mr. D. L. Serventy is collecting records of *Puffinus tenuirostris* in New Zealand waters, and desires unpublished data concerning this species. Dates and numbers of birds found on beaches are required and also information as to the maturity of the specimens, distribution in N.Z. waters, age of corpses and weather conditions at time birds were washed ashore. Information may be sent direct or to Mr. J. M. Cunningham, 39 Renali Street, Masterton.

DISTRIBUTION OF MYNAS.—In response to the request for distributional data regarding the myna (*Acridotheres tristis*), 14 members sent in replies, some in considerable detail. The information is at present being collated, and, as evidence in some areas is rather scanty, further notes on the myna's presence or absence in certain districts are required before it will be practicable to publish a distribution map. It is emphasised that what might be common knowledge to some members may not be so to members living in other parts of New Zealand. Dates of first appearances are desired if available. Is the myna present or absent near the following places:—Southern Auckland suburbs, Papatoetoe, Waiuku, Tuakau, Raglan, Kawhia, Paeroa, Waihi, Katikati, Matamata, Tauranga, Opotoki, Awakino, Te Kuiti-Taumaranui Road, Ohakune, Stratford-Ohura Road, Opunake, Taihape, Hunterville, Shannon, Ashhurst, Woodville, Dannevirke, Ormondville, Weber, Herbertville, west of Hastings-Tutira, all localities between Wairoa and Gisborne, Tolaga Bay, Tokomaru Bay or north, Wellington, Marlborough.—J. M. Cunningham.