

COURTSHIP OF WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*).—On January 12, 1936, on Kapiti Island, two birds were seen in a manuka. One, presumed to be the male, chased the other among the branches in a comparatively small compass, fluttering its wings during the pursuit. The presumed female perched on a branch while the male fluttered his wings, standing just in front of the female, and occasionally bowed his head and touched the female's crown with his bill, a performance which continued for about a minute. The male then gave a little twitter before coition took place. The birds then resumed feeding.—R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton.

HARRIERS WITH STOATS.—On 13/11/46, about one mile south of Shannon a kahu (*Circus approximans*) flapped across the road a few feet in front of my car. It was carrying a fully-grown stoat in its claws. The victim was being carried by the head and it had been ripped open right along the belly. This is the second time this year I have seen a kahu with a stoat in its talons. The previous occasion was in the earlier part of this year (either April or June) when south of Paraparaumu but the victim in this case was a small stoat. The one seen today was a very well grown specimen.—A. A. Savill, Levin.

BIRDS AT HERBERT, NORTH OTAGO.—An area of 30-50 acres of rich hill-top farm land 4-5 miles from east coast. There are plantations of macrocarpa, pinus insignis, bluegums and a piece of bush with many matai, totara and broad leaf trees as well as the usual smaller trees. A large pond of stagnant surface water with willows attracts grey ducks and stilts. A farm house and garden with flax, fuchsia, etc., is also in the area.—List 1: Birds seen and heard every day from the house: House sparrow, thrush, blackbird, starling, bellbird, lark, harrier. List 2.—Birds to be seen almost anytime in particular haunts: Grey duck, magpie, goldfinch, rifleman, grey warbler, hedge-sparrow. List 3.—Birds seen and heard at short intervals (days to weeks): Little owl, native pigeon, fantail, white-eye, pied stilt, gulls. List 4: Birds seen and heard at long intervals (months to years): N.Z. falcon, tui, shining cuckoo, paradise duck. Others reported but not personally observed: Pipit, greenfinch, yellow-hammer.—Miss S. Anderson, Herbert.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER AT WAITOTARA.—About the end of November, 1945, Mr. C. J. Glentworth, of Waitotara, picked up an exhausted bird on the edge of a swamp near Waitotara Station. He took it home and kept it till the next day, but as it would not eat, yet seemed in better condition after a night's rest, he released it, and it flew away. During the day the bird was in his possession it was seen by a number of people, none of whom had ever before seen a similar bird. Recently he asked me if I could identify it, and from his description (spurs on wings, projections each side of beak, and size and colouring) it appeared that the bird was an Australian spur-winged plover (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*). The specimen found in 1886, at Kaihiwi is in the Wanganui Museum. I therefore arranged for Mr. Glentworth to meet me at the Museum, where he confirmed that the bird he had found was identical in appearance with the specimen in the museum.—W. P. Mead, Wanganui.