

Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).—Common, nesting in low clay banks round the harbour; once boring in dead willow at Paua.

Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).—Nesting in considerable numbers; present in all open country.

Fern-bird (*Bowdleria punctata*).—Still common in spite of frequent scrub fires. Careful observation has convinced me that the double call is always made by two birds.

Grey warbler (*Pseudogerygone igata*) and fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Both plentiful.

Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*).—Plentiful, large flocks observed in winter.

Tui (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*).—Absent from the district.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*).—In small numbers, never observed in flocks, one seen at North Cape.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Common.

Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*).—Two observed near Te Kao, 1941.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Plentiful, in considerable flocks.

House sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—Everywhere common about settlements.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Common.

Song thrush (*Turdus ericetorum*) and blackbird (*T. merula*).—Both very common.

Hedge sparrow (*Prunella modularis*).—Now well represented; observed within the last ten years.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).—Common.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Common, although scarcity of nesting places may restrict numbers; kingfisher which bored in dead willow was evicted. Feeds frequently on mudflats.

White-backed magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Furthest north of which I have heard record is Herekino Gorge, 10 miles south of Kaitaia.

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BIRD NOTES COLLECTED IN NORTH CANTERBURY, October, 1934.—Among a series of notes collected at West Oxford, Canterbury, in 1934, are some bird notes which may prove of interest. My informant was the late Mr. A. Burrows, who arrived in Canterbury in the year 1874 in the ship Waitari. Sky-larks and hares were brought out on this ship and introduced into Canterbury. (Previous introductions had already been made.) Mr. Burrows tells of the abundance of the weka when he arrived in West Oxford. He was very interested to watch Maoris catching them by the well-known means of using a weka wing attached to a stick about 6 feet long and a noose attached to a longer stick. The cry of the weka was made by the fowler using a whistle of flax called a whakapi made from the youngest and finest blades of the flax plant. To take the stiffness out of them the blades were previously heated in a fire. The bird came to investigate and was caught in the noose. This account is of interest as it is the first time the name whakapi has been recorded. Literally, whaka is the causative prefix, and pi is the young of land birds. Following the Maori custom, the first settlers used the kea for food. In the winter it came down from Mt. Oxford to West Oxford in twos and threes. The flesh was considered very palatable.—W. J. Phillipps, Dominion Museum, Wellington.