

MOREPORK RETURNS TO CAGE.—When I was a boy in Carterton I kept a morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) in captivity for several weeks. Captured in the bush at Belvedere in the daytime it was taken home and accommodated in a cheese crate with a netted front. It was fed on raw meat and soon became quite tame and would eat freely from the hand. One morning the owl was found to be missing. Over a week later, however, it turned up again, being back in its cheese crate home once more. A few days later it escaped again, but this time it was found dead in the garden.—E. J. Brown, Masterton.

EARLY MORNING BIRD SONG AT HERBERT, North Otago.—22/12/39: Fine morning; at 4 o'clock a bellbird chorus began, then a skylark sang on the wing; next a charm of goldfinches flew past; the sparrows and starlings then awakened in that order. 18/12/41: The bellbirds began morning songs before daylight while little owls were calling. At dawn they ceased, a blackbird being the next to sing. 26/10/44: Fine weather; at 4.45 a.m. a blackbird was singing in the garden a few feet from the window. At the same time a great choir of bellbirds was chiming in eight acres of native bush 200 yards away. There was a tremendous background-sound of the twittering of small birds. All song had died away at 5.10 a.m. 3/11/44: I heard the dawn chorus commence at 4.30 with twittering of small birds from the bush, the individual songs being indistinguishable. At 4.40 a.m. the bellbirds began; at 4.47, the blackbird in the garden, and at 5.5 a.m. all song died away.—Miss S. I. Anderson, Herbert. (For scientific names see classified notes.)

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO RAIDING NESTS.—Mrs. E. Rowntree, Gore, reported that during a holiday in December, 1945, and January, 1946, at Piano Flat, Waikaia Valley, she saw a long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) in a beech tree at the nest of a yellowhead (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*). The cuckoo ate the contents of the eggs in the nest while the pair of yellowheads flew around in distress. By the time she had recovered from her surprise and fully understood what was happening, the cuckoo had finished its meal and flew away. The yellowheads returned to the nest, picked up the empty shells, and dropped them one by one over the edge of the nest. The inside of the shells was perfectly clean. Another friend reported that when on holiday at Stewart Island a few years ago a long-tailed cuckoo was seen at a nest of a house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) under the verandah of an empty cottage. It was tearing the nest to pieces, but two tuis appeared, attacked the cuckoo and chased it away.—Mrs I. Tily, Dunedin.

REVIEW.

The Maori Method of Taking Grey Duck and Black Teal near Taupo; W. J. Philipps, *Journal of the Polynesian Society*, Vol. 56, No. 4, p.p. 333-335; Dec., 1947.

After quoting published records of methods of taking wild duck by the Maoris, the author gives an account of snaring technique related to him by a Taupo Maori. The paper is illustrated with a drawing giving an analysis of the snaring knot.—R.H.D.S.

CORRESPONDENCE.

GREY WARBLER AND CUCKOOS.

(To the Editor..)

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to Mr J. M. Cunningham's regret that in the revised third edition of my handbook on New Zealand birds I have not deleted the grey warbler from amongst those native birds which are parasitized by the long-tailed cuckoo (*Urodynamis taitensis*).

I take it that he would prefer that I accept the opinion of those whose objections are based on the fact that Dr. Buller was not clear upon