

Marion and the Barrier Hut. Several were heard in the bush above Lake Alabaster. On 13/2/47 we were accompanied for some little distance through bush at the head of the Barrier River by six or seven of these birds, which flew and hopped among the trees 15 to 20 feet above our heads, continually uttering a harsh, rasping call, interspersed with beautiful bell-like notes. One or two were heard in the bush beside Lake McKerrow on 18-19/2/47.

Parrakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp.) were heard not uncommonly in the bush of the Hollyford and Lower Pyke valleys. Calls were noted near Marion, Hidden Falls River, Pyke Hut, Barrier Hut, Lake Alabaster and Lake McKerrow.

The morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) was heard calling frequently, at Hidden Falls, Pyke River, Barrier Hut, Lake Alabaster and the Upper Barrier River.

The distinctive call of the long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) was noticeable in bush on the Upper Barrier River, 9 and 13/2/47.

The smaller birds call for little comment. Grey warblers (*Pseudogerygone igata*), yellow-breasted tit (*Petroica macrocephala*), fantails (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*), and wax-eyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) were seen or heard in all forested areas commonly. Perhaps the commonest bush bird is the rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*) noted particularly in the high beech forest at the head of the Barrier River on 10/2/47. Brown creepers (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*) were recorded definitely only once, at the head of the Barrier River. Three were seen and others heard.

Bellbirds (*Anthornis melarura*) were heard very frequently every day. Their singing was especially noticeable in the Lower Pyke Valley, and my note-book records their dawn chorus at the head of Lake Alabaster, 5-7/2/47.

INTRODUCED BIRDS.

Unfortunately, introduced birds were not accorded a great deal of attention. A few black swans (*Cygnus atratus*) were seen on Lake Alabaster, whilst a large flock, 200-300, was present with the paradise ducks at the Hollyford mouth. The blackbird (*Turdus merula*) was a common inhabitant of the Hollyford Valley above Lake McKerrow, and of the Pyke Valley. Calls were frequent and their early morning singing with bellbirds was noted in the Lower Pyke.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO GANNET CENSUS.

XIV.—HORU HORU, 1948-1949 SEASON.

By H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon.

On 12/12/48 Mr. G. K. McKenzie took a party in his launch and effected a landing on Horu Horu in rough conditions. The writer had to stay on the launch about 50 yards from the island. Ferried to the island by member D. J. Shaw members G. K. McKenzie and D. A. Urquhart worked together from the mainland end and Messrs. N. L. Anderson and W. Wipani worked from the seaward end. No attempt was made to tally the adults but they were roughly estimated at 1,500 plus. Every chick was counted but only the later nests could be identified as such. All the earlier nests had been trampled out of recognition.

It was estimated that not more than 5% of the chicks were going into the juvenile plumage. The seaward section of the colony had the greater proportion of advanced young. The count is:—

	1	2	3	4	5	Total
Large Chicks	69	261	82	20	64	496
Small Chicks	3	6	0	0	6	15
Chicks Hatching	0	0	0	0	4	4
Nests with Eggs	15	58	6	7	25	111
Nests, no Eggs	0	4	?	3	12	19

I have seen a copy of Mr. Stein's report of 21/1/49 and he has grouped our No. 3 and No. 4 sections into one.