

The flight is very limited and I doubt if 20 yards is often exceeded in one effort. The wings work rapidly but the pace is slow and has a "tail-heavy" appearance. The call is "tick! tick!" in a somewhat metallic note and occasionally "u-tick!" At times the male utters a loud bell-like note of "toick!" which his mate answers immediately with "tick!" Seen side by side, the male may be distinguished by the larger amount of russet in his plumage.

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## BIRDS WEST OF THE WAIU RIVER

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In November and December, 1947, and January, 1948, notes were recorded of birds seen west of the Waiau River, Southland. The birds listed at Lake Hauroko (at the south end) represent a complete avifaunal list for that locality on December 17, 1947.

Shag (believed to be the spotted *Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus*, a small species, grey with whitish front).—A small colony at Sandhill Point, Dec. 8; another colony reported at the mouth of the Waiaurahi River. Two shags (probably a different species), Lake Hauroko, Dec. 17.

Paradise Duck (*Tadorna variegata*).—Pair with young, Sandhill Point, Dec. 6; single bird near mouth of the Hutburn, Dec. 8; several pairs of birds, four with young, Lillburn Valley, Jan. 10 to Feb. 12.

Grey Duck (*Anas poicilorhyncha*).—Six south end of Lake Hauroko; one feeding in Waiaurahi River about six miles south of Lake Hauroko, Dec. 19; one feeding at the mouth of the Hutburn, Nov. 14.

Grey Teal (*Anas gibberifrons*).—Four, Lake Hauroko.

Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*).—Two with cygnets on Lake Hauroko.

Harrier (*Circus approximans*).—One, Hump Ridge, Dec. 17.

South Island Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus finschi*).—Common on beach Te Waewae Bay between Waiau mouth and mouth of the Waikoau.

Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*).—Several at Sandhill Point, Dec. 6.

White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*).—Sandhill Point, Dec. 6.

Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*).—Several were observed at Sandhill Point on Dec. 6, and occasionally at the mouth of the Waikoau River.

Wood Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).—Fairly common throughout the whole of the west Waiau area, but seemed to prefer bush with a sheltered aspect.

Kaka (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Common throughout area west of Blue Cliffs. Particularly common around Port Craig, where they were observed flying in flocks (one of twenty-nine) in the early mornings and evenings. Numbers here were probably due to plentiful food in rotten logs in cut-over area. Rimus frequently seen with loose bark stripped off them. Abundant in Waiaurahi Valley, around Lake Hauroko and on the lower eastern slopes of the Billows, west side of the Lillburn Valley.

Kea (*Nestor notabilis*).—Two, Hump Ridge, Nov. 17; five, one lame, Hump Ridge, Dec. 14.

Parrakeet (*Cyanorhampus novaeseelandiae* (?)).—Lake Hauroko, two. One, track halfway between the edge of bush and lake.

Shining Cuckoo (*Chalcites lucidus*).—None seen, but heard, Port Craig area, Nov. 29 and Dec. 8; Francisburn, Nov. 30; Bluecliffs, Dec. 22 to Jan. 10.

Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*).—One, Bluecliffs, Jan. 1; one chased by a bellbird near the mouth of the Humpburn, Jan. 3.

Morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).—Heard Lake Hauroko.

Little Grey Owl (*Athene noctua*).—One seen at dusk on spur running S.W. of south end of Hump Ridge, Dec. 19.

Rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—One, Track Burn, two miles from the coast, Nov. 30; few, Lake Hauroko; one south end of Hump Ridge at about 700 feet, Dec. 19.

Bush Wren (*Xencius longipes*).—Two seen western side of Hump Ridge at 1000 feet, Dec. 17.

New Zealand Thrush (*Turnagra capensis*).—Two near Lake Hauroko, appeared to be identical with specimens in the Otago Museum.

Grey Warbler (*Pseudogerygone igata*).—Several, Lake Hauroko; general, but not common, in low level bush.

Yellow-breasted Tit (*Petroica m. macrocephala*).—Plentiful, Lake Hauroko.

Robin (*Miro australis*).—One, Lake Hauroko. Common in bush round Lillburn Valley, January-February, both young and old birds being seen. These birds were not observed near the coast.

Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Pied fantails were common at Lake Hauroko. No black fantails were noted. Fantails common elsewhere here and there in patches of bush.

Yellowhead (*Mohua o. ochrocephala*).—Four, Francis Burn, Dec. 5 and 6; several, Upper Hutburn Valley, Nov. 18, and also between Lake Hauroko Track and Upper Lillburn clearing.

Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*).—Noted on the south coast, Te Wae-wae Bay.

Tui (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*).—Two, Lake Hauroko; common on south coast, Dec.-Jan., feeding on flax and rata flowers.

Bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*).—Plentiful, Lake Hauroko. Near mouth of Humpburn ("Stony"), Jan. 3; one observed aggressively chasing a long-tailed cuckoo. Generally common on south coast feeding on rata and flax flowers.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—One fairly elderly bird was about the camp at Bluecliffs in Nov., Dec., and Jan.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).—One, Lake Hauroko. Not nearly as tame as the native birds.

One stoat was seen at the south end of Lake Hauroko. Red deer were common throughout the area. Wild pigs also were found throughout the area. Would this be the reason why no ground birds such as wood-hens were observed?

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BIRDS AT HAKATARAMEA.—On our bird observation list we have listed the following birds:—Harrier, song thrush, blackbird, greenfinch, pukeko, waxeye, grey warbler, skylark, ground lark (pipit), fantail, starling, chaffinch, goldfinch, redpoll, yellow-hammer, hedge sparrow, bittern, grey duck, gull, pied oyster catcher, stilt, black shag, paradise duck, banded dotterel, magpie, quail and owl. Nests of several of these species have been under observation.—Bruce Robertson, Form 2, Hakataramea School.