

—in two days spent in the area we were hardly out of sight of a white-eye at any time.

With the exception of the very interesting record of the occurrence of bush wren near Lake Waikareiti, there is little of importance in these extracts from my notes; but I have been glad to put them on record, for what they are worth, in gratitude for many pleasant hours spent in bird-watching, and many kind people who have helped me. Their offers of further help when I can visit New Zealand again at a more kindly season, have given me great encouragement and good cause for pleasant anticipation. The way of the bird-watcher in New Zealand is hard; he has to look for his birds (except the common and the introduced species) with a patience and a tenacity not called for elsewhere; but the result is worth the effort.

DISPLAY OF THE HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—A congregation of about one hundred harriers was observed by D. Brathwaite, Peter C. Bull and the writer on June 23, 1949, at 14.30 p.m. about half a mile east from the Tikokino-Kereru Road (Hawke's Bay). The birds were hovering at about twice the normal flying altitude of harriers over pastoral land adjoining the Gwavas State Forest. Harriers' calls were frequently heard. This congregation was spread over a hundred acres, and the largest width of the area was about one mile. After about 20 to 30 minutes the majority of the birds dispersed while the remainder were hovering as before. Other work prevented us from continuing our observations but about half an hour later seventy harriers were counted hovering over the same area. A few of the birds lowered themselves down, while others dispersed. It should be added that the writer, travelling through the same area at dawn on the same morning counted six harriers flying towards the place of the congregation. It would be of interest to know whether similar displays of the harrier were observed at this time of the year by other members of our society.—(Kazimierz Wodzicki, Wellington.)

YOUNG BELLBIRDS AND TUIS.—*It was mid-January and both tuis (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) and bell birds (*Anthornis melanura*) were numerous around our tent. To encourage the youngsters we made an improvised bird table. Tins of diluted condensed milk and soaked figs were conveniently attached to nearby twigs and branches. A young tui took possession of one tin and milk, and never seemed to leave it. It remained there day after day, sipping the contents every few minutes or when it was so full that not a single drop more could be taken it sat close to the tin and only moved to chase off any other bird that ventured near. On the other hand, three young bellbirds preferred the figs and ate them every day. They were astonishingly tame and would allow me to caress them lightly with a finger as they fed. Now and then their mother would appear and immediately the youngsters saw her they yelled lustily for food. She at once attacked the nearest fig and pulling off pieces popped them into the wide-open mouths around her. But what misplaced energy, for the moment she went the youngsters continued to calmly help themselves.—S. D. Potter, Auckland.*

POSE OF THE BITTERN.—Many people know the protective pose of the bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and the majority of illustrations show it in an upright position with upraised bill, but it was on February 8 that I was shown that this is not always the pose adopted and that surroundings may make a difference. I was making my way along a swamp edge where most of the vegetation was short and in any case somewhat sparse. Rounding a sloping piece of country I suddenly confronted a bittern not more than five yards from me. Slowly the bird settled down to a crouching position but with its bill gradually moving upwards. For three or four minutes I watched and realised how very much more obvious the bird would have been had it stood upright. No movement was made until I moved away, when it turned its head slightly to follow my departure.—S. D. Potter, Auckland.