

ing plumage, feeding and calling. I believe that this is the first redpoll record for the island.

BREEDING.

Breeding was much in evidence though no special effort was made to find nests. Young flying bellbirds were seen everywhere, but only one young tui and one brood of whiteheads were found out of the nest. Most of the rifleman seen were flying young. The chaffinches, hedge-sparrows, thrushes, blackbirds and house-sparrows all had eggs and young in nests. The blue penguin chicks ranged from small to nearly half-grown. A small colony of about 20 nests of white-fronted tern was observed from the boat at Lion Rock, along the coast to the west. The birds were sitting. On the trip round the Island two or three black-backed gulls were seen on nests. The total seen on this trip was 14, all adults. A morepork, found earlier, was sitting on two eggs and hatched them while we were there. One of the best thrills of the visit was the finding of a whitehead's nest with three beautiful rose-pink eggs. These hatched before we left. Other birds were, of course, breeding, but the nests or young were not seen. The pet red-fronted parakeet "Sammy," was suspected of having a nest but she could not be successfully followed to it. After the loss of her three chicks last year it was hoped that she would have better luck this time. The rearing of "Sammy" from a naked chick with a broken leg is typical of the devotion shown by Mr. and Mrs. Parkin to the birds of Little Barrier Island.

BIRDS ON STEWART ISLAND.—In January, 1949, Mr. W. Martin, of the Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club, visited the southern area of Stewart Island, and the following bird report is compiled from notes received from him: Native pigeons (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) were very common near the freezer at Port Pegasus, where they were feeding on the konini berries. A flock of 60 was noted at Halfmoon Bay flying overhead late in the evening of January 28. Kakas (*Nestor meridionalis*) were not numerous but were seen occasionally at Pegasus Bay and on the Tin Range. Parrakeets (*Cyanoramphus* spp.) were much more often heard than seen. Tuís (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) and bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*) were very numerous. Kiwis (*Apteryx australis*) were seen by several members of the party on the Tin Ridge, and their holes were numerous in muddy areas to the north of Pegasus. One solitary weka (*Gallirallus australis* ?) was noted on an island in Port Pegasus and none on the mainland. Other land birds were few. It is possible that the orange wattled crow (*Calleas cinerea cinerea*) is still present, but it is two or three years since one was recorded. Of the petrels present the mutton bird (*Puffinus griseus*) was the one most commonly noted. Vandalism is rife at Pegasus. Fully one-third of the bush area and scrub at Pegasus has been burnt off at one time or another, the explanation given being that it was easier to get at the deer. The human menace far exceeds the deer menace in this area.

LARGE PIED SHAGS VICTIMISED BY HARRIER, Little Barrier Island.—Towards the shag nesting colony on August 1, 1944, I saw a number of pied shags (*Phalacrocorax varius*) wheeling in circles and screaming, with a harrier (*Circus approximans*) attacking and apparently shepherding them. It alighted on the ground so I went to investigate. The harrier left but I found five newly broken egg shells on the ground within a few feet. A sixth egg was in a grassy crevice and was intact. Since then I have on several occasions found broken egg shells, minus contents, on the ground, the last occasion being on 17/8/47, when ten broken eggs were counted at the mouth of Tirikakawa Stream. They were lying within a radius of six feet, all with the contents missing. I consider that a harrier must have been responsible in each case.—C. H. Parkin, Little Barrier Island.