

Emberiza citrinella.—Occasional yellowhammers were seen on the dunes.

Prunella modularis.—The song of the hedge-sparrow was heard in one area of fairly heavy bush.

Turdus ericetorum.—A bleached skeleton with a few attached feathers found on the dunes at Sealer's Bay provided the sole record of the song thrush. This specimen was almost certainly a straggler.

Stead recorded blackbirds, redpolls (neither common) and two or three pairs of white-eyes. None of these species was recorded by our party. Other species which might have been expected to be present but were not seen were the robin, kiwi and yellowhead.

GREY DUCK'S NEST SITE.—Walking along the main street of Whakatane with a friend my attention was attracted by a grey duck (**Anas poicilorhyncha**) flying low along the main thoroughfare. Watching, I saw her alight on the cliff face just behind the street. Within a few seconds she had taken wing again. This manoeuvre was carried out several times but on each occasion she settled lower down the face. Finally she reached a level very little higher than that of the road and as she seemed to return to this point each time I decided to investigate. Here we discerned the plaintive piping of ducklings and found in the gutter of the main street a downy bundle. It was apparent that the anxious adult bird had got them safely down from that lofty nest but on account of traffic and pedestrians was unable to get them across the street to the river. Gathering up the nine youngsters we deposited them safely on the other side. For several minutes they remained huddled together, frightened and bewildered until the adult bird swept overhead in wide circles. At last, in response to their pipings, she alighted, and the last we saw of them in the gathering dusk was the bird marching towards the river with her family crowding just behind her.—S. D. Potter, Auckland.

NOTE ON THE BREEDING LOCALITIES FOR THE BLUE SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus steadi*).—This southern representative of the spotted shag was first described by Oliver in 1930. Nothing seems to have been recorded of its breeding habits until the late Mr. E. F. Stead (N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 3, p. 79, 1948) recorded the species as nesting on sea cliffs around the entrances to Port Pegasus, Stewart Island, and gave some account of its nesting habits. In November, 1948, the writer, en route to Codfish Island (1/11/48) and on the return trip (8/11/48) passed through both the Inner and Outer Ruggedy Passages. On the sea cliffs of both passages blue shags were observed nesting. Observations were limited as the fishing boat on which we were travelling could not be easily manoeuvred but approximately a dozen birds and about 20 nests were observed. There are numerous suitable breeding localities in this area and with time no doubt other nests could be located. The nests were much as described by Stead but were not so high above sea level. They were all perched on ledges all of which would have been inaccessible to humans. The nests were on the whole rather well spaced. It seems very likely that many more colonies exist around the rocky Stewart Island coast. In this respect, it is of interest that old residents of Halfmoon Bay claim that this species formerly nested in numbers on cliffs and in sea caves in Paterson Inlet itself. The birds certainly still roost in this area.—R. K. Dell, Wellington.

SOCIETY'S LIBRARY—Amongst the books presented to the Society from the duplicate stocks of the Auckland Institute and Museum Library are Guthrie Smith's "Bird Life on Island and Shore," and Marriner's "The Kea." An anonymous donor has given A. C. Bent's "Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl, order Anseres (part)."