

MYNAS ON TIRI TIRI ISLAND

During my stay at the lighthouse station on Tiri Tiri during November, 1961, I noticed that the Indian Myna (*A. tristis*) had established itself around the out-buildings, i.e. watchtower, cowbail, etc. At no time during my stay were these birds seen on any other part of the island.

A daily check was kept and the most seen at one time was ten. These checks were made between 5 a.m. and 7.30 p.m., the average daily count being six over a period of 28 days.

In conversation with the keepers who have been at the lighthouse station for the past eighteen months, I learned that these birds have been seen around the station during the past few months only.

Their habits are regular. They feed in and around the hen-run in the early morning; they try to get at Starlings' nests on the watch-tower roof, chase Tuis, and make a pest of themselves in the keepers' gardens during the day. At night they return to the hen-run to feed.

I would say that there are four pairs and possibly two or three young birds on this island and that they are on the increase. As both Tuis (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) and Bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*) still survive in the groves of pohutukawas, though much of the island is cleared, it will be interesting to see how they react to the presence of Mynas. The following episode substantiates some of the charges commonly made against the Myna.

On the morning of the 24/11/61, while milking the cows, I heard a bird singing and calling on the watch-tower. I took this to be a Starling (*S. vulgaris*), but on getting up to have a look I saw that it was a Myna.

While I watched, the bird moved along the roof, stopped and looked into the spouting, at the same time calling like a Starling. It did this a number of times, calling at each place where it stopped.

Suddenly the Myna disappeared into the spouting. Then its head appeared and it was seen to drop a small object. This happened three times. By now a Starling had landed near the hole and was making a great noise.

The Myna came out of the spouting and flew at the Starling, which flew off. The raider was joined by another Myna and they flew to the base of the watch-tower. I immediately went over and found three young Starlings a few days old, all dead.

Another Starling's nest, with four young birds dead outside, was found in an old shed around which Mynas had also been seen.

— A. WRIGHT



MYNAS ON WAIHEKE ISLAND

As Waiheke becomes more and more urbanised, the Myna (*A. tristis*) spreads and increases. For some years it has been common along the coast opposite. It was first recorded on the island in May, 1944, a single bird after an easterly storm. Later two were seen at Arran Bay on 4/1/56 (*Notornis* VII, 87). During a stay on Waiheke in December, 1960, I noted five near the shopping area at Oneroa, three at Little Oneroa and four on the roads around Palm Beach.

D. F. BOOTH

[A few pairs now breed at Onetangi and a flock of 12 was reported in June, 1962. — Ed.]