

divided between the two species in the ratio of 5: 3. The highest mixed count this year was c. 160 on 25/3/62.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN — 2 on 20/5/62. No others recorded.

CASPIAN TERN — Maximum 25 on 24/2/62 and 25/3/62.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — Present from December to May, up to 250 (25/3/62) coming into the estuary, and more on the adjacent coast (1000 on 29/12/61).

— I.G.A., M.J.I.



### WAIMAKARIRI ESTUARY

Regular observations here began in October 1961, and it is hoped they will continue for some years. This report is based on at least one visit per month.

BLACK SHAG — Scarce. A single bird present in March.

PIED SHAG — Mainly a winter visitor. Max. 6 in March and August.

SPOTTED SHAG — Feeds offshore and roosts at the estuary. Max. 110 in March. Few during nesting season.

WHITE-FACED HERON — Max. 30, in January, when many juv. were present.

BITTERN — 1 in January in the southern swamp.

ROYAL SPOONBILL — 2 on 31/12/61 perching in a tree.

GREY TEAL — 1 on 13/3/62; 2 on 20/4/62.

HARRIER — Always a few; max. 8.

PUKEKO — Several in the southern swamp.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — Always some; min. 12 in November; max. 853 on 30/6/62. On 31/12/61 an albino with eyes, bill and legs of normal colour, was present.

BANDED DOTTEREL — One nest found and many young birds seen. Biggest numbers in March (195), April (151), May (167), declining to 21 in August.

WRYBILL — No sizeable flocks seen. 4 on 21/10/61; 2 on 31/12/61; 3 on 3/3/62; 3 on 31/3/62; 1 on 19/8/62.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW — One present at least from 13/1/62 to 3/3/62.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — 100+ on 4/11/61; 140 on 26/11/61; c. 157 December to February; 119 on 3/3/62; 79 on 17/3/62; 19 on 31/3/62; 11 in May and June; 0 in July and August.

KNOT — 9 on 8/10/61 3 on 26/11/61; 3 on 3/12/61; 9 on 31/12/61.

PIED STILT — Scarce in spring. c. 20 on 17/12/61; numbers increasing to max. 48-52, February-May; 25 in June; 6 in July; 0 in August.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — At least 2 prs. bred along sandspit. Increase over autumn to max. 390 in May; declining to 36 by August.

RED-BILLED & BLACK-BILLED GULLS — Generally Red-bills outnumber Black-bills, especially in autumn and winter; but proportions not worked out.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN — Scarce or absent in spring and summer; a few in autumn; 27 in June; 9 in July; 11 in August.

CASPIAN TERN — Usually a few. Max. 16 in January and March.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — Numbers variable. Best counts were: 216 in January; 207 in March; 202 in May; 155 in August. At least one pair nested.

KINGFISHER — c. 7 along the inside of the spit on 30/6/62.

— D. G. DAWSON