

KNOT — Summer census c. 4500 on 2/12/62; winter census 170 on 14/7/63.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — 3 on 4/11/62, first return migrants seen; 7 on 17/11/63; 19 on 24/11/62; 15 on 3/1/63.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — 3 having wintered, stayed at or near Miranda most of summer. Up to 5 others with Kairito Wrybills in January.

RED-NECKED STINT — One wintered 1962. Then 4 on 3/11/62 and 3/1/63 over the summer. One wintered 1963, seen with Wrybills on 14/9/63.

PIED STILT — Scattered, but apparently rather unsuccessful breeding. Broods well-grown of 2, 2, 1 at pools on 24/11/62. Summer census 2/12/62, only 131. 2370+ on 24/3/63; 1600+ on 28/4/63. Only 1209 on winter census 14/7/63. On 28/4/63 there were 3 blackish stilts in Hot Spring marsh.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — Kairito shellbank colony on 24/11/62, 1 c/4; 34 c/3; 12 c/2; 4 c/1; 8 c/0 — 51 occupied nests but no eggs yet hatched; 2/12/62, 52 nests and some chicks. Miranda shellbank colony, 25+ adults on 14/9/63; one old nest being refurbished.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — A few may have summered. c. 400 on 28/4/63. 590 on winter census 14/7/63.

RED-BILLED GULL — c. 1000 at Kairito hovering over tall fescue taking insects on 24/3/63.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — Two sightings probably of the same bird as seen in 1961 and 1962; (a) flying along the coast near Kairito on 1/1/63 (P.D.G.S.). (b) in full breeding dress on 14/7/63 inland at Waitakaruru, flitting over wet paddocks in which many Pied Stilts were feeding.

CASPIAN TERN — 96 on summer census 2/12/62; more than usual but no evidence of local breeding. 120+ on 28/4/63, of which 80+ were looking for a high tide roost near Kairito. Only 58 on winter census 14/7/63.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 525 on 2/12/62, almost entirely at Kairito, where some nesting was in progress. Few young reared, to judge by subsequent counts viz. 1 among c. 100 adults on 24/3/63; 4 among 84 adults on 28/4/63. Winter census, 131 on 14/7/63. 150+ on 12/9/63 noisy and excited at Wharekawa.

LITTLE TERN — Numbers present this summer far surpassed all previous counts. 32 on 24/11/62; 35 on 2/12/62, the tally being checked and rechecked. The last seen were 6 on 28/4/63, when they were noisy and excitable; but their bills were still dusky (cf. *Notornis* X, 91-92).

— H.R.McK., R.B.S.

MANUKAU NORTH — OTAHUHU, MANGERE, PUKETUTU, IHUMATAO

GANNET — Often to be seen off the end of the airport and Ihumatao.

WHITE-FACED HERON — The biggest concentrations are in autumn and early winter, e.g. c. 70 near airport during latter end of March '63. After June the flocks tend to break up.

BLUE REEF HERON — Max. 4 at Puketutu on 28/6/63.

ROYAL SPOONBILL — Six resting on a reef among Caspian Terns, Pied Stilts and ducks at Spoonbill Pool (No. 4) on 10/5/63. Two throughout winter in vicinity of Puketutu; 4 from at least Sept. 1st to 13th. In rough weather the dammed creekhead beside No. 4 often provided shelter.

BLACK SWAN — Usually some on No. 4, e.g. 120+ on 20/11/62.

GREY TEAL — All reports from No. 4, e.g. few on 20/11/62; 30+ on 18/1/63; 50+ on 28/6/63. Local breeding not proved. There is probably a movement into the area from the Waikato, e.g. L. Whangape, where these teal were in pairs in mid-September 1963.

SHOVELER — Usually some on No. 4. max. c. 120 on 10/5/63.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — Apparently increasing numbers feed on the flats of central Manukau off Ihumatao and Puketutu. Many roost near the tip of the airport, e.g. 1000+ on 17/2/63 and 12/4/63 and c. 1150 on 23/6/63. Exposed reefs on Spoonbill Pool are often visited, max. c. 400 27/7/63. Higher up the harbour roosting flocks, e.g. c. 125 on 19/10/63 used a small rocky bay with a beach, 'Road-end Bay,' one mile west of Mangere Bridge.

BANDED DOTTEREL — A drained and ploughed saltmarsh, formerly good Banded Rail country, at the head of Bull Bay, now backing No. 2 pond; and the close-cut lawns of the A.M.D.B. attracted a flock throughout the winter, c. 220 on 2/3/63; c. 300 on 27/4/63; 200+ on 1/5/63, at least 2 already in breeding dress; 250 on 22/6/63; 200+ on 14/7/63; 100+ on 27/7/63; 0 on 10/8/63.

A few also visited the airport, e.g. 5 on 23/6/63.

Inland at the head of Manukau Harbour up to 50 were seen on the grazing paddocks on the Sylvia Park side of Hamlin's Hill between July 26th and Aug. 12th.

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL — 1 on bank between No. 1 and No. 2 ponds on 22/11/62. 2 at airport on 3/4/63.

WRYBILL — Single birds at Spoonbill Pool on 27/4/63 and 10/8/63. The end of the airport has become a regular high tide roost, e.g. c. 500 on 17/2/63; c. 400 on 12/4/63; c. 700 on 27/7/63. c. 50 on flats beyond Oruarangi sea-wall on 22/3/63.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Hundreds back in Harania Creek on 6/10/62. 2000+ above Mangere bridge on 17/1/63. c. 1000 near Puketutu on 20/11/62. 6700 on summer census 16/12/62 in upper Manukau, when total for whole harbour was 13,385. Airport 1800+ on 17/2/63; c. 500 (all gray) on 12/4/63; 1050 on 23/6/63. Oruarangi 300 (all pale) on 27/3/63.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT — 1 with Bar-tails at Spoonbill Pool on 9/11/63.

KNOT — 5 on 29/11/62 near Puketutu among c. 1000 Godwits. Airport, c. 1500 on 27/3/63, 80% being red; 200 on 3/4/63; 600 on 23/6/63.

PIED STILT — A few pairs bred successfully near the oxidation ponds. Flying broods of 2, 2, 3, 3 were seen on 20/11/62; also a nest c/4 and a pair with 2 downy chicks on Spoonbill Pool. On 29/11/62 there were c. 250 along the circulation channels, mainly non-breeders. Far fewer frequented Manukau above the bridge. 500+ on 17/1/63 and c. 750 on winter census 23/6/63. c. 1000 on 12/2/63, near Puketutu mostly in two groups at full tide, with a near albino among them; also seen on 27/3/63. Winter census, including airport, 1695. (Total for all Manukau, 4215). Aug.-Oct. 1963, 150-200 non-breeders at Spoonbill Pool or in adjacent Creekhead.

RED-BILLED GULL — Numbers in upper Manukau appear to be declining. 10,000+ off Ihumatao on 28/6/63. Hundreds of non-breeders throughout summer at oxidation ponds.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — 1 at oxidation ponds on 29/11/62; seldom seen in Manukau, though there are former records for Puhinui and Karaka.

CASPIAN TERN — Summer census for this area, 48 on 16/12/62; winter census 95 on 23/6/63. Numbers roosted on reefs at Spoonbill Pool, e.g. 22 on 20/11/62 and 50+ on 28/6/63; at Ihumatao, 17 on 19/10/63; at the airport, 190 on 27/3/63; 100+ on 1/5/63. On 17/1/63, 20+ were fishing above Mangere bridge.

PIPIT — 2 on dredgings at No. 3 pond on 10/8/63. — R. B. S.

MANUKAU SOUTH — KARAKA - PUHINUI

The report on the Karaka coast from Urquhart's Point to Yates' dam has greatly benefited from the presence on the spot of Mrs. Ian Urquhart (J.U.), who has been able to visit the best areas frequently at the best times. Her detailed notes on a breeding colony of White-fronted Terns were most valuable.

GANNET — 35+ between Kidd's and Seagrove on 26/4/63. Numbers frequently pass through 'The Narrows' at Weymouth to fish Pahurehure Inlet up towards Papakura, e.g. 6 on 3/8/63.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG — Biggest count c. 90 at Weymouth on 19/6/63.

GREAT WHITE HERON — 1 at Weymouth on 16/9/63 and 3/10/63.

LITTLE EGRET — 1 at Weymouth on 3/8/63. 2 near mouth of Puhinui Creek at least from 20/9/63 to 29/9/63.

WHITE-FACED HERON — Only 21 on summer census 16/12/62: March 1963, 82 on Urquhart's farm. 48 on winter census 23/6/63, of which 36 were at Yates' dam. 27 on 11/5/63 on the derelict jetty.

BLUE REEF HERON — 1 at Urquhart's Pt. on 25/1/63 and 23/6/63.

ROYAL SPOONBILL — 2 frequently seen between Kidd's Bay and Weymouth from 26/11/62 to end of year, when a third joined them. 3 at Urquhart's Pt. 11/1/63 and 3/3/63. 1 at Weymouth throughout summer and winter up to 3/11/63, often up Waimatia Creek. 2 at Yates' dam on 3/11/63.

PARADISE DUCK — 2, both dark birds, in Higham's marsh on 3/9/62.

SHOVELER — 2 at Yates' dam on 23/12/62.

GREY TEAL — 4 in Kidd's Bay at full tide, flat calm, on 12/1/63.

PIED OYSTERCATCHER — The number of summering non-breeders was very large. 1220 on 16/12/62 in two roosting flocks at Kidd's Bay and Pollok Spit. Winter census for whole of Manukau 4410 of which 3120 were along Karaka coast. Among them was a partial albino, still present on 2/11/63.

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER — 2, black, throughout summer: 5 black at Urquhart's Pt. on 25/5/63. 1 pied, on 16/12/62 and 23/6/63.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER — First recorded back on 30/10/62, 21; 67 on 11/12/62; 143 on 12/3/63; max. 162 on 26/3/63, many being in breeding plumage. None on 8/4/63; but one with injured leg on 26/4/63.

BANDED DOTTEREL — 2 pairs bred. Nests 1 c/3 on 30/10/62 and 1 c/2 on 13/11/62 were washed out by high tides. A nest on Kidd's beach still had 3 eggs on 24/12/62, all hatching by 28th. Flocking of immigrants began in late November, viz. 10 on 26/11/62; 14 on 14/12/62; 35 on 16/12/62; 55 on 23/12/62, of which all but a few were in good adult dress; 57 on 28/12/62 while local pair was tending

small chicks; 126 on 8/1/63; c. 250 on 16/2/63; c. 400 on 12/3/63; c. 300 on 18/3/63, 2 being strongly banded; c. 200 on winter census, 23/6/63.

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL — 2 pairs nested; 2 chicks were seen on 26/11/63; another nest c/2 hatched about 1/1/63, but few if any young were reared successfully because of predation by Black-backed Gulls and Harriers. 9-12 regularly present in Kidd's Bay from mid-January to end of June; one very rufous on 22/5/63; 4 rufous on 25/6/63. On 26/3/63 one was seen to eat a wriggling cricket and another to capture a moth.

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL — 1 many times seen in Kidd's Bay after 11/12/62 and still present on 25/5/63 (v. *Notornis* X, 250).

MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL — The first to be recorded in the North Island frequented Kidd's Bay and marsh between 8/1/63 and 30/3/63 (v. *Notornis* X, 234).

WRYBILL — 30 on 17/9/62; 4 on 20/10/62; none noted in November; 1 on 16/12/62; 2 on 24/12/62; 24 on 28/12/62; 113 on 8/1/63; 350 on 12/1/63; 700 on 20/1/63 550 on 16/2/63; 1050 on 11/7/63.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW — 1 on 8/2/63.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — 2000+ on 17/9/62 indicated return of first immigrants. Summer census of Karaka coast 6685 on 16/12/62; when tally for all Manukau was 13,385. 8/2/63 a few birds showing red. Winter census 408, when tally for all Manukau on 23/6/63 was 1458. 1 albino on 7/10/62; also a year later during October-November, 1963.

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT — 1 at Seagrove on 23/6/63; 3 at Yates' dam on 19/10/63, 3/11/63 and 17/11/63.

GREENSHANK — 1 seen on four occasions between 12/10/62 and 25/6/63.

TEREK SANDPIPER — 1, seen many times, usually with Wrybills between 16/12/62 and 26/3/63.

TURNSTONE — 17 on 17/9/62; c. 150 on 7/10/62; c. 330 on 30/10/62; 250+ on 16/12/62, summer census; c. 330 flew inland on 8/4/63; 10 on 26/4/63; 3 on 25/5/63; only 1 on winter census, 23/6/63.

KNOT — Several among Godwits on 17/9/62; c. 2620 on summer census 16/12/62; 3000+ on 12/3/63; c. 200 on 26/4/63 and 11/5/63; 7 on winter census, 23/6/63.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — 8 at Yates' dam on 11/12/62; 11 at Kidd's on 8/2/63; 13 on 18/3/63, sitting mostly in pairs in longer tufty grass on edge of saline area. 14 on 26/3/63; 9 on 31/3/63. Then none till 27/9/63, when one was back in Kidd's marsh among Banded Dotterels. 3 at Yates' dam on 19/10/63 and 17/11/63.

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER — 1 arrived in October; not seen after 3/11/62.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — 3 at Kidd's on 1/11/63.

RED-NECKED STINT — 7 on 30/10/62; 28/1/63 and 8/2/63. 6 on 18/3/63 and 31/3/63 were reddening nicely. 3 on 8/4/63. One over-wintered, being seen on 22/5/63 and, probably the same bird, 27/9/63. 6 on 3/11/63. 7 on 17/11/63.

PIED STILT — 200+ on 20/8/62; then few throughout summer till May, except inland at Oakland's Road swamp c. 140 on 7/10/62; and at Yates' Creek and dam, 150 on 16/12/62; 80+ on 23/12/62. Odd pairs frequented Kidd's marsh during spring, apparently without breeding. Winter census, 2520 on 23/6/63, when total for Manukau was 4215.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN — One on derelict jetty at Kidd's on 30/3/63. Details of plumage carefully noted by J.U. Could not be found again. Apparently the first record for Manukau since 1886. (N.Z.B.N. 3, 10).

CASPIAN TERN — 30 on 30/10/62; 23 on summer census, 16/12/62; 230+ on 26/4/63; 112, on winter census, 23/6/63.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — Very few seen in early spring; 4 had returned to shellbank on 3/11/62. Then things moved quickly. Nov. 13th 200+ nesting. 18 eggs. 17th, 250+. 81 nests c/1; 15 c/2. 26th, 300+. 113 nests c/1; 58, c/2. Dec. 4th. 325+ 110 nests c/1; 52 c/2. 5 chicks just hatched. 11th. 186 nests 88 c/1; 16 c/2; 47 with chick; 28 with 1 egg and 1 chick; 7 with 2 chicks; 1 chick running. Jan. 8th. Several young birds flying. 11th. 100+ adults left. 20th. c. 50 adults; 2 eggs still unhatched. Feb. 8th. Only 20 adults left with 3 young. By mid-February the shellbank was deserted; but up to 40 rested on the derelict jetty till the end of April. None in May or June.

TERN (Sp.?) — Small dark-billed terns, *albifrons* or *nercis*, were seen as follows in Kidd's bay: 2 on 30/10/62; 3 on 16/2/63, 3/3/63, and 18/3/63.

SHINING CUCKOO — 1 whistling strongly at Kidd's on 27/9/63.

MALAY SPOTTED DOVE — Has now reached Papakura as it spreads south.

FERNBIRD — The colony in the saltmarsh scrub along Kidd's bay continues to thrive.

— H.R.McK., R.B.S.

MANAWATU — (a) RANGITIKEI ESTUARY

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 3 on 13/1/63 and 24/2/63; 4 on 24/3/63.

N.I. (VARIABLE) OYSTERCATCHER — 2 pairs breeding on sand-spit at the estuary on 17/11/62.

GOLDEN PLOVER — 8 through summer 1962-63; 12 on 24/2/63, 16 on 24/3/63.

WRYBILL — HIGHEST count 27 on 24/2/63.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW — One on 24/2/63.

ASIATIC WHIMBREL — One present January to March.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — 145 on 17/10/62, mostly on passage; summer population fluctuated around 50.

KNOT — 11 on 17/10/62, 17 on 17/11/62.

RED-NECKED STINT — Present at least from September to March; highest count 6 on 24/3/63.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — 2 pairs defending territory in the estuary on 13/1/63, but nests not found; colony one mile north of estuary is still thriving.

— I.G.A., M.J.I.

(b) MANAWATU ESTUARY

BLACK SHAG — Up to 25 throughout year; breeding in the district.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG — One seen by I.G.A. on 15/6/63, at first perched on a dead tree with adult and juvenile Black Shag and one adult White-throated Shag, allowing excellent opportunities for comparison. It then flew down to the river beside an adult Black Shag. Its small size, relatively small head, and dark face and bill differentiated it from the Black Shag; while the narrow, dark bill and differently shaped head, short tail, prominent black feather margins