

year after long dry periods, and when sun or fire open the hard resistant cone scales. Cones can remain on the standing tree for some years without shedding their seed.

2. Ponderosa Pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), also called American Yellow Pine. Seed falls December-January. Felled tree cones may open any time of the year, during and after a spell of dry weather.
3. Corsican Pine (*Pinus laricio*). Seed is shed during winter months, June-July.
4. Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*). February-March.
5. European Larch (*Larix decidua*). February-March. Like Douglas Fir the cone is soft, the seed being easily taken by birds. The cone is not retained long on the tree, as in the case of the Monterey Pine."

There are of course several other less numerous conifers, e.g. Thuya, Austrian Pine, Lodge Pole Pine, etc., which would doubtless contribute to the diet of seed-eating species, both introduced and indigenous.

— M. S. BLACK



#### THE ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE, ANOTHER RECORD

In recording (Falla 1959) the occurrence of an Oriental Pratincole recovered in Nelson, I pointed out that Buller (1898) had undoubtedly been in error in recording the Australian Pratincole based on a specimen from Westport and that the record of Australian Pratincole should be expunged from New Zealand lists.

A third record in New Zealand of the Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) can now be accepted as the specimen has been sent to the Dominion Museum. It was received from Mr. M. Macarthur, a resident Ranger of the New Zealand Forest Service at Stewart Island. Mr. Macarthur writes that the bird was seen apparently in an exhausted condition on the late afternoon of 29th April, 1963, on the rocky foreshore on the island of Tia off the mouth of Port Adventure. Seasonal muttonbirders were living on the island at the time. They picked up the bird but it died shortly afterwards and Mr. Robin Hopkins, a local fisherman, brought it back to Half Moon Bay and handed it to Mr. Macarthur, who prepared a study skin and determined by dissection that the bird was a female.

The specimen is in adult plumage similar to that of the specimen recorded from Appleby in 1959. Its Dominion Museum Registration number is D.M.10011, and the dimensions are:—

Wing 184;	Tail 66;	Tarsus 33;
Toe 25;	Culmen 13.5;	
Width at gape 13.5 millimetres.		

#### REFERENCES

- Buller, W. L., 1898: Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., 31, 23.  
Falla, R. A., 1959: Notornis, 8, 5, 126-127.

— R. A. FALLA



#### BATHING BY TUI

After a heavy shower of rain on the morning of 10/7/63, I observed a male Tui (*P. novaeseelandiae*) fly into the leafy top of a *titoki*, and dash about quite violently for five or six seconds in the dripping foliage before emerging. It again immediately flew into, or rather at, the canopy, and repeated the performance, doing this nine or ten times before being apparently satisfied that it was sufficiently wet. It appeared to be a novel or unusual method of taking a bath.

— A. BLACKBURN