

	Base and outer layer	Mid layer and rim	Egg chamber	Total
Strips of bark ----	25	5		30
Smaller bark fragments ----		117	6	123
Fern stalks and fibrous material	13	49		62
Pieces of dry fern ----	7	26		33
Green fern tips ----	2	3		5
Small twig ----			1	1
Dry leaves ----	17	23	7	47
Skeleton leaves ----	9	16	57	82
Green beech leaves ----	2			2
Grass and fine material ----		1602	2003	3605
	—	1841	2074	3990

Having counted the components as above, I was left with about a quarter of a tea cup full of short pieces of dry grass or fibre under one inch long; some of this residue may have been broken during dismantling, but much of it had I think been nipped by the bird during building.

The strips of bark were $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and from 4 to 7 inches long; in the mid layer three longer strips were used, 9, $9\frac{1}{2}$ and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Most of the fine material used in the mid layer and egg chamber varied from $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches to 6 inches in length, one piece of grass 18 inches long. In the mud layer there was some partly disintegrated material (fragments of skeleton leaves, etc.) which were not included in the count.

— A. T. EDGAR



A LOCAL NAME FOR THE TOM-TIT

Mr. D. G. Medway informs me that near Whangamomona in eastern Taranaki the settlers know the Tom-tit (*P. toitoi*) as the Butcher Bird, the name being derived from the fact that the white breast of the male resembles the white apron worn by butchers. In the Old World the shrikes are sometimes known as butcher birds and the name is bestowed for a very different reason.

There may be other local names for birds which are worth recording as part of New Zealand folklore and linguistic usage.

— R. B. SIBSON



REVIEW

Birds of the Atlantic Islands, Vol. I, by D. A. Bannerman. Oliver & Boyd, 84/-.

This handsome volume is concerned with the history of the birds of the Canary Islands and the Salvages. These islands have long attracted European naturalists and the list of visitors includes many names famous in British ornithology. Since his first visit which took place more than half a century ago, the author has made the ornithology of the Atlantic Islands one of his special studies. In the course of his travels among these islands he has shared in many original discoveries. The insular race of the Cream-coloured Courser bears his name. As might be expected, he writes with authority, understanding and sensitivity.