

It is noted that most of the sightings have been about the "flat." In this area the boulder bank offers poor feeding, the Waipawa and the Te Waikohare Streams have beds which are boulder strewn and are often dry, and the two blind creeks debouching onto the flat are dry most of the time; but food is found because of some moisture at the mouths of the streams, by the cowshed drain and at times on wet parts of the flat where there is some quite heavy growth. Another attraction to this area could well be the limited pastures where this species loves to feed at night. Further east the Tirikakawa and the Awaroa Streams have permanent water but hardly any flat land at their mouths, being bushed down to the boulder beach. They should suit the Blue Duck admirably. It would seem therefore that the Brown Teal population will be limited by the natural factors but it seems reasonable to hope that its presence will be permanent.



## SHORT NOTES

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### GREENSHANKS AT FAREWELL SPIT

On 25/11/63 I visited Farewell Spit with Mrs. P. Moncrieff and other members of the Abel Tasman National Park Board. Although little time was spent on bird observation, we did examine one large group of waders resting on the flats inside the Spit near the lighthouse. While standing on a small sand dune watching these waders, mainly godwit, we heard the distinctive call of a Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).

Two Greenshanks were seen flying from the base of the Spit. They flew across in front of and below us, giving an excellent view of the white stripe up the back and the feet extending beyond the tail. The birds landed in a runnel within 25 yards of us and it was a little while before the dull green legs could be seen. The birds flushed again and continued on towards the end of the Spit. This appears to be the first record of the Greenshank from Farewell Spit and adds a further species to the already large list from that notable wader haunt.

— B. D. BELL



### LONG SWIM BY N.I. WEKA

It is fairly well known that creeks and small patches of water present no obstacle to the North Island Weka (*Gallirallus australis greyi*), but the following record of a longer swim is of interest, as it is without doubt an unusual observation.

Late in January, 1964, I saw a bird a few feet from the bank of the Waimata River, Gisborne, swimming strongly towards the opposite bank. It had a Grebe-like appearance, with head and neck thrust well forward, upper part of the back awash, and the rump high in the air. A dash to the house for binoculars was called for, and my suspicions of the swimmer's identity were confirmed.

At that state of the tide, the river was approximately 60 yards wide, and the Weka covered the distance in about 90 seconds, then making a quick dart for cover.

— A. BLACKBURN