

**GOLDFINCH** *Carduelis carduelis britannica*

This species was recorded by S. Percy Smith in 1887 and occasional sight records have been made since that time. The late Dr. Oliver, in a personal communication, told me that one was shot on 17th May 1909 by R. S. Bell on Raoul Island. Three birds were reported in 1940 but I saw none in 1944.

**LESSER REDPOLL** *Carduelis flammea cabaret*

Small finches were apparently common on Raoul Island in 1909 and Roy Bell made sightings which were undoubtedly of Redpolls. His diary entry for 4th May 1910 says — "King shot another finch, a little fellow like a goldfinch but with a pink breast." On 29th May 1944 I saw a flock of small finches on a grassy flat in the crater on Raoul Island. This flock seemed to be entirely composed of Redpolls.

**YELLOW HAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella citrinella*

This bird is a new record for Raoul Island I made in 1944, when several specimens were obtained. This species was moderately plentiful and seen regularly between May and November. No nesting was noted.

**STARLING** *Sturnus vulgaris*

As with the Blackbird and Song Thrush, this species apparently reached Raoul Island just prior to 1908. In 1944 I found Starlings particularly common in the vicinity of the Hostel on Raoul Island, common all around that island, and on Meyer Island. In early October mating was noted and pairs seen at nesting holes along coastal cliffs and roadside cuttings. Young birds were seen in numbers in mid-November.

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## SHORT NOTE

**GULL AND OCTOPUS**

On 13/1/64 at Half-moon Bay, Stewart Island, I saw a flock of Red-billed Gulls apparently mobbing another gull. But they all flew up, leaving the victim struggling in the water and apparently diving deliberately half under. I then noticed a disturbance beyond it and, moving along the embankment, saw that an octopus was holding the gull with about two-foot arms. The gull, which was apparently diving under at the octopus, after half a dozen dives rose free suddenly and flew away. The octopus then sneaked away quietly.

— W. T. POPPELWELL