

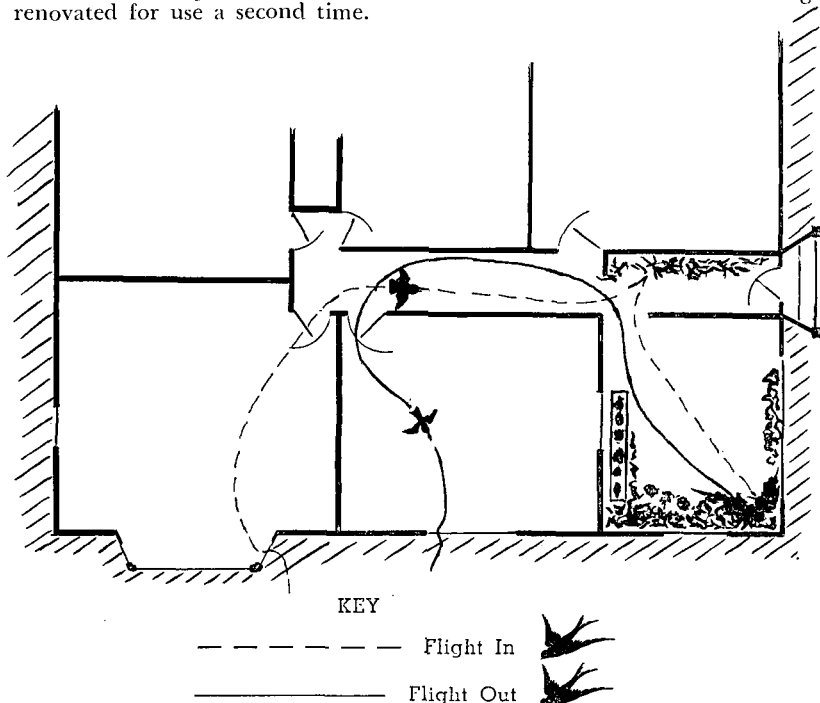
## NESTING REPORT ON A PAIR OF SOUTH ISLAND PIED FANTAILS

By NIGEL F. COATES

On 10/8/65 a pair of Pied Fantails (*R.f. fuliginosa*) started to build a nest on an Angel Wing Begonia that is growing in a totally enclosed sunporch at my home in Rangiora. I have not heard of this occurring before. The nearest native bush is eight to ten miles away.

The birds worked continuously all the daylight hours, spending each night in the shelter of a lean-to shed nearby. Work on the nest was completed on September 1st and the first egg was discovered on September 2nd. By the 6th three eggs had been laid. On September 19th three young were discovered and the activity of the adult birds was increased to about one visit by each adult every two minutes. After the young had hatched, one of the adult birds always stayed inside, on or by the nest at night.

On September 22nd a southwest storm hit suddenly, bringing heavy rain and sleet. The temperature fell sharply. It was noticed that the adults were absent for very long periods, sometimes up to a half-hour. That night both adults remained outside. Sept. 23rd dawned fine but both adults appeared very upset. On investigation, all three young were found dead. They were removed. After I had removed the dead young, the adults began tearing at the nest, it was thought, to build a new nest; but on September 25th it became clear that the nest was being renovated for use a second time.



The nest was re-lined with cob-web, cotton-wool and palm fibre; the sides were built-up with palm fibre over-laced with cob-web. On October 1st the first egg was laid, the second on October 2nd. No accurate dates are available for third and fourth eggs. But on October 17th four young were hatched. Activity was once again at fever pitch. All four young grew very rapidly and by October 24th were almost fully fledged. At this stage the four young were banded along with the male adult. Attempts to catch the female all failed, so a complete family banding was missed. The banding was done by Mr. Ken Rowe of Rangiora and his son. By November 1st the young were flying about the room very strongly and it was no surprise when they left the house for the outdoors. All four young survived and were observed in the area on many occasions. Last sighting in a group was on November 20th.

It was interesting to note that about fourteen days after the departure of the second hatching another nest was discovered in some willow trees about 100 yards from the second nest site. It contained two young, which were being fed by a banded adult, presumably one of the parent birds of the first and second hatchings, because there had been no other reported bandings of this species in this vicinity.

After four months since the second hatching the banded adult still visits the site of the first nest.

The fourth nest was built in the area in a pine tree belt 12ft. above the ground. After a week's work on this nest all activity stopped and it became clear that the nest had been abandoned.



## NESTING OF WHITEHEADS ON LITTLE BARRIER ISLAND

By R. H. BLANSHARD

From 28/9/62 to 11/10/62 my daughter and I observed a pair of Whiteheads (*Mohoua albigilla*) constructing a nest in the fork of a young mahoe near the Te Waikohare Stream beside our house. It was in its earliest stages on the first date and was finished on the last. It was noted by constant observation that, as the nest grew, the birds behaved most affectionately, bringing presents to each other. They took little notice of our near presence. The nest was built of fibre from fan-palm trees, grass, cobwebs, feathers and small moss.

Oct. 13, 8 a.m.: First egg. Pale pink with small brown spots.

Oct. 14, 8.30 a.m.: Second egg.

Oct. 15, 8 a.m.: Third egg. A third bird appeared to take interest.

Oct. 18: Incubation began. At 1750 hrs. bird left nest for 8½ minutes to feed with mate.

Oct. 19 to 30: Incubation continued, sitting bird leaving nest once or twice for five to eight minutes at a time.

Nov. 1, 0834 hrs.: Weather overcast, windy and showery; the first inclement weather experienced. Female left nest, revealing that two eggs had hatched. Chicks very small and pink. Interior of nest appeared to have more down lining in it. 0930 hrs., female back on nest.