

evenly on the bird's leg but tend to tilt from front to back. Thus wear occurs especially at the base against the lock, and at the top in front (Fig. B). Fortunately, the serial number is often the last part of the inscription to become illegible.

Large *Larus* gulls are potentially long-lived (Gross, 1940; Paludan, 1951; Olsson, 1958; Vermeer, 1963) and it is clear that if the bands used for Dominican Gulls may fall off after about six years' wear, then the recovery data obtained are accurate for only part of the potential life of the bird, and recovery rates after about the sixth year will be biased. In fact, when bands of low durability are used, whatever the species in question, it is important to first establish "mortality rates" for the bands themselves before trying to deduce mortality rates for the birds.

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SHORT NOTE

NORTH ISLAND KAKA IN HAWERA

The occurrence of a Kaka (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*) in Hawera is of interest in view of the uncertain status of this bird in Taranaki. The Kaka was first seen on or about 10/8/61, following particularly cold weather with strong southerly winds and snow down to low levels on Mount Egmont. This may have caused it to leave the bush.

During late August I worked in a florist's gardens in Hawera and was informed that the Kaka had been seen frequently in these gardens. I saw the bird there daily from the 22nd to 25th of August. It was remarkably tame, on one occasion allowing an approach to within a few feet, and was observed feeding amongst humus on the ground and on flowering Camellia trees. Apparently the Camellia flowers were its main food source. It selected unopened or partly open flowers which it forced open with the lower mandible, petals often being torn out, before the lower mandible and tongue were inserted to obtain the nectar. I did not hear it utter any calls.

The Kaka was observed by many people in various gardens and parks in Hawera. It may have remained in the town for some months as there were reports of its being seen until October or early November, 1961.

— M. J. IMBER