

GREY WARBLER: May, July, August, November, early December.

PIBIT: Mainly seen on the sandy river beach of the Heaphy below our "dig," between there and the mouth of the river. July, August, September.

BELLBIRD: May, August, September, November, early December.

TUI: May, July, November, early December.

SILVEREYE: November, December.

A total of 30 species seen or (Kiwi) heard, one (Penguin) reported.

Introduced Birds

BLACK SWAN: Five flew over the river, near the mouth: September.

ROCK PIGEON: A banded (? racing) bird died apparently of exhaustion, at the Heaphy Hut, in November 1961.

SONG THRUSH: September.

BLACKBIRD: November, December.

GOLDFINCH: July, August.

A list of the sub-fossil birds from the area is included in a report on the archaeological work, to be published in the *Records of the Canterbury Museum*.



SHORT NOTES

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVERS AT LAKE REREWHAKAITU

While motoring past the southern side of Lake Rerewhakaaitu, on 4/12/66, I spotted several large ducks walking near the lakeside. When I examined them through my glasses I saw they were Paradise Ducks (*Tadorna variegata*) — 8 dark-headed birds and one duck. Also dotted along the lakeside were numerous Pied Stilts (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) and a strange wader running about in the grass. I soon discovered that there were other similar birds nearby, either feeding or standing about. Presently one of these flew along the lake nearer to me and, thanks to the excellent light, I was able to examine it clearly through my telescope. At once I saw it was a Pacific Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*), its golden back, greyish throat and breast, pale eyebrow, black bill and grey feet showed very clearly. It rose again, flying off with a rapid zig-zag flight showing no marking above, and a dull white underneath as it banked.

I counted thirteen of these plovers and saw another smaller wader nearby which I suspect was a Banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*), but was unable to get another sight of it so cannot be sure at all. Later as I drove on I saw yet more Golden Plovers standing about in the grass at the lakeside so that there must have been at the very least some 25 birds, as some would have been obscured by vegetation.

— R. W. JACKSON

[Golden Plovers have rarely been found far inland in New Zealand. This report is therefore all the more interesting. In 1962 one was photographed by P. McD. McLean on a pool with ducks and Pied Stilts at Piopio.—Ed.]