

I have given this account in some detail because this is the first Tattler to be recorded in Manukau Harbour for some years. Between April 1955 and April 1959, numerous sightings by many observers of a Tattler along the Karaka shore between Urquhart's Point and Kidd's Bay are believed all to refer to the same bird. On 18/4/57 one was found resting among Pied Stilts and Wrybills in the Explosion Crater below the south-west slopes of Mangere Mountain; in April waders are very much on the move. This may have been a migrant passing through or it may have been the Karaka Tattler on a more extensive 'walkabout' than usual.

— R. B. SIBSON

[Since the autumn of 1965 there has been a veritable spate of reports on the sightings of Tattlers, the localities concerned being Kermadec; Tarawera estuary, B.O.P.; Waiongona estuary, New Plymouth; Farewell Spit; Kaikoura peninsula; Papanui Inlet, Otago. These will be published in a forthcoming issue.—Ed.]



### LONGEVITY OF WEKA

I am indebted to Mr. Charles Burland, of Patutahi, near Gisborne, for the following information on a pair of North Island Weka (*Gallirallus australis greyi*), which nested for many years in his garden, the same pair that is recorded in *Notornis* X, 300, as raising four broods within the year. Early in 1950, a year clearly fixed by other events, Mr. Burland took particular note of this pair breeding in his garden, the female being distinguished by unusually bright orange legs, and the male being a particularly friendly bird. He came to know the birds well, the male coming frequently to the house for food, and doing so daily when there were chicks. The hen, much more shy, came occasionally with the chicks. The same pair was observed breeding in the garden each year until 1963, since when no breeding has occurred; but the male still comes to the house occasionally, and the female is seen from time to time.

The pair's territory has always been strictly protected by Mr. Burland by excluding all dogs from the property, and other Weka transgressing are trapped and moved away from the area. As the birds bred in 1950, they must be at least 18 years old; and they are reported as still being in good plumage.

The Weka is known to be multiple-brooded, and if such longevity is common in the species, it can be readily understood how the Buff Weka (*G. a. hectori*) continues to survive in such large numbers in the Chatham Is., as does the N.I. Weka in the Gisborne district, despite severe persecution in both places.

— A. BLACKBURN