

Gallirallus australis greyi: Four North Island Wekas are represented by bones found in Robbers Hole and Skyline.

Notornis mantelli mantelli: In 1960 when G. R. Williams published his paper on the Takahe (Williams 1960, Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., 88: 235-258), the North Island sub-species was not known to have formerly occurred on the western side of the North Island north of the Waingangoro River in South Taranaki. The recovery of one skeleton from Porthole Cave in July 1965 and of another from Swiss Cheese on 14/11/1965 constitutes a valuable addition to our knowledge of the former distribution of the Notornis in the North Island.

Gallirallus minor: An almost perfect skeleton found in Swiss Cheese on 21/11/1965 and a left caracoid found in Skyline cave on 20/2/1966 form a valuable record of the former occurrence of the Little Extinct Woodhen in the area.

Procellaria parkinsoni: A worn left humerus attributable to the Black Petrel was found in Skyline cave on 15/5/1966.

Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus: One part left humerus referable to the Blue Duck was found in Robbers Hole on 12/6/1966.

Hemiphaga n. novaeseelandiae: A part-skeleton of a New Zealand Pigeon was found in Robbers Hole on 8/1/1966.

Eurystomus sp.?: One part-skeleton (sub-adult) found in Skyline cave on 20/2/1966 has been tentatively identified as being of this genus. The Broad-billed Roller (*Eurystomus orientalis pacificus*) is an occasional straggler to New Zealand.

Prothemadera n. novaeseelandiae: Bones of a Tui were found in Swiss Cheese on 14/11/1965.

Callaeas cinerea wilsoni: One part right tibio-tarsus of a North Island Kokako was recovered from Robbers Hole in September 1964.

I am grateful to Mr. R. J. Scarlett for identifying the bones recovered and to Mr. W. J. Gould of the Taranaki Caving Club for the photographs which illustrate this note. The majority of the bones recovered have been deposited in the Canterbury Museum.



SHORT NOTES

STATUS OF AUSTRALIAN COOT NEAR ROTORUA

Although there are some 75 or more Coots (*F. atra*) on Lake Okaraka at present, there appear to have been no successful broods reared during the 1966/67 breeding season. Mr. and Mrs. W. Broun, who live beside the lake, have kept a very close watch on the birds. Although they saw the birds pairing and choosing territories they could find no nests with eggs. Obviously it is very difficult to ascertain the reason for the non-breeding, but perhaps the lowering of the lake could be the chief cause.

On 10/6/67, while driving past Okere with H. Lyall, I spotted a Coot just off the landing stage for the launch which tours round Lake Rotoiti. We both took a second look and confirmed that it was indeed a Coot. There appeared to be no other Coots about.

— R. JACKSON