

FOOTNOTE:

Since writing this paper, another locality has been added. AV 22,247, a left humerus and R. posterior ramus of mandible, were collected, among thousands of bird bones, in Harrison's Hole, Ruakokopatuna, Martinborough, in 1968, by John Marston.

LITERATURE CONSULTED

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SHORT NOTES

SOME HAZARDS FOR EARLY NESTING PIED STILTS

In spite of the inclement weather of the 1968 winter, Pied Stilts (*H. leucocephalus*) began to nest early in Ardmore.

The first nest, of four eggs, was found at 11 a.m. on June 19. It seemed that incubation was in progress so that the eggs were probably laid during the first week of June. The nest was carefully watched up to June 29, when heavy rain brought a flood which washed away the eggs. A search failed to reveal any of the washed out eggs. The parents were no longer present. No other Stilts were seen during the time the nest was watched.

A pair, presumed to be the same, returned to the area three days after the loss of the nest, and remained. No others came. On July 16 the second nest of this pair was found, there being three eggs at 5.15 p.m. Next evening there were four eggs. The nest was empty at 5 p.m. on July 22. During the morning of the 21st, the owners of the farm saw a party of about eight Stilts attacking four Pukeko at the site of the nest. Pukeko footprints were left in the mud beside the nest. No egg-shells were found. The further six Stilts, not previously seen, must have come from some distance to aid the nesting pair. The nesting pair stayed closely by the nest and remained in the general area for several days.

During the first week in August three other birds were about but were not present when the third nest of two eggs was found on August 11. Two further eggs were laid on the 12th and 13th. On August 15 the nest had been robbed, obviously by Pukeko, which had left footmarks at this nest also. There were small pieces of egg-shell in and by the nest and a small amount of albumen in it.

It is almost certain that the same pair nested the three times. One of the pair had a distinct black collar. No other Stilt seen had this distinguishing feature. About two weeks later they returned but did not nest again.

— SUSAN FOGARTY