

1962; Firth of Thames, 1965) there are records for May (Otaki, 1957), July (Napier, 1884), and September (Hauraki Gulf, 1962). The Kerikeri bird may have been blown south by gales which occurred in the second week of April, 1968.

Body somewhat smaller than a Gannet's, wings slightly shorter and seemingly narrower, it appeared to be a young bird in transitional plumage. The underwing pattern has already been mentioned. The white underparts were only slightly sullied, clearly demarcated from the dark brown neck and chest. Crown a warm brown when seen in full sunlight; upper parts brown, and the feathers appeared to have narrow slightly paler fringes, noted on two occasions when the bird was flying away from me with the sun in the right direction. In bright sunlight the bill was so shiny that its colour was difficult to see; in a better light it was noted as slaty grey with a blue tinge; the facial skin was also greyish, rather lighter in shade than the bill. Feet orange yellow; this could not be distinguished in flight but during the preen which followed fishing activity on 17th May the bird lifted one foot out of the water and gave a good view at fairly close range. The feather maintenance was fairly prolonged and apparently included an oil preen, as the bird was seen pecking at its rump, tail fanned and twisted to one side. Later the bill was rubbed over the rump, and this was followed by stroking and drawing movements and nibble preening. While the preening bird was working on the region of rump and upper tail coverts some of the displaced brown feathers appeared to have whitish bases. — A. T. EDGAR



#### BROWN TEAL RELEASED ON KAPITI ISLAND

Ten Brown Teal (*Anas aucklandica chlorotis*) were released by the Wildlife Service onto Okupe Lagoon, Kapiti Island, on 5 June, 1968. The liberation comprised six males (five hatched early December 1967, one an adult originally from Great Barrier Island) and four females (three hatched September 1967, one in December 1967). The nine young birds were all reared at the Mount Bruce Native Bird Reserve. The lagoon was revisited on 15 October 1968 and one Brown Teal female accompanied by four day-old ducklings were seen. Further Kapiti liberations of Mount Bruce-reared birds are planned and from this nucleus it is hoped that the species will eventually re-establish itself throughout the Manawatu coastal lake system.

— M. J. WILLIAMS



#### SMALL FLOCK OF WRYBILLS INLAND IN HAWKES BAY

On 5/4/68 I visited Lake Hatuma near Waipukurau in order to show a friend the Welcome Swallows which are usually to be seen there now. We found twelve Wrybills (*A. frontalis*) feeding on the mud which is quite extensive when the water is low. The lake is shallow and during a dry spell there is a considerable beach. I have often seen Wrybills on the mudflats at Porangahau rivermouth, some twenty miles from L. Hatuma.

— HAZEL WATERS

(Records of the Wrybill away from the coast in the North Island are very few. The attractiveness of L. Hatuma for migrant waders was mentioned in Notornis 13, 171-2. At Porangahau where Wrybills may now be regular visitors on their migrations, they were first noted by Guthrie-Smith in October, 1910. — Ed.)