

Six bridges in Hikurangi swamp had more than one nest — one two-nest bridge at Kauri and two at Opuawhanga, and three-nest bridges at Opuawhanga, Otonga and Riponui. In the Parakao-Pipiwai region there were three two-nest bridges — one at Parakao and two at Pipiwai. In the Maungatapere region there was a five-nest bridge at Ruatangata West and the multi-nest culverts on a farm in the same district, which have already been mentioned. In the southern region there were two two-nest bridges near Tauraroa.

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SHORT NOTE

AN EARLY RECORD OF THE ORIENTAL CUCKOO IN NEW ZEALAND

Hamilton (1889) has described a specimen received by the Hawkes Bay Museum in the following terms: "Amongst a collection of New Zealand bird-skins sent to the Museum, I found a skin of what appeared to be *Eudynamis* with the long tail-feathers imperfect, some not fully grown. On taking up the bird to ticket it, I saw that the breast, instead of the usual brown marks, was distinctly transversely barred with black metallic bars, as in the Bronze Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx*). These bars extend from the beak to the vent. The bill is less robust than *Eudynamis*. The feet are light in colour, like those of an albino specimen. It has certainly the character of *Eudynamis* when seen from the back; but from the under side it suggests a cross between *Eudynamis* and *Chrysococcyx*."

The suggestion of a hybrid origin can be safely dismissed, the description fitting in all essentials one of the rufous phases of the Oriental Cuckoo, referred to by Grant (1964) in his account of the bird seen at Kaihinu. Pough (1957, p. 134) remarks that, "There are two types of juvenile plumage. In one the birds are grey brown above and weakly barred, in the other they are bright rufous brown and strongly barred. Some females called 'hepatic' wear the latter plumage all their lives."

Oliver (1955) gives the measurements of the Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) as Wing 188-195 mm., Bill 23-25 mm., Tail 230-250 mm., and those of the Oriental Cuckoo as Wing 188, Bill 23, and Tail 160. Pough (l.c., Pl.16) illustrates the hepatic female of the Oriental Cuckoo. The above specimen would be the first Oriental Cuckoo recorded in New Zealand, so that Hamilton's failure to recognize it is understandable. The similarity of the two species in size, except for the tail length would account for his confusion.

REFERENCES

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