

Cove, approximately half a mile distant, on 19 January, 1968, once again built in an overhanging *Dracophyllum* bush about 10 feet above the water. This nest was unoccupied at the time, but contained a fresh layer of chicken feathers, evidently collected from the fowl run close to the camp proper.

House Sparrows therefore have now managed to establish themselves on Campbell Island and further observations will show if they increase in numbers and spread to other areas of the island.

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SHORT NOTE

HOOKGRASS CAPTURES HEDGE SPARROWS

Merilees' (1969) report of five Silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) being captured by hookgrass (*Uncinia* spp.) has prompted me to record the following observation on a Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella modularis*).

A Hedge Sparrow was found fluttering in some hookgrass beside the Torrent Bay Track in Abel Tasman National Park on 9/1/64. Examination of the bird showed that some black, near-mature hookgrass seedheads had become attached to the primary, secondary and covert feathers on the undersurface of the right wing. Although the bird was still active when found, it had little chance of escape as I had difficulty in freeing it. This caused the removal of several feathers but it was able to fly when released.

Although I have tramped many miles of bush track throughout New Zealand I have not seen a similar occurrence. In one year the following birds were handled in a mixed Podocarp/Broadleaf Forest near Wellington: Chaffinch 32, Fantail 38, Hedge Sparrow 20, Rifleman 11, Pied Tit 51, Grey Warbler 58, Silvereye 463, Shining Cuckoo 2, House Sparrow 1, Whitehead 25, Bellbird 75, Song Thrush 30, Blackbird 84, Tui 15, Morepork 21, Pigeon 3. Although hookgrass was plentiful in this forest none of its seeds was seen on any of these birds.

These observations suggest that birds are rarely trapped and killed by hookgrass but such a novel form of mortality seems worth recording. I am indebted to A. H. Whitaker of Animal Ecology Division, D.S.I.R., for the above figures.

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— JIM HILTON