

their behaviour." As the feeding habits of the two species are very similar, it would follow that *anchovetas* react in a manner similar to sprats; that is to say, they scatter wildly giving each bird of the feeding flock the opportunity of taking its prey, which it rarely fails to do. Thus it would seem that communal hunting is in fact of advantage to both species.

R. W. S. Cavanagh (*unpub.*) observed Little Black Shags in Hawkes Bay in 1961 at Lakes Purimu, Runanga, Rotoehu, and Hurumoana. He found a nesting colony on Lake Hurumoana, off the Hastings-Taihape Road, and suspected that birds were also nesting on an island in Lake Purimu in company with shags of other species. Sibson (*in litt*) observed four birds at the Tukituki Estuary on 18/5/53, and he states that the species is now numerous at Westshore and the Ahuriri Lagoon.

— A. BLACKBURN



#### NOTES ON CALLING AND BEHAVIOUR OF THE STEWART ISLAND KIWI

During the period 20 September to 29 October 1969 I was a member of a Wildlife Service survey party based at Port Pegasus, Stewart Island. Kiwis *Apteryx australis lawryi* are plentiful throughout this area and were occasionally seen or heard during daylight hours.

The following observation was made at 16.45 hours on 22/10/69 in tall mixed rata forest about 50 yards from the coast of Pegasus Passage, Port Pegasus. As no published account of *lawryi* calling in the wild appears to exist the following may prove of interest.

I heard a male begin calling about 50 yards away, so hurried to the place. By the time I had located the male a female had started her answering call. Both birds were within five yards of me and the female was in full view. The male was obscured by low fern at about three yards from the female.

The male ceased calling about half a minute after my arrival, then began to chase the female which also immediately ceased calling. They appeared quite indifferent to my presence and the chase continued in small circles, reaching a climax when the male seized the female by the middle of the back. At this point the female broke away and unfortunately crashed into my legs. This brought an abrupt end to the proceedings.

Visibility at the time in the dark bush was poor. The female was the only one of the pair I actually saw calling. She began her low rasping call with head and neck extended and beak fairly wide open pointing upwards. During the actual call, which was repeated several times, she lowered her head slowly until the lower beak-tip was almost touching the ground. As the head was lowered the beak was wagged from side to side, giving a quavering effect to the sound.

The very "scratchy" lower volume sound seemed to come when the bird was breathing in as it lifted its head for the repeat call.

— K. P. HORGAN