

OTHER EXTINCT SPECIES

North Island Goose *Cnemiornis septentrionalis*

Finsch's Duck *Euryanas finschi*

Cave Rail *Capellirallus karamu*

Little Extinct Woodhen *Gallirallus minor*

Lesser Aptornis *Aptornis otidiformis*

Owlet-Nightjar *Megaegotheles novaezealandiae*

Snipe *Coenocorypha aucklandica medwayi*

— D. G. MEDWAY



THE COPULATION OF KAKAS

Saturday 24/10/70 in Sudden Stream was windy and cold. I was at the edge of a belt of north-west rain, actually in sunshine with frequent sunshowers, often of sleet. On a northerly face at the corner where the stream turns into its gorge, in one of the uppermost red beech, *Nothofagus fusca*, trees along the line with mountain beech *N. cliffortioides* the Kakas *Nestor meridionalis* have their nest. While watching other birds last year I became aware of the Kakas nearby, but it was not until 25/7/70 I searched and found their nest. I think they selected the nest but probably did not lay in it during 1969.

24/10/70 at 11.00 hours a few minutes after taking position to watch my other nest, I heard a Kaka return to its nest. Five minutes later I had covered the two hundred yards to the Kaka nest but they had gone. There was fresh biting inside the mouth of the nest-hole. I returned to my other nest. At 11.55 three Kakas were about, each separated by 100 yards and with one by the nest, all judged by sound. At 12.40 a Kaka by the nest called "kwoy" several times. At 13.05 the cock Kaka came flying back, calling as it crossed the valley, to be greeted by the hen "kwoy" as she rose from by the nest. They settled on a tree 25 yards uphill and 100 feet above me, 50 foot up the tree at the base of the forest canopy. I took no notice of them. They continued calling and 13.10 I decided to look at them. The cock was mounted on the hen. To improve my view I gradually moved around their tree so I was on the uphill side and level with them. They were facing out across the valley, so now I was behind them. The hen's tail was partly fanned. Her head was low and snaked well forward. Often it seemed she had been following my movements with her head twisted sideways. Sometimes she called "kwoy." She seemed wan and patient. The cock was mounted a little to the left, and was vigorously flapping his wings. His left wing especially curled well around her. With the flaps he was yawing his body across her backbone and his head usually high was working with his exertions. The exertions were transmitted, rather attenuated, through her body to the branch. At 13.19 after at least 10 minutes of this vigorous activity he dismounted and stood alongside her, quietly for 5 minutes. He called "key" quietly through his nose, pushed her with the side of his body three foot along the branch and soon another foot.

Then he dropped off the branch and flew 50 yards to another perch. The hen stretched, preened and looked at me. At 13.32 the cock glided back to the branch below, quickly climbed three feet on to her branch six inches away from her. He called "key-key-key"

and pushed her along. He jumped back three feet. A minute later she walked back alongside him. At 13.40 he was facing me and she was facing away, but both were watching me. He jumped around, called "key-key" and pushed her. She turned and pushed back with her head down pushing with the top of her beak under his slightly spread wing against his flank. He mounted and after a few weak flaps dismounted within 15 seconds. 15 seconds later he was mounted again, flapping vigorously. Sometimes her head would snake upwards (the twist sideways would help her watch him) and his head down as if he were trying to grasp her beak and feed her. In half a minute he was off, standing a foot from her. She had a big stretch. At 13.45 he "key-key-ed" alongside her and flew 50 yards to the same perch as before. She immediately followed. I went after them but could not find them. At 14.20 a Kaka called across a gully 300 yards away.

— J. R. JACKSON



A MIXED GATHERING OF SEABIRDS IN THE TASMAN SEA

On 14/3/71, M.V. Karepo, whilst on a voyage from Tauranga to Melbourne, crossed an intrusion of warmer water in the central Tasman Sea. The following sea temperatures and positions are relevant:—

0800	36.38	South	159.38	East	Wind SE 15	Knots	Air 71°	Sea 72°
1000	36.43	South	159.12	East	Wind SE 09	Knots	Air 72°	Sea 75°
1200	36.48	South	158.43	East	Wind SE 09	Knots	Air 72°	Sea 75°
1400	36.55	South	158.18	East	Wind NE 09	Knots	Air 75°	Sea 72°

The position recorded for 1200 hrs. is some 317 miles south of Lord Howe Island and 800 miles west of the Auckland Isthmus.

The numbers of birds in sight increased rapidly from 0830 and remained at peak throughout the morning, decreasing just as rapidly after 1230. There were very few birds about for the rest of the day.

The following species were seen:—

Wandering Albatross *Diomedea exulans*. Very few about, especially considering that this was found to be one of the best areas when I was keeping records for J. D. Gibson. There were four present at 0800 after which no more were seen until 1200 when three were recorded. No young (brown-backed) or old (white-winged) birds were seen. All birds recorded were either showing or just past the stage of showing the white roundel on a dark wing (v. Gibson, *Notornis* 14: 56).

Grey-faced Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera*. Rafts of 11, 8, 4 and 3 were put up on being approached by the ship, and others were in sight throughout the morning. Not fewer than 150 birds were seen. However, some of these were probably counted twice if they stayed with the ship any length of time.

About 10% of these birds seemed to have very light underwings, much lighter in colour than the rest of the birds seen. That they were *macroptera* cannot be doubted, as their grey faces and relatively short bills were seen well. I have never seen such light underwings on or about the breeding islands of New Zealand.

Black-winged Petrel *Pterodroma nigripennis*. The most common bird seen, there were at least 250 recorded during the period. As