

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Compiled by A. T. EDGAR

Selected extracts from notes supplied to the Recording Scheme since compilation of CSN 1963-1970 (Supplement to *Notornis* 19). Correction of errors in that publication appear under Red-necked Stint and Black-fronted Tern.

The following is a list of contributors, identified in the text by initials.

I. G. Andrew, J. F. Anton, J. Aspinall, Mrs R. Cole-Baker, Mrs M. L. Barlow, Mrs M. J. Barron, E. Betts, B. D. Bell, A. Blackburn, R. Bond, W. Bowers, F. H. Boyce, Mrs B. Brown, D. E. Calvert, H. S. R. Cameron, W. Campbell, W. F. Cash, C. N. Challies, S. Chamberlin, P. Child, C. D. Clunie, D. Cook, E. J. Cook, B. Cooksey, R. S. Cowan, J. A. Cowie, M. Criglington, D. Crockett, P. Crombie, M. P. Daniel, J. T. Darby, Miss M. M. Davis, E. W. Dawson, J. F. Donnelly, M. E. Douglas, A. T. Edgar, Mrs G. Eller, Mrs. J. W. Falconer, M. C. Falconer, R. A. Falla, H. A. Findlay, C. A. Fleming, Miss S. Fogarty, Mrs P. Fooks, R. R. Forster, J. A. Fowler, R. Froggatt, Miss A. J. Goodwin, G. Grant, D. W. Hadden, Mrs G. Hamel, B. Hamilton, P. C. Harper, T. R. Harty, H. Heinekamp, L. E. Henderson, Mrs M. Hows, Mrs Illingworth, M. J. Imber, J. R. Jackson, R. W. Jackson, Mrs P. Jenkins, E. B. Jones, B. R. Keeley, D. Kelly, J. L. Kendrick, C. Smuts-Kennedy, S. R. Kennington, F. C. Kinsky, Mrs M. Lane, D. A. Lawrie, P. Latham, J. A. Lees, O. Linscott, S. L. Lobb, A. Macdonald, H. R. McKenzie, N. B. Mackenzie, I. Mackintosh, Miss E. Madgwick, R. G. Marquand, I. A. Mathieson, D. G. Medway, D. V. Merton, P. Miller, J. and M. Moore, J. Morrison, A. M. Munro, L. Oakes, R. J. Pierce, W. T. Poppelwell, R. C. Pullen, Mrs K. Reynolds, Mrs S. Reed, A. Ringer, W. L. Ringer, H. A. Robertson, W. Salmons, Mrs O. Sansom, J. H. Seddon, M. F. O'Shea, R. B. Sibson, H. Sinclair, R. S. Slack, D. Smith, Mrs P. Smith, P. J. Sutton, R. R. Sutton, T. J. Taylor, R. H. Traill, D. A. Urquhart, Mrs J. Urquhart, M. Waller, D. M. Walter, B. Warburton, G. Watola, A. Wright, R. C. W. Zander.

(E. & O. E.)

LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI (*Apteryx oweni*)

Raumati Beach, 19/6/72, one killed by a car; probably illegally brought from Kapiti Island; used to occur in Tararua Ranges but has not been reported in North Island this century (IGA).

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*)

Wellington West Coast, June 1972, 28 found dead on beach patrols between Turakina river and Palliser Bay, and a further 6 in July 1972 (IGA, JAF). Bluff Hill, Southland, 4/10/70, breeding colony of unknown size, probably not more than four pairs (RRS).

GENTOO PENGUIN (*Pygoscelis papua*)

St Kilda Beach, Otago Peninsula, 22/9/70, first N.Z. record (JTD & AW, see *Notornis* 20 (1), March 1973).

Tiwai Point, Bluff, Southland, one ashore 1/11/70; photographed and returned to sea (I. Mackintosh).

BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*)

Bay of Islands, penguins are sometimes entangled in fishing nets but when a net is being drawn in to the dinghy have been observed to escape by leaping a few inches out of the water to clear the top rope of the net (DEC). D'Urville Island, January 1971, an adult and chick 800 ft up a hillside almost at the top of a ridge, in a depression under an old farm gate which had been cast aside. Between the nest site and the rocky beach there were numerous alternative possible nest sites — boulders, bush, fallen trees in a pine plantation, large rocks. The chosen site was alongside a bulldozed track used by cattle, sheep, dogs, farm workers and a land rover. 5/2/71, midday, a penguin feeding 150 yards offshore was attacked by two Black-backed Gulls and suffered a laceration about four inches long from the back of the shoulder to well below the flipper. When the gulls were driven off the penguin came ashore and went into a rock niche where the wound was exposed to full sunlight. I replaced the flap of skin and placed the penguin in a shady spot but it immediately returned to its original position and turned the wound to the sun again (ML).

WHITE-FLIPPED PENGUIN (*E. albosignata*)

One banded at Motunau found at Karitane January 1971 (GH).

SNARES CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus atratus*)

Moulting bird found on northern side of Cook Strait, January 1972; recovered and finished moult in Wellington zoo; died May 1972; probably most northerly record (JAF).

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus australis*)

Lake Heron, 12/12/71, at least 20 observed, northern and eastern arms of the lake; total population may be greater (RJP). Lake Ohau, 9/10/70, two pairs (P. Child). Lake Manapouri, 1/11/68, two (DAL). Lake Te Anau, 1970, on lagoons opposite Glade House (RRS). Waimatuku lagoons, southern Southland, one on 25/4/72 (MLB, RRS).

NEW ZEALAND DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*)

Muriwai Lakes, September 1971, 89 (SR). Gisborne-East Coast, Tiniroto, 30/4/72, a pair with two young about three weeks old (AB). Hawke's Bay, Lake Tutira, 9/10/68, a pair with young (J and MM); 23/10/67, small roadside lake between Blackhead and Porangahau, two adults feeding two young (IGA). Wanganui, Westmere Lake, two pairs with young 7/2/70; Kaitoke Lake, 23/2/69, three pairs, two with young; 15/2/70, eleven birds; Waipu Lake 14/6/70, one; Wanganui estuary 27/4/69, one with ducks (MFO'S). Manawatu, may turn up on quite small ponds e.g. two on Scott's Pond, Oroua Downs, October 1968; same month six adults on Dalrymple's Lake with three young, and eleven on Russell's Lake; frequently on Lake Omanuka and Lake Pukepuke. November 1968, two adults and two young at Otaihanga, near Paraparaumu (IGA). Waikana, one in 1971 (PCB). Lake Horowhenua, 40 in July 1971, none seen October 1971-March 1972, 19 in June 1972 (EBJ).

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea melanophris*)

Scott Point, 90 mile beach, 23/4/72, two immature birds; one squatting on wet sand, tired but dry; the other standing in the breakers, very wet and exhausted, wings spread like a shag. Both put in sacks,

taken to Pukepoto, dried and housed in a shed; fed with some difficulty, oil and chopped kahawai; recovered after a few days and took off to sea from a rise in the paddock (J. Morrison).

YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK (*D. chlororhynchus*)

Voyage Lyttleton-Wellington 5/6/71, two sightings, one 10 miles off Waiau mouth and the other off Kaikoura, without doubt the same bird. For much of the time it was within a chain of the stern; I obtained excellent views and relying on the Field Guide have no doubt about the identification (JRJ).

BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*D. bulleri*)

Stewart Island 15/1/69, 12 with 25 *D. cauta*, drifting or swimming as a group off Leask Bay to Ackers Point and beyond (IGA). Taiaroa Head 2/6/70, about 20, passing (J and MM).

WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*D. cauta cauta*)

Voyage Lyttleton-Wellington 18/5/71, 15-20 seen from ship, some sitting on water, others flying; did not normally follow the ship but occasionally did so (JRJ).

SALVIN'S MOLLYMAWK (*D. cauta salvini*)

Voyage Lyttleton-Wellington 1/2/69, 10-15 individuals seen, sometimes following ship, usually only one or two at a time; all appeared to be this subspecies (JRJ).

CHATHAM ISLAND MOLLYMAWK (*D. cauta eremita*)

Canterbury coast June 1971, tentative identification of several of this subspecies offshore from Canterbury and one as far north as Cook Strait where other *cauta* spp. were present in numbers (IGA). One found at Himatangi 4/7/71 (FCK).

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

Palmerston North 11/10/68, exhausted bird hit telephone wires in city, looked after for two weeks by Mr C. C. Porter, then liberated in Hawke's Bay (IGA). June 1969, one stranded on farmland near Maitā, Southland, well grown juvenile in good condition; released. Glenary Station, Waikāia, another storm wreck, weak, subsequently died (RRS). Living birds seen flying in Wellington harbour 24/3/72 (PCH) and 5/6/72 (JAF), 8/6/72 (EWD).

NELLY (*Macronectes giganteus*)

Late July and early August 1971 about ten storm-wrecked on Far North beaches between south of Ahipara and Hukatere; three live birds cared for and released; one had been banded as a pullus at Macquarie Island in January 1971 (EM, HAF). September 1972, 30 feeding on a dead whale, first time I have seen Nellies inside Kaipara harbour (MW). Muriwai beach 18/7/71, one, banded as pullus at Kerguelen in January 1971 (SR). Kaikoura coast, 3/6/72, S. Sparrow saw a completely white bird (J. R. Jackson). Waikawa, Manawatu, 5/6/72, one banded as chick at Nelly Island, Antarctica, on 20/1/72 (IGA). Woolshed Bay, Otago, 38 inshore, feeding on a floating bullock carcass (D. Cook). Ocean Beach, Bluff, 280-300 offshore 23/1/69 (IGA).

ANTARCTIC FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Foveaux Strait, 23/11/70, one captured at sea by a Bluff fisherman and brought ashore for identification (RRS). Live specimen at Newtown, Wellington, 19/7/72 (JAF).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*)

Kaipara harbour, September 1972, with Nellies feeding on a dead whale (MW). Manawatu, August 1971, one found inland at Longburn (IGA). Wellington harbour, Moa Point, 30/8/70, 105; 27/9/70, 200 (J and MM).

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*)

Taranaki, burrows on an offshore island, Tongaporutu, 18/7/71 (WFC).

WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*P. lessoni*)

Southland, 10/5/70, one storm wrecked 10 miles inland at Mokotau, released Oreti beach (RRS).

MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpectata*)

Canterbury-Marlborough coast, 5/6/71, seen from ship, off Motunau-Waiiau mouth 50; off Waiiau mouth 20, one off Kaikoura and 7 off Clarence mouth. Dusky Sound, mid-February 1972, J. Hilton found nesting on all five islands of the Shag Island group; eggshells and old eggs found around the colonies (JRJ).

KERGUELEN PETREL (*P. brevirostris*)

Southland, Waimatuku, 30/6/69, one storm wrecked, released on sea (RRS). Pukerua Bay, Wellington, September 1972, one seen, being harried by Black-backed Gulls; one picked up dead at the same place a few days later (PCH).

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*)

Otago, 15 picked up dead in November 1971 indicates that there may be a local breeding population, perhaps on offshore islands such as Green and Taieri Island (GH). Manawatu, dead birds at Himatangi beach on 12/12/70 had been banded as adults at Stephens Island in September 1968 and 1969. October 1971, a big wreck, 500 in 25 miles Rangitikei-Ohau river mouths (IGA).

GREY PETREL (*Procellaria cinerea*)

6/1/72, one alive but exhausted on a farm near Fielding; fed on sardines and taken to Dominion Museum for recovery and release (IGA).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*)

17/1/69, one in mid-Foveaux Strait, flying south-east (IGA).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*)

Wanganui, hundreds off Castlecliff beach 6/5/70 (MFO'S). Lyttleton-Wellington, 1/2/69, seen all the way; 18/5/71, only seven seen on the journey (IGA); 24/12/71, only 8 at sea plus a few in Cook Strait (JRJ).

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*P. tenuirostris*)

October 14-22, 1968, large numbers storm cast on Southland beaches at Oreti, Riverton and Orepuki. A series of measurements taken in the field widens the range for New Zealand specimens for bill, mid-toe and tail (RRS).

MANX SHEARWATER (*P. puffinus*)

One picked up at Pukerua Bay on 26/6/72 is the first record for New Zealand (see FCK & JAF, *Notornis* 20).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia gavia*)

Whangamata, 24/8/71, about 1000 on water and at fish shoals (HRMcK); Waitarere beach, Manawatu, thousands flying north 11/2/70 (EBJ).

HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*P. huttoni*)

Kaikoura township, March 1970, 13; March 1971, 10; captured, banded and released (JAC).

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*)

One found dead in Featherston Street, Palmerston North, 13/10/71 (IGA).

NORTHERN DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*)

Paekakariki, 1/8/71, a bird recovered which was banded at Trios as adult female on 26/7/62; age therefore exceeds 10 years, probably a record for the species (FCK).

RED-TAILED TROPIC BIRD (*Phaethon rubricauda*)

East Cape, February 1971, one alive but rather exhausted, reported by Mrs Keast (SR).

AUSTRALIAN GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

Sightings of immature birds, Bay of Islands, 25/7/71, three (DEC); Wanganui, 9/5/70 (MFO'S); Wellington harbour, singles on 31/5/69, 23/7/69, 24/8/69 (J and MM).

BROWN BOOBY *Sula leucogaster*)

Coromandel Islands, Gannet Rock, 19/3/71, one among gannets (SR).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Raglan harbour, colony in two karaka trees 1971 (DWH); Lake Karapiro, nesting on power pylons commenced 24/8/71 (JHS). Taranaki, small colony Lake Rotokare July 1971 (WFC). Tekapo river, December 1971, 4 nests in willow trees, one chick nearly flying; one nest had three young of different ages, the youngest about one week old (RJP). Awarua swamp colony, Southland, 6/9/69, 27 nests, 7 with eggs, 5 with young, some almost flying; 13/12/70, 30 nests, 4 still with eggs, many flying young and chicks in nest. Lower Waiau river, near mouth, Black Shags traditionally gather in May-July and feed on lampreys (*Geotria australis*). In June 1970 the first birds arrived 15 minutes before daylight and started feeding, and about 40 were present by daylight; the birds work individually, moving downstream in the swift water; once a lamprey is caught the bird surfaces to swallow it. Half an hour after daylight many birds were already resting on gravel beaches and an hour after daylight all appeared to have had their fill. Though trout are abundant I have never seen them taken in these circumstances (RRS).

PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius*)

Skull Creek, Whangarei, 1/8/70, 60 nests, one with eggs, others with chicks of different ages and about 30 flying young; September 1971, 80 nests, many full clutches (AMM). South Auckland, Hingaia river, new colony in gum trees on the bank of a tidal river, 3 nests, 1971 (HRMcK).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*)

Cape Reinga, one on a tree at Tapotupotu Bay 14/2/71 (MED); 30/1/72, 5 on Lake Waiporohita, 18 on Lake Rotokawau, Karikari peninsula; 20/6/71, 13 in Mangonui harbour; Kerikeri, a single bird which appeared on farm lake on 9/1/72 still had white ear flecks; 25/4/72, flock of 25 at same place, one in pale mottled brown immature plumage (ATE). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, 11 on 13/2/72, 74 on 15/4/72

(NBM). Wanganui estuary, mostly autumn and winter; 16 on 3/5/70, 50 on 14/3/71 (MFO'S). Lake Horowhenua, 19/9/70, 21 (J and MM); 8/5/71, 35; 27/7/71, one on a post just clear of water, head up and neck extended, wings drooped, tail raised and fanned; three others in the water, watching it (EBJ). Eastbourne, two in June and three in August-September 1969 (J and MM).

LITTLE SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*)

Whangarei harbour, numbers appear to have declined over recent years while Pied Shags are increasing (AMM). Opoutere, Coromandel, three counts in January-March 1969 total 13 pied phase, 3 smudgy, 30 white-throated (BB). Lake Horowhenua, 5/10/71, 3 pied, 30 white-throated; one pied mostly white on the back (EBJ). Lake Elterwater colony seems to be increasing (TJT). Southland, Lake Waituna 4/1/72, 50; Invercargill estuary 16/12/71, 80 (RRS).

STEWART ISLAND SHAG *Leucocarbo carunculatus chalconotus*)

Stewart Island, Leask's Bay, on Fish Rock 21/1/72, about 60, roughly equal numbers bronze and pied; a number of juveniles grouped together on a flat rock, like a nursery (MLB).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*)

Waitangi, Bay of Islands, one on rocks with Pied Shags, June 1971 (GW). Skull Creek, Whangarei harbour, one dead December 1971 (AMM). Wellington West Coast, regular winter visitor in small numbers to the more rocky regions, rarely reported from Manawatu region even as a beach wreck; 24/6/72, eleven found dead Turakina mouth - Palliser Bay (IGA). Wellington Harbour, small numbers (up to 10) regularly throughout winter 1972 (EWD). First record of breeding, Wellington Harbour (Somes I.) 1/10/72 (JLK). West Coast, January 1972, nesting completed at 12th mile, Greymouth; Perpendicular Point, Punakaikai, 50 loafing or almost fledged on ledges, many empty nests (JRJ).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

Umawera (Hokianga) bred 1971; up to nine seen together (JAL). Bay of Islands 1971, 53 in Kerikeri Inlet (ATE) and 40 at Parekura Bay (WC). Tangaihe, south of Dargaville, 47 birds at nest colony, July 1971 (CDC). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 15/4/72, 38 (NBM). Motueka, March 1972, a bird smaller than normal, with very pale plumage, bill and legs; face not pure white but rather yellowish (HH). Two Manawatu birds had tarsi light brick red in July 1971 (EBJ). Canterbury, 41 at Lake Wainono 13/2/72; sightings of singles at Lake Emma, Lake Heron, and 5 in north branch, Ashburton river (RJP). One at 2500 ft, Godley Peaks homestead pond; 36 feeding in a stubble field at Lumsden (P. Child). 200 at Invercargill estuary 16/12/71 (RRS). Stewart Island, has been breeding for some years but my first definite record is a juvenile with three adults at Kaipipi arm, 12/1/72 (MLB).

WHITE-NECKED HERON (*Ardea pacifica*)

Unconfirmed report of one bird, mid-February 1972, seen with a White Heron and nine White-faced Herons where Stoney Creek flows into Lake Benmore. It appeared to stand about three inches taller than the White Heron (J. A. Anderson).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*)

Rangaunu Bay, June 1972, six (ATE). Rawene, one most years, May-September 1971 (ATE), up to 27/8/72 (GW). Kerikeri Inlet, one on 27/4/72 and on 12/8/72, the only sightings in ten years (ATE). Portland, 8/5/72, one (AMM). Dargaville, 1972, two in May, one near Omamari in July, one at Waihue October (CDC); Poutu, one May-July (MJB). Kaipara, 1972, 2 or 3 at Jordan's May (press report); birds present between Helensville and South Head May to September, 3 north of Helensville, 30th June; 2 north of Parakai July, one in August and September (SR, MW). One at New Lynn 16/8/72, one off Northern motorway 13/9/72-2/10/72 (SR). Mangere, 4/6/72, 4 (BB); Kingseat Creek, two on 25/7/71, 5/9/71 (HRMcK). Waiuku peninsula, one 25/6/72 (BB). Mataitai, Clevedon, one from 28/4/72, joined by another, left June 1972 (HRMcK); Firth of Thames, one in April (DWH) and May (BB). Waikato river estuary 13/5/72, 2 (JU), 28/6/72, 4 (BB); one at Marakopa 8/5/72 (press report) and 7 at Port Waikato 9/7/72 (SR). Tuakau, one in May 1972 (RCB). Lake Whangape, 30/4/72, 3 (HRMcK); single birds at Rangariri 1 and 17/7/72 (SR); Lake Waikare, 9/7/72, 11 (BB); Lake Hakanoa, 20/8/72, one (SR).

Matata, 7/7/72, 2 (SR). Gisborne, one at Muriwai lagoon April 1972 for a few days; then tidal flats at Gisborne till June, 2 on 26/6/72; one at Tiniroto 24/5/72 (AB). Taranaki, Bell Block, one on 8/5/71 (WFC). Manawatu, 1971, 2 at estuary, June (J and MM), 2 at Lake Horowhenua 28/9/71-2/10/71 (EBJ). 1972, one on 21/5/72 (JAF); one on nearly every visit to Lake Horowhenua from 10/6/72 to 18/8/72, two on 8/7/72 (EBJ); sightings of single birds at Paremata and Waikawa in May (JAF). Nelson, present 1972 (DWH), no details.

Marlborough, single birds at Lake Grassmere 15/4/69, at Lake Elterwater 18/4/68-28/5/69 and at Ward 13/5/69 and 5/6/69. 1970, two at Flaxbourne mouth in April, one near Blenheim in August. 9/5/71, one at Kaka Road, Ward (JAC, TYT). Clarence river bed 3 miles above St James Station, one present for some days in March 1971 (JRJ). June 1972, one at Grovetown and one at Blenheim. The Blenheim bird had been taking goldfish from ponds; captured by E. J. Sharpe and taken to Havelock, it returned to Blenheim within 24 hours (press report).

March 1971, one on a small lake at Ada Station, below junction of Ada and Waiau rivers (JRJ). Single birds at Lake Wainono in March 1971 and at Opihi on 10/7/71 and 29/11/71 (RJP). One at Benmore Lake February and July 1972 (J. A. Anderson). Wanaka, one 1970 (JA). Ram Island, Berwick, one in July 1970 (HS). April 1971, singles at Karitane (WTP), Merton (DK) and Leith valley (BW); two at Merton 30/5/71 (GH). Waikouaiti, 20/2/72, one (RJP); gravel pits near North Taieri golf course, June 1972 (GH). Southland, February 1970, one present for several days in Anderson Park, Invercargill, ate all the goldfish. May and June 1972, at least two birds in Lumsden district. One was found dead; a second dead bird near Invercargill in August 1972 (RRS).

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

Mangere Ponds, one in July and August 1971 (SR, P. Crombie). Manukau harbour south, 4 on 5/12/71, 19/1/72; two on 1/2/72, one with four inch head plumes (HRMcK); Waiuku, one in June;

Tuakau, two 19-25 May, one 28 June 1972 (BB, RCB). Firth of Thames, 14/5/72 (BB), June (DWH); Lake Waikare, 9/7/72 (BB), all singles. Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, one in late 1971 and until 13/2/72 (NBM). Wanganui, Kaitoke Lake, one 25 April - 7 May 1972 (MFO'S). Nelson, Rough Island, two in January 1972 (FHB). Marlborough, June 1972, 5 (press report). Otago, Merton, 27 April - 23 May 1971, one. Waded along the edge of Waikouaiti river channel where it flows through tidal mudflats, stopping every so often to rake in the water first with one foot and then the other. After raking it would dart its head into the water and frequently a small worm-like object was lifted and swallowed. At one time it came out of the water and scuttled along the shore with its head tucked tightly down on its shoulders. When it stretched upright in alarm as we approached it appeared very slender about the neck and head. Besides the mudflats, it was seen once on a paddock close to the river and once on a small island, standing among some thistles (GH). One on 20/2/72 (RJP). Southland, at least three birds May-June 1972, at Winton, Invercargill and Gorge Road (RRS).

REEF HERON (*E. sacra*)

Onehunga, catching 4-5 inch flounders on three-quarter full tide (BB). Breeds on north side of Raglan harbour (DWH). Marlborough, Goose Bay, 14/12/69, 3 (JAC). Otago, two pairs near Taiaroa Heads, also seen at Karitane; numbers may be declining (GH). Southland 1970, sightings at Ocean Beach, Pahia and Bluff (MLB, RRS, LEH).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Dargaville area. 1972, five at Tutamoe in March and at Mamara-nui in April (LO). Five in a paddock at Dargaville fertiliser works 1-21 May, foraging around and moving among resting cattle, sometimes taking flies off their backs but not actually observed to perch on the cattle beasts; crickets appeared to be a staple diet. Perches included stumps, posts and macrocarpa trees. One bird was observed to have a sore left leg which got worse as the month wore on, the bird standing apart, hunched and obviously in pain. 21-26 May, birds moved a little north to the experimental farm; about 28 May four were reported at Tatarariki, south of Dargaville and an injured bird was seen across the river at Mititai in early June and until 20 July; if it was the bird previously seen it had made good recovery. 8 birds, four of them in breeding plumage, were seen at Tatarariki on 16/10/72, and according to the farmer had been there for some months (CDC, BC, RF). Auckland, Mangere, 4 on 27/5/72, 1/6/72; two on 16/6/72, 23/9/72 and 1/10/72 when one was assuming breeding plumage (SR). One south of Waiuku 20-28 June (HRMcK) and 1/7/72 (MED). Wanganui, one on a farm near Lake Kowhata, May 1971 (MFO'S). Manawatu, report of one at Lake Pukepuke July 1971 and one reported a year later by a farmer at Tiakitahuna had been in the area for a considerable period; said to associate with pigs (IGA). Reported from Nelson May 1972. Marlborough, June 1972, three (press report). Near Outram, July and August 1971, one in a paddock for about six weeks (GH). Invercargill Borstal farm, one on 14/7/71, 28/9/71; one at Invercargill 6/6/72 and 25/8/72; an unconfirmed report of six birds with cattle at Waimahaka in June, and one found dead at Gorge Road July 1972 (RRS).

NANKEEN NIGHT HERON (*Nycticorax caledonicus*)

Wellington, January 1972, one perched on an aviary in which three birds of the same species are held; it was extremely shy and flew up into tall pine trees nearby; full adult plumage (FCK). January 28 - 30, harassed by magpies (RSS).

AUSTRALIAN BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Dargaville, August 1971, one in a rushy paddock, head and neck in the freeze position, neck feathers fluffed out, moving along with four or five bouncing steps as if trying to take off (CDC). Waiuku, 5/12/71, booming 1900 - 2000 hours (MED). Opoutere, 7/4/69, one feeding in a small creek crouched and waited with bill submerged; caught a small fish, moved a few paces and repeated the procedure; head tilted to watch downstream side and possibly its own shadow (BB). Kyburn river, Central Otago, 15/12/70, jumping and falling display (TJT). Franz Josef glacier, March 1969, after a three hour climb up from the base of the glacier, a dessicated specimen (skull, some bones and feathers) found lying on ice; seems to indicate a possible movement from West Coast to Canterbury or vice versa (FCK).

In November 1944 bittern were plentiful in Mossburn area and it was quite common to disturb half a dozen when mustering cattle in a 300 acre river paddock. One day seven bittern circled over a particularly wet area of swamp, about 150 ft up in the air, each following another in a fairly tight circle, moving clockwise; this went on for about 15 minutes during which the birds called continuously, seldom more than a second between calls. About the same time of year I disturbed a bittern from the margin of a small backwater; on the grassy verge where the bird had been standing were five small trout (4 - 6 inches); these were lined up an inch or so apart, heads all pointing in one direction. The fish had apparently not been regurgitated but taken from the water and arranged in this manner to be eaten later (IAM).

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Auckland motorway late May 1972, unconfirmed report of one bird (MJB). Waiuku, 20 - 23 June 72, two; one had a rough growth on the front of tibio-tarsus joint, about blackberry size. Seen to take what looked like an acorn-sized chrysalis (HRMcK). Wanganui, Turakina valley, 7/5/71, one shot, immature in good condition; in Dominion Museum (FCK). May 1972, reports of one in Nelson and seven at Westport. Canterbury, 29/12/71, one at Lake Wainono; also present 13/2/72 (RJP). Southland, 20/5/71, 2 at Pahia; 22/5/71, 3 at Invercargill estuary; 26/9/71 and 6/10/71, two at Waimatuku mouth; 7/10/71, one at Waituna; Jan 72, one in Awarua swamp. Lake Brunton, one shot 6/5/72 (RRS).

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Orewa, one early July - 4 September 1971 (SR). Waitemata harbour 19/9/71 (SR, P. Crombie). Waiuku, Waitangi Falls, one through winter and spring 1971 (WLR). Mangere ponds, one 20/12/71, 6/2/72 - 23/4/72 (SR); Kingseat 21/6/72, one (RCP); 2/7/72, one at Kingseat, one at Puketutu (HRMcK). Miranda, one on 8/1/72 (SR). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 13/2/72, one; 15/4/72, 4 (NBM). Taranaki, Waitotara mouth, October 1970, one (DGM);

Waitara mouth, one 20/11/71 till at least 19/12/71 (WFC). Wanganui, Whangaehu estuary 1/1/71, 3; 6/5/71, one (MFO'S). Manawatu estuary, maximum 1971, 29; 29/4/72, 30 (IGA). Waikawa, winter 1971, one (PCB); Lake Pauatahanui, 30/10/71, one (J and MM). Nelson, Rough Island, June 1972, 5; 8 other birds at Motueka same day (BRK). Waikouaiti, 20/2/72, one (RJP).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

Te Pohue Lake, road Napier-Taupo, 12/2/71, 3 adults (J and MM). Wanganui, Virginia Lake, 8; one or two pairs breed every year (MFO'S).

BLACK SWAN (*C. atratus*)

Lake Heron, 7/11/71, a swan standing on a nest which had been built by a Canada Goose in September 1970, had four downy cygnets about two weeks old beside her and 5 more in the water alongside; in the nest were 5 swan eggs, cold and dirty, three containing a dead chick and two infertile. About a mile away were seven swan nests in an area of niggerheads, with 20 abandoned eggs mostly outside the nests, eight of the eggs were infertile and 12 contained dead chicks (ML). Lagoons between Waihola and Waipori, 25/5/70, large flocks, more than in March-April and larger than any flocks seen at this time of the year for 10 years (HS). Southland, main breeding areas Waituna Lagoon and Lake George; Invercargill estuary and Awarua Bay are not breeding areas, swan found there during breeding season are generally non-breeders. Isolated pairs breed on other coastal lagoons. Poor breeding success 1971/2 season (RRS).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Poutu, Kaipara, two in May 1972 (MJB). 3 at Mangere 4/12/70 (HRMcK), one at Miranda 4/7/71 (PF). Paremata Inlet, one appears resident with swans Nov 70-May 71 (JAF); Lake Pauatahanui, August and October 1971 (J and MM). Lake Elterwater, November 71, 12 (TJT); Kaikoura, 23/4/71, low cloud, 30 passed over heading for Mt Fyffe (MC). Lake Heron, October 1970, adult with 13 young, two still downy, not more than 2-3 weeks old, eight in various stages of development and three almost mature; the group stayed together, no other adult being present. September 1970, pair building a nest among dried bulrush stalks, depth of water about 5 ft; the nest, a platform of frost-dried stalks and leaves of bulrush, snow grass and tussock, was about 3½ ft diameter and supported my 9½ stone weight. Three young were reared (ML). Waituna lagoon, Southland, 14/2/72, 79; the largest flock recorded in this area; local breeding success in 1971/2 summer seems to have maintained the apparently resident population (RRS).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)

Ward, 1970/71, pair hatched 8, five reached flying stage; 1971/72, hatched 10, flying stage 7 (TJT).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Whangarei, still outnumbered by greys except in the Town Basin (AMM). Mangere Ponds, February-March 1972, about 1200 ducks died of botulism (SR). Manawatu, a duck with ducklings flew straight up at a harrier, bill neck and body in one vertical line at least six feet above the water (EBJ).

GREY DUCK (*A. superciliosa*)

Waerenga, greys pushed out by mallard for two years but started to return in 1972 (MPD). Virginia Lake, Wanganui, a grey duck fossicking at my feet had lost the outer end of its upper mandible and the tongue was plainly visible; as it poked around over the lawn the tongue was rapidly flicked to and fro, the amount of movement being small and the tongue did not actually protrude (EBJ). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 15/4/72, 12 greys, 3735 mallard (NBM). Waikouaiti, May 1971, 69 true greys, 881 mallard/greys (GH).

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*)

Mangere ponds, a record 270 in early 1971 (RBS). Volcanic Plateau, 14/9/71, one pair had eleven ducklings (RGM). One at Waikanae lagoon and several parties of up to 12 on stock ponds in Wairarapa, 1971/2 summer (JAF). Lake Elterwater, February 1972, 20 (TJT). Otago, Ram Island lagoon, particularly numerous May 1970 (HS). Waikouaiti, 30/5/71, 512 (GH). Lake Macgregor, December 1971, two pairs, one and two young (RJP).

BROWN TEAL (*A. aucklandica chlorotis*)

Northland east coast, Punaruku 6/3/72, 7: 3/2/72, Helena Bay 17, Mimiwhangata 11, Whananaki 22 (CSK). Little Barrier, Titoki Point, one on 14/11/71 (MED). Auckland, Mangere Ponds, one in December 1971 (SR). two in March 1972 (HRMcK). Waikanae, Lake Waimea, 5/4/69, 4 (J and MM). These birds may have come from Kapiti. Lake Te Anau West arm, Lake Te Au, January 1953, 12 (RRF).

NEW ZEALAND SHOVELER (*A. rhynchos variegata*)

Lake Horowhenua, a record 162 on 24/10/71 (EBJ). Catlins, only one bird (shot) in 4 years (D. Cook).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*)

Ruakituri river, pair with 4 young, approximate hatching date 3/11/71. Tahunga, 26/12/71, immature, dark plumage and dark bill; keeping company with a grey duck; twice put up from under a grassy bank at the same spot (AB). Waiawa river, Urewera, 6/4/70, six (DAL). Kaimanawa Forest Park, three on Waihaha stream, one at junction of streams near track leading to top of Umukarikari ridge, August 1971 (RGM). One in a pool near foot of Tasman glacier, May 1970 (RJP). Clinton watershed, 12 pairs, June-Oct 70 (RRS).

NEW ZEALAND SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*)

Muriwai Lakes count, Sep 71 76 (SR). Volcanic Plateau, May 71, Hamurana 380, Mokoia 550, Okareka 200, Rotomahana 400, Rotoiti 30, Green Lake 20, Okataina 30, Tarawera 17 (GW). One white and one mottled on Rotoma, Nov 70 (MED). Taranaki, Lake Mangamahoe, 1/5/71, 95; 29/8/71, 72 (DGM); Wanganui, single birds on Kaitoke Lake 9/9/69, Waipu Lake 14/6/70 (MFO'S). Hawke's Bay, Long Range lake, north of Porangahau 1971/2 (JAF).

AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

Eating thrush eggs (DWH) and nestling sparrows (WB); drowned an adult S.I.P. Oystercatcher but when disturbed failed to lift it from the shallow water (AW). Exposed nest in bracken, 3 eggs, Mt Aspiring, 2000 ft a.s.l., 4/11/69 (JA). December 1971, 17 in 27 miles of Tekapo riverbed (RJP). In 1958 there was in Southland a bounty for each pair of harrier feet brought in. A bird

shot had no feet, about one-third of the tarsus was missing and the stumps were completely healed. Though not a large specimen the bird was in average condition; its crop was well filled with carrion, apparently mutton (RRS).

NEW ZEALAND FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*)

Gisborne, December 71, pursued by tuis (AB). Tararua, reported in Akatarawa and Hutt Valleys early 1972; at this time of the year young birds are dispersing and liable to turn up in any suburban area; 1971 reports of individuals at Turakarae, Eastbourne and Wairongomai (JAF). Taking pigeons (domestic and native) in Marlborough (JAC), Otago (GH) and Southland (RRS). Hunting brown creeper (JRJ), blackbird (TJT), fantail and finches (IAM). Mated pair attacking man (RRS).

NANKEEN KESTREL (*F. cenchroides*)

Poutu, Dec 71, one, ignored by three harriers (MJB). August 72, injured bird at Warkworth cared for by G. J. H. Moon, later released; one frequenting a high ridge at Kawakawa Bay, Clevedon (HRMcK). Three miles from Palmerston North, August 1971, probable sighting; smaller than a harrier, pointed wings; facing a 20 m.p.h. wind, drifting slowly backwards about 50 ft up; length about 12 inches, white underparts (HAR). Rakaia river, Canterbury, near salmon trap; report that two birds frequented the area for two years; observer has seen kestrels in Australia (RJP).

CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukar*)

Marlborough, June 70, 11 on top of Dog Hill, Ward (TJT), May 72, 15 on Mt Fyffe, Kaikoura (JAC). Mt Aspiring, Otago, Feb 70, some at 6000 ft a.s.l. (JA).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsiliphorus*)

Waiuku, Whiriwhiri Nov 71, Maioro June and July 72 (MED). Coromandel, 1971, Whangamata (BB), Pauanui road, Tairua river tidal area, Hikuai-Kopu road through heavy bush (HRMcK). Manawatu, Sept 71, 5 at Pohaninga (EJC); Feb 72, first record from Otaki (PCE).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*)

Kinleith exotic forest July 1970, 83 sightings at 38 localities (RGM). Ward, a clutch of 10 chicks a few days old on 8/11/68 dwindled to 3 flying strongly by 11/12/68 (TJT).

PEAFOWL (*Pavo cristatus*)

Occurs in small numbers in a few valleys in Wanganui East, e.g., Longacre valley Dec 68, 3; Makirikiri valley July 70, 6 (MFO'S).

BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*)

Bay of Islands, Parekura Bay (WC), near Opua and Paihia (GW) and Kawakawa (ATE). Whangarei, recorded in about eight localities around harbour, 1971 (AMM) and inland at Wheki valley (WC). Waipu Cove, summer 1970 (RWJ). South Auckland, Parakau Creek, Waipipi Feb 69, six on mudflats; 1971, near Karioitahi, Awaruiti, Rangariri (MED). Oputere, Jan 69, 8 adults 6 chicks (BB). Gisborne, rare; one brought in by a cat at Whatatutu, 1972 (AB).

WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*)

Motukiekie, Bay of Islands, 1972 April (DEC) and June (AJG). Release in Egmont National Park 1970 (DGM). D'Urville Island,

January 1972, of seven wekas living round a house five showed loss of feathers about the face and neck, the smallest bird being most affected. On 27/1/72 the largest bird stood perfectly still for 2-3 minutes while the smallest bird, generally not tolerated for more than a moment, preened the neck and feathers of the larger bird, which then performed a similar service to the smaller; mutual preening was later observed several times between different birds (ML). Wekas disappeared from Taramakau and Otira valleys in the early 20s. 40 Western Wekas were liberated in the area in October 1965; reported sightings 1965-1968 and one in Otira township Aug 71 (press report). At that date they appear to be established adjacent to Arthur's Pass National Park on the true right of Taramakau river from Inchbonnie corner to opposite the mouth of Pfiesser Creek, also heard calling further up the valley and there may be a few tame birds at Inchbonnie (CNC). Stewart Island, Old Mill Creek, Nov 68, a weka swam across about 20 ft of water and returned to the bank he had left (RHT).

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)

Regular in small numbers at Ram Island lagoon, an area of sunken peat once farmed but now mostly water with extensive beds of *Carex secta*, *Festusa ?arundinacea*, *Juncus gregiflorus*, flax and groves of Crack willow (*Salix fragilis*) (GH).

Not yet a rare bird in Southland but always difficult to find when looked for; seen at relatively frequent intervals in the course of wandering about marsh and swampy areas. Sightings recorded in at least 16 localities. Invercargill estuary, one sighting in jointed rush (*L. simplex*) out on mudflats; another sighting, August 71, in sparse shore-line vegetation; this bird, flushed in calm weather, made a single sustained flight of 162 yards (RRS).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*)

Ram Island lagoon, Berwick, June 70, a small rail, probably this species, rose within 3-4 ft, flew weakly for 20 ft and dropped into cutty grass. A similar bird seen on two occasions in March-April 1968 (HS).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

D'Urville Island, Jan 72, two pukekos moving through the top of tall kanuka trees making short leaps from branch to branch, sometimes aided by wing flaps and occasionally pecking at something in the foliage; they then flew up the valley and over a saddle, probably to a lagoon about 900 m. away; two days later two birds flew in and landed on the same trees where they preened and pecked as before; what may have been the same birds seen on another occasion among open scrub and perched in a ngaio tree. An Ashburton farmer reports that pukeko sometimes perch high in pines and eucalypts (ML); perching in willows and other lakeside trees and bushes is relatively commonplace (ATE).

AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Manawatu, Hokowhitu lagoon, 3 seen by J. Cook, Sept 71 (IGA). Wanganui, Virginia Lake since 1967, stable at about 60 adults in winter. Westmere Lake, one in 1969, 9 in 1971; so far no evidence of breeding. Kaitoke Lake 23/2/69, 2 (MFO'S). Hawke's

Bay, Long Range Lake, north of Porangahau, summer 1971/2 (JAF). Lake Elterwater 19/2/72, pair with two young (TJT). Lake McGregor, 3/12/71, adult with two young (RJP). Lake Heron, Sept 69, a coot displayed marked hostility to a grebe nesting nearby; as summer wore on hostility diminished. No aggression shown to swan, Canada Goose, ducks and scaup. When feeding a coot was frequently followed by several grey ducks; when the coot surfaced from a dive trailing water weed from its bill the ducks converged and took some of the edible material from the coot (ML).

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER

(*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*)

Whangarei harbour July 70, 540; July 71, 510 (AMM). Manukau harbour July 71, 17,471; July 72, 13,794. Albinos, one in July, two in December 71; one March - July 72. Kawakawa Bay, July 71, 140. Firth of Thames June 71, 2,214; June 72, 3,435 (HRMcK). Aotea harbour August 71, 285, one banded as juvenile at Nelson, August 69 (J. H. Seddon). Taranaki, January 72, 58 at Timaru road beach, 14 at Oakura mouth (DGM). Wanganui, regular visitor in small numbers (7-11) especially on northward passage (MFO'S). Marlborough, Upper Flaxbourne river, first pair seen in this area 1969; December 70, 5, one pair probably breeding (TJT). A bird banded at Heathcote estuary Feb 71 found at Dunedin Oval March 71 — unexpected north-south autumn movement (GH). Middlemarch, a pair hatched young in September 70 and another brood, thought to be the same pair, hatched midsummer (Mrs Illingworth). Southland, 1969, main egg laying September 17-28; two nests each of two eggs Oct 25 and 30; nests on paddocks, stubble, riverbeds, shingle beach of lake and one on the roof of a maimai. An Ardlussa farmer discing a paddock was avoiding a running chick when the parent settled on his head and beat about his ears with its wings (RRS).

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Farewell Spit 5/10/71, one (BDB).

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. dominica fulva*)

Rangaunu Bay, nine on 27/6/71 (MH). 1971/72 season, maximum numbers so far recorded, Parengarenga, 150 (March, ATE); Whangarei, 8 (November, AMM); Kaipara, 10 (March, SR); Manukau, 47 (December, HRMcK); Tauranga, 7 (January, JHS); Hawke's Bay, Westshore, 30 (February, JAF); Manawatu, 11 (December, EBJ); 2 at Lake Ellesmere February, 3 at Wainono March (RJP); Invercargill, 79 (December, RRS).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

The following additional localities have been recorded:—Kawhia, Te Mohe bank, 7/8/71, six (JHS); Ohiwa harbour, 25/8/71, six; Matata lagoon, 26/8/71, four (TRH); East Cape, Hicks Bay, Xmas 71, two pairs (DWH); Canterbury, Lake Wainono, one on 25/10/71, one on 13/2/72, identification carefully checked (RJP). Turakina beach, Wanganui, 19/11/66 and 13/12/66, three (MFO'S).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*C. bicinctus*)

Cass river delta, 10/4/71, 75 still present, 55 in a flock (RJP).

MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL (*C. mongolus*)

One at Miranda 29/3/71 (HRMcK).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

Manukau, singles recorded 19/1/71, 3/3/71, 16/4/72 (HRMcK). Firth of Thames, two birds between Taramaire and Miranda December 70 - February 71; many sightings of two birds November 71 - March 72; one, the larger bird, in colour by 22/7/72, the other did not colour (HRMcK, JHS).

ORIENTAL DOTTEREL (*C. veredus*)

Waipu Cove, 27/11/71, one; stood for some time by a New Zealand Dotterel (AMM). Reef Point, south end of 90 mile beach, one on 26/1/72 (CSK).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*)

Northland, off Pukenui wharf, Houhora, 7/12/70, three, feeding at a shallow pool back from the edge of the tide, with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (PL). Weldon's Gap, Awhitu Peninsula, one on beach 14/12/69, not seen again (DAL). Farm dam, Karaka, one 10/5/72 - 6/6/72 (DAU). Waipawa, Hawke's Bay, one early 1972 (JAF). Kaituna mouth, Bay of Plenty, one on 9th and 28th August 70, feeding in soft black mud; did not associate with stilts; orbital ring seen (P. Latham). Manawatu river near Palmerston North, two, first observed 7/12/71 (IGA). Lake Wairarapa, pair present 13/9/70, 15 and 22/11/70, nest, 3 eggs (J and MM). South Canterbury, Opihi river mouth, 6 pairs on 9/10/71, nests on consolidated shingle with grass between the stones, one nest 3 eggs, the other pairs one and two young. A bird seen at Washdyke lagoon 27/5/72 may have come from Opihi, where the river had been in flood (RJP). Southland, Waimatuku mouth, two on 29/4/72; previously seen here in 1962 and 1970; no other sightings and no evidence of breeding (RRS, MLB).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

Manukau, 11/7/71, 867; 2/7/72, 405. Firth of Thames, 27/6/71, 2,980; 18/6/72, 3,410 (HRMcK). One at Bowentown entrance, Tauranga harbour, 18/1/72 (JHS). First Opoutere record, one on 14/1/69 (BB). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, Feb 72, 3; seems to be occurring more frequently (NBM). Taranaki, two in January and two in February 72, probably the same birds (WFC). Wanganui estuary, January 67, 3; Turakina beach January 68, 3; March 69, 4; October 70, 3 (MFO'S). Manawatu estuary 1971, up to 22 (J and MM), 18/3/72, 20 (RSS); Waikawa, two in August and September 70 (J and MM) and in 1971 winter (JAF). Canterbury, Lake Wainono, 7/10/70, 51 in breeding plumage feeding on mudflats (P. Child); 1971, less than in previous years (RJP). Otago, Hunter Valley, four on 9/9/71 is the first record for this area; Matukituki, 3/10/71, 7 birds on 9 miles of riverbed, two nests each two eggs, first breeding record for Central Otago (P. Child). Southland winter census 22/8/71, 3; one at Waituna 21/10/71 (RRS).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

1971/72 season, 3 at Parengarenga (Sept-Nov); 2 Dec-March. Firth of Thames, 9 (Nov); Farewell Spit, 13 (Oct); Aramoana, 2 (Feb-March), one (April); Southland, two (Oct and Jan) (ATE, HRMcK, BDB, RJP, MLB).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*)

1970/71, up to 6 at Manukau, 17 in Firth of Thames and one at Manawatu estuary. 1971/72, 44 birds in Far North, 12 at Parengarenga and 32 at Rangiputa, 1-3 Nov (JHS). By that date there were also 10 at Farewell Spit, 5 Oct (BDB) and 3 in Southland, 31 Oct (SLL). The Far North birds shortly afterwards left that area, destination unknown; subsequent records are 9 at Whangarei, 13 Nov (AMM), 2 at Manukau, 20 Nov (SR), 2 at Firth of Thames, 7 Nov (HRMcK) and 5 in Southland, 4 Jan (MLB). One whimbrel sp. at Firth of Thames on 18/6/72 (HRMcK).

AMERICAN WHIMBREL (*N. p. hudsonicus*)

One at Parengarenga 2/11/70 (JHS) and one at Pollok Spit, Manukau, 15/11/70 (DAL).

LITTLE WHIMBREL (*N. minutus*)

Two at Greenpark, Lake Ellesmere, 6/2/72 (RJP).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Three at Jordan's, Kaipara, 28/3/71 (RBS); one at Firth of Thames 14/2/71 and 19/2/72 (HRMcK).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemasticta*)

One at Parengarenga 12/12/71 (CSK) and 20/1/72 (ATE). One at Wanganui estuary Oct-Nov 68 (MFO'S). Manawatu estuary, one on 2/2/71 (underwing well seen, EBJ).

EASTERN BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*)

An "off-white" bird has been seen in Manukau area at intervals from Oct 70 to March 72. Winter counts, Manukau 4/7/71, 4,179; Firth of Thames 27/6/71, 652; corresponding figures for winter 1972 were 1,721 and 375. Some counts for 1971/72 season are Parengarenga 2,000 (ATE); Rangiputa 2,000, Houhora 300, Nov (JHS); Whangarei, c. 2,000; Manukau, Dec, 22,062, Firth of Thames, Nov, 8,667 (HRMcK); Kawhia 407 and Aotea harbour 240, Aug (JHS); Bay of Plenty, Bowentown 3,000, Katikati 240, Jan (JHS); Ahuriri (Hawke's Bay) Nov, 375 (NBM); Manawatu, Nov, 375 (EBJ); Farewell Spit, Oct, 12,000 (BDB); Southland, Aug, 627; Dec, up to 3,000 (RSS). Canterbury, one seen far up Rakaia river near salmon trap, with S.I.P.O., Nov 71, by D. Geddes (RJP).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

Canterbury, Lake Wainono, 13/2/72 and 26/3/72, one; call heard; once landed within 10 ft of me (RJP).

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*)

Canterbury, Opihi, 9/10/71, one (RJP, JRI); Ashley mouth, 26/2/72, one (MLB, MMD).

MARSH SANDPIPER (*T. stagnatilis*)

Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 12/2/72, one, present for some time (JAF).

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

Single birds, probably *brevipes*, at Parengarenga 20/1/72 (ATE), Whangarei 18/3/72 (AMM), Manawatu 17/2/71 (IGA) and 18/3/72 (RSS), Aramoana, Dunedin 5/5/71 (GG), 4/3/72 and 5/4/72 (RJP). Manakau, Karaka, one Jan 72, three, two in full colour, 16/4/72 (HRMcK); Wellington 14/2/72, one (MJI). Farewell Spit, 5/10/71,

one (BDB). Unconfirmed report of a sighting on Tasman river bed, Mt Cook, December 71 (per JRJ).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

1971/72 season, one at Parengarenga March (ATE), 3 at Whangarei 27/3/71 and one in May, July and September 71; two Nov 71 - March 72 (AMM). One at Ruakaka Jan 71 (RWJ); Kaipara, one in March and April 71 (RBS); Karaka, one in March and April 72; Firth of Thames, one on several dates 20 Jan - 16 May 71, and one in Dec 71, Feb - March 72 (HRMcK). Manawatu estuary, one on 26/3/72 (JAF) and 25/4/72 (J and MM).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Winter 1971, 60 at Parengarenga, one at Rangiputa, 27 at Manukau, 15 Thames; 12 at Lake Grassmere and 10 at Kaikoura, 224 in Southland (ATE, MH, HRMcK, JAC, RRS). Parengarenga numbers rose to 900 in Jan 72 (P. Child), Rangiputa from 300 in Nov (JHS) to 1,000 in Dec 71 (CSK), Houhora, 40 in Nov 71 (JHS). Odd birds at Whangarei (AMM) and 11 at Waipu, Nov 71 (RWJ). 1971/72 maxima at Manukau and Firth of Thames respectively, 270 and 130 (HRMcK). 51 at Bowentown, Tauranga, Jan 72 (JHS). Greenpark huts, Lake Ellesmere, 14 on 6/2/72 (RJP).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Winter 1971, unusually large counts of 5,585 at Manukau and 2,013 at Firth of Thames; corresponding figures for winter 1972 were 999 and 465, and for summer 1971, 6,470 and 5,500 (HRMcK). Other large counts in 1971/2 season were Farewell Spit, Oct, 18,000 (BDB); 800 at Parengarenga and 2,000 at Houhora, Nov, (JHS); 2,700 at Whangarei, Nov (AMM); odd birds in Taranaki and at Manawatu estuary up to 45 in 1971 autumn and 24 in spring (J and MM).

GREAT KNOT (*C. tenuirostris*)

Firth of Thames, one, well spotted, March 1971; two in February and March 1972. Karaka, Manukau, 16/4/72, one in very good plumage (HRMcK).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)

1971/72 season, Parengarenga, 30 (Jan), 16 (Apr); Rangiputa, 8 (Jan); Whangarei, 11 (Dec) (ATE, CSK, AMM). Manukau and Firth of Thames, 14 and 7 (HRMcK). Kaituna cut, March, 9 (RSC); Ahuriri, H.B., February, 8; singles at Wanganui Oct - Nov and Manawatu March (MFO'S, RSS). 2 at Lake Ellesmere and 8 at Lake Wainono, February (RJP); Southland, 12 in August (RRS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*)

1971/72 season, Parengarenga, one in December, two January and March (ATE, GE, GW). Ahuriri, H.B., 3 in February (JAF); Kaituna cut, 26/3/72, one with 7 sharp-tailed (JHS); Lake Wainono, December, 3 with pied stilts (RJP); Invercargill estuary, December, 2; Lake Waituna, January, one (RRS).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*C. bairdi*)

Firth of Thames, one 23/11/71 - 22/12/71 (HRMcK).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)

1971/72 season, 5 at Parengarenga, Nov. (JHS); four at Manukau, January (TRH); up to 16 at Firth of Thames (HRMcK); one

at Ahuriri, H.B. (NBM); 4 at Turakina beach, Wanganui, Nov (MFO'S); 25 at Lake Ellesmere, December, and 3 in February (RJP); 3 at Southland, Lake Waituna, January (RRS).

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*C. mauri*)

Firth of Thames, two sightings, February 1971 (HRMcK).

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)

Correction, *Notornis* Supplement to Vol 19, page 53, Lake Wainono (RJP), sightings of 13, 5 and one stilts, delete 69 and substitute 70 for the year recorded.

1971/72, Parengarenga, 2 on 28/5/71; 30 in January and 25 in March 72 (ATE); Rangiputa, Nov, 6 (JHS). Manukau and Firth of Thames, many counts, up to 12 in each locality (HRMcK). Ahuriri, H.B., one in Feb (NBM). Lake Ellesmere, 24 in December (RJP); Southland, 34 at Lake Waituna in October (SLL).

SANDERLING (*C. alba*)

Firth of Thames, 18/3/72, one, coloured (HRMcK). Lake Ellesmere 19/12/71, one (RJP). Southland Lake Waituna, 4/1/72, 3 (RRS, MLB, SLL).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Taramaire, 19/2/72, a juvenile chased, caught and swallowed a small silvery fish in water half an inch deep (HRMcK).

BLACK STILT (*H. novaezealandiae*)

Kawhia harbour, Te Kapiko and Opepe rocks, 7/8/71, 141 pied stilts and 15 blacks, of which seven pure black, red eye; eight with variable white smudgy streaks on underparts, two of these with only odd white feathers at vent. Behaved as a separate part of the flock; after wheeling with the flock they formed up together and flew off as a separate flight. Call a harsh barking "yap yap" cf. pied stilt's high pitched "yip yip" (JHS).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*)

Manawatu, one seen feeding on a dead sheep near Foxton beach 24/6/72, approached very closely by H. Robertson (IGA). Off Lake Wainono 12/4/71, one attacked a Black-backed Gull (RJP).

POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*)

Ponui, 10/12/67, two (HRMcK). Mahurangi Island, off Whitianga, 18/12/71, one (TRH). Manawatu, Oct 68, 4 at estuary (IGA). Canterbury, St Andrews coast, one, with Arctic Skuas; most distinctive difference was size (RJP).

ARCTIC SKUA (*S. parasiticus*)

Bay of Islands, December 71, counts of 12-20 (DEC). Hauraki Gulf, 1/11/71, 12, scattered (ATE). Reports from several coastal areas including 4 seen together on one occasion at Wanganui (MFO'S), 5 at Manawatu estuary 12/4/71 with c. 1000 White-fronted Terns (J and MM), and from Southland, 3 at Oreti estuary and one at Toetoes harbour in February 70 (RSS). Late birds, Eastbourne, 2/5/70 (J and MM), Bay of Islands 17/5/71 and 13/6/71 (DEC).

LONG-TAILED SKUA (*S. longicaudus*)

10/11/71, Bay of Islands, probable sighting; like Arctic light phase, but central tail feathers estimated to project 4½ inches beyond rest of tail. Cap black, back grey rather than brown, underparts white but belly grey; flight rather tern-like. It was flying low over

the water, on a windless day, but at one time swooped up to 50-60 ft, "changed gear" at the top of its rise, stopping in mid air with some quick foot movement, and swooped down again to just above water level (DEC).

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)

There are lone pairs on the coast which may nest at virtually any time of the year. There are synchronised colony breeders both on the coast and inland. Terrain for nesting can vary from cliffs to tidal mudflats, from subalpine scrub to lowland valley swamps (GH). Ashburton river colony, Sept/Oct 70, great variation in nest construction. Along the edges of sandbanks nests often no more than an unlined bowl scooped in the sand; nests situated on mud, stones, grass or riverbed vegetation varied from small flat constructions with minimum lining and rims, through small mounded nests with the eggs laid in a shallow depression, to mounds up to 18 inches high made of small sticks, grasses, grass roots and some binding mud, with the egg chamber a depression about 9 inches across and lined with lambs tails. Local farmers use rubber rings for tailing and gull nesting sites can often be spotted from a distance by the mass of brightly coloured rubber rings lying on the islands (ML).

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*)

Ward beach, Marlborough, 8/5/69, 2-300 birds feeding actively on kelp fly maggots, close to shore line (WB).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*)

Lake Rerewhakaite 31/10/70, 300, two mating (RWJ). Lake Taupo, Easter 1972, 60 at Tongariro outlet, 30 along Taupo foreshore and small numbers scattered round lake, mainly on the eastern side; good proportion of immature birds (JHS). Foxton 11/4/70, a bird banded Waihopai river near Blenheim on 25/10/66 (IGA); birds returning after seasonal absence, February (EBJ). Wanganui, generally a few present at Turakina beach, 30 in March 69, 75 in February 70 (MFO'S). Waikanae 6/5/72, 6 (CAF); Pukerua Bay, first for season 15/4/72 (JAF).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Correction: *Notornis*, Supplement to Vol. 19, page 60; delete the entry from "Manawatu estuary" to "(E.B.J.)" and substitute — Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, two on 26/8/65; Hokio beach, one on 18/4/68 (E.B.J.).

Wanganui, Turakina beach, one on 14/5/68 and 27.....6/70 (MFO'S).

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*C. leucopterus*)

Portland, Whangarei, one on 3/12/71 (AMM). Karaka, 30/11/71, two; Firth of Thames, 1971, one in June and November, 3 in December; 1972, one in January, two in February (HRMcK). Bay of Plenty, Maketu, one Jan 72 (JHS). Ahuriri, H.B., 1972, 8 on 13 Feb; 12 (two in breeding plumage) 15 March (NBM). Manawatu, one on 30/11/71 (EBJ) and on 18/3/72 (RSS). Marlborough, Ure river mouth, one on 18/12/71 (JAC). Canterbury, Lake Wainono, 25/7/71, one; 29/12/71, 4; 13/2/72, one. Lake Ellesmere, 6/2/72, one; Opihi mouth 29/10/71, one; Cass river 7/11/71, one in breeding plumage (RJP).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Bowentown entrance, Tauranga harbour, 18/1/72, 75 birds; downy young, juveniles and some nests with eggs chipping (JHS). Ahuriri, H.B., 49 in 15/4/72 (NBM). Farewell Spit 4/10/71, 80 adults, 22 nests with 1-3 eggs, colony may be 40-50 pairs, laying just started (BDB). Canterbury, no longer breed at Washdyke, but I have seen or know of pairs on Waitaki, Hakataramea, Hopkins, Cass, Godley, Tekapo and Rakaia rivers (RJP). Southland, Lake Waituna, 4/1/72, breeding, 2 eggs (RRS).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*)

Kaipara, April 72, five, one being juvenile, at Tabora (SR).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*)

All available information sent to FCK who is preparing a paper.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*)

Lake Taupo, 14/4/68, two birds, exhausted after a storm (MFO'S). Additional breeding records have been received including a pair attempting to nest in Day's Bay, Wellington, 1971 (JAF), and on 15/1/72 nesting on a reef at Gough Bay, Banks Peninsula, which has been a roost for many years (JRJ).

GREY TERNLET (*Procelsterna cerulea*)

26/5/72, 3 miles east of Ariel Reef, where an upwelling current attracts many petrels and shearwaters to feed on plankton, a reliable observer saw 12 birds, behaving much in the manner of storm petrels; from his detailed description the birds were without any doubt Grey Ternlets (AB).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*)

Kiripaka, Whangarei county, many birds found dead in October 71, cause unknown, but may have been weedkiller on pastures (KR). Common on Whangaparaoa Peninsula winter 71 after years of absence (SC). One sighting in Kinleith exotic forest, July 70 (RGM). Eating gum leaves, August (ATE); coming to guava and puriri Aug-Nov, guava and holly April-May (HRMcK).

N.I. KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*)

Museum specimen from Poroti, west of Whangarei (JFD). Brookby, March 72, one stayed three weeks in a patch of native trees in settled country; Clevedon, Nov 71, two pairs (HRMcK); Redhill, Papakura, June 69, one fed on pohutukawa, kohekohe fruit, small catkins and on datura, splitting flower stalks with its billing, making loud cracking noises, to get sap (BB). Score Road, Gisborne, one in June 72 in a native plantation, far from its normal habitat (AB). Virginia Lake, Wanganui, Oct 67, one (MFO'S). Upper Hutt-Waikanae, Akatarawa road summit, Jan 71, 3 (JAF).

S.I. KAKA (*N. m. meridionalis*)

Nelson, a few in the head of Mackley river, common in the head of Ngakawau river, Buller (JRJ); Lake Rotoiti, Nov 70; many on Cedric Jan 71 (PJ); Takaka hill, west side July 69 (JAC). Otago, one on hillside of Leith valley, Aug 70; July 70, Blue Mountains, close to Beaumont, one (BW).

KEA (*N. notabilis*)

About 1960, D. McMillan, Ngakawau, Buller, lost several racing pigeons and eventually found a kea eating one; kea shot, no

more losses. Autumn 72, J. Hilton reported keas at Breaksea Sound eating seaweed *Hormosira* (JRJ). Clinton watershed, 1970, plentiful throughout, most in head basins (PJS).

CRIMSON ROSELLA (*Platycercus elegans*)

Two reported at edge of Tararua Forest Park near Eketahuna by H. Elder, Sept 71 (IGA).

EASTERN ROSELLA (*P. eximius*)

Awhitu Peninsula, Kohekohe, Jan 70 (MED); Papakura (BB); Waimangu range, Orere (SF). Moumoukai manganese mine road, Oct 71 (TRH). Dunedin, Leith valley, still come in small numbers to feed on flowering wattles in early spring (JWF).

RED-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)

Rare in Tararuas; Jan 71, one at Akatarawa road summit, Upper Hutt - Waikanae (JAF).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*C. auriceps*)

Upper Hutt - Waikanae, Akatarawa summit, 3; Mt Holdsworth track, 4, 1971 (JAF). Cascade Creek, Southland, pair feeding young on nest 31/1/70 (J and MM).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*)

North Auckland, Feb 72, Whangapararoa, one in pines (SR); Whangarei, calling by day and night for a few days (AMM); March 72, two noisy birds at Kerikeri (ATE). Clevedon, Oct 70, calls from bush 2140-2220 hrs, bird not moving (HRMcK). Nelson, Gowan River - Lake Rotorua, 25/4/69 (JAC); Canterbury, Otaio gorge, 1/2/70, 0615 hrs, ten in a flock flying north (RJP). Alexandra town area, one seen 8/4/71 (P. Child).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

Tasman Sea, 33° S, 155° E, in heavy rain and a 30-knot westerly wind, 10/8/72, 2200 hrs, an owl, thought from the description to be the Australian ssp, landed on deck exhausted, and was eventually lost at sea; numerous moths alighted on the vessel at the same time. Report from Weather Forecasting Service (DVM).

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura caudacuta*)

4/12/71, one dead on Himatangi beach, Manawatu (IGA); 9/12/71, one picked up on a farm nine miles from Whakatane, Bay of Plenty (JFA).

N.Z. KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta*)

Far North, Waiharara, March 72, one with a live goldfinch in its bill (GW); Waiuku, May 70, carrying what appeared to be a mouse (MED); Waingaro, Nov 71, attacked a Californian Quail walking in paddock near house (DWH). Mangonui harbour, Aug 70, 30 on mudflats (ATE). Kerikeri, 15/1/71, 5 eggs in nest hole; 18/1/71, nest empty, shells on ground; the pair may have nested again as there was a very young bird on a wire on 26/3/71 (DEC). Te Atatu beaches, regular observations 1968-71, normally only up to 5 listed September - April, but in winter up to 8 (May), 19 (June), 23 (July) and 13 (Aug) (AM). Southland coastal areas, 16 birds recorded in 1965 at 12 localities; 1968, 12 birds at six additional localities (RRS).

KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gigas*)

Otago, one reported at Anderson's Bay 17/2/71; at Sawyers Bay in April, and irregularly through most of winter and spring (GH).

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*)

Increasing and spreading in Northland. Dargaville district, 1971/72 season, 234 occupied nests counted in the strip of land between Tutamoe and Poutu, not including the coastal area. Besides culverts, bridges and cowsheds, nests were found in an old car, an old truck, and built round a projecting nail in an old letter box (LO), in a concrete tank and on a plastic bottle used as a cowshed lampshade (CDC). Flock of 100 at Kaipara March 72 (SR). Sightings at Orewa (MED), Whangaparaoa (SC), Te Atatu (AM); 30 at Albany Ponds Feb 72; Long Bay, young ex nest late November, second clutch 22 Dec 71; Mangere, nested spring and summer 1971 (SR); up to 50 over ponds in winter (BB). Manukau census July 71, 72 birds (HRMcK). Bred at Pollok, sightings at other localities in Waiuku peninsula (MED). Breeding reports from Clevedon, Whakatiri, Te Hoe, and Mangitangi (HRMcK), Onewhero (DMW) and near Pokeno (HSRC). Firth of Thames, few nests but many sightings; count from Miranda to Thames 27/6/71, 49 birds (HRMcK); 28/5/72, about 300 over pools in heavy rain at Miranda-Kaiaua, more than ever seen before (BB). Sightings at Te Kohanga, near Port Waikato (DAL), Naikē (DWH), and 10 at Waimai Dec 71, probably breeding (SR). Sighting 12 miles south of Matamata, Dec 70 (PL); winter flock of 50 at Te Rore, near Te Awamutu (press report). Bay of Plenty, Jan 72, pair at Mount, several round Tauranga harbour, six at Kaituna cut, numerous around Thornton (JHS). Gisborne, Muriwai lagoon, 2 in 1971; May 72, 8 at Coop's lagoon, Muriwai, 4 at Tolaga Bay, 15 at Centennial Marine Drive and later many on pastures on the landward side of the drive (AB). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 13 in Feb and 31 in April 72 (NBM); 1972 report from Dannevirke (IGA). Taranaki, further reports from coastal areas north of New Plymouth, and from Inglewood, Oeo and Auroa (D.G.M.).

Wanganui, 4 at Turakina beach Oct 67; 1969, 4 at Kaitoke Lake and one at Kowhata Lake; winter 1970, sightings at Ratana and at Waitotara beach where another was seen in winter 72, also again at Kaitoke Lake, where in 1971 there were two deserted nests (MFO'S). Manawatu, 1971/72, nesting reported at Otaki, Turakina, Tiritea and many places in between; now occurs from Waikanae to Wanganui, and have been seen in Hutt Valley (IGA). Wairarapa, 2 at Pirinoa Nov 71 (J and MM), one to three seen at Lake Ferry, Palliser Bay, on various occasions Nov 70-May 71 (JAF). West Coast, near Barrytown, four on a floodgate near a bridge, 5/1/72 (JRJ). Marlborough, 23/8/69, 10 at junction of Wairau river and Spring Creek (JAC); 8 at Lake Elterwater Feb 72 (TJT). South Canterbury, nest sites used in 1970 near St Andrews and Otaio were used again in 1971, when another pair reported nesting in a cowshed near Otaio; on 19/1/72 a used nest was found 22 miles inland, 600 ft a.s.l., between Ashburton and Methven and 2 adults and three flying young were seen. Lake Wainono, flocks April-September, 40 in June and 30 in September; one seen a mile south in November. Opihi, 8 in July and 7 in Sept 71; south side of Rakaia mouth, 5 in July 71. Bridges between Timaru and Waimate checked without result; birds

may be using buildings, etc., for nest sites (RJP). Every winter for 3-4 years considerable numbers seen, especially at Waiholā, and in 1970-80 were recorded at Balclutha. In 1971 winter birds seen in many localities including the first record from Waikouaiti, in May: a small flock was still present over a pond at Henley in November (GH). Southland, flocks in several places May-August 71, including 6 at Te Anau in June; two birds at Waimatuku mouth in September, two at West Plains in October, but a search for nests yielded no result. Two birds at Thornbury in Feb 72 and two at Lake George in March; a flock of 30 at Gorge Road in March, and many sightings elsewhere in April 72 (RRS). A flock of nine at Waimatuku mouth on 23/4/72 perched on driftwood and were very reluctant to move, as if they had recently arrived; some of them had throats more golden than rufous (MLB).

N.Z. PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Puhoi, July 72, one with a large swelling on left tarsal joint; ran and flew but appeared to rest every few minutes (RSC). Tararua, Mitre Peak, 5153 ft a.s.l., 5/4/72 (JAF). Rangitāta river, extent of territory apparently 100-150 yards (ML). Catlins, July 70, flock of 26 circling and milling round above a turnip field, calling steadily (GH). Taieri plain round Outram, only in winter; first seen 26/4/71 (GG).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*)

Mitre Peak, Tararua, 5153 ft a.s.l., 5/4/72 (JAF).

N.I. FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata vealeae*)

Pollen Island, one in tea tree (AM); Whitford, in saltmarsh ribbonwood and rushes (HRMcK); Raglan, rushes on mudflats (DWH); Mercer, mixed willow and tea tree swamp 7-20 ft high (DAL); Tokaanu, in scrub (MFO'S); Mt Tongariro southern slope, in scrub above bushline 3000 ft a.s.l. (DAL). Manawatu, Lake Pukepuke, 1971 (IGA).

S.I. FERNBIRD (*B. p. punctata*)

Otago, Takahopa bridge, 5/5/70, single bird in rough pasture and lupins beside car park (GH). Ram Island, Berwick, numerous in heavy Carex swamp areas (HS). Southland, Hokonui ranges, March 71, a good population on tops at about 1600 ft a.s.l. (RRS).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*)

Mid-Canterbury foothill beech forest very few 1971 (RJP). Otago, Takahopa township, April 71, singing quite vigorously but not in full song; day chilly, half overcast (GH). Southland, numerous at Aparimu hut (LEH); Gorge road, occasional sightings of resident birds (SLL); Clinton watershed, small flocks throughout (RRS). Edwards and Jacky Lee Islands, January 72, probably the most common bird; constant chatter and twitter, also a penetrating song, melodious and trilling, as insistent as a chaffinch (MLB).

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala*)

Reported in headwaters of Rakaia and Rangitāta (RJP). JRJ has filed a series of past records.

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*)

Waingaro, 1970, albino around for some weeks (DWH).

N.I. FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis*)

A black bird reported Lake Pukepuke, Manawatu, 1971 (IGA).

S.I. FANTAIL (*R. f. fuliginosa*)

Marlborough, Ward, nest of black and pied partly constructed 17/8/69, abandoned after light rain (TJT). Nelson, Apr 72, one held a moth between foot and perch while it tore the moth apart; twice the moth was dislodged and dropped but caught within 18 inches of fall. The bird had previously spent much time and effort trying to brush the moth apart by scraping it across a branch with its bill; ref. *Notornis* 18, p. 201 (FHB). One feeding on pine forest floor among pine needles, Aug 71. In Oct 71 parent fantails chased a bellbird as it approached 50 yards from three fledgling fantails sitting like lovebirds on a branch in manuka scrub; the fantails followed the bellbird 20 ft over and 100 ft beyond the fledglings (JRJ). Outram, May 71, one with white wings and tail; the rest of the normally dark parts of the plumage were uniform pale fawn; it was flitting among elderberry bushes and twice alighted on the ground where some periwinkles were growing (GG).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*)

Stewart Island, Kidney Fern Arm, 14/1/68, feeding three chicks, 4 times in 10 minutes (MLB).

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Petroica australis australis*)

Nelson, Wangapeka track April 71, feeding on berries of lawyer (*Rubus parvus*) — JRJ, who has filed a series of past locality records. Lake Ohau, parent feeding chick 12/1/72 (WTP). Clinton valley watershed 1970, a few, widely scattered (PJS).

STEWART ISLAND ROBIN (*P. a. rakiura*)

Edwards and Jacky Lee Islands, 21/1/72; sharp demanding song (MLB).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

Eating berries of cotoneaster and pyrocantha, Kerikeri (ATE). Whangarei, 1971, a nest with 4 eggs was deserted but later three eggs were laid on top of the fourcold eggs (PS). Ashburton, 15/8/71, a pair building in a Jasmine vine on the side of a broken down shed, using dry grass and a dry cabbage tree leaf; heavy rain soaked the nest and stopped building. Five days later the birds took the nest to pieces and dropped all the material inside the shed; by 3/9/71 a new nest was almost completed, using all the old material they had dropped, though there was no shortage of other material nearby; 3 chicks were reared (ML).

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*)

Whangarei, 1971, nest practically on the ground (PS). Waiuku, 15/10/71, 5 eggs laid on bare dirt in garden; male jumping up and down in one spot, possibly to disturb grubs and worms; 20/7/71, one flying up and pecking at a car bumper for several minutes (MED). Ardmore, 4/5/72, female flying with beak full of nest material; Auckland, Mt Eden, male blackbird twice seen to come to a thrush's nest in an almost leafless climbing rose bush and feed nearly feathered young thrushes (HRMcK).

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Waitakere, Auckland, June 1972, one with head and primaries bright yellow, tail pale yellow, back and upper wing coverts buff,

sides of breast as normal (SR). Tararua, Mitre Peak, 5153 ft, April 72 (JAF). Wellington, Oct 71, another silvereye found with pox infection (PCB). Ward, May-June 70, 3-400 in turnip paddock (TJT). Nelson, late January 72, bird A arrived in branches of an elm about 15 ft up, and remained still; it then turned half left and bowed deeply, head below level of perch, head back and tail in a straight line; slowly recovered to original position, turned half right and bowed as before. Bird B arrived and perched 12 inches above A, showing signs of agitation. A continued bowing performance for some time with pauses between bows; B appeared concerned, hopped from branch to branch never more than 18 inches from A, and watching it; after a longer pause than usual A fluffed its feathers, shook them back into place and both birds flew off through the trees (FHB).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)

Singles sighted Bream Head Feb 72 (AMM), Whangaparaoa August 71 (SR), Moumoukai (Clevedon) Nov 71 (HRMcK). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, feeding young on ground, Nov 70 (PJ). Rakaia, August, taking nectar of *Grevillea rosmarinifolia* (JRJ). Stewart Island, Bellbirds come first to flowers of native fuchsia; Tuis come later and Bellbirds recede; seen on astelia and ornamental fuchsias, blue gums, rata, flax; pick insects from near and on ground as might Pied Tits (OS).

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*)

Manawatu, Feb 69, coming back to farms after raising young in the hills (IGA). Nelson, April 70, three Tuis, one sleek and composed, while the other two kept up an agitated follow-my-leader movement, hopping from branch to branch with feathers fluffed out and uttering the cluck call, first one and then the other. This call is a single low-pitched note repeated 6-7 times at fairly regular $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ second intervals (FHB). My first sighting at Lake Alexandrina, one in willows, Jan 70 (RJP). Middlemarch, not seen in 20 years but one in Nov 71 (Mrs Illingworth). Upper residential part of Leith valley, plentiful, but absent spring and early summer; seems not yet to be adapting to exotic plantations and gardens, generally confined to the few areas of native forest around the city (GH). Stewart Island, Ackers Point, spring 70, at 1600 hrs 80 birds arrived as a flock, flew low overhead and settled, some on manuka and gorse; excited, twittered and fluttered, later dispersed to trees. Other flocks reported, Greendale (100), Golden Bay (100) in fuchsias, some settled on ground; Horseshoe Bay (60). Could this have been an invasion from the mainland (OS).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Nov 68, pecking at its own reflection in hub cap of a car (DWH). 5 miles ESE of Cape Campbell, 1550 hrs, 3/6/72, weather fine, wind SSE 25 knots, one flying 5-10 ft above sea, first to south, later to north and close alongside ship (JRJ).

CIRL BUNTING (*E. cirrus*)

Gisborne, a pair, 25/10/71 (AB).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Eating pyrocantha berries, May, Kerikeri (ATE). Jan 72, two sightings in Arthur's Pass National Park, the first I have seen there (JRJ).

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*)

D'Urville Island, Jan 72, a nest in a tool box on the floor of a shed which housed the motor for driving a circular saw, and was open at one end; a second box placed at right angles on top of the tool box formed a roof and the nest was well hidden underneath the top box, placed in the curled end of a dried octopus tentacle which had fallen into the box and formed a circle about 75 mm. across; the nest was made of sheep's wool with three pine needles and five macrocarpa twigs woven into the outside layer. Two young were reared. Plenty of good alternative nest sites in the area, but presence of a semi-wild cat and seven wekas may have been the reason for selection of this unusual nest site (ML).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Tararua, Mitre Peak, 5153 ft, 5/4/72 (JAF); Waitarere, 10 with yellow polls 29/1/69 (J and MM).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Clevedon, a white bird probably 6½ years old in 1972 (HRMcK); the Levin cinnamon bird apparently disappeared at age 6 (EBJ).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Instant nest site selection at Invercargill; a pre-fabricated annexe room, transported 5 miles from the builders arrived on back lawn late afternoon 13/10/70. Part of the tiled roof had been left unfitted for ease of handling in transport. Within half an hour of the contractors finishing work for the day two starlings were vigorously engaged in carrying nest material and placing it under the tiled roof (RRS).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

One present 3 miles north of Dargaville for about three weeks July - August 70 (CDC). April 71, one off Poutu, flying north over the sea above a flight of oystercatchers (RF). Waiuku, no reports 24/9/70 to 2/7/72 (MED). Miranda, 16/11/69 to 28/2/71, up to 18 seen, appearing sporadically; up to 5 nests but only two seem to have raised young (HRMcK); Mangitangi, according to farmer one or two birds present for many years, up to 6 in 1965; 19 on 19/8/71 (DAL). Mamaku-Rotorua highway, 1715 hrs on 17/9/72, two birds seen at Tarukenga; flew across road and circled a grove of eucalypts before alighting; positive identification (EJC). Manawatu, 1971, Cheltenham colony survives, September; others located in Waitotara area (IGA); 11 rooks near Palmerston North reared 13 young in a grove of gums (EJC). Pirinoa, Wairarapa, 6/11/71, 14 (J and MM). Marlborough, 24/3/70, one chased by Starlings near Lake Elterwater (TJT); winter 1972, one near Kaikoura (JAC). Otago, Middlemarch, 5 in 1968, 8-11 in 1971; fed on oats put out for sheep in winter (Mrs Illingworth); Sutton, said to have bred for five years in a group of poplars and pines a mile north of railway station, increasing from 2 to 16; 11 rose from willows on 29/11/70. The most southerly colony so far recorded in New Zealand. Poisoning around Christchurch seems to be correlated with a general dispersal and small rookeries set up elsewhere (GH).