

## CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Compiled by A. T. EDGAR

Selected extracts from notes supplied to the Recording Scheme during 1972/3. This series includes observations by Dr J. A. Fowler during a voyage on U.S. Coast Guard icebreaker from McMurdo Sound to New Zealand in February/March 1973; references have been abbreviated in the text to "McMurdo-NZ" (see also article in this issue of *Notornis*).

A correction to *Notornis* 19:357 appears under Black-billed Gull.

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E. & O. E.

### NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*)

Waitangi Forest, June 73, one wandered across the road from a young pine plantation and was bitten when it approached too close to a farm dog-kennel (ATE). East of Whangarei, 2/8/73, nest burrow with two eggs in the dead material at the base of a clump of pampas grass, in an area of fern and eupatorium 200 yards from bush

(CSK, RSC). Heard in bush near Papakura, May 72, and around Opoutere Mar/Apr 74 (BB). Gisborne-East Coast, Oct 73, one seen crossing the road by night near the summit of the Whareratas (AB).

**STEWART ISLAND KIWI** (*A. a. lawryi*)

Nov 71, Doughboy and Mason Bays, birds seen at night feeding on the beach along high water mark; one daylight record, 0800 hrs, SW arm of Paterson Inlet (JAF).

**EMPEROR PENGUIN** (*Aptenodytes forsteri*)

McMurdo Sound, c. 30 gathering on ice floes 23/2/73 (JAF).

**YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN** (*Megadyptes antipodes*)

One in Lyttelton Harbour 28/10/72 (GJW); rare at Akaroa (PC); Ashburton, 15/3/73, a young bird on a farm 4 miles from the sea, lively, plump and tame; attached itself to me after being photographed, and was taken back to the coast (ML). Hinahina Cove, Catlins, last week of August 71, 61 came ashore 1700-1745 hrs; some had come in earlier and others still coming in when I left (DC). Stewart Island, common on north coast of Bench Island, c. 25 near camp site evening of 20/11/71 (GJW).

**ADELIE PENGUIN** (*Pygoscelis adeliae*)

McMurdo Sound, single juvenile present 23/2/73 (JAF).

**BLUE PENGUIN** (*Eudyptula minor*)

Far North, c. 2000 birds dead on east and west coast beaches, August 73 (D. E. Crockett). Bench Islands, Stewart Island, night of 20/11/71, over 50 near camp site on north coast (GJW).

**ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN** (*Eudyptes cristatus*)

Otago Peninsula 17/2/72, one in part moult, confirmed by Sir Robert Falla (AW).

**FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN** (*E. p. pachyrhynchus*)

Moulting birds Otago Peninsula mid-Feb 72 (AW) and two presumed moulting at Nuggets 3/3/73 (GH). Acker's Point, Stewart Island, Nov 71, one seen and heard at the entrance to a presumed breeding cavern (JAF).

**SNARES CRESTED PENGUIN** (*E. p. atratus*)

Single birds seen at Tautuku Peninsula, Otago, on 28/2/72, and at Breaksea Group, Stewart Island, on 2/2/72 (GJW).

**ERECT CRESTED PENGUIN** (*E. p. sclateri*)

Whangarei Heads, Feb 73, an immature bird in its full moult; ate sandhoppers and occasionally fished at high tide; not troubled by dogs but worried by visitors; two local children caught sprats for it and guarded it over a busy weekend (LWD).

Reports of moulting birds from various localities on Otago coast Feb-Apr 72 (AW, DC, RJP). One ashore on Big Bungaree beach, Stewart Island, 24/4/72 (GJW).

**SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE** (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Nelson, Lake Daniels, Richard Jenkins saw one 1/1/73; DVZ confirms occasionally seen on this lake. Lake Clearwater, Rangitata valley, pair feeding half grown young on 26/4/71 (FH).

**N.Z. DABCHICK** (*P. rufopectus*)

Poutu, Lake Kanono, 7/4/73, 28 (RAF). Muriwai Lakes, Feb 73, 67 (SMR). Kohekohe, South Pahiakura Lake, 28/10/72, two seen, display observed (MED). Rotorua, Sea Scout Hall to Sulphur Point,

7/5/72, 35 (RWJ). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, 6 on 27/3/73, last sighting was in July 72; 14/7/73, two pairs; one pair displaying, heads held high and waving in a snake-like manner, side by side; this appeared to be the end of the ceremony, of which I did not see the beginning (EBJ). Marton sewage pond, 7/4/73, 19 (HAR, IGA). Waikanae, one Jan-Mar 73 (JAF). Carterton sewage ponds, 6/7/71, one, the first recorded here; Lake Domain near Featherston, one on 9/8/71, the first seen here in many years' observation (RHDS). Masterton sewage ponds, 11/3/73, 25 (BDH, RHDS); 7/4/73, 35, some in juvenile plumage (RHDS); 29/4/73, 40 (BDH); 2/5/73, 34 (RHDS).

#### AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE (*P. novaehollandiae*)

Farm pond near Dargaville, a pair stayed from August to October 72; first discovered by Patrick Miller, subsequently watched and photographed by various observers (CDC). Lake Okareka, one present Feb/March 73 (Press report, RMW). See *Notornis* 20 (3) for further details.

#### WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*)

Immature close inshore at Wairoa mouth, Hawke's Bay, 10/1/72 (AB). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 59°S on 27/2/73 and intermittently thereafter till NZ coast when numbers built up to 50 plus together (JAF).

#### GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*D. chrysostoma*)

McMurdo-NZ, first sighting 66°S, 25/2/73; intermittently thereafter till 49°S (JAF).

#### BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*D. bulleri*)

One came down in a Dunedin street 13/6/72; released off Taiaroa Head. Immature found dead at Earnsclough near Alexandra, 80 miles from sea, 9/9/73 (AW).

#### *Diomedea* sp.

Voyage Wellington-Lyttleton, 1/1/73, hourly counts gave a total of 14 *D. exulans*, 2 *D. melanophris*, 4 *D. chrysostoma*. Voyage Lyttleton-Wellington, 2/6/73, hourly counts gave a total of 97 *D. exulans* plus many in Cook Strait, not counted because of failing light; one *D. cauta cauta* and one *D. bulleri* (JRJ). Fiordland coast between Doubtful Sound and Preservation Inlet, 14-16/4/73, 7 *D. epomophora*, dozens of *D. bulleri* and 7 *D. cauta cauta* (DGM).

#### LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

One came down in Anzac Avenue, Dunedin, 15/6/72; the same bird was recovered in Raglan four days later (AW). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 72°S on 24/2/73 and continuously thereafter till 50°S, reaching peaks of 25 together at 68°S and at 52°S (JAF).

#### GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*)

A white phase bird at Ngauranga, Wellington, 19-21/9/72 (HLS). Voyage Wellington-Lyttleton, 1/1/73, hourly counts total 88, 20 of these by Barrett's Reef and 30 off Godley Head; Lyttleton-Wellington, 2/6/73, 57, 30 of these off Hurunui mouth (JRJ). Doubtful Sound-Chalky Inlet, 14-16/4/73, 3 (DGM). Effluent outlet of Ocean Beach Freezing Works, Invercargill, 26/5/73, 210 (MLB). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 74°S on 24/2/73 and intermittently in small numbers thereafter to NZ coast (JAF).

**ANTARCTIC FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialisoides*)**

Far North beaches, Sept 73, 16 (D. E. Crockett). Muriwai beach, 9/9/73, 4 (SMR). Wellington West coast Sept 73, 13 (JAF). Three storm wrecked on Manawatu coast Oct-Nov 72 (HAR, IGA). Cook Strait, one sighted from Picton ferry, 21/7/73 (HLS). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 67°S on 25/2/73 and thereafter in small numbers only as far as 66°S (JAF).

**ANTARCTIC PETREL (*Thalassoica antarctica*)**

McMurdo-NZ, c. 50 off Cape Adare, 71°30'S, and continuously in reducing numbers till last bird sighted at 66°30'S (JAF). Oreti Beach, Southland, 13/10/73, one corpse (MLB).

**CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*)**

Bay of Islands, 18/9/72, 8 seen off Cape Brett (D. E. Calvert), Wellington-Lyttelton, 1/1/73, one off Pegasus Bay; Lyttelton-Wellington, 2/6/73, 89 (JRJ). 14/4/73, 4 between Doubtful and Breaksea Sounds; 16/4/73, several hundred Chalky Inlet-Dusky Sound (DGM). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 68°S on 25/2/73, peak of 50 at 66°S, thereafter in small numbers to NZ coast (JAF).

**SNOW PETREL (*Pagodroma nivea*)**

Feb 73, observed more or less continuously from McMurdo to 71°S wherever there was extensive freshly frozen brash ice; maximum of c. 75 at 75°S; last few birds observed in open ocean (JAF).

**GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*)**

Bay of Islands, islet off Moturoa, 26/4/73, birds coming in from 1830 hours, uttering squeaky notes "kik-kik-kik," "kee-ik," and "kee-ik kukke-ik"; a quiet "si-si-si" note from birds on the ground and an occasional rather muffled "oo-ii" (D. E. Calvert, ATE). Fresh burrows on Motuarohia, 9/7/72 (GW). Manukau Heads, juvenile with down found below lighthouse, 14/9/72; scattered burrows on this west coast may be of this species (MED). Bay of Plenty, Ohope west end, on a point, c. 10 occupied burrows on 20/8/73 (RMW).

**WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*P. lessoni*)**

Exhausted bird on Papakura lawn 10/5/73 (BB). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting 68°S on 25/2/73, continuously in fair numbers (15 together at 62°S) to 49°S (JAF).

**MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpectata*)**

Dusky Sound, largest of Shag Islands, 14/4/73, many burrows, feathers at burrow entrances, one addled and one broken egg (DGM). McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 69°S on 25/2/73, continuously in small numbers till 50°S (JAF).

**KERGUELEN PETREL (*P. brevirostris*)**

Sept 73, unprecedented number storm-wrecked; 34 on Northland beaches (D. E. Crockett), 21 on Muriwai beach (SMR), 26 on Wellington beaches; total recoveries probably at least 100 (PR). Oreti Beach, Southland, 13/10/73, one corpse (MLB).

**GOULD'S PETREL (*P. leucoptera*)**

One alive at Titahi Bay, 4/5/73, handed to National Museum (JAF).

**BLUE PETREL (*Halobaena caerulea*)**

July 73, seven dead on Northland east coast beaches (D. E. Crockett). 7 on Muriwai beach, 9/9/73 (SMR). Wellington West

coast, Sept 73, 10 (JAF). 6/8/73, one ashore alive Otago Harbour, banded and released Taiaroa Head (AW).

**ANTARCTIC PRION** (*Pachyptila desolata*)

A specimen of Auckland Island Prion (*P. d. alter*) found in Lower Hutt Valley March 73, handed to National Museum. McMurdo-NZ, first sighting at 64°S on 26/2/73 and in fair numbers, up to 20, to 50°S (JAF).

**FAIRY PRION** (*P. turtur*)

Stewart Island, Nov 71, no burrows located but living birds caught at night with a torch and remains of cat-killed(?) victims scattered around Acker's Point headland (JAF).

**GREY PETREL** (*Procellaria cinerea*)

Lake Ellesmere, Taumutu, one picked up on 3/1/73, confirmed by R. Scarlett (RJP). McMurdo-NZ, small numbers sighted on 28/3/73 between 56°S and 55°S (JAF).

**WHITE-CHINNED PETREL** (*P. aequinoctalis*)

McMurdo-NZ, first sighting, 1/3/73, at 52°30'S, c. 25, off Campbell Island, thereafter in small numbers to NZ coast (JAF).

**FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus carneipes*)

Bay of Islands, Black-backed Gulls and Flesh-footed Shearwaters gather round the launch for fish guts; sometimes when a gull rises from the water with a length of gut a shearwater will zoom up from behind and take the gut from the gull. Two shearwaters were tugging at a herring thrown from the boat, one by the head and one by the tail; a gannet flying fast and low over the water came between them and took the disputed herring (D. E. Calvert). About ten off Otago coast 3/3/73, increasing to several hundred north to Cook Strait (JAF).

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*P. griseus*)

Manawatu estuary, 27/12/72, large numbers passing north, estimated 1,000 from 0700-0800 hrs (J & MM). Doubtful Sound-Breaksea Sound, 14/4/73, several thousand (DGM). Nuggets, 3/3/73, a large flock from the south seethed around an area half a mile north of the lighthouse and streamed back southwards, passing between the outer stacks (GH). McMurdo-NZ, sighted at 62°S on 26/2/72, increasing to several hundreds off Campbell Island and in smaller numbers to N.Z. coast (JAF).

**SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER** (*P. tenuirostris*)

A bird picked up on Wellington West coast in May 73 had a very white underwing and could have been mistaken for *griseus* if the head had been damaged (PR).

**FLUTTERING SHEARWATER** (*P. gavia*)

Bay of Islands, 16/6/73, 3-4,000 between Moturoa and Motuaroa (D. E. Calvert).

**ALLIED SHEARWATER** (*P. assimilis*)

Over 100 storm-wrecked on Northland east coast bays after storms in July 73 (D. E. Crockett).

**WILSON'S STORM PETREL** (*Oceanites oceanicus*)

McMurdo-NZ, small numbers (1-2) seen continuously from 72°S on 24/2/73 to 59°S (JAF).

**GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL** (*Garrodia nereis*)

One killed by hitting a ferris wheel at Alexandra Blossom Festival, Sept 73 (AW).

**WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL** (*Pelagodroma marina*)

Chatham, 8/11/72, thousands landed on a fishing vessel anchored off SE Island and many laid eggs on board that night (GJW).

**BLACK-BELLIED STORM PETREL** (*Fregetta tropica*)

McMurdo-NZ, seen in small numbers (1-2) between 52°30'S on 1/3/73 and 48°S (JAF).

**DIVING PETREL** (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*)

McMurdo-NZ, seen in fair numbers (5-10) between 59°S on 27/2/73 and 52°30'S (JAF).

**AUSTRALIAN GANNET** (*Sula bassana*)

9/10/72, shortly after high tide, three diving about a mile upstream from the mouth of Hutt River, which was relatively clean after a weekend (CAF). Fiordland coast, Apr 73, 7 sighted between Breaksea Sound and Preservation Inlet (DGM). Nuggets, 3/3/73, c. 10, on outermost stack, probably one or two juveniles (GH). Seldom seen around Stewart Island; Feb 72, one off East Cape, one in Paterson Inlet (GJW).

**BROWN BOOBY** (*S. leucogaster*)

Bay of Islands, one on 23/10/72 (D. E. Calvert).

**BLACK SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Firth of Thames, 1972/3, summer count 90, winter count 168, but over 500 at Miranda in April 73 (HRMcK); Opoutere, usually 2-3, but 11 in April 73 (BB). Hawke's Bay, Whakaki lagoon, 31/3/73, 78 (AB); Westshore, 7/4/73, 53 (NBM). Otago, Taieri Gorge, evening flight, June 1966, up to 19; May-June 1970, up to 38 (GAG).

**PIED SHAG** (*P. varius*)

Bay of Islands, Tangetu colony, 12/10/71, 49 nests in two pohutukawas (D. E. Calvert); Kerikeri, seasonal lake, young birds left nests in old maimai Feb 72; nests in a tall wattle and in tall manuka on lake fringe, May-July; mixed colony, *varius* and *melanoleucos*, in manuka fringe Nov-Dec 72 (ATE). Tutakaka, 29/8/72, c. 50, with about 10 Little Shags, large young in nests (MED). Auckland, Panmure Bridge colony dwindling, 3 nests and 25 birds on 27/5/73; Orakei Basin colony increasing, 60-70 birds and at least 15-20 nests in July 73; new colony started Nov 72, School Creek, Lucerne Road, Remuera, 3 nests, 5 chicks reared; another nest being built March 73 (SMR). Waikato, Lake Rotokauri, one seen 24/6/73 (DW). Waikanae, singles on 27/5/73 (MLF) and 4/6/73 (CAF); a rare bird in this region. Occasional at Akaroa (PC); two at sea north of Godley Head 2/6/73 (JR). Fiordland coast, 5 between Breaksea Sound and Preservation Inlet, April 73 (DGM).

**LITTLE BLACK SHAG** (*P. sulcirostris*)

Waitangi, Bay of Islands, 30 on 16/7/72, dives timed at 3-11 seconds (GW). Auckland, Orakei Basin, winter numbers fluctuate from 12-200, peak in first week of May (SMR); Helen's Bay, 7/7/72, 200 flying east at half tide. Waiuku Peninsula, 117 on reef at mouth of Taiheke River at high tide on 3/7/72 and probably the same group at Pollok Spit on 4/7/72 (MED). Hawke's Bay, Westshore, 43 on 7/4/73 (NBM). Wanganui, Virginia Lake, only 1-4, May-July 72 (MFO'S). Manawatu, 12 at estuary 20/5/72 J & MM), 12 at Lake Horowhenua, 29/6/72 (EBJ). Several at Lake Heaton, one at Marton sewage pond, April 73 (IGA). Waikanae, 4 on 4/6/73 (CAF).

Wellington Harbour, 19 on 28/5/73, still present in July; probably the largest flock recorded here (JAF).

**LITTLE SHAG** (*P. melanoleucos*)

Pied phase birds with white patches on wing coverts at Kerikeri and Kaimaumau, May and June 72 (ATE). Auckland, new colony established Aug-Sept 72 near Orakei Bridge in pohutukawa trees, 13 nests with chicks and sitting birds on 16/10/72 (SMR). Opoutere Sept 69, 21 birds working a shoal and over-flying as do Little Blacks (BB). Hawke's Bay, Westshore, 7/4/73, Little Pied 4, White-fronted 47 (NBM). Peninsula side of Otago Harbour, 28/10/72, pied phase 10, white-throated adults or young in black plumage 110 (GH).

**STEWART ISLAND SHAG** (*Leucocarbo carunculatus chalconotus*)

Dead birds, Waitaki mouth, bronze phase, one in June, two in July 72; one pied phase near Cape Wanbrow (IAMCV). Islet off Shag Point, up to 10, both phases, 25/6/72 (GJW). Taiaroa colony 1971, building early June, first egg 17th July (AW). Nuggets 3/3/73, two pied, six bronze; behaviour of two suggested parent and chick (GH).

**CHATHAM ISLAND SHAG** (*L. c. onslowi*)

Colony near Cape Fournier, 20/11/72, 40-45 nests, 78 adults, one juvenile, c. 50 chicks, some quite large; some birds apparently still incubating. Brood size 1-3, most 2-3 chicks (GJW).

**SPOTTED SHAG** (*Stictocarbo punctatus*)

Hauraki Gulf, 19/11/72, c. 2,000 round Tarakihi, etc., hundreds in Ponui Passage. Firth of Thames, Tarata Point, 5/7/73, 330 (HRMcK). One at Wanganui, 27/5/72 (MFO'S), one at Waikanae 4/6/73 (CAF). Wellington Harbour, Feb-Oct 72, maximum 10 on 18/8/72 (J & MM). Nuggets, 3/3/73, 200 plus, many in immature plumage, one bird feeding two large downy young (GH).

**BLUE SHAG** (*S. p. steadi*)

Stewart Island; Bench Island, several nesting colonies on cliffs of south coast; eggs laid in many nests and one attempt at copulation observed 11/11/71 (GJW). Jensen's Bay, a few nests 24/8/72, 50 (no eggs), 1/9/72, when birds fully crested; 26/10/72, 100 plus nests, of which seven inspected, six with two and one with a single egg. 13/2/73, 15 birds on cliff at the nesting site (Mrs Peggy Wilson).

**LESSER FRIGATE BIRD** (*Fregata ariel*)

Hauraki Gulf, 7/1/73, two birds chasing White-fronted Terns; white patches clearly visible under wings of one bird (JAB).

**WHITE-FACED HERON** (*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

Raoul Island, one present 9/3/73 till 3/4/73. A dead bird on the beach 23/4/73. Another arrived on 7/5/73, seen daily until July, feeding with hens and pigs; mid-July, two birds seen flying together over the sea (CSK). Awanui Harbour, c. 100 in 1970, c. 200 in 1973 winter (MH). Mangonui, 5/3/73, two birds hunting crickets in long grass; watching position was semi-erect, neck vertical as far as the kink, basal part of neck pulsating; slow steps forward, body and neck lowered, quick stab into grass, cricket captured and swallowed. Kerikeri Inlet, 14/4/72, 65 (ATE). Waitangi, 24/8/72, 25 (GW). Waiotira, first appeared 1961; 1/5/73, 30 (TGL). Manukau Harbour winter counts 1972 and 1973, 368 and 388; Firth of Thames summer counts 1971 and 1972, 152 and 208 (HRMcK); 63 on a

paddock, Thames airfield, 1973 (WFC). Te Aroha, May 73, 14 (G. Hunt); Kawhia, June 73, 23 (DW). Tauranga, Tanner's Point, 23/4/73, 30 flying from mudflats to roost in pine trees (JFC). 15/7/72, c. 70 in a paddock 5 miles north of Opotiki, and c. 80 in a paddock two miles further north (AB). Hawke's Bay, Westshore, 7/4/73, 39 (NBM). Canterbury, Lake Wainono, 4/2/73, 70; New Year 73, singles at Godley mouth, Macauley River and Tasman valley; Ashburton south branch 9/12/72, 3 about exotic plantation (RJP). Breeding Lakes Heron and Clearwater 1972 (ML). West Wanaka, Ewing's Bay, 26/6/71, flock of 33 feeding on sheep pasture — the biggest flock I have seen in Central Otago; West Matukituki Valley 10/3/73, two immatures at 2800 ft a.s.l. (PC). Middlesmarch, 11/11/72, nest 20 ft in large crack willow among rookery trees, one young bird which spent half an hour in vertical position while we were around (GH). Outram, 27/7/71, 26 in a paddock (GAG). Port Molyneux, 24/2/73, 27; Lake Tuakitoto north end, 24/2/73, 50 (RJP). Nugget Point, 3/3/73, 2; Takahopa estuary, 19/1/73, 4 (GH). Chathams, one on S.E. Island 6/11/72 (GJW).

#### WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*)

Rangaunu Bay, May-July 73, up to 10 birds; Houhora, one in May 73 (MH, RHM, ATE). Kaipara, one at Paratai, Jan 73 (RSC), one at Tikinui, July 73 (BC); 7 at Jordan's 16/9/73 (RBS). Pollen Island, Te Atatu, one on 28/9/72 (MED); one at Karaka 9/9/72 (HRMcK). Waikato River, 3-4 birds 4-7 miles upstream from mouth, winter 73 (RCB, PS). Kawhia Harbour, 19/5/72, one (TAB); Lake Waikare, 9/7/72, 11 (BB); 15/10/72, 12, plus 2 at Lake Kimihia, seen by F. V. Thompson; Clevedon lower river, one in winter, same bird on 19/2/73 (HRMcK). Miranda, one, 15/10/72-10/12/72, two on 29/10/72; one in June and July 73 (HRMcK, BB, WFC). Ohiwa Harbour, one on 19/8/73 (RMW). Hawke's Bay, 13/5/72, 4 at Ahuriri (KVT); 30/9/72, 2 at Westshore (BB); 25/4/73, one at Ahuriri, one at Anderson Park, Napier (KVT). One at Lake Pauatahanui 6/5/72; Foxton "loop," one 29/3/72-4/11/72 (J & MM); Lake Horowhenua, one May-July 73 (EBJ). Marlborough, one at Lake Elterwater, 19/3/73 (JAT); 4 at Lower Opawa River, 19/5/73 (ES). Westport, single birds on 23/8/72 (RJP) and 12/5/73 (JJ). Upper Lake Heron Station, two for about two weeks in Sept 70, three for about two weeks in Sept 72 (per JRI). Merton, late July 72, one with plumes (MG); one throughout summer 72/73 and perhaps the same bird at Hawkesbury lagoon (GH et al). Winter 71, one at Wanaka (JA). Lower Leith Valley 21/8/71, two birds, the larger with scapular plumes and small upstanding feathers on the head, yellow bill, face yellow above and blue green below eye, legs grey; the smaller had no plumes and a smaller area of facial skin, but the same pattern (GH); June 71, two white herons wheeling slowly round at 3-400 ft above University, harried by Black-backed Gulls (RFG). Titiri, Dec 72, 2 (GH); Otanemomo, 14/4/73, one (WTP); Tetford, 3/4/73 onwards, one in pond in front of Training School (DC).

#### LITTLE EGRET (*E. garzetta*)

One at Mangere 29/4/73 (SMR). Maioro, Waiuku, one on 23/6/72 and on 3/8/72, with a Cattle Egret (HRMcK). Waikato estuary, one on 28/6/72; Lake Waikare 9/7/72, one with White Herons (BB) and a probable sighting by F. V. Thompson on 15/10/72 (HRMcK).



Hawke's Bay, Westshore, one on 13/5/72, 2 on 25/6/72 (KVT); 30/9/72, 2, one with plumes; stirred water with back and forth motion, wading deeply while feeding (BB); two still present on 3/2/73 but only one seen on 7/4/73 (KVT). Hutt River, 28/3/73, one with an aberrant pale creamy yellow lower mandible (JAF). Saltwater creek near Ashley River, one on 19/8/72; Waikouaiti, one on 9/2/73 and 18/3/73 (RJP). Merton, one late July 72 (MG); apparently present through summer, nuptial plumes noted 14/1/73 (GAG). Titiri, one in Dec 72 (GH). Catlins Lake, 31/12/72, one with plumes (DC).

#### REEF HERON (*E. sacra*)

Northland, 1973, reports from Waipu (TGL), Oakura and Mokau (RAF). Wattle Bay, Manukau Heads; Graham's Beach; Te Toro Point, two on a launch, all 1972 (MED). Waiuku and Waikato Heads, 1973 (HRMcK); Port Waikato, 20/5/71, 3 (BB); Kawhia, May 73 (LT); Maraetai (2), Kawakawa Bay, Kaiaua, Taramaire, Orongo, 1973 (HRMcK); Opoutere, 3 on 27/1/73 (BB); Tanner's Point, Tauranga, 8/1/73, two, one feeding in a shallow channel; a third bird flew in and appeared to chase the feeding bird; they circled twice, then flew off, flying much faster than usual (JFC); Little Waihi, 1972 (RWJ). Rangitikei estuary, March 72 (J & MM). Akaroa, Dec 72 (PC). Otago, Shag Point, 26/6/72, 3 (GJW); Aramoana, Feb 73, flying at 100 ft above flats (RJP); False Island, March 73 (DC).

#### CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Far north, June 73, two reports, each of a single bird, at Waipapakauri and later at Kaitia (RHM); unconfirmed press report of three birds at Waipapakauri a few days later. South Kaipara Head, one, 23-26 May 73 (MAW). Waiuku, one on 3/8/72, no colour (HRMcK). Lake Wahi, 23/2/73, 3 (PH). Rotorua, Owata, 24/5/73, 3 in a paddock feeding on crickets and worms, when not feeding adopted a hunched position; yellowish orange bills, grey-green legs and feet (MW, JMN). Manawatu, 29/7/72, one which had been on a farm 6 miles west of Palmerston North for some months seen feeding on worms, 17 in a minute (HAR); two seen at Baines first seen on 19/5/73 (EJC) and on nearby farms in the following week; possibly the same two reported from Lake Horowhenua, 27/6/73; three on 7 & 14/7/73 (EBJ). Akura, Masterton, 19/4/73, one, joined later by another; feeding among cows, preening in a ditch, and flying about 400 yards to perch in a willow tree; both birds left the following day (RHDS, MD). Lower Opawa River, Blenheim, two on 19/5/73 (ES); Kaikoura, 8-28/6/73, two in suburban area associating with dairy herds (JAC). Southland, Woodend, 11/11/72, one in breeding plumage, 2 in eclipse 9/6/73 (MLB). May 1973, 2 at Lillburn Valley, one at Wallacetown, 2 at Kapuka, near Waituna Lagoon. Regular sightings of a single bird about Borstal farm through winter 73; one, probably the same bird, found dead at West Plains 7/8/73, alleged to have been killed by Black-backed Gulls which had been chasing it the previous day (RRS).

#### AUSTRALIAN BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Mangamuka, 27/5/72, a dark bird crouched near some rushes in a raupo fringed paddock at 0900 hrs; from time to time it extended its neck forwards and downwards and remained still in this position

for some minutes, after which it relaxed and retracted its neck. At just before dusk the same evening the bird was in exactly the same place (ATE). Waipu, 11/5/72, pair circling over their territory calling (TGL). Muriwai Lakes, 1969 count of 7 was made in bad weather conditions; count in Feb '73, 34 (SMR). Awhitu Peninsula, 28/10/72, one booming; at first head held low near the ground and brought back towards the body as the boom is uttered; the pumping action decreases in speed as the calls become louder and louder (MED). Lower Waikato River, 26/6/72, one eating a 9 inch eel (BB). Tauranga Harbour, Tanner's Point, 22/4/73, two flushed from saltmarsh circled several times over the edge of the mudflats then flew at 40 ft to Matakana Island 2½ miles away (JFC). Lake Beamish, 7/4/73, a bittern flew low over a group of four Paradise ducks which pursued it, protesting; the bittern flew on and landed 200 yards away and the ducks returned, only to fly right away when a harrier flew high overhead a few minutes later (IGA). Gladfield swamps, Taieri Plain, 7/8/72, one in full view on short grass (GH).

#### GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Mahia, Mangawhī Lagoon, 19 & 26/11/72, one (GF). Manawatu, Lake Pukepuke, one present for about a month prior to sighting of 4 by J. Craig on 7/3/73 (IGA). Nelson Waimea River estuary, three on 14/10/72 and observed at intervals over the following weeks (FHB).

#### ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Bay of Islands, Waitangi area, one present most of May 73 (GW). Auckland, Mangere, two on 12 & 21/2/73, one on 29/4/73 (SMR). East Coast, one at Waipū River estuary, spring 73 (AB). Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, 1972, May, 4, June, 6 (KVT); Sept, 2 (BB). 1973, April, 4 (KVT); July, 6 (BB). Manawatu estuary, 1972, recorded in every month except November, maximum 39 on 26/3/72 (J & MM); EBJ saw one in November and one in December 72. 1973, 20 Jan, 17 (IGA); 13 Feb, 12 plus (EBJ); 28 April, 33 (IGA); 19 July, 21 (EBJ). Probable sighting of 3 at Hutt River mouth 15/6/73 (JAF). Motueka, 1972/3 season, 12 on a sandbank (BRK). Westport, lagoon opposite wharf, one on 22/12/72, 5 on 7/1/73, 3 on 8-13/1/73 (JJ). Lakeside, Lake Ellesmere, one on 18/1/73 (RJP). Lake head, Lake Wanaka, 21-23/10/72, one, first record for this area (PC). Kaikōrai stream estuary near Waldronville, four present 3-11/1/73. All four had crests; one pair observed to stand facing each other and cross bills, then dip them in the water and preen each other (GAG). Southland, Lake Waituna, 5/1/73, one; 4/2/73, 7 seen by Dr Lloyd Franklin; April 73, 6 seen by A. Shand (MLB, RRS).

#### MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

Hawke's Bay, Lake Te Pohue, 18/7/73, 3 (BB). Saltwater Creek near Ashley River, Canterbury, two on 19/8/72 (RJP).

#### BLACK SWAN (*C. atratus*)

Poutu Lake Kanono, 7/4/73, 23 (RAF). Muriwai Lakes count Feb 73, 25 (SMR). Kaiaua shingle pools, 1973, 4, a new area record (PF). Southland population 1972/3, c. 800; not more than 70 young reared in 1973 (RRS).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Poutu, March & April 73, 3 (MJB, RAF). Wairoa, H.B., Whakamahi Lagoon, nest, 4 eggs, washed out by heavy seas, 2/12/72 (GF). Lake Te Pohue, 18/7/73, 4 (BB). East Clive, 17/11/70, 2 (KVT). Otaki, Sept 73, one (PG). Wairarapa, Flat Point, June 73, 3 (PG). Wairau Lagoon, Blenheim, one May/June 73 (ES). Hooper's Inlet, 19/9/71, one with 3 black swans (JAM). Southland, regular population of 70-80 birds in Waituna Lagoon area; small regular breeding here and in northern Southland (RRS).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)

Ahipara, two near creek mouth on beach, 27/7/73 (HAF). Bay of Islands, Lake Owhareiti, large winter flocks of several hundred birds (MC). One at Onehunga, 1/7/73 (HRMcK). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, seldom seen but visits in winter; 12/8/72, 25 (EBJ). Marlborough, Ward district, increased numbers Jan-May 72, c. 250 on pasture near house on one occasion (JAT). Clarence River, Cloudy Peak Station, 5/5/73, feeding on briar berries, droppings very conspicuous (JR). Near Lake Heron, Canterbury, 16/11/72, nest in a rabbit burrow above a fall of earth from a terrace bordering the Smite River; recently scraped sand and clay outside the burrow which was lined with grass and feathers and contained six eggs (ML). Southland population expanding under tight restrictions, breeding range extending; average brood at flying stage 6.2 per pair in 1977/3 (RRS).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Raoul Island, April 73, two drakes on Blue Lake, one on Tui Lake (V. Duckett) and three drakes on Blue Lake in May & July 73 seen by J. Ireland (CSK). Westshore, H.B., 7/4/73, 1819; no grey duck recorded (NBM). Ashburton, a mixture of grey, mallard and domestic ducks from the adjoining domain invades a property each year about mid-April to feed on acorns, of which only the ripe ones are eaten; the invasion lasts about 3 weeks till the acorns are finished (ML). Southland, a very large and increasing population, estimated in summer 1973 at 1.6 million; estimated shooting season kill 132,000; average brood reared to flying stage 1972/3, 8.1 (RRS).

GREY DUCK (*A. superciliosa*)

Adult (perhaps hybrid) with 16 ducklings a few days old at Waitangi 8/9/72 (GW). 2,000 grey and mallard ducks died at Mangere in 1971/2 season; in Nov 72 botulism again appeared among the ducks and to March 73 3-400 died, including 20 Grey Teal in January. Feb-March 73, the disease reappeared at Albany drainage ponds (SMR). Makarora River, Oct 72, 97 in 9 miles, mostly at the head of Lake Wanaka (PC). Southland population small and declining, now regular only in coastal regions and more remote back country areas (RRS).

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*)

Pakaraka, Bay of Islands, one shot in May 72 (CSK). Poutu, Lake Kanono, April 73, 21 (RAF). Westshore, H.B., 10 on 7/4/73 (NBM), 70 on South Pond, Ahuriri, 25/4/73 (KVT). Whakaki Lagoon, 31/3/73 c. 700 — a large concentration of a bird comparatively rare in N.Z. a few years ago (AB). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, 7 on 6/5/72 (EBJ). Lake Elterwater, 44 in April 72, 7 on 25/3/73 (JAT). Otago, John Cheyne reports that numbers seem to be down on last year; drought may have scattered the birds

to other districts so this is little indication of the national total (GH). Southland, numbers fluctuate; maximum flocks, mainly on lagoons in Gorge Road area, about 100. Regular breeding in Queenstown lakes district, only odd brood reports from elsewhere in Southland (RRS).

**BROWN TEAL** (*A. aucklandica chlorotis*)

Waerenga, 1972 season, a pair hatched 4 ducklings on one of my dams but lost them, I think owing to a persistent harrier. The pair then left (MPD). Southland, one recovered from a duck shooter's bag in Awarua swamp, May 1972 (RRS). Stewart Island, Nov 71, a pair with three chicks near Oban was the only record during three weeks' intensive search. There has obviously been a dramatic decline in the last few years (JAF).

**N.Z. SHOVELER** (*A. rhynchotis variegata*)

Muriwai Lakes, Feb 73, 14 (SMR). Manukau Harbour census 26/11/72, 3; Firth of Thames, 5/7/73, 7 (HRMcK), 23/6/73, 8 (WFC). Hawke's Bay, Westshore, 7/4/73, 137 (NBM), 18/7/73, c. 10 (BB). Lake Horowhenua, June 1972, numbers built up from c. 60 on 3rd to c. 300 on 24th; 30/8/72, c. 40. 1973, only two seen Jan-March, then c. 40 on 31st March; 18/5/73, certainly 300, probably more. Occasional sightings of white breasted birds which may be Northern Shovelers in some stage of moult (EBJ). Southland, breeding in small numbers over a wide area; average brood per pair to flying stage about 5; banding returns from as far north as Waikato River mouth (RRS).

**BLUE DUCK** (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*)

1972/3 season, breeding reported from Wharekopae and Waikohu rivers, in two cases the nests being under woolsheds; Wildlife officers counted 9 birds on the Hopuruahine; GF noted a family party of 6 on the Waingakia River in November and there were two families in half a mile of Ruakituri River in January, one of nine and the other of unknown number, tucked in well under boulders in the heat of the day. Aniwanuiwa Bridge, Waikaremoana, pair with sub-adult 1/11/72, pair 30/1/73 (AB). A pair reported in North branch, Routeburn, Jan 73; a pair reported in Ngatau tributary of the Okuru, S. Westland, May 73 (PC).

**N.Z. SCAUP** (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*)

Poutu, Lake Kanono 7/4/73, 325 (RAF). Muriwai Lakes, Feb 73, 15 (SMR). Wanganui, Virginia Lake, one on 20/5/72 (MFO'S). Manawatu, one at Lake Pukepuke 1971, two at Lake Kaikokopu, April 73 (WP), 2 at Lake Horowhenua, May 73 (EBJ). WP believes that the population explosion at Lake Mangamahoe, near New Plymouth, where numbers have risen from 95 in 1971 to about 1,000 in 1973, may be responsible for more frequent sightings on Manawatu coastal lakes (IGA). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, one at north end, 29/4/72 (PJ); West Coast, Arnold River, one by bridge on 24/4/73 (JAC).

**HARRIER** (*Circus approximans*)

Opoutere, Aug 71, one repeatedly harried a Little Shag as it fed at full tide in deep water; the shag submerged each time and the Harrier eventually perched on mangrove. March 73, one hovered over mangrove on exposed mudflat, dived three times into a tree; a Banded Rail was seen to streak for safer cover, which it reached.

unharmd (BB). Makarora River, 21/10/72, 11 in 9 miles above Lake Wanaka (PC). Waimatuku mouth, 1/5/73, mild autumn morning; nine birds, some of them young, cavorting, spinning, hovering and gliding above the sandhills, pouncing on each other among the lupins; moved along 500 yards of sandhills in 10 minutes; no carrion found in the area. Similar display on 26/5/73 by 6 birds over a hill between Greenhills and Ocean Beach (MLB).

#### N.Z. FALCON (*Falco novaezeelandiae*)

Waikato, heard at Oparau, June 73 (LT); Kararariki, 23/6/73, one in second growth, chased by a Tui; both birds later perched in a tree, the Falcon about 30 ft from ground level; it stayed on this perch for 10 minutes and allowed 5 observers to walk round under the tree before it flew (JFC). Kawerau, 22/9/73, one stooped at domestic pigeons (RMW). Gisborne suburb, a male and a female seen on separate days in April 73 and a male in Oct 73 (AB). Lower Hutt, Woburn area, one, 10 & 21/4/72; Orongorongo Valley, one on 29/7/72 (J & MM). Bush behind Day's Bay, one, Sept 73 (JLK). Kaikoura, 6 miles north-west of town, feeding on native pigeon, 3/7/72; one reported near Mt. Clear 27/3/73 (JAC). Dog Hill, Ward, one in hill country, June 72 (JAT). Mt. Robert, Paddy's Hut, one, 28/1/72 (PI). May 1972, one developed a taste for domestic fowl at Mt. Aspiring Station; eating a Yellowhammer, Lake Hawea; taking a Sparrow out of a haystack, Wanaka (PC). Probable sighting, 2/4/72, on Taieri Plain near Outram, two-thirds Harrier size, swept back wings, not shy; flew down and took something from stubble then flew back to blue gums (GAG); at least three pairs breed within 20 miles of the sighting (GC); Southland, rarely seen now; many old breeding territories vacant in 1972/3 season; two sightings at Lake Hakapoua, March 73; breeding at Lake Manapouri, Dec 72 (RRS). One at Joe's Bay, Stewart Island, 1/9/72 (MLB).

#### CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukar*)

Flaxbourne River, Ward, 28/3/73, 15-20 (JAT). Banks Peninsula, on higher tussocky tops, Dec 72 (PC). Cass River, in matagouri scrub on lower hill slopes, 29/12/72 (RJP).

#### BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsiliphorus*)

Takanini, 26/4/73, pair with 7 tiny chicks (AJG). Waiuku South, Aka Aka, one on roadside, 26/10/72 (MED).

#### CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*)

Kerikeri, very young chicks as late as 16/3/73 (ATE). Waiuku, began calling late July 72 (MED). Papakura, 2/2/70, nest in scoria bank screened by fern, straw screening added; cock bird seen at nest, hen present each day; 15 eggs, all hatched. 1972, autumn coveys dust bathing, cocks often lie with one wing spread; young birds jumped one after another, like a Rugby line-out, for a low-flying butterfly (BB).

#### PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*)

Papakura, several breed in tamarillo orchard, often choosing to nest at the base of tree trunks; seen to eat acorns and feijoa (BB). Hamilton, alarm calls heard at 2315 and 2230 hours, May and June 73 (JFC).

**BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*)**

Ruakaka estuary, summer 1970/1, pair with 3 chicks near tidal river; 11/1/72, two near Pohuenui River, north of Waipu (TGL). Pollen Island (Auckland), one on 23/5/73 (SMR). Clevedon, by tidal creek, two broods of 4 and 6,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -grown, in an area where rats have been poisoned; 1973, at launch landing, where rats are plentiful, two broods, one and two chicks (GKMck). Opoutere, often swim across creek, families swim in line with a parent at each end. Pair with 4 fluffy young near boat ramp, 23/10/72; two adults each feeding a chick, 26/1/72. One feeding over *Zostera*, perhaps getting water snails, stretched its neck at intervals apparently to swallow (BB). Ohiwa Harbour, 24/12/72, two adults and two juveniles, tame, feeding on mud pools alongside main road at low tide (RMW).

**WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*)**

Waiotira-Arara road (south of Whangarei), locals remember as late as 1960 (TGL). Wekas (ex King's College) breeding well on the golf course about the headwaters of the Tamaki (RBS). Wekas illegally liberated in Mount Maunganui area (RMW). Opoutere, 3/3/73, one feeding in a tidal creek with Pukeko and Banded Rail; not previously recorded here (BB). D'Urville Island, 12/2/73, a wild pig rooting through small scrub and rough grass was followed by six wekas picking at its leavings; the pig slowed down, allowing the wekas to catch up and suddenly grabbed one which it killed and ate (ML).

**MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)**

Anderson Park, Napier, 14/4/73, 2 (NBM). Nelson, Waimea River estuary, two watched for 30 minutes on 31/3/73, five seen on a later occasion (FHB).

**SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*)**

Jan 73, one seen feeding among drift material at the edge of the Matau branch near Kaitangata (GH).

**PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)**

Waerenga, 24/11/72, nest with ten eggs, six of one kind of marking, four with another kind of marking; probably the product of two birds (MPD).

**AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)**

Lake Okareka, 4/3/73, c. 60 (RMW); Lake Rotoiti, 6 seen by C. Goodger, 6/5/72; Lake Rotoma, my first sighting, 1/7/72 (RWJ); 2 on 29/7/72 (WB); 50 in Merge Lodge Tearooms area, 27/7/73 (RMW). Lake Tutira, 22/10/72, 50 (MFO'S). Manawatu, one still present on Hokowhitu Lagoon, 30/12/72 (IGA). Wanganui, Westmere Lake, 1/4/72, 9; 13/1/73, five, a pair with three small young (MFO'S). Lake Clearwater, two on 25/11/72 (ML); Lake Emma, one found dead, apparently shot, on 9/5/73 (JSA); Upper Lake Heron Station, report of coots near homestead, 20/12/72 (JRI). Lake Hayes, March 73, 8 (RMW).

**SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER**

(*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*)

Manukau Harbour counts Nov 72, 5069; 1/7/73, 12,562; one albino. Firth of Thames counts Oct 72, 570; 3/6/73, 3,781. Waikato Heads, 10/6/73, 76 (HRMck). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, 21/10/72, pair near nest at south end of lake (PJ). Outram, first birds arrived on

farm, 27/7/71; 16/12/71, 31 on a flooded paddock, an unusually large flock for the time of year. Nov 72, taking freshwater mussels (*Hyridella menziesii*) from shallow water in Taieri River (GAG). Frequently take cockles (*Chione stutchburyi*) on saltwater mudflats; Merton-Karitane estuary, 16/1/73, 142; Tahakopa estuary 19/1/73, 180, the most I have seen on the high tide roost in three years (GH.)

#### VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*)

Whangaparaoa Peninsula, May 73, 4; not seen previously in this area (S. Chamberlin). Manukau Harbour, Orua Bay, 21/9/72, 19 on beach, reported by E. Buckley; an old resident (W. Rutherford) has not seen them here before. Waikato Heads, 10/6/73, 16 black, 16 intermediate (HRMcK). Maioro Island, Waikato River mouth, 15/2/72, two black pairs each with a lightly pied flying young, an intermediate pair with an intermediate young (RCB). 21/2/73, same area, two black pairs each with an intermediate flying young (HRMcK). Pauanui, 26/11/72, 3 black breeding pairs (S. Chambers). Opoutere, breeding, usual population 18 (BB). Tauranga Harbour, opposite Tanner's Point, 22/4/73, 13 spread over 200 yards, 10 black, 3 pied (JFC). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, Jan/Feb 73, 2 blacks and 2 juveniles; flock of eight blacks at Waipaoa River mouth and at Muriwai Lagoon, October 73 (AB). Strand Park, Wellington, 10/11/72, 13, with two *finschi* (MLF). Taieri mouth, 20/11/71, 19 with 5 *finschi* at surface water pond in paddock; heavy rain and storms may have affected breeding of *unicolor* (GAG). Kaka Point, 11/6/72, 36 blacks feeding around the edges of a flooded area; a week later 28 at the same place (DC). Preservation Inlet, 17/7/73, flock of 107 blacks; groups of 30-40 not uncommon (AW).

#### SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*)

East Cape area, Huiarau Station, Mata River, two probable sightings two miles apart on successive days, May 73 (AB) and a sighting of one at Waiapu estuary the following spring (JH). Manawatu, 2 near Lake Pukepuke, Sept 71; breeding reported 1971/2 season (WP); 5 at Rangitikei estuary 28/3/72 (J & MM), 5 near Pukepuke, Aug 72 (IGA). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, a pair on 12/12/71, 4 on 11/11/72 (PJ). Bainham, Collingwood, successful nesting and reared one chick, 11/12/72 (FGS). Reefton, pair, 24/8/72 (RJP). Marlborough, Lower Wairau, Aug 71, one; report of possible breeding (RNH); Wairau-Opawa confluence, May 73, several; more heard after dusk (ES). West Coast, Ngahere, 15/12/72, 2 adults and 2 juveniles (R. J. Jackson, NZFS); Rotomanu, April 71, 2 seen by Mrs O. Newton (JRJ); common in paddocks near Fox Glacier, Aug 72, also some at Okarito (GJW). Magdalen Flats, Boyle River, seen by Mr Roberts, NZFS, 1972 (JRJ). Nov 72, breeding at several localities round Lake Ellesmere (GAT); 3 at Rakaia Huts, 7/6/73 (Mrs M. Buchanan). 1971 sightings at Washdyke Lagoon, Pareora, south of St. Andrews and south of Otaio, in each case two birds or a pair; 1971-73, a series of sightings at Lake Wainono, 28 on 20/8/73 (RJP). One near Lake Clearwater, 23/9/70; near Lake Emma, 25/9/71, two, distraction display; north branch, Hinds River later in 1971, 2 adults with 2 chicks; October 72, two pairs nesting on North Hinds River bed, one pair on banks of South branch, Ashburton River, two pairs at Hakatere Station, Lake Roundabout area; a pair at the entrance to Rangitata Gorge, from the plains side.

Report of birds at Lake Heron; two with a well-grown young at Maori Lakes. 1973, March-May, 5 at the mouth of Smite River, behind Lake Heron; 9 at Gawler Downs (Hinds River, north branch); 6 in Monalto swamp; five at Maori Lakes, 9 in the area between Lake Emma and the road. Catchment Board workers report more birds at Rangitata Gorge and upper South Ashburton River (ML). Nov 72, Lake Tekapo, 2 adults, 3 juveniles; Dec 72, Tasman Valley 3, Tasman River mouth, one; Cass delta, one; Swan Lagoon, Lake Ohau, 4; tarn on Benmore Station at Ohau turnoff, 4 (RJP). July 72, quite a number around Tasman River, Lake Benmore, Upper Tangiwai River (JAA). Hakataramea Valley, Sept 71, 10, a nest with 4 eggs (RJP). Makarora Valley, 9 miles above Lake Wanaka, 1966, 21; 1972, 48; 1973, over 70 vicinity Makarora. Ewing's Bay, W. Wanaka, July 73, counted 232. estimated c. 300. Hunter Valley, Sept 71, 32, increasing. Matukituki Valley, Oct 71, 45 birds, mostly with young. Alexandra basin, counted 93, estimated over 100, June 73 (PC). Waitaki Valley, Sept 71, 2-4 birds seen at Duntroon, Strachans, Otematata (RIP). Moa Flat, Heriot, increasing May 72 (HWH). 1972 sightings at Shag River, Pukeuri, 1971 sightings at Karitane, Hooper's Inlet, Taieri, Waiholo. Waitahuna and Beaumont, 1973 sightings Clydesdale and Toko mouth (WTP). Riverside road, Outram, 44 on a water-logged paddock. 27/7/71; 35 in a recently flooded paddock on 16/12/71 was an unusually large flock for this time of year (GAG). Ram Island, Berwick. 1971, becoming increasingly numerous in boggy paddocks adjoining the main marsh (HS). Inchclutha, 25-35 birds opposite Lakeside road, Jan 72 (CW). 24/2/73, 7 at Lake Tuakitoto, north end; 8 at Port Molyneux (RJP). South of Owaka township, 5/3/73, 21 wheeling and calling in a flock. April 71, resident around Takahopa township, 5 on a flat paddock; 3 at Purekireki (GH).

#### PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*)

Maximum numbers recorded 1972/3 season, Paua, c. 300, Feb (ATE); Manukau, 118, Nov; Firth of Thames, 24, Oct (HRMcK); Whangapoua Beach, Great Barrier, Jan, 21 (AJG); Opoutere, Oct, one, my first record here (BB); Maketu, Jan, 14 (JHS); Kaituna, Dec, 6 (RWJ); Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, Jan, 14 (AB); Hawke's Bay, Ahuriri, Jan, 23 (KVT); Manawatu, Jan, 21 (IGA); Lake Wairarapa, Feb, 2 (BDH, MLF); Lake Wainono, Nov, 2; Lake Ellesmere, Dec, 70 (RJP). Invercargill estuary, 74 on 11/11/72, 96 on 18/2/73 (MLB). 1/7/73, 3 at Manukau (HRMcK); 18/7/73, 10 at Karikari Bay (MH).

#### NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

No new localities recorded this season; winter flock in Kerikeri Inlet, 20 in 1968, has been steady at 34-36 birds in 1970-73 (ATE). Port Ohope Spit, flock of 42 on 6/8/73 (RMW).

#### BANDED DOTTEREL (*C. bicinctus*)

Rangitikei River near Tangimoana, 300 plus on 28/1/72; Manawatu estuary, c. 100 on 6/5/72 (I & MM). Makarora Valley, 21/10/72, nest found with four eggs (PC).

#### MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL (*C. mongolus*)

Manawatu, Hokio Beach, 7/2/73, three birds, described in detail to HRMcK who agrees probably *mongolus* partly into summer plumage (EBJ). Kerikeri Inlet, 4/3/73, two, running about on a shell bank among N.Z. Dotterel; smoky brown breast band on one bird almost complete and faintly tinged rufous (ATE).



LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

Taramaire, Firth of Thames, one in Oct 72 and Jan 73 (HRMcK, WFC).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*)

Hawke's Bay, 1972 survey shows increase in numbers since 1967; has spread further on main rivers, now also on Esk River (IGA); Westshore, 7/4/73, 6 (NBM). In Oct 67 16 birds were counted on Manawatu River between Dannevirke Rifle Range and Hopelands Bridge. In 1972 there were 32 on this section, 9 Hopelands Bridge-Ngawaparua, 12 Ngawaparua-Ballance, 20 Ashhurst-Fitzherbert; two near Longburn, one on Mangahao River, total 76. J. Andrews found a nest at Longburn 1971/2 season; K. Cook later saw a group of 12 near Tiakitahuna. B. McConkey reported 12 at Himatangi Beach in Sept 72, on the sand basin behind the fore-dune. In some areas the Banded Dotterel population has decreased since 1967 — e.g. Dannevirke-Ngawaparua, 68 in 1967, 27 in 1972; whether this decline is directly related to the increase in *melanops* is at present unknown. A group of 12-15 spent three days, 12-14th March 73, on the lawn at Centennial Lagoon, Palmerston North, just after rains had brought an end to the drought (IGA). Hokio Beach, 3-4, apparently immature, first seen 28/6/73, present till 1/8/73 (EBJ). Wairarapa, a preliminary survey of Ruamahanga, Waingawa, Tauherinikau and part of Huangarua rivers in Nov 72 gave a count of over 50 birds and a pair with 3 eggs (MLF). A total of 78 were counted in 1972 Nov/Déc (IGA). A winter survey on 8/7/73 recorded as follows:— Greytown ponds, 10 plus; vicinity Waiohine mouth, 5; Waingawa works pond area, 9; Gladstone Bridge north, nil; south, 10-12; Huangarua River, 44; Lower Tauherinikau (late July), 5; total 85. Birds other than those on ponds (after Ruamahanga floods) were in pairs in the usual muddy places (BDH). Southland, Makarewa River near Wallacetown, Jan 73, one seen by R. Bond (RRS).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

Paua, 6/5/73, 41 (ATE). Manukau, 1/7/73, 765; Firth of Thames 3/6/73, 4,007 (HRMcK). Aotea Harbour, one on 17/2/73 (DW). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, Feb 73, a tight group of 31, the most ever recorded here; report of many little birds, obviously wrybills, on an ocean beach where I first saw wrybill in 1909; apparently must be on a flyway. Whakaki Lagoon, 31/3/73, 9 (AB). Westshore, H.B., 5 on 7/4/73 (NBM). Rangitikei estuary 22/10/72, 20; Manawatu estuary, seen Feb-May and Aug-Oct 72, maximum 25 on 22/10/72 (J & MM). Waikanae River mouth 29/7/73, two in breeding plumage (CAF).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

1972/3 season, Paua, 4, Dec-Jan, 2 in April (ATE). Waipu, Jan, one (TGL). Aotea Harbour, Feb, one (DW). Firth of Thames, Oct, 17 (HRMcK). Maketu, Sept, one (RWJ). Manawatu estuary, Nov, one (EBJ). Southland, Lake Waituna, Jan, 7 (MLB).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*)

1972/3 season, Paua, one Dec, one April (ATE); Kawhia, 19/8/73, 2 (JHS).

AMERICAN WHIMBREL (*N. p. hudsonicus*)

Lake Waituna, 5/1/73, one, no pale rump (MLB).

BRISTLE-THIGHED CURLEW (*N. tahitiensis*)

Kermadec Islands, Sept 72; one dead, dried up and partly disintegrated, probably female, found on North Meyer; a live bird, probably male, seen and photographed at the edge of Crater Lake, Raoul; both records by C. R. Veitch (FCK).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Lake Ellesmere, Greenpark, 25/11/72, one; black tail, white rump and underwing well seen (RJP).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemasticta*)

Ocean Beach, Whangarei, 28/11/72, one with 100 Bar-tailed Godwits; flew to join 10 Pied Stilts and later flew again to join the Godwits. Underwing, rump and tail well seen (PM). Firth of Thames, one, very red, 8/4/70 (HRMcK). Manawatu estuary, one on 20/1/73 (IGA).

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

1972/3 season, Paua, maximum 3,000, Dec (ATE). Manukau, Nov, 13,343; July, 3,563. Firth of Thames, Oct, 14,050; June, 1,362 (HRMcK). Whangapoua, Jan, 300 (WFC). Oputere, Jan, 1,000 (BB). Aotea Harbour, Feb, 700 (DW). Maketu, Jan, 500 (JHS). Shellbank near Bowentown, Apr, 500 (JFC). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, Feb, 97; Whakaki Lagoon, March, 101 (AB). Westshore, H.B., summer 3-400, April c. 150 (KVT). Wanganui estuary, Oct, 32 (MFO'S). Rangitikei estuary, Dec, 50; Manawatu estuary, Dec, 450 (J & MM), March, 420 (IGA). Lake Wairarapa, south of Tauherenikau outlet, Feb, 14 (BDH). Lake Pauatahanui, Nov, 17 (J & MM). A few at different parts of Petone Beach and Hutt River mouth, Nov-Dec (MLF, J & MM). West Coast, 3 at Karamea estuary 20/8/72 (RJP). Kaikoura, The Point, Oct-Nov, 7 (JAC). Aramoana, Feb, 535 (RJP). Ewings Bay, West Lake Wanaka, 22/10/72, four in a swampy field with 44 South Island Pied Oystercatchers (PC). At 1600 hours on 18/3/73, the day before full moon, very high tide, overcast sky with little wind, 50 godwits circled and flew in a wide sweep across Warrington Beach and ten minutes later were  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile off the headland, flying north in V formation, gaining height to about 700 ft; the group continued on course, twice breaking up into a cloud and rearranging to a V, until they disappeared against the hill. This was apparently the start of northward migration as we saw no return (RFG). Invercargill estuary, the main body of godwits arrived on night 26/27th Sept 72, in calm weather; they stayed for about 4 days resting and feeding in Mr Jennings' coastal paddocks. Heavy rain on 29th Sept; gale on 30th Sept at 1530 hrs; a flock of 600 South Island Pied Oystercatchers and 40 godwits came in from Awarua Bay. The oystercatchers flew on to the estuary but the 40 godwits dropped like stones to a sheltered coastal paddock where other godwits were already feeding. In another paddock  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile away there were 580 godwits and 150 turnstones, presumably new arrivals, very restless. The actions of the godwits were similar to pre-migration turmoil; repeated aerobic displays, swarms of birds soaring and plummeting in all directions with high-pitched calling, and this at the height of the gale when all other birds were flying low; when they landed they fed non-stop, jostling and twittering. The following morning high tide was at 0845 hrs; cold and showery, still windy but no gale; a total of 2,250 godwits were on the paddocks,

in three groups, most of them resting, close packed, breasts to wind and head tucked in. In contrast to the previous day there was little jostling or excitement; when disturbed, birds flew short distances at low altitude, dropped to ground and adopted a rest position; no preening seen, but much bill cleaning by wiping on breast feathers. Between 1000 and 1015 hours the turnstones and 300 godwits flew to the shoreline. At 1400 hours there was major sheep movement in the paddocks, and all the remaining birds moved to the shoreline and were not seen again in the paddocks for the following 2 weeks (MLB).

#### GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

Sightings of single birds at Lake Waiono, 2/1/73, and at Lake Ellesmere, Taumutu 13/1/72 and Cooper's Lagoon 18/1/73 (RJP).

#### SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

Paua, one in Dec 72 and Feb 73 (ATE). Westshore, H.B., one present from mid-Jan till 25/4/73 (NBM, KVT). Manawatu estuary, 2/1/73, one (IGA). Aramoana, one in June 72 (RJP).

TATTLER sp. unid.

Kidd's, Manukau, 3 on 29/3/73 (JU). Group of 18 reported by GF on a papa reef at Oraka Beach, Mahia Peninsula, 26/11/72 (AB). Kaikoura, The Point, 2 on 11/5/73; Ure River, one below bridge 10/11/72 (JAC, JAT).

#### TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

Kidd's, Manukau, one on 24/9/72, evidently newly arrived; washed repeatedly and was chived by godwits and turnstones. Single sightings in Jan, Feb, March and on 4/5/73 (HRMcK). Firth of Thames, one on 14/10/72, two on 29/10/72, 3, 12/11/72-20/1/73, 6 on 29/1, 5 on 24/2, 4 on 7/4, one on 3/6/73 (HRMcK, WFC). Westshore, H.B., 3/3/73-25/4/73, one (KVT). Manawatu estuary, one 28/12/72, 20/1/73, 22/3/73 (J & MM, IGA, EBJ).

#### TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

1972/3 season; Paua, 400 Dec, 600 Feb/March, 300 April, 2 on 6/5/73 (ATE). Waipu, 5 on 9/9/72, singles Jan and March '73 (TGL). Manukau, Nov 256, Feb and April 300, 1/7/73 45 (HRMcK). Firth of Thames, 20/8/72, 9; 30/9/72, 50; Dec 80, Jan 144, April 80; 3/6/73, 5; 21/7/73, 7 (HRMcK, WFC). Whakaki Lagoon 31/3/73, 5 (AB). Ngaruroro estuary, 16/12/72, 6 (KVT). Single birds at Rangitikei estuary, March and at Manawatu estuary Nov/Dec 72 (J & MM).

#### *Gallinago* sp.

A snipe seen on three occasions at a small lagoon on Waitohu stream, Otaki, Nov 72 (PCB). Cooper's Lagoon, Lake Ellesmere, two snipe seen on several occasions in Jan 73 (RJP). Both these records probably refer to Japanese Snipe, *G. hardwicki*.

#### KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

1972/3 season: Paua, 2,000 in Dec, only small numbers thereafter (ATE). Manukau, Nov, 3,622; Feb/March c. 5,000; 1/7/73, 361. Firth of Thames, 16/7/72, c. 450; Oct 5,900; 3/6/73, 108. Tairua, Coromandel, many hundreds reported early March 73 by G. Burnside (HRMcK). One at Rangitikei estuary 28/3/72. Manawatu estuary, 20 on 18/3/72, recorded on 5/8/72, 21 on 4/11/72

(J & MM), 33 on 8/3/73 (EBJ). First record for Wellington region, Oct 72 (MLF). 25 on east shore, Lake Wairarapa, 25/2/73 (BDH). Lake Ellesmere, 26 at Greenpark, Nov 72; 4 at Kaituna, Jan 73. Lake Wainono, 10 in Nov 72 (RJP).

**GREAT KNOT (*C. tenuirostris*)**

Firth of Thames, 30/9/72, one being chased in the air by a godwit; one seen Feb 73 by Mrs Fooks, and one on 11/3/73 (HRMcK).

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)**

1972/3 season: Paua, 26 in Dec, 44 in Feb, 5 on 6/5/73 (ATE). Manukau, Nov, 11; March, 10. Firth of Thames, Oct, 3 (HRMcK); Jan/Feb, 10 (WFC). Maketu, Jan, 7 (JHS). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, Feb, 5; Whakaki Lagoon, March, one (AB). Ahuriri, H.B., 5 in Jan, 16 in Feb (KVT). Manawatu estuary, Dec, 14 (J & MM), Jan, 7 (IGA). Westport, 25/1/73, 5 (SMR). Lake Ellesmere, Greenpark, Nov, 8, Jan, 11 (RJP). Invercargill estuary, Nov, 4, Feb, 8; Lake Waituna, Jan, 4 (MLB).

**PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*)**

1972/3 season: Firth of Thames, one in Jan/Feb (WFC, HRMcK). Ahuriri, H.B., Jan, 2; April, one in breeding plumage (KVT). Manawatu estuary, 20/1/73, 7, with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Terek and Golden Plover. When approached the Sharp-tails flew off and the Pectoral bunched up together; distinctive breast markings and horn-brown bill with darker tip confirmed on all seven before they flew. Bunching together by species when closely stalked may probably be helpful for identification of these two sandpipers (IGA). Lake Ellesmere, one, Nov (RJP). Washdyke Lagoon, Feb, one (PC). Southland, one at Lake Waituna, Jan; Waimatuku mouth, Feb, 3; 11 March, 4 seen by P. Muller; 18 March, one, very tame (MLB).

**BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*C. bairdi*)**

Firth of Thames, one on 29/10/72 (HRMcK).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)**

1972/3 season: Paua, Dec, 8; March, 12; 8/5/73, 3. Kerikeri Inlet, one 30th Sept-3rd Oct, on shellbank (ATE). Firth of Thames, 20/8/72, one red, one pale; Oct, 10; Dec, 14; Jan/Feb, 15; 17/4/73, 8 (HRMcK, WFC). One at Muriwai Lagoon Jan, 3 at Whakaki Lagoon 31/3/73 (AB). Ahuriri, H.B., April 73, one, later two, in breeding plumage (KVT). Blenheim, Wairau lagoons, seven on 24/12/72 and on 7/1/73 (JAC, ES). Lake Wainono, Nov, 5; Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, Dec, 21, one part red; one on 13/1/73 (RJP). Southland, Lake Waituna, one on 5/1/73 (MLB).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER (*C. mauri*)**

Firth of Thames 29/10/72, one (HRMcK).

**RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)**

1972/3 season: Paua, 14 in Dec, 30-40 Apr, 17 on 6/5/73 (ATE). Manukau, 29/3/73, 16 (JU); April, 10; May, 8; 1/7/73, 13 (HRMcK). Firth of Thames, 16/7/72, 3; Oct, 10 (HRMcK); Jan, 20 (WFC); Feb, 21; April, 13; 3/6/73, 2 (HRMcK). Maketu, Jan, 3 (JHS). Muriwai Lagoon, Jan, 5; Whakaki Lagoon, March, 2 (AB). Ahuriri, H.B., 4 in Jan and April (KVT). Rangitikei estuary, Dec, 16; Manawatu estuary, Dec, 3 (J & MM). Lake Wainono, Nov, 3; Lake Ellesmere, 10/12/72, 15 at Kaitorete Spit, 23 at Greenpark; 16/12/73, 25 at Kaitorete Spit; 13/1/73, 20 at Greenpark (RJP). Invercargill estuary, 11/11/72, 32; Lake Waituna, 5/1/73, 7 (MLB).

**SANDERLING** (*C. alba*)

Possible sighting at Karaka 29/3/73 (JU). Lake Waituna, one on 5/1/73 (MLB).

**PIED STILT** (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Southland, a small colony established near Matakura, birds on nests 28/7/72; a pair with 2 eggs near Winton 3/8/72 (RRS). Brydone, 4/9/72, six pairs, three on nests, one with young chicks (MLB).

**SOUTHERN SKUA** (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*)

Hauraki Gulf off Ponui, 7/1/73, one well seen at close range (JAB). Wharekawa coast, 16/12/72, two chasing White-fronted Terns (MEMCK). Wellington coastline, April 73, one with broken wings (JAF). Gilbert Islands, Breaksea Sound, one chasing a Gannet on 5/12/71. Common on islands near Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island; one in Leask Bay 23/3/72 (GJW).

**ANTARCTIC SKUA** (*S. s. maccormicki*)

Dargaville Beach, Oct 72, one picked up dead, in fresh condition. Identification confirmed Nat. Mus. (DEC). Taumutu, Lake Ellesmere, 9/12/72, one; identification confirmed by Sir Robert Falla (RJP). Observed continuously from McMurdo Sound (100 on 23/2/73) to 71°30'S off Cape Adare. Vanda Station, Wright Valley (Dry Valley Region), c. 30 miles inland, first bird appeared on 8/2/73, maximum number seen together, seven (JAF).

**POMARINE SKUA** (*S. pomarinus*)

Hauraki Gulf off Ponui, 7/1/73, one, light phase; twisted tail feathers seen (JAB). Manawatu estuary, 31/3/72, immature; well defined whitish area on rump as well as base of primaries (J & MM).

**ARCTIC SKUA** (*S. parasiticus*)

Bay of Islands, two birds on 20/5/72; 5 on 11/12/72, many sightings in Jan-April 73 (D. E. Calvert); one close inshore, Kerikeri Inlet, chasing a Red-billed Gull, 1/5/73 (ATE); one chasing a tern near Waitangi 8/5/73 (GW); two in Mangonui Inlet 17/5/73, two on 14th & 16th June 73, one on 10/8/73 (D. E. Calvert). Two off Mahia Peninsula, Jan 73 (GF). Manawatu estuary, two Feb/March, one Dec 72 (J & MM). Wellington Harbour, one on 27/4/73 (JAF). Washdyke Lagoon 2/2/73, two chasing terns (PC). Lake Wainono, 1-3 seen Jan-March 73; Waitaki mouth, 4 on 18/3/73 (RJP).

**BLACK-BILLED GULL** (*Larus bulleri*)

*Correction:* *Notornis* 19, p. 357, under Black-billed Gull, delete the last sentence "Waikanae . . . (JAF)."

Firth of Thames, Miranda, 3/12/72, 22 birds, 11 nests (BB); 27/12/72, 26 plus 6 small young; most of the nests had been washed out by a big tide (HRMCK). Muriwai Lagoon, Jan 73, 52; Whakaki Lagoon, 31/3/73, 1,500 plus; a great increase, to the apparent exclusion of Red-billed Gull (AB). 1/4/73, 10 on a sewage pond near Masterton may be the first inland record for Wairarapa (MLF). 23/4/73, 31 at Waikawa estuary, 20 at Ohau estuary, no Red-billed Gulls seen (BDH). Noticed in fair numbers of recent years in upper reaches of Manawatu River; on 18/11/72 S. Quin and H. Elder found a colony on a shingle bed near Woodville, 30 nests, most with two eggs; 30 chicks on 16/12/72 (IGA). 50 at Manawatu estuary 18/1/73; absent from Lake Horowhenua from June 72 till Jan 73; 14 on

3/2/73 (EBJ). Lake Wainono, 8/11/72, c. 900, c. 100 nests, eggs and some chicks (RJP). Waitaki River mouth, 2/2/73, est. 12,000 in colonies on islands for  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile above mouth (PC). Southland, successful breeding season in 1972/3 after washouts in early spring; March rains prevented the expected high mortality associated with large numbers of newly fledged birds and dry conditions (RRS). Stewart Island, Nov 71, up to 10 feeding with Red-billed Gulls in a freshwater stream flowing into Mason Bay (JAF).

#### BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Hawke's Bay coast, each winter varying numbers spend about three months along the coastline, particularly at E. Clive; biggest number counted, over 50 in 1967 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, single immatures Jan, March, and April 72 (J & MM); one in Feb 73 (IGA). First autumn reports Waikanae, 6/5/72, 6; 28/4/73, 2; Pukerua Bay 15/4/72; 28 on 30/6/73, last birds seen on 29/7/73 (CAF, JAF).

#### WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*C. leucoptera*)

Firth of Thames, one 29/10/72, one 3/6/73, in colour (HRMcK). Maketu, Jan 73, one (JHS). Muriwai Lagoon, one 21/11/72 (AB). Westshore, H.B., 2/1/72, 4 (MFO'S). Manawatu estuary, one Feb, March, May 72 (J & MM). One at Grey River mouth 30/9/72 (JAF). Canterbury Bight, 3/3/73, one 10 miles offshore following wake of icebreaker (JAF). Opihi River mouth, 1/2/73, one in almost full breeding dress, one in winter plumage (PC). Cass River, 29/12/72, one in breeding plumage; fourth season on the river (RJP).

#### GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Arawhata River mouth, South Westland, one on 20/1/73 (MLB).

#### CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Paua, Feb 73, 19 on paddock. Kerikeri Inlet shellbank roost, maximum count this season, 38 in July 72. 90 Mile Beach, April 72, 6 (ATE). Kaipara South Head, successful 1972/3 season, 92 chicks banded (MAW). Manukau, 26/11/72, 86; 1/7/73, 152. Firth of Thames, 29/10/72, 80; 3/6/73, 103 (HRMcK). Waikato Heads, 10/6/73, 25 (HRMcK); 8/7/73, 20 plus; Aotea Harbour 17/2/73, one; Raglan, 3/6/73, 2; Lake Waikare, 15/7/73, 2 (DW). Bledisloe Beach 22/9/72, 4 (RWJ). Opoutere, usually 2 (BB). Rotorua, Silica flats-Travel Lodge, May 72, 5; Oct 72, 4 (RWJ). Westshore, H.B., 7/4/73, 24 (NBM). Manawatu estuary, 20/1/73, 16 (IGA). Waikanae 28/4/73, 12 (JAF). Aug 72, 2 at Karamea, one at Westport (RJP). Lake Ellesmere, Kaituna, breeding pair Dec 72 at Black-backed gull colony; 4 on 18/1/73. Lake Wainono, Feb 73, 7; Washdyke, Aug 72, 3; Opihi mouth, Aug 72, 4. Ahuriri mouth, Dec 72, 2 adults, flying young; Godley mouth, Jan 73, 2 adults, one juvenile; Cass delta, Dec 72, one; South Branch, Ashburton River, Dec 72, two adults near Black-backed Gull colony, apparently not breeding (RJP). Nesting reported Dec 72, Smite River (JRI). Katiki Beach, Aug 72, one (RJP); Karitane estuary Jan 73, one (GH). Aramoana Feb 73, adult and juvenile (RJP). Hopkins River above Lake Ohau, 2 adults Oct 71 (PC). Invercargill estuary, 11/11/72, 56 nests, seven with newly hatched chicks; colony disturbed by photographers etc. and many dead chicks or rolled eggs on 9/12/72 (MLB).

#### FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*)

Waipu estuary, 1971, Sept, 4; 1972, Jan, 8; March, 3; Sept and Dec, 1 (TGL).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*)

Paua, 1973, 3 in Feb, 2 in March (ATE). Waitangi, Oct 72, two (GW). Waipu estuary, Sept 71, 3 (TGL). Hokianga North Head, Nov 72, one with 120 *striata* (AMM). Manukau, November 72, 2 (HRMcK). Firth of Thames, 1972, June, 3; Sept, 2; Oct, 28; Nov, 10; Dec, 7; 1973, Jan, 5; March, 3; April, 17; June 23 (HRMcK, WFC, BB). Maketu, Jan 73, 2 (JHS). Manawatu estuary, single birds Nov/Dec 72, Jan-April 73 (IGA, EBJ, J & MM).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*)

90 Mile Beach, 1972, April 600, May 200 (ATE). Firth of Thames, Taramaire colony 12/11/72, 150 birds, 12 with one and one with two eggs; Limeworks colony 3/12/72, 300 birds, 50% with eggs, one c/3 (BB). Gough Bay, Banks Peninsula, 15/1/72, nesting on reef used as a roost for years. Stack north of Fox River mouth, 5/1/72, 8 nests visible; 12 mile Greymouth, at least 50 nests on flat topped south stack (JRJ). Puketeraki, near Karitane, 21/11/71, 50-60 round offshore stack, some nests visible, some bringing fish; also one pair of Red-billed Gulls (GH).

SOOTY TERN (*S. fuscata*)

Kawhia, freshly dead bird found late Dec 72 (FCK).

GREY TERNLET (*Procelsterna cerulea albivitta*)

1973 Jan, one off Cavallis; Feb, 6 off Cape Breet (MAW). Patua, Whangarei, 3 storm-wrecked on beach after easterly winds (Mrs P. Smith). 29/1/73-5/2/73, during the final stage of a circumnavigation of N.Z. in yacht "Ketiga," one or two birds sighted each day, first sighting 39°15'S 179°23'E (about 70 miles offshore from Mahia Peninsula) appears to be the most southerly record for a Grey Ternlet; other sightings were between a point well to seaward of East Cape and a point east of Cape Brett. Mostly the birds appeared to come from a shorewards direction and other returned in the evening; they seemed fascinated by the yacht, often almost alighting on the masthead; some days one or two birds visited the yacht several times and sometimes stayed in the vicinity for over an hour (GSC).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*)

Little Barrier, Dec 72, feeding on clover and puriri (ATE). Great Barrier, Jan 73, plentiful, feeding on nikau berries (AJG). Clevedon garden, March 73, puriri and holly berries; April, holly and guava, then guava only; May, karamu berries (HRMcK). July 72, on kowhai trees in busy built up areas at Hastings (KVT) and Heretaunga (HAR). McLennan Valley, Otago, 19/8/71, J. Peterson reports a nestling, nearly full grown, wings still in sheaths. Jan 72, Dunedin plantation surrounded by paddocks, report of a nest with two nestlings nearly ready to fly (GH).

MALAY SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

1973, sightings at Puhinui-Weymouth, Whitford and around Clevedon (HRMcK).

WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

South Auckland, Oct/Nov 72, Wairamarama 7, off Ponganui road 6, Kaawa flats 23 (HRMcK).

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

Parau Bay, Whangarei Heads, June 73, three birds near wharf for an hour or two (CWD). Mareretu forest, Waipu, Jan 73, one

at 1,000 ft (TGL). Great Barrier, Shoal Bay, Nov/Dec 71, 40-50, very noisy, especially in pohutukawas (BB). Mangatarata, Waitakaruru, April 73, one in garden, first record here (SC). Hastings, one arrived second week of June 72 and stayed for 3 weeks in one of two orchards  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the city boundary, with frequent flights away to the south-east. Fed mainly on pears left on the tree, also pulling off and eating leaf buds of apple tree (KVT, JL).

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

Kaka damage to pine trees, Golden Downs and Tawhai State Forests. *Pinus sylvestris*, *P. canariensis*, *P. nigra* and *P. radiata* have all been affected; damage consists of internodal bark stripping, in some cases the tops have died owing to ringbarking. Dead poisoned *P. nigra* in an area surrounding *P. sylvestris* have been shredded by kaka searching for huhu and other larvae (per RWJ). Stewart Island, North Arm, Paterson Inlet, nest in a hollow Kamahi tree, 1.75 m. above ground, bird incubating two eggs 1/12/71; 10/2/72, two chicks which had lost their down, plumage similar to adult (GJW).

#### EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*)

Common in bush areas, Waipu and Waiotira, 1973 (TGL). South Auckland, single sightings Aug 72 at Kohekohe and Awhitu Central (MED). Redhill, Papakura, May 73, on cotoneaster; one chivied by Tui (BB). Small numbers at Moumoukai (EStP), fairly common at head of Ness Valley (HRMcK). Aramiro (SW of Hamilton), Jan 73, flock of 10 in a shelter belt near farmhouse, feeding on pears and on a paddock; 2 at Karakariki June 73 (JFC). Becoming more widely distributed in suburban areas round Wellington; recorded at entrance to Rimutaka Forest Park Sept 73 (JAF).

#### RED-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)

Commonly seen on Bunker Islets, Stewart Island on several visits between Nov 71 and Jan 73 (GJW).

#### YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*C. auriceps*)

Numbers seem to be increasing in Matukituki and Routeburn Valley beech forests, 1973. In late summer and early autumn an unusual irruption away from the mountain forests, after an exceptionally dry spell for several weeks. 3 up Cardrona Valley, Jan; Wanaka, 3 in late Feb, 5 on 12 March, and one on 22 July; Clyde, 5 on 28th Feb, stayed several days; 2 on 27th May (PC). Arrowtown, April 73, in silver beech trees around the suburbs (SS). Eglinton Valley, Jan 71, over 30 in a beech tree (TAB).

#### SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*)

1972 early records from Rabbit Island, off Mt. Maunganui, Bay of Plenty, 1 Sept (JHS), Onerahi, Whangarei, seen and heard by Mrs McQueen 9 Sept (HRMcK). Rotorua, 14 Sept (RWJ). Waitakaruru 15 Sept (SC). Head of Lake Wanaka, 21/10/72, four birds in a radius of 100 yards, allowed close approach, probably just arrived (PC). Juvenile at Taupo 23/4/73 (JHS). Tamaterau, Whangarei Heads, 29/1/73, three young cuckoos in a puriri tree, keeping close together, sometimes perching almost touching each other on a branch; seen being fed by grey warblers at 1830 hrs; a fantail seemed to be accompanying but not actually feeding them (CWD). Days Bay, Wellington, first call, 30/9/72 (EWD).



**LONG-TAILED CUCKOO** (*Eudynamis taitensis*)

Calls heard from a bird flying north over Waipu 27/1/72 (TGL); one at Lake Ngatu, north of Awanui, 8/4/73 (HAF).

**MOREPORK** (*Ninox noveaeelandiae*)

In wooded areas at Akaroa, Dec 72; Little Owls are reported in some northern bays on the peninsula (PC).

**N.Z. KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon sancta*)

30 counted round Waitangi River estuary, Bay of Islands, 21/8/72 (GW). Otago, near Makarora tourist centre, one on 21/10/72, had been present since Feb; the first recorded here. One present March-Oct 72 in the vicinity of Clutha River between Earnsclough and Alexandra, only the second known from this area. Naseby Forest, one, apparently juvenile, seen on 20/4/72 by Mrs Shaw (PC).

**KOOKABURRA** (*Dacelo gigas*)

Oct 72, Press report of sightings of one at Purua, 25 miles northwest of Whangarei; seen at Ōnerahi on 28th Oct by W. Stacey, but did not stay (ATE).

**AUSTRALIAN TREE MARTIN** (*Hydrochelidon nigricans*)

A reliable report from R. Walls of a flock of 5 in mid-June 72 and 2 in mid-July at Waitaki mouth (IAMcV). Lake Waituna, Jan 73, a bird with white rump and no long outer tail feathers seen by Dr Lloyd Franklin (MLB).

**WELCOME SWALLOW** (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Raoul Island, 1973, 3-6 birds during March, later 10 after a small hurricane; 11 in May, 13 on 1/7/73 (J. Ireland per CSK). Kerikeri, April 73, late evening, 300 over a lake (ATE); Waiotira-Paparoa, autumn and winter flocks of 30-50 (TGL). Feb 73, 52 over Muriwai Lakes. Dec 72, nests at East Tamaki road under a culvert, in a garage at Maraetai Drive (SMR). One at Orakei Bridge, Remuera, March 73 (GE). Oct 73, spreading well into Auckland suburbs, reports of new nesting sites (SMR). Great Barrier, 9/1/72, 3 at Whangapoua estuary, one at Mabey's Creek (AJG). Karaka, Urquhart's Dam, 14/7/72, 300 (DAU); Otau, one by house at 1,800 ft a.s.l., Oct 72 (EWB). Hunua Range, Mangatawhiri Dam, April/May 73, up to 4 (EStP); Aka Aka, nest, Oct 72 (MED). NE slopes of Pirongia, Aug 73, 3 (DW); pair at Tuakau township Nov 72 (TAB); recorded at Hamilton throughout April-July 73 (DW). Opoutere, breeds under farm bridges (BB). Well established at Gisborne 1972/3, breeding in vicinity and at Tolaga Bay; seen at East Cape; 9 at Whakaki Lagoon March 73 (AB). Increasing in Manawatu (HAR); report of 100-150 birds on wires at Hokio Beach, Mrs Gebbie, June 73 (EBJ). 2 at Silverstream June 72 (J & MM), 5 at Hutt-Wakatikei confluence May 73 (HLS). Wairarapa, many sightings over lakes and ponds and in river valleys (BDH, RHDS). Nelson, no sightings reported Waimea estuary 1972/3 (FHB); Karamea Lagoon, Aug 72, 3 (RJP); Westport, 7 over river, May 73 (JJ). Ahaura Bridge April 73, 2 (JAC); Karangarua River flat, Jan 73, nest, 4 eggs (MLB). Marlborough, Rai Valley, Nov 72 (JAC); Wairau Plain, Jan-June 73, common on all waterways from Waihopai River to Cloudy Bay (ES); pairs at Lake Elterwater and Flaxbourne River

road bridge, Aug 72 (JAT). Swallows have nested under a concrete bridge between Anama and Cavendish, Canterbury, for several years (ML). Otago, May 72, 4 at Hooper's Inlet, 6 at Kaikorai estuary (AW). Southland, widespread sightings winter 72, gradual disappearance in late spring. 2/1/73, Awarua Bay, nest with four eggs found under a bridge by Martin Muller; eggs vanished; new clutch of 4 in same nest, 28/2/73; may not have been successful. 3 unoccupied nests found in April 73, Bluff road; report per Dr Lloyd Franklin of nesting in a hay barn near Waituna, Feb 73. First autumn sightings for 1973, early March; build up from then onwards, individual winter flocks of 100 plus in lower and middle reaches of Mataura River and on lagoons at Thomson's Crossing near Winton, May 73; scattered birds over a wide area in mid-Aug 73 (RRS).

N.Z. PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Waikato, Pennydale, a nest on a steep road bank already fully constructed on 22/8/72 (TAB). Marlborough, Ward, more than usual in Autumn 73 after an exceptionally dry summer (JAT).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*)

Well over a week may elapse between completion of nest construction and laying the first egg. Between 4 and 10 Nov 72 a pair watched on lawn; female seen on several occasions to adopt a crouching position with quivering wings; male followed her and occasionally pecked at her cloaca but no attempt at mating (EBJ).

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

Waipu, two miles north of river mouth and  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile in from beach, 3-4 pairs in low manuka, 1973 (TGL). Great Barrier, Te Ahumata, 13/1/73, two pairs and a single along 600 yards of track on scrubby north-west face (AJG). Tanner's Point, Tauranga Harbour, two populations in low scrub, long grass and swamp near low mangroves, 10 south and 5 north of point (JFC). Opoutere 1973, common around harbour, up stream, even to edge of pine forest (BB).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albigilla*)

Little Barrier, Nov 71, male fed female on a nest with three eggs, placed 2 m above ground in manuka (BB). Coromandel, 1972, not seen past Kaiterakihi (SC).

YELLOWHEAD (*M. ochrocephala*)

Waikaia River, 3 miles north of Piano Flat, 24/2/73, 6 in beech forest; robin, tit, rifleman, grey warbler and parakeets also seen (R. Janssen).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*)

Whangarei, 1972, a nest well hidden in coprosma 3 ft from ground was found to contain a dead shining cuckoo chick; during the previous three weeks cuckoos calling near nest, once two, three times a single bird (P. Smith). Lake Alexandrina, one caught a large moth (RJP).

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

Brown's Island, Auckland, 7/7/72, 13 feeding together round Black Poll cattle in long grass (MED). Mataitai, Clevedon, 22/7/72, loose flock of 22, some near and one actually perching on a horse (CDB). Hamilton, 29/4/73, one attacking reflection in a mirror (JFC). Gisborne, a pair building in a suburban plantation 7/5/73; birds around completed nest on 15/5/73 but a severe frost on 16th stopped

further activity (AB). Black Fantails recorded Avondale, Auckland, 10/4/72 (AM); Hunua Falls road 14/11/72 (SC); Hexton, Gisborne, April/May 73 (AB); Bridge Pa, Hastings, 6/11/71 (KVT).

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

Southland population reduced to a very low level during the very wet autumn, winter and spring of 1972; breeding conditions apparently favourable in 1972/3 season but numbers probably still below normal (RRS).

PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*)

Puketū Forest, Dec 72 (BAE). Waipoua Forest, two, July 72 (GW). Waipu, Māreretū Forest, a few pairs along the summit ridges; Tangihua Range, 10 counted on a walk to Tangihua Trig (2,063') from the Omana side of the range, 27/1/73 (TGL). Waitakere Range, Auckland, on Cutty Grass track, 23/9/72 (MED). Kohukohunui track, Mōumoukai, 1/11/72, one singing about every 200 yards, apparently increased over the last ten years (AIG).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

Whangarei, 18 nests were under observation in 1971/2 and 1972/3 seasons, and from these only 5 successful broods were reared. The other nests were deserted, as follows: all eggs gone, no sign of nest disturbance, two nests; all eggs gone, nest disturbed, possum droppings on foliage nearby, one nest; fourth nest, one egg disappeared, bird sat for 9 days on 2 eggs and deserted when a second egg was taken. Eggs pecked, two nests (in one nest pecking occurred during incubation period, in the other the eggs had been in the nest for 17 days); two nests, chicks found dead and remains being eaten by black beetles; two nests, chicks gone, nests undisturbed; two nests, chicks gone, nests disturbed, possum droppings on foliage near nest; the last nest had 2 unfertile eggs and two chicks; the chicks disappeared on consecutive days and the parent deserted after the second chick had gone (P. Smith). Rotorua, eating berries of *Coprosma australis*, 5/5/72 (RWJ). Lake Alexandrina, adults and a juvenile taking snails from beneath the surface of the water at the lake edge and beating them against stones on the bank (RJP).

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*)

Whangarei, 1971/2 and 1972/3 seasons, 13 nests observed, from which 6 successful broods were reared. Chicks disappeared from one nest, eggs pecked in two nests, eggs gone from four nests, one of which had been built on the ground; at two nests scattered black feathers in or around the nest and nearby foliage. One Blackbird hatched and reared two chicks from a three-egg clutch; chicks in nest on 14th day after hatching, had left on the 15th day, but one of them still in the tree near the nest, which was found to contain the unfertile egg and 61 nikau berries; two days later no Blackbirds near nest and only 17 nikau berries left, scattered round the rim or outside it (P. Smith). Clevedon, Nov 72, eating calyx of feijoas as they do every year. 15/5/73, a pair acting as if copulating; 17/5/73, definitely copulated three times; later seen carrying nest material; no nest found and no young seen (HMMCK). July 72, three cock birds disputing an area in the garden; 18th, two alighted on top of the clipped hedge, one carrying a bright yellow salvia leaf by the stalk; holding this up as conspicuously as possible he

did all he could to provoke the other bird, which however completely ignored him; this went on for about a minute, when both flew to the lawn; the leaf was soon dropped and both set about worming (AJG). Otago Peninsula, Broad Bay, Blackbirds carrying food 26/8/71; seems to have been an early nesting season (AW). Wetherstones, Lawrence, 2/12/72, 66 Blackbirds and 31 Thrushes in one paddock (MLB).

#### SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Whangarei, one sat on two unfertile eggs for 13 days; one flitted from branch to branch while I was examining its nest, carrying in its beak a whole moth which it later fed to the chicks (P. Smith). Clevedon, Nov 72, pecking and apparently eating calyx of feijoa (HRMcK). Levin, 16/10/72, two flying up and catching insects after sunset, like flycatchers; three young seen the next morning, huddled high in a shrub (EBJ). Rotorua, 16/5/72, flock of ten systematically searching an Akeake tree; caterpillars about one inch long (?tortricid) extracted from under strips of bark or leaves, *Tortrix* pupae taken from between woven leaves (RWJ). Hamilton, winter 73, individual birds of a flock on the bird table adopt an aggressive posture with wing shivering, often followed by a short attack on another bird or birds. Song heard several times in May-July period (JFC). Ashburton, from early May, one singing a song like that of a skylark two or three times a week throughout the winter, in the garden (ML). Nelson, 29/5/72, two Silvereyes indulging in mutual preening. They were perched in a coprosma, the male with his bill up-pointed as the female preened round his nape, neck and upper breast; such preening as was done by the male was more perfunctory (FHB). Silvereyes mutual preening, especially cleaning round each other's eyes, cheeks and bills, while sitting close together in the fuchsia tree; Ashburton, winter 73 (ML). Hamilton, I have seen up to six pairs of Silvereyes sitting close to each other in a willow tree near our bird table, some with feathers fluffed, others mutual preening. The bird being preened raises its head to a vertical position, and the area preened is usually the head and neck; sometimes both birds preen each other at once. I have seen this behaviour on several dates in June and July 73, and also when I was living in Rotorua last year, at the same season and under the same conditions — a cold morning, the sun just disen, the birds perched in the sun on a tree near the bird table (JFC). Ashburton, 11/10/72, a silvereye in the garden, feeding with others, had yellow throat, breast and underparts, dusky wings with gold-yellow margin, crown, neck and mantle olive with a yellowish greeny tone. The bill was not black (ML). Unusually yellow birds (but evidently *Z. lateralis*) have been reported from Hutt Valley in 1972 (FCK).

#### BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)

S. Auckland, Moumoukai, Nov 72, near hiker's track (D. Harding); odd birds area Mangatawhiri Dam up to April 73 (EStP). All the way up Coromandel Peninsula, 1972 (SC). Chasing sparrows out of *Coprosma australis* bush at Rotorua, May 72 (RWJ). Rarely reported in Gisborne outer suburbs; many reports in spring 73 in the outskirts and birds have appeared in unusual numbers in country areas, e.g. Waimata Valley (AB).

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*)

Whangarei, 1973 autumn drought, Tuis take a daily bath in dew in the Myrtle tree then retire to the Erythrina to preen, preferring this to water put out for them; Tuis like crab apples in winter; walking on lawn and pecking apples knocked off by Blackbirds (KR). Waipu, Bream Bay, May 72, 4 flying over the sea at 200 ft heading inland, perhaps from Hen Island (TGL). Eating holly berries, Clevedon, Aug 72 (HRMcK). Karakarakai, Waikato, June 73, one chased a falcon, which perched in a tree; the Tui flew to a higher perch in the same tree; during and after the chase the Tui uttered a good imitation of a falcon's call (JFC). Gisborne, nesting pair fearlessly attacked a falcon flying low overhead (AB). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, pair raised two young Nov/Dec 72 (PJ). Kaikoura, 2 on lower slopes of Mt Fyffe, Aug 72; seldom seen in this district (JAC). Queen's Park, Invercargill, less than usual spring 73 after a hard winter (MLB).

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirius*)

BAE reports a sighting road Kerikeri-Okaihau, Bay of Islands, Jan 73. Normandale, one in 1972 (MAF), April 73, male with probable attendant female (JAF). Marlborough, summer 73, 7 seen at Ward, mostly cock birds; 5 pairs on farm at Flaxbourne River and at least one successful brood (JAT); one seen in Kaikoura township by J. Rutledge, May 72 (JAC). Richmond, Nelson, May 73, one found dead in Hill Street (HFH). Pleasant Point, one on 26/8/72 (RJP). Taiaroa Head, 23/9/72 (AW). Alexandra, 7/10/71, male seen on fence, first definite sighting in this locality (PC).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Orakei Korako, Taupo, Sept 72, one getting food from algae in steaming water which flowed over the terrace (BB). Lake Alexandrina Nov 71, the commonest passerine, followed by Redpoll (RJP). Becoming very common in Silver Beech forests east of main divide, e.g. Matukituki, Wilkin, Routeburn. In a week's trip through the Tial and Siberia in May 72, easily the most common bird of the forest, especially on the sunny side of a valley. In some localities behaving like fantails, fluttering out over streams from the forest margin to take insects on the wing (PC).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Kerikeri, seen on flax heads, April, probably taking seeds (ATE). Papakura, feed all winter on windfall tamarillo seed and look for dried passion fruit pods to open (BB). Rotorua, May 72, three feeding on seeds from the cones of Lawson's cypress; Aug 72, feeding on green seed heads of hairy bitter cress (*Cardamine hirsuta*) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*) (RWJ).

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*)

Raoul Island, June 73, one occasionally visited hostel garden (CSK). Waikato Heads, June 73, flock c. 55 working the sandy tide line on upper beach (HRMcK). Eating dock seed, June; seeds of *Poa annua* July and Aug 72 (RWJ).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Waipu, Bream Bay, common in sand dune country 1972 (TGL). Clevedon, Ohau Mt. Road, April 73, c. 300 on manuka and spider-wort; also ate paspalum. One immature had bill stained red from

spiderwort (BB). Generally distributed in all the hilly area from Onewhero to the west coast (DMW). Two flocks in pines, Maioro Forest, Waiuku; one flock fed on pampas seed (BB). Lake Horowhenua, one on 24/6/72 (EBJ).

#### HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Aramiro, Waikato, a colony of sparrow nests in a small tree near a farmhouse and hen run; 15-20 nests, 8-15 ft above ground level; at least 5 communal nests, larger than normal, with two or three entrance holes each leading to a separate nest within the one structure; most of the nests had eggs or young on 23/1/73 (JFC). Rotorua, May, an eaten egg found in garden (RWJ). Levin, a bird with a malformed (hooked) bill seen from 18/1/70-4/1/73. 1973, a female with white patches on wings; one with white on primaries and secondaries; a male with a patch of pale colour on the mantle (EBJ). Nelson, Jan 73, partial albino, body plumage light cream, wing and tail light coffee colour (FHB). Sept 71, a melanic sparrow photographed at Dunedin; photograph filed with Recording Scheme (DG).

#### STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Kerikeri, March/April 73, Starlings bringing nest material to nest site and later dismantling the partly made structure (RL). Eastern end of Brown's Island, Auckland, July 72, a roost of several tens of thousands; calling at varying degrees of intensity throughout the night (MED). Rotorua, April 73, Starlings, apparently young birds, fighting around nest boxes (RWJ). Papakura, one imitating a Yellowhammer; Opoutere, several thousand fly towards Alderman Islands each afternoon (BB). Nelson, mid-March 73, Starlings in Marsden Valley commenced building in nest boxes and under eaves; this continued up to 21 April, but operations are desultory and do not include egg laying (HFH).

#### INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Tamaterau, Whangarei, April 73, wasps (*Vespa germanica*) swarmed thickly round the tops of small trees and shrubs. One or two mynas perched on the tops of these, moving their heads to watch the wasps, catching them, crushing the abdomen and then the head and thorax with two or three quick snaps and swallowing them. One bird ate 8 wasps in about two minutes; no sign of it being stung, but it twice held its beak agape for 5-10 seconds. This behaviour was observed on three occasions over a fortnight (CWD). Clevedon, Nov 72, eating calyx of feijoa; first time I have seen this here (HRMcK). Opoutere, July, feeding and bathing among waders (BB). Te Kuiti, 1973, a group of mynas attacking a single bird of the same species, which was lying on the ground with outstretched wings. I have seen this happen four times, usually the victim is killed; it once happened on the roof of my house; when I climbed up the myna was at its last gasp though it had flown there pursued by the other mynas only minutes previously (TAB). Queen's Crossing, just north of Paekakariki, one on power lines 9/7/72 (HAR).

#### WHITE-BROWED WOOD SWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)

#### MASKED WOOD SWALLOW (*A. personatus*)

Naseby, 19/3/73; early last spring a Masked pair departed, leaving the White-browed male and another Masked male behind.

During last week the breeding pair (Masked) returned to the area of Forest HQ with three young. The young birds are distinguishable from the adult by their spotted plumage. The population has therefore increased to seven. It would appear that these birds are capable of surviving in the Central Otago climate (KAL).

N.I. KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*)

Great Barrier, 9/1/73, heard once  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile SW of Rangiwhakaea Bay but song not repeated during the next hour (AJG). Waikato, Karakariki, 23/6/73, one heard in bush (JFC). Dansy Scenic Reserve, 24/6/72, heard one, in the same locality as I heard one on 10/4/65 when accompanied by HL (RWJ).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*)

Waipu, hybrids occasionally seen; some have a narrow black collar on the hind neck (TGL). Clark's Bay, Seagrove, Karaka, 5; flock of 8 on farm at lower end of Ness Valley where it joins the Wairoa (Clevedon) River (HRMcK). Generally small numbers well scattered on Manukau Peninsula; 7 on paddocks, Taurangaruru, 22/10/72 (MED). NE slopes of Mt Pirongia, 24/8/73, 5 (DW). In 1937 it was very rare to see a magpie between Te Kuiti and Raetihi; in 1972 they are becoming quite common in King Country and around National Park and are often seen within  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of Te Kuiti (TAB). 23/4/73, Newcombes, Palmer's Road, Grey Valley, one 22/4/73 (V. Hawker per JJ). Dumbarton, 3; Dunrobin, 4 (MLB).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

South Kaipara Head, one in March 73 (MAW). Miranda, 1/4/73, flock of 20-22 flew towards works from fields beyond pools, had not been seen for a long time (EStP). Dillon's Hill, Napier-Taupo road, 30/9/72, nesting in gum trees; 19/7/73, apparently moving northwards to feed, birds seen returning from beyond Titiokura saddle in late afternoon, steady stream flying high (BB). Ward, Flaxbourne River bridge, May 72, 2; Dog Hill, Nov 72, 5 (JAT). Swyncombe, 8 miles west of Kaikoura, 27/6/72, one (JAC). Middlemarch, my estimates for the past two years are 13-15 birds in Nov 70, 15-16 birds in Oct 71 and definitely 23 birds in July 72 (GH). Chatham Islands, one seen (immature) on a farm at Owenga a few days before it was shot on 17/4/73; specimen preserved (RMW).