

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Compiled by A. T. EDGAR

Selected extracts from notes supplied to the Recording Scheme during 1973/74.

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NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*)

Little Barrier, Te Maraeroa, Jan 74, seven seen, one of which was an albino (TRH); Apr 74, calling behind bunkhouse, four seen on paddocks and one on Summit Track at 1000 ft a.s.l. (BB).

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

May 73, seen and heard in area of Te Aika homestead (RJP). 23/4/74, in forest 1 km. south east of Glory Cove wharf, while sitting in water fern watching for deer I noticed movement in the fern. Carefully parting the fronds I saw two kiwis, one about 33% larger than the other, facing each other and apparently asleep, each with its head tucked along the side of the other. I gently touched the "tail" of the larger bird; it shook it slightly, sleepily lifted its head and peered about, then returned to its previous position (L.A. Bell per RDL).

GREAT SPOTTED KIWI (*A. haasti*)

A Spotted Kiwi captured and later released on Mt Ears, D'Urville Island in 1974 was described by Mrs Moleta as a large bird standing nearly 2 feet high. Two feathers taken from this bird were sent to FCK, who writes "except for the very long back feathers of *A. haasti*,

single feathers of *A. haasti* and *A. oweni* cannot be separated from each other. I cannot therefore be sure from which species the feathers originated but my guess is *A. haasti* " (ML).

October 1973, on a trip from Perry's Saddle on Heaphy Track over Mt Goul, Mt Goulard and Mt Flanagan to Mt Domett, 2-3 feet of snow was encountered most of the way and I was snowed in for two days near Mt Flanagan, 4625 ft a.s.l. Great Spotted Kiwis called frequently at night, and in the morning I could see by their tracks that they had visited sheltered parts of the alpine vegetation, although this was covered by snow; the nearest scrubby beech would be 2-300 yards below. Their method of feeding seemed to be different from the probing methods used in the lower valleys and swampy areas, and may be their normal way of feeding in alpine vegetation, which is rich in insect life, even under snow. The call of *A. haasti* is different from other kiwis; this was established on a previous trip to Goulard Downs where W. V. Ward made recordings, now lodged in National Museum (HFH). A female bird with 6½ inch beak, seen by S. Sparrow at Greenpark Game Farm June 73, had been caught in a possum trap near the bushline above NZFS No 3 hut, Hurunui Valley (JRJ).

Apteryx sp. Upper reaches of Karamea river, Mar 74, calls heard at night agree closely with Henry's description for S.I. Kiwi quoted in Oliver 1955 (JMC). Calls heard round Lake Minchin Hut, Poulter Valley by R. McKay, Jan 74 (JRJ). Dusky Sound, Jan 74, calls heard at Sportsman Cove and the Basin (S.E. of Earshell Beach) where at 0400 hrs a shrill "kee-wee" was immediately answered by another at lower frequency (CAF).

BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*)

March-May 1974, heavy mortality in Northland. Dead birds, east coast beaches from Cape Rodney to Parengarenga South Head, 3294; west coast beaches, Dargaville area, 598; Reef Point and 90 mile beach, 92. (D. E. Crockett).

WHITE FLIPPED PENGUIN (*E. albosignata*)

Hokio Beach, Manawatu, 31/1/74, one dead, identification confirmed by FCK (EBJ). Palliser Bay, June 74, one dead (PCH).

FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*)

Breaksea Island, 12/1/74, moulting sites found; one occupied by a bird beginning its moult, others had completed moult (CAF).

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

June 74, one recovered by BCH at Palliser Bay. This species nests on NZ Sub-Antarctic islands and over-winters in Cook Strait; birds occasionally come ashore to moult but no dead specimen has previously been recorded (PR). Kaka Point, 24/2/73, one moulting (RJP).

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Lake Ianthe, 11/12/73, two (JAF). Glenmore Tarns, near Lake Alexandrina, two pairs; courtship display on Hartley Tarn 10/11/73 (RJP). Lake Monowai, mating display 21/10/73 (MLB).

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

Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 89 (SMR). Waiwera Wildlife Refuge 16/12/73, two pairs with two and three well grown young respectively

making nine birds in all; 27/4/74, one pair with a single young, pointing to egg laying in March. Orewa purification ponds 13/3/74, one (RBS). Karaka, 7/3/74, two on a new dam (RBS, DAU): still present 21/7/74 (BB). Hawkes Bay, Westshore 7/4/74, 3 (NBM): Lake Tutira 9/6/74, 13 counted in sheltered bays (KVT). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua 4/8/73, 30; small numbers March-July but 12 on 12/5/74 (EBJ).

Diomedea sp.

Off Mayor Island 28-29/7/73, two *exulans*, one *melanophris*, two *cauta cauta*, all adults; two adult and one juvenile *melanophris* 30/9/73; one juvenile *exulans* 25/2/74; 29-30/6/74, one juvenile *melanophris*, single adults of *bulleri*, *cauta cauta* and *cauta salvini*. The *melanophris* on 30/9/73 and the *cauta* on 29/7/73 were very tame; we were able to hand feed them and got close-up photographs (PL). Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, 22/5/73, 110 *bulleri* and 55 *cauta cauta* counted in the harbour while fishing boats were dumping refuse (RJP). NELLY (*Macronectes giganteus*)

Wellington harbour, 40 on 9/10/73 was our maximum count for that year; 8 birds at Ngauranga outfall on 18/1/74 was a considerable reduction from previous years (JMM). White phase birds, one at Bay of Islands 8/6/73 (D. E. Calvert), one off south Napier 27/10/73, sparse black spots on body (KVT), one dead in Bay of Plenty 7/9/74 (RMW).

ANTARCTIC PETREL (*Thalassoica antarctica*)

Storm cast specimen recovered on Dargaville beach 23/9/73 (D. E. Crockett) and one at Cape Kidnappers 16/12/73 (FCK).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*)

Kaikoura 16/6/74, c.100 feeding close inshore by wharf, during southerly storm (JAC).

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*)

Opoutere 1/1/74, one freshly dead on hillside; G. Nicholson found old burrows high on pine forest-clad hill across the harbour (BB).

BLACK-WINGED PETREL (*P. hypoleuca nigripennis*)

7/4/74, M. O'Reilly picked up a storm-cast specimen on Uretiti beach, Northland east coast; one recovered on Dargaville beach 1/6/74 (D. E. Crockett).

Pachytila sp.

One of the largest wrecks of prions recorded in New Zealand occurred on the west coast of North Island in June and July 1974. About 130 birds per mile were recovered on Dargaville beaches, of which 47 miles was patrolled on 30 June and 38 miles of this stretch covered again on 6 July. Of 5996 prions recovered approximate percentages were *vittata* 5%, *salvini* 41%, *desolata* 30%, *belcheri* 10%, *turtur* 4%, sp. unid. 10%. 90 Mile Beach of which the whole 54 miles were patrolled on 7 July, yielded 1018 prions or about 19 per mile; approximate percentages were *vittata* 2%, *salvini* 35%, *desolata* 25%, *belcheri* 6.5%, *turtur* 3.5%, sp. unid. 28% (D. E. Crockett). As in Northland, *salvini* was the preponderant species on the coast of South Auckland (BB). On Wellington West Coast the dominant species was *vittata* (41%), followed by *salvini* (27%), *turtur* (15%), *belcheri* and *desolata* (8%) (PR).

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctalis*)

Rarely found on Muriwai beach, but two in Oct 73, one each in Nov and Dec 73 and in March 74 (SMR). 23/11/73, between Ashburton river mouth and Wakanui beach, one flying south along the coast was observed at a range of 25 metres; twice it flew straight through the waves (ML).

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*)

March 74, north of Chickens, a number of birds flew close to the boat, apparently walking on the water in their eagerness to feed on scraps of bait thrown overboard (ATP).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*P. bulleri*)

About 250 feeding in Tolaga Bay Jan 5-7 1974 (GF). Fiordland, Jan 10-15-74, several off West Cape and one off Gulches Head (CAF).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*)

17/11/73, 250 off Cape Terawhiti (HLS). Pipinui Point, near Makara, where there used to be a colony of Sooty Shearwaters, visited 17/11/73; no definite evidence of breeding but some burrows were found and birds seen very close inshore at dusk (JAF). Late April 74, during very rough weather from Anzac Day onwards many recovered alive in various parts of Wellington region, two in Upper Hutt and one at Tawa being well inland (PR); two found alive near Palmerston North (HAR). Early May 74, a major wreck of young birds on Southland coast and inland (RRS); two immature birds still with downy collar picked up at Alexandra 4/5/74 (PC). Two heard in Paterson Inlet evening of 22/5/73 and two seen in Foveaux Strait 22/5/73 (RJP). 1/6/73, five birds seen 5-10 miles offshore between Waiau and Awatere river mouths (JRJ).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*)

Bay of Islands. a very large raft close inshore at Paihia 21/3/74 (GR). Individual birds feeding with gannets, May 72 (*Notornis* 19, 366); similar behaviour seen in May 74 (D. E. Calvert). Bream Islands, Mar 74, c.3000, feeding with White-fronted Terns (ATP). Large flocks close inshore at Waipu, summer 74 (TGL). 4500 off Channel Island, Colville, 14/1/74 (AJG). Manawatu estuary, thousands passing south Feb and March 73; 100 in Wellington harbour Aug 73, 50 in April and June 74 (JMM).

HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*P. huttoni*)

16-18 Mar 74, many landed in Kaikoura township at night during a misty southerly storm; 150 banded and released (JAC).

SUB-ANTARCTIC LITTLE SHEARWATER (*P. assimilis elegans*)

Pataua, June 74, storm-cast bird recovered; identification checked at Auckland Museum; apparently the first North Island record (ATP).

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*)

1973, still breeding on Saddleback Island off New Plymouth (DGM). Mayor Island Jan 74, feeding in flocks of c.40 (JHS).

AUSTRALIAN GANNET (*Sula bassana serrat*)

Coromandel, hundreds offshore Te Hope - Fletcher Bay 19/1/74 (BB). Horuhoru fully occupied by nesting birds 13/11/73 (HRMcK). Sightings of young birds, 20/3/74, one three miles north and ten 3 miles south-west of Tiri Tiri; on two occasions adults were seen to feed immature birds on the water; 11/3/74, five immatures from just

north to seven miles south of Tiri Tiri (JJ). Wellington harbour 14/3/74, 3 (JMM). Kaikoura, 14/9/73, one over bay; 24/6/74, one off Ohau Point (JAC). Jan 74, odd birds near entrance to Preservation Inlet and Breaksea Sound (CAF). Off Stirling Point, Bluff, Colin Robertson saw 10 on 21/2/74 (RRS).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Mangonui harbour, July 74, a party shepherding a shoal of small fish into shallows, as might Little Black Shags (D. E. Calvert). Waiotira, a few pairs resident on Manganui river (TGL). 10 on a farm dam at Taporā 23/2/74 (BB). Little Barrier, one seen Dec 73 near Waipawa creek; this bird had been injured, was treated, and has remained in the area (TRH). Kaiaua, 20/9/73, one ate an eel about 25 inches long, then bathed, keeping its head upright, apparently of necessity. 24/11/73, nests on an offshore rock at Ngatutara Point, south of Waikato Heads (BB). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 73 on 7/4/74 (NBM). Pelorus Sound, May 74, flock of 300 just outside Havelock (GAT). Upper reaches of Karamea river, Mar 74, frequently seen from below Kendall's Creek to the gorge; some juveniles in a party of 8 below the confluence of Jupiter Creek and Karamea river; there is said to be a colony just up river from Thor Hut (JMC). Central Otago, one immature on 10/11/73 at Black-backed Gull colony, Campbell's Creek, west side of Old Man Range, at about 3400 ft a.s.l., an exceptionally high altitude for the species (PC). Waituna swamp colony, 62 nests on 17/9/73, some young fledged but some nests still had eggs; breeding just finished on 16/1/74, some big juveniles still flightless (RRS).

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*)

Bay of Islands, Urupukapuka, 22/3/74, birds on nests and some still building; Kerikeri seasonal lake, nesting Nov-Dec 73 in mixed colony, *carbo*, *varius*, *sulcirostris* and *melanoleucos*, but total nests only 40 (ATE). Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, only 3 (SMR). Taporā, Seaview farm, 23/2/74, 160 (BB). Little Barrier, Dec 73, 26 counted in area of nest colony included some almost full grown young (TRH). Karaka, 29/1/74, strong SW breeze, a bird made nine circles to gain height and flew towards the east coast (HRMcK). One at Port Howard, Wellington harbour, 17/7/73 (JMM); one fishing in Hutt River 9 and 11 Jan 74 (HLS). S.W. Fiordland, Jan 74, a few in each sound (CAF). At a tarn 4 km inland from Mason Bay, 16/5/73, one bird sitting and a few unoccupied nests (RJP).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*)

Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, two (SMR). Manukau harbour, one on 11/11/73, 403 on 21/7/74; Firth of Thames, a single bird on 16/12/73 and on 23/6/74; 7 at Port Waikato 10/6/73 (BB). Maraetai old wharf, 31/5/74, 16 (HRMcK). Lake Whangape, 25/11/73, 50 plus (BB). Rotorua, Sulphur Bay, 26/2/74, 500 plus; a pair playing at nest building, Motutara Point (RBS). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 140 (NBM). Manawatu estuary 19/1/74, 14 (JMM); Lake Horowhenua 1973/74, small numbers, up to 12 in March and 14 in June (EBJ); Lake Pukepuke, 23/11/73, a flock of 12 arrived, fished as a pack without success for ten minutes and then flew off to the north-west (WJP). Wellington harbour, 16 on 15/8/73, 6 until 1/10/73; 12 on 30/5/74 and 10/6/74 (JMM). Lake Wainono 20/1/74, one, watched swimming and flying and compared with Black and Little Shags (RJP).

LITTLE SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*)

Tapora, Seaview farm dam, 23/2/74, 100, 12 plus nests (BB). Muriwai lakes 17/3/74, 15 (SMR). Opoutere, about 20% pied phase; April 74, in beautiful weather, little shags in the shallows were just lying on the surface with necks outstretched, dipping for fish (BB). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, pied phase 4, white-throated 126 (NBM). Manawatu Lake Horowhenua, white-throated usually in small numbers but 40 on 8/1/74; 3 little pied on 25/7/73 (EBJ). Wellington harbour July 74, several specimens of little pied present (HLS). April 73, one at Ahuriri river mouth, 10 at Godley mouth; Ashley mouth 19/1/74, 5; Opihi 23/12/73, 15; Wainono 16/12/73, 4; Akatore Creek 2/6/73, 3 (RJP). Lake Monowai, 20/10/73, two breeding colonies in beech trees on shore; Lake Murihuku, a new colony; 21/1/74, 18 nests occupied and a few old nests from last year. Thomson's Crossing near Winton, colony of about 20 nests, on lagoon (RRS). Invercargill estuary 7/6/74, adult feeding yellow billed juvenile on a post (MLB). South-west Fiordland, April 73, single birds at Gaer Arm, Revolver Bay, Northport, two at Breaksea Sound and Cascade Cove, six at Coal Island (DGM); Jan 74, seen at Preservation Inlet, Dusky Sound, Vancouver Arm, one or a few each record (CAF).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*)

Hauraki Gulf launch trip 13/11/73, 2000 plus (HRMcK). Taramaire 26/5/74, 500 flying low over water toward roost at Tarata Point. Kapiapia rocks, south of Waikato Heads, 24/11/73, breeding colony; 220 birds present, very few non-flyers left (BB). March-April 74, steady streams of Spotted Shags from Taiaroa Head coming into Otago harbour during the day, following shoals of small mackerel and mullet that are feeding on large numbers of clear shrimp (JH, AW).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

Bay of Islands, usual nesting sites are in tall trees, mangroves or pohutukawas; 7/1/74, a late nest on a rocky islet some distance offshore in Kerikeri Inlet, the nest placed on a flat shelf between two rock pinnacles, two eggs, bird on nest (ATE). Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 7 (SMR). 1973/74 Manukau harbour counts steady at 286 summer, 295 winter (BB). 8/4/74, 165 in the vicinity of Mangere airport (RBS); frequently seen in winter flying over King's College, moving between nesting sites on Middlemore golf links and feeding ground in Manukau harbour (TGL). Firth of Thames summer count 16/12/73, 181. Opoutere, Jan 74, 112; a big count for a small harbour, conditions must be ideal (BB). Tanner's Point, Tauranga, 22/10/73, 11 nests in pohutukawas, 4 nests in a tall pine growing amongst the pohutukawas, and one in a solitary pine 100 m. away across paddock (JFC). Kaituna cut, 11/5/74, 30 (PL). Present at Otamangakau, a new hydro dam west of Rotoaira, 25/2/74 (RBS). Hatepe, Lake Taupo, constantly present along lake shore, numbers increased over the past 2-3 years (WAW). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 188 (NBM). Lake Horowhenua, 10/8/73, Mrs Duguid saw 13 on a fence, displaying and flapping wings. 13/10/73, a young bird catching a fish instead of merely lunging with its bill leapt forward and flopped into the water (EBJ). Lake Wainono, where 70 were present on 9/2/73, produced counts of 18 in March, 4 in April and June; 14 in Dec 73 and Jan 74 and only 4 in February. A farmer at Lake Ellesmere said he and others saw very few herons after Feb 73 and and coastal sightings

elsewhere have been of small numbers. Inland numbers seem to be normal or even above normal, e.g. in Methven district and up into the high country; summer 73, still birds at Cass river and delta, Glenmore tarns, Ahuriri delta. It is possible that reduction of numbers in coastal areas may be due to dry conditions, though numbers did not fall so low during 1969 drought. Movement away from dry areas seems likely — birds are often seen where paddocks are irrigated (RJP).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*)

Port Waikato, 30/9/73, 4 fishing in shallows (BB). Firth of Thames 14/10/73, one (WFC). Matata lagoon 18/8/73, one (RWJ). Foxton, two on 11/10/73 (EBJ). Pukepuke lagoon, 4/5/73, one (WJP). Ngamotu lagoon, Wairoa, 18/11/73, one (GF). Tutaekuri estuary 1/12/73, one (KVT). Lower Opawa river, Blenheim, Apr-June 74, one (ES). Motueka, Mar 74, one (FHB). Apr 73, one at Twizel river, two at Ahuriri mouth; Merton, 18/3/73, one; Lake Ellesmere, Aug 73, one at Kaituna, two at Greenpark (RJP). Hooper's Inlet, 31/3/74, one (AW), 18/5/74, one (MLB). North end of Inchclutha, one on small lagoons all 1973-4 summer; seen Dec 73, Feb-Mar 74 (LO). Waituna lagoon, 16/11/73, one (RRS).

LITTLE EGRET (*E. garzetta*)

Hawkes Bay, Westshore, three on 13/10/73, and in November; two all summer; one on 7/4/74 (NBM, JL, KVT). Manawatu estuary 27/7/74, one (JMM). One at Opihi 23/12/73, one at Merton 18/3/73 (RJP).

REEF HERON (*E. sacra*)

Paua, 5 on 13/12/73 (ATE). 1973-74 season, reported from Hatfield's beach, Waiwera, Feb; Karaka (2), Nov; Clark's Beach, May; Duder's Beach, Oct; Waiheke, Feb; Taramaire (2), Sep; Parawai, June (BB); Kawakawa Bay, Maraetai, Three Sisters Islands off Waiheke (HRMcK); Bowentown, Jan, perched on an old maimai (JFC); Opoutere (3), Jan; Coromandel, Waiaro estuary, Jan (BB). Buffalo Beach, May (ABJ). Volcanic Plateau, Lake Rotoiti, 7/4/74, one fishing for smelt at Twin Streams; when waves broke over its tarsal joint it rushed back to the beach, then dashed forward for another fish. A White-faced Heron was further along the beach (RMW). One at Porirua June 74 (EBJ). July 74, dead bird on Petone beach; two birds at Pukerua Bay, one of which flew 100 yards along the shore, while the other flew to a small Karaka grove and hid behind one of the trunks; as I approached it climbed a sloping trunk and hid in the canopy (MLF). One at Kaikoura (The Point) Mar 74 (JAC). Dusky Sound, one at Anchor Island harbour, Jan 74 (CAF).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Mangere, Oct 72, two, later one (TRH); 11/11/73, 2 (SMR). Near Port Waikato, Sep/Oct 73, 5 (DMW). Manawatu Lake Horowhenua, Sep 73, 3, later 4; Oct, 5; 17 Nov, 3, straw colour on head and neck; 23 Nov and 1 Dec 73, one, head neck breast and back bright buff, bill yellow, legs black (EBJ). Two at Lower Opawa river, Blenheim, April 74 (ES). Longwood, near Riverton, one on 29/3/74 (IAM); Gorge Road, one on 2/4/74 (RRS).

AUSTRALIAN BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Jan 74, one at Te Werahi (GF), two at Spirits Bay (HAR). Mar 74, Muriwai Lakes, 11 (SMR). Mangatawhiri river, Wyburn's

Lagoon, 30/3/74, 20 birds visible in swamp around lagoon (AH). Bay of Plenty, near Waihou Bay, Aug 73, one walking across the road from one swamp to another, neck fully extended at an angle of 45° from vertical, walked with long strides, paying no attention to a passing car (JFC). Kaituna cut, one in May 74; formerly bred in swamp at Papamoa beach, habitat spoilt by drought, burning and grazing (PL). Foxton, Jan 73, one (JMM). Ahuriri river mouth, Apr 73, one (RJP). Southland, peat swamp at Awarua Bay, Dec 73, one (RRS).

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Manawatu, March 73, four birds observed catching and eating small eels at Lake Pukepuke; 7/4/73, two at Foxton No 3 lake. Lake Pukepuke 1974, 3 on 23 Jan, 4 on 25 Jan, regularly recorded till April (WJP).

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Mangere, single bird reported Nov 73, Mar 74 (SMR). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 2 on 7/4/74 (NBM). Manawatu, maximum count for 1973, 36 on 21 Apr (JMM); 8 on 11/9/73, two on 11/10/73 (EBJ); two in breeding plumage 25/12/73 (JAF). EBJ reports a greyish bird which kept apart from the others on 19/7/73 and HAR one on 28/2/74 which was ash grey, with part of a plume on its nape. 1974, 4 in January (JMM), 24 in February (HAR), present Mar-June, highest count 33 on 4/5/74 (JMM). Collingwood, one, Mar 74; Waimea estuary, 11 in Mar-April, at least 5 on 8/6/74 (FHB). Marlborough, junction of Opawa and Wairau rivers, two, Oct 73 - Mar 74. These birds built a stick nest about 18-20 inches across and 12-15 inches deep with a shallow depression in the top, which the birds made some attempt to line with rushes; no eggs were laid. The impression was that they were juveniles having a trial run at nesting (ES, JAC). Lake Ellesmere, 2/1/74, one at Kaituna, two at Lakeside. Wainono, 16/12/73, 6 (RJP). Invercargill estuary, one 27/10/73 and 24/11/73; Waituna lagoon, 3 on 24/11/73, 6 on 8/2/74 (RRS).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*)

Lake Ellesmere, 42 at Lakeside 2/1/74, 6 including two cygnets at Kaitorete Spit 27/1/74 (RJP).

BLACK SWAN (*C. atratus*)

Paua, present in harbour Feb-July 74, counts 100-350 birds (ATE). Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 99 (SMR). Taporu, Feb 74, hundreds offshore, harried by poachers (BB). Lake Whangape, 25/11/73, 3000 (BB). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 420 (NBM); 9/6/74, some families of small cygnets at Lake Tutira (KVT). Lake Horowhenua, usually small numbers but up to 150 in January 74 (EBJ). Opawa river near Blenheim Oct 73, two adults with cygnets; has not bred here for some years (ES). Southland district, census count 18/11/73, 1655; 17/4/74, 2743. Breeding success in the normal spring-summer breeding season was low at 102 cygnets; in March 74 water levels in Waituna lagoon were ideal; there was an upsurge of breeding and a count in April revealed a minimum of 61 broods, estimated 225 cygnets; brood loss may have been substantial or hatching success poor. In view of the limited breeding success of the last two seasons it may be that the marked increase in Southland swan population is due to an influx from elsewhere (RRS).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Ngamotu lagoon, Wairoa, pair nesting, 4 eggs on 8/12/73, later washed out by blockage of Wairoa river bar. 27/4/74, 40 on Little Ohuia lagoon, Wairoa, and 4 on Whakaki lagoon (GF). Lake Taupo, Hinemaiaia (Hatepe) stream, 14/4/74, 6 with a mixed flock of ducks (WAW). Lake Wainono, 21/2/74, c 2000 (RJP).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)

Paua, 24/4/74, 32 (ATE). Muriwai Lakes, 17/3/74, 13, first record from area (SMR). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 225 (NBM); Lake Titira, 9/6/74, 100 plus (KVT). Lake Horowhenua, 13/7/74, 40 (EBJ). Lower Opawa river, Blenheim, 150 feeding on barley stubble 28/4/74 (ES). Dog Hill, Ward 1973-74, more birds than usual on paddocks, perhaps because Lake Elterwater dried out; clutch of 8 all reached flying stage (TJT). Head of Lake Rotoiti, 14/2/73, 50 (PJ). Karamea river upper reaches, scattered, total seen 27, March 74 (JMC). S.W. Fiordland, 13/4/73, 40 at mouth of Camelot river (DGM); Jan 74, pair at Puysegur Point, one at head of Vancouver arm (CAF). Southland, population and breeding range still extending; Waimatuku lagoon, a brood of flying young of the year, first coastal breeding record for many years; 14/1/74, moulting birds on lagoon for the third year in succession, this year 218; 1973/74 season, 22 broods at flying stage averaged 5.8 young per brood (RRS). Mason Bay, May 73, two females (RJP).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Birds nasal saddled (white) in Waikato seen in Northland at Lake Owhareiti and Kerikeri in April, Whau Valley in May 74 (KH). Of 1874 mallards at Westshore, Hawkes Bay, 7/4/74, one had a yellow (Manawatu) nasal saddle (NBM). Mayor Island, Jan 74, 50, in eclipse, on Black Lake in the crater (JHS). S.W. Fiordland, Jan 74, possibly the commonest duck; 7 in Sportsman Cove, several in Vancouver arm (CAF).

GREY DUCK (*A. superciliosa*)

Muriwai Lakes, 17/3/74, 33 pure, 694 grey/mallard or mallard (SMR). Westshore, Hawkes Bay, 7/4/74, 11 (NBM). Near Hamilton, nest in a hollow in willow on a stream bank, 10ft above water level; 8 eggs, six hatched on 25/9/73; ducklings later seen swimming with parents (JFC). Upper Karamea, March 74, 34 grey ducks (JMC). Maori Lakes, Aug 73, 30 greys, 50 mallard; Glenmore Tarns, Oct 73, 6 greys, 3 mallard (RJP).

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*)

Whau valley dam, near Whangarei, 13/5/74, 35; only two have previously been recorded here; one bird had a white (Waikato) nasal saddle (KH). Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 32, the first recorded here (SMR). Mangatawhiri swamp 30/4/74, 100 plus; Lake Rotorua 27/2/74, pair with six downies (RBS). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 38; also present on Horseshoe Lake 7/10/73 (NBM). Manawatu, Lake Kaikopu, 30/3/74, 78 (WJP). Lake Grassmere 1974, 40 plus in January, 100-150 Feb, 135 March (TJT). Lake Tekapo, 21/4/73, 42 (RJP).

BROWN TEAL (*A. aucklandica chlorotis*)

Early 1974, Spirits Bay, in lagoon of Waitahora stream, 12 birds thought to be this species (HAR). Whananaki river, 15/12/73, 40

(AMM). Waikaraka (Whangarei harbour) 6/8/72, six (PM.) One accidentally shot on Piako river, 1973; Waiaro estuary, Coromandel, 19/1/74, 15 beside stream on mudflats (BB).

NORTHERN SHOVELER (*A. clypeata*)

Wryburn's lagoon, Mangatawhiri river, 30/3/74, with F. V. Thompson, one male bird seen; breast white, side and belly to flank chestnut brown, a white patch directly behind the flank; upper and lower tail coverts black; head and neck glossy black all over (AH).

NEW ZEALAND SHOVELER (*A. rhynchotis*)

Muriwai Lakes, 17/3/74, 26 (SMR). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 7/4/74, 291 (NBM).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*)

Nov 73, Tongariro National Park, one pair on Mangahua river and another at top of Mahuia rapids (MPG). Jan 74, Waikohu river, Poverty Bay, a pair which had evidently lost their young associating with a pair of Grey Ducks which had certainly lost theirs (JAF). Karamea river, Mar 74, none seen between Taipo bridge and Trevor Carter Hut; Blue Ducks are said to frequent the fast water side creeks, e.g. Thor and Venus creeks. One pair seen in the main valley, 4 km downstream from Ferris Creek-Karamea confluence; the river bed was wide and the water relatively slow compared to much of the river upstream and downstream of the ducks (JMC). A rare bird in Mt Aspiring National Park east of the main divide; only seven adults seen in 1973-74 season, a male above top gorge in Rockburn, a pair with chick in upper North Routeburn, pairs in Upper Makarora and Siberia (Wilkin) gorges (PC).

NEW ZEALAND SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*)

Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 5 (SMR). Otamangakau, new hydro dam lake west of Rotoaira, colonised 25/2/74 (RBS). Lake Tutira, in past years up to 100, only 36 counted 9/6/74 (KVT). Lake Rotoiti, near St Arnaud township, 11/8/73, one (PJ).

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

Courtship display, tumbling in air, Waipu, 26/8/73 (TGL), Lake Horowhenua, 29/9/73 (EBJ). Westshore, Hawkes Bay, 7/4/74, 10 (NBM). Karamea river, Mar 74, three between the Bend and the last earthquake lake (JMC). Mt Aspiring National Park, east of main divide, uncommon in montane watersheds; of 32 main valleys visited in 1973-74 only ten contained a harrier and most of these were records of single birds. The only one seen above the treeline was 12/4/74, 3800 ft a.s.l., Blue Duck stream, western tributary of Upper Dart. 15/3/74, one eating roe and innards of a large trout stranded in a paddock near Mt Aspiring homestead after floodwaters of Matukituki river had receded (PC).

NEW ZEALAND FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*)

Waitomo, one, Feb 74 (RBS). Male or female occasionally over Gisborne suburb, flying SW and returning NE; one at Tahunga, 65 km from Gisborne, 2/12/73 (AB). One about cliffs above Waingakia river, Mt Hikurangi, 20/4/74; Mokau Inlet, Waikaremoana, one 18-20/5/74 (GF). Urewera National Park, on road near Ikawhenua summit, one on 13/4/74, probably chasing something, flying very low and fast (PL). Masterton, Dec 73, one flew over garden in pursuit of two homing pigeons (RHDS). Ward, one near house,

Apr 74 (TJT). Kaikoura, Mar 74, one above Upper Kowhai river (JAC). Mt Robert road lookout, one in Mar 73 (PJ). Karamea river, Mar 74, probable sighting of two birds, flying to high limestone bluffs between confluences of Crow and Lesley with main river (JMC). Homer Tunnel, Dec 73, one (JAF).

CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukar*)

Dog Hill, Ward, 17/12/73, during mustering, one made aggressive display at a dog; after the dog was withdrawn the bird made an unusual hissing noise, withdrew some distance and called her chicks, which answered. May 74, six seen (TJT). Tarndale, hydro road, two seen 26/12/73 (PJ).

GREY PARTRIDGE (*Perdix perdix*)

18/2/74, reliable report of a covey of 9 at Heddon Bush, Southland, almost certainly a family covey from current breeding season (RRS).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*)

Two miles west of Opotiki, Dec 73 (JFC). Storm Bay, near Pauanui, Jan 74, 6 on forestry tracks; Opoutere, Easter 74, heard daily (BB). Sep 73, Whakarewarewa State Forest, 5-8 ft radiata pine, lupin and broom, three birds; 6 at Royden Downs, 4 miles north of Rotoiti (RWJ).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*)

Dec 73, 5 in manuka scrub 4 miles north of Tikitiki (JFC). Ward, 18 wintered near farm buildings and bred Nov 73-Mar 74; Flaxbourne river bed, Jan 74, covey of 50-60, more than usual (TJT).

PEAFOWL (*Pavo cristatus*)

Rehia, south-east of Dargaville, Dec 73, a male bird in a paddock in scrub country; shy, and ran very fast — possibly gone wild (CDC). Mahia Peninsula, Sep 74, J. Henley recorded a small flock of feral peafowl including 5 fine cocks (AB).

BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*)

Port Albert, Kaipara harbour, 9/3/74, at about 20 ft range watched a rail do a sort of dance; it ran and flew in front of the mangroves for about a chain, then returned in the same manner; it then appeared to dart and dive, jumping in the air displaying almost its whole back and both wings, like a cock pheasant does in front of a hen, but this was rapid movement in a figure-eight pattern. It did this twice, then ran a little and finally walked into the mangroves (AH). Karaka, Oct and Dec 73 (RBS, BB). Clevedon launch landing 23/1/74, two adults and 4 full sized immatures (HRMcK). Raglan, 24/11/73, Ocean beach road, 1600 hrs; an adult rail emerged from long grass on to the road, crossing from left to right, and appeared agitated when about one metre from the left grass verge. We stopped the car about 20 metres away. The rail stood momentarily and three black downy chicks emerged and furtively crossed the road; the adult, still agitated, returned to the left side and when a fourth chick emerged, hurried it across to the right hand grass verge; before they had reached cover a second adult emerged from the left hand verge, crossed the road and disappeared into the grass with the first adult and chick. The whole episode took 2-3 minutes (RDL). Opoutere, Dec 73, seven seen at one creek mouth; 26/1/74, two adults and four downy young (BB). Ohiwa harbour, 9/1/74, one on mangrove flats by main road (GF).

NORTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus australis greyi*)

Birds liberated by King's College Bird Club at Middlemore golf links, 1972. Six seen in July 73; a bird on four eggs 25/10/73, one chick hatched on 20/11/73; the nest was in long grass 2 ft from mown fairway (TGL).

WESTERN WEKA (*G. a. australis*)

Karamea river, Mar 74, three wekas seen at Belltown hut and one upstream from the head of Moonstone Lake; calling at dusk was frequent and continued periodically till 2200 hrs (JMC). Jan 74, R. McKay heard wekas at Poulter River, above Casey; Between 1950 and 1964 I several times saw wekas by the road between the Fox and Cook Rivers; no recent records, but Mr Rennison, Ranger, reports wekas by Fox Glacier village, Dec 73. For many years they have been present on Chancellor ridge. 21/12/73, in the moraine below Douglas Glacier terminal lake, a weka nest where one was found in Dec 65. Dec 72, S. Sparrow reports wekas in the head of Tunnel Creek, Paringa valley, after some years absence (JRJ). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73, heard at Gaer Arm, Snug Cove (Doubtful Sound), Secretary Island; Jan 74, heard and seen at several points near head of Vancouver Arm, Breaksea Sound (CAF).

STEWART ISLAND WEKA (*G. a. scotti*)

Papatiki Bay, 21/4/74; fine and warm; the sandy beach, about 300 m. long is bordered generally with short tussock, second growth scrub, gorse and some macrocarpa trees; estimated weka population c.20 birds. Mating was observed at 0930 hrs, the mating pair being aware of but apparently unconcerned by the presence of an observer. The ceremony began with a period of throat drumming during which the birds moved in circles, walking stiffly with necks stretched and curved downwards; the male momentarily stood on the female; she moved off about a metre and stood, facing away from the male and with her beak touching the ground. The male then mounted on her back; the female arched her neck further till the top of her head rested on the ground; the male seized her neck feathers with his bill and copulation took place, both birds trying to maintain an upright stance (RDL).

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)

Westshore, Hawkes Bay, winter 1974 (NBM). Lake Reserve, Wairarapa, 23/2/74 (IAF). Southland, birds caught in Shoveler traps, Jan 74, at Invercargill airport, Lake Murihuku, Lower Waikiti Creek; showed aggression when handled before being released. Also reported at east end of Awarua lagoon and in Waituna swamp (RRS).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*)

Hunua, June 74, in a farm gully swamp, growth mainly toetoe, flax, basket willow and some raupo, 4 heard or seen; answered taped calls; three different calls recorded from the birds. One bird watched feeding for some time in still pools and stream under willows, taking food from just under the surface; swam for a few feet and briefly flew with dangling feet. AH noted one bird as having a yellow tip to its bill (BB et al.). Bred in long swamp, Papamoa beach; habitat spoilt, drought and fire (PL). Lake Pukepuke, seen regularly (WJP per IGA). Located with tape recordings in a number of swamps from Waitarere (Manawatu) south to Plimmerton, and in Wairarapa; 16 positive locations include a lagoon north of Waikawa beach (7);

Waitohu stream, Otaki; Waikanae estuary (5); Wairarapa Lake Reserve; 5 seen and 12 heard in 3 acres of raupo swamp at Tuturumuri on the Tora road (JAF, MLF). Southland, Awarua Bay, one in swamp at east end 30/8/73 was the first record in the district for many years; Jan-Feb 74, birds flushed by dog in Waituna swamp (RRS).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Appears to be nomadic; disappears quite suddenly from suitable habitats and appears unexpectedly in others (AB); population around a 5-acre lake on Kerikeri farm has fallen from 35 in 1971 to 6 in 1973, for no apparent reason; similar decrease noted in a large seasonal lake in the same area (ATE). Muriwai Lakes 17/3/74, 102 (SMR). Westshore, Hawkes Bay, Apr 73, 15; Apr 74, 22 (NBM). Lake Horowhenua, June 73, 30; 3/11/73 eight, displaying, flying about and flapping, almost dancing, breasts held low and under tail coverts displayed (EBJ). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, two, Black Valley stream, Nov 72 (PJ). Invercargill, Lake Hawkins, June 73, 36 feeding in evening; frequently seen swimming across Waihopai river from one feed area to another, low morning temperatures, July 74 (MLB).

AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra australis*)

Lake Tutira, Sep 73, 84 (RDC); June 74, 200, feeding in one particular area where most of them stayed for several hours (KVT). Masterton sewage ponds, 8/10/73, one with mallards, shovelers and a black swan, the first coot I have seen in Wairarapa (RHDS). Maori Lakes, mid-Canterbury, 18/8/73, 4 (RJP).

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*)

Paua, May 74, 80 (ATE). Whangarei, Mar 74, 340 (AMM). Kelly's Bay, Kaipara, Apr 74, 1200 (CDC). Manukau, Nov 73, 1132; July 74, 12272 (BB); Apr 74, 90 at Huia Bay; a partial albino with brown-gingerish dustings moved from Wiroa Island to Kiwi esplanade, where at very big tides SIPO now come up on to the mown parkland (RBS). Firth of Thames Dec 73, 773; June 74, 4822 (BB). One at Buffalo Beach, Coromandel, 9/5/74 (ABJ). Waitare beach, May 74, 100; Manawatu estuary Mar 74, 83 (EBJ). Aramoana, Jan 74, 1000 (JH). Invercargill estuary Feb 74, 1500 (RRS). Stewart Island, May 73, 4 at Paterson Inlet, one at Mason Bay (RJP).

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor*)

Paua, Apr 74, 150 (ATE). Ruakaka, Nov 73, 15 (AMM). Oct 73, 2 on Motuora island (very unusual), 2 at Whangaparaoa (SC). Port Waikato, Nov 73, 13; Opoutere, Apr 74, 32 (BB). Whitianga harbour, June 74, 6 blacks; Simpson's beach, Apr 74, 20, only two showing any white (PL); Muriwai lagoon, Sep 73, 8 blacks (AB). D'Urville Island, Patuke, Feb 74, 9, all some white feathers showing, one with a white cap (ML). Blacks present at most beaches SW Fiordland, Breaksea Island to Puysegur Point; Jan 10-15 1974, some still territorial; copulation at head of Vancouver arm; head of Cunaris Sound, pair with three young and single adult with two non-flying juveniles (CAF). Stewart Island, May 73, 3 at Halfmoon Bay, 27 at Mason Bay, 13 in a flock (RJP).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*)

Breeding reported 1973 in Upper Manawatu, Dannevirke area; at Lake Pukepuke, and at Paekakariki, where on 6/10/73 a pair with three chicks less than a week old were seen, plus three other adults.

One at Waikanae, 23/3/74; at Paekakariki a pair had three chicks, hatched 6-9/7/74, colour banded 20/7/74. Two of this clutch were alive and well on 22/8/74, when a second nest, 5 eggs, was found (MLF, BDH, NBM). Lower Opawa river, Blenheim, Apr 74, 50 on salt flats (ES). Nelson Lake Rotoiti, 8/12/73, 6 at head of lake (PJ). Lynton Downs, Kaikoura, P. Adams saw one Dec 73; 5 on 7/6/74 (JAC). Lake Ellesmere, 3/2/74, 41 at Greenpark (RJP). Sighting near Mt Torlesse Station homestead 20/10/73 (MB). Said to be doing well in Lake Heron area; can be seen all the way down Ashburton and Hinde rivers: May 74, 24 between Lake Emma and the road; 9 at Wakanui in swampy ground behind the beach, 10 at Ashburton river mouth, 18 in a paddock near Eiffelton (ML). Akatore Creek, Otago, June 73, 5 (RJP). Ewing's Bay, West Wanaka, June 74, 426, where ten years ago there were 60 (PC). Stewart Island, two flew over Oban 15/5/73 (RJP).

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*)

One on dunes at Spirits Bay 28/10/73 (AMM). Pua, spring influx of 200 in Oct reduced to 50 in Nov 73; summer influx, 250 in Jan 74 reduced to 60 in Feb; only 7 in Apr 74 (AMM, JHS, ATE). Whangarei, Nov 73, 20 (AMM). Kaipara, 20 at Jordan's Dec 73 (RBS), 18 at Taporā, Feb 74 (BB). Manukau, Nov 73, 77 (BB), Mar 74, 69 (AH). Firth of Thames, Dec 73, 65 (BB). Ngamotu lagoon, Wairoa, Dec 73, 14 (GF). Westshore, Hawkes Bay, Mar 74, 42 (JL. KVT); Apr 74, 32 (NBM). Manawatu estuary, Feb 74, 13; Rangitikei estuary Mar 74, 5 (RL, HAR). Wairarapa Lake Reserve, Feb 74, 30 (JAF). One on Wairau lagoon Mar 73 (SRK). Farewell Spit, Dec 73, 15 at mile 5½, high tide; 7 at mile 8½, low tide (RJP). Lake Ellesmere, 14 at Kaituna Dec 73, 4 at Greenpark Jan 74 (RJP). Fortrose estuary Nov 73, 14; Dec 73, 40 resting on high peat swamp, Invercargill (SLL).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

Karaka, 1973, while chicks were being banded an alarmed adult, after a broken wing display, alighted on the water and swam (BB). New localities — Tarawera mouth, 18/8/73, pair, coloured (RWJ); Marokopa, North Taranaki, one on 21/10/73 (RNT); Christchurch, Heathcote-Avon estuary, one first seen by MMD in June 73, later by DWH and an OSNZ field trip in Mar 74, still present on 1/5/74 (JRJ). Many records from other areas confirm or extend the population estimate in *Notornis* 16, 85-100; these are filed for future reference.

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*)

Spirits Bay, 28/10/73, 13 on grass behind beach (AMM). Pua, fewer than usual this season, maximum c.800 in Feb 74, less than half that number thereafter, until July (ATE). Hamlin's Hill, Auckland industrial suburbs, 6/6/74, 120 (RBS). Mt Tarawera, on northernmost peak, agitated bird near edge of Black-backed Gull colony, 25/11/73 (RWJ). Lake Pukepuke, March 74, a small flock arrived to take advantage of the low shore-line (WJP). Nelson harbour, July 74, c.100 in two flocks (FHB). Feb 74, 1000 at Lake Ellesmere and 275 at Lake Wainono (RJP). Ashburton-Methven highway, a pair apparently nested on the mound formed by spoil from a recently dug ditch 5 metres from road; two chicks poked their heads out from under a crouching parent, 11/11/74 (ML).

MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL (*C. mongolus*)

Probable sighting, two birds, Hokio, 20/3/74 (EBJ).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

Manukau, one on 11/11/73 (BB). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, 6/11/73, three, with Banded Dotterel, seen by Mrs E. Graham (PDG).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*)

Kaituna cut, 11/5/74, one (PL); Matata lagoon, one on 13/8/72 (PL); one, perhaps juvenile, May-June 74 (NRH, RMW). Hawkes Bay, one in a backwater of Wairoa river, 5/8/73 (GF); Westshore, 7/4/74, 50 (NBM). Pukepuke lagoon, one on 18/1/73; Apr 74, 5, later 8; 5 on 1/5/74, one on 4/6/74; Oroua river near Kopane, 2 on 17/3/74 (WJP). Hokowhitu lagoon 7/4/74, 4 on exposed muddy bottom (IGA). Wairau river diversion 2/9/73, two below traffic bridge (PJ); 30/12/73, one adult and 3 half grown chicks which were feeding on the mud near water edge (RJP). Lake Elterwater, one on 23/9/73, (JAC, TJT). Opihi river, 22/10/73, 11 adults (3 pairs) downstream from Arowhenua bridge on State Highway No 1; upstream, two pairs plus one chick about 3 days old, on 2½ miles of riverbed. None found on 6 miles of Orari riverbed or on 2 miles of Rangitata riverbed (PC).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

Paua, 21/7/74, 32 (ATE). Tokerau Beach 13/4/74, 20 (TGL). Whangarei, one on Ocean Beach 28/12/73 (PM); harbour counts, Nov 73, one; Mar 74, 92; 101 at Portland on 9/3/74 (AMM). Kaipara, Jordans, 80 on 16/9/73, 18 on 30/9/73, one on 16/12/73 (RBS); Taporā, 65 on 24/2/74 (BB), 27 on 9/3/74 (AH). Karaka, 1973, Sep, 385; Oct-Dec, 10-20; 1974, Apr, 200, July, 730 (BB); Sep, 65 (RBS). Firth of Thames, Dec 73, 163 (BB); Feb 74, 3000 (SMR); 23/6/74, 3807 (BB), 25/7/74, 3500 (RBS). Island opposite Omokoroa, 13/1/74, 52, at a very high tide (JHS); Sulphur Point, Tauranga, 13/5/74, 50 (RVMcL). Kaituna cut, 1974, Jan, 2 (JHS), May, 6 (PL). Westshore, H.B., Apr 74, 7 (NBM). Manawatu estuary, Feb-April 74, 18; 21 May, 20 (JMM, EBJ). Waikanae estuary, 24/8/74, 4 (seen by Mr Griffin), gone by 29 Aug (MLF). Few records from the northern part of South Island; Wairau Pilot Station reserve, 30/12/69, 7 (RBS). One still present at Cass delta 21/4/73, chased by dotterels. Lake Ellesmere, Greenpark mudflats, 40 on 16/2/74; 1973, single birds at Wainono, Aug, and at Opihi, Dec (RJP). Waimatuku mouth, 2 in March-April 74 (MLB, RRS). Fortrose estuary 9/10/73, 5 (SLL). Stewart Island, the Sandspit, 18/4/74, 5 (RDL).

LONG BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Paua, Oct-Nov 73, Dec 73-Jan 74, one; not seen again till 3 on 21/7/74 (ATE). Kaipara, Jordans, 3 on 16/9/73, 4 on 30/9/73 (RBS). Karaka, 28/10/73, one heading a small godwit flock; one on 21/7/74 (BB). Miranda, 8/3/73, 10 (SMR, PTC); 16/12/73, 3 (BB); 13/1/74, 4 (HRMcK); 23/6/74, one (BB). Awarua Bay-Waituna lagoon, 16/12/73, 12 on a peat swamp (RRS).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*)

Paua, 10 on 31/10/73 (JHS); flock reduced to 8 and later to 4 during November; not seen again till 8 on 24/4/74 (ATE). Rangi-

puta, one on 30/10/73 (JHS). Mangonui, 26/11/73, 6 (D. E. Calvert). Whangarei, 17/11/73, 12 (AMM). Karaka, 10/2/74 one ?sp and Firth of Thames 23/6/74, 5 ?sp (BB). Kawhia, 19/8/73, 2 (JHS). Ashley River mouth 19/1/74, one (RJP).

LITTLE WHIMBREL (*N. minutus*)

Lake Ellesmere, 19/2/74, 3 in a flooded paddock at Greenpark, feeding with stilts; one on Kaituna mudflats with stilts and godwits. Lake Wainono, 3/11/73, one (RJP).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Miranda, one with stilts, 2/12/73 (RBS).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*)

Paua, 300 in July 73; 1000-1500 Oct-Nov, few Dec 73-Jan 74, 2000 Feb, 1000 Mar, 600 Apr-May, 400 June-July 74 (ATE). Houhora, Oct 73, 500 (JHS). Rangiputa, July 73, 500 (ATE); 31/10/73, 2500 (JHS). Whangarei harbour, Nov 73, 3056; 2500 at Portland 9/3/74, but count for whole area 16/3/74 was 1430 (AMM). Tapora, Feb 74, 2500 (BB); 9/3/74, 750 (AH). Manukau, Nov 73, 21089; July 74, 2130 (BB). Firth of Thames, Dec 73, 10700; June 74, 975 (BB). Opoutere, Jan 74, 1000 (BB). Tairua, Dec 73, 150 (AH). Bowentown shellbank Jan 74, 2500 (JFC). Sulphur Point, Tauranga, up to 3000 summer, 100 in May 74 (RVMcL). Maketu, Dec 73, 80 (PL). Ohope beach, Jan 74, 100 (HL). Westshore, HB, Apr 74, 61 (NBM). Manawatu estuary c.400 Dec 73, Feb 74; May 74, 47 (JMM). Feb-Mar 74, 50 at Turakina beach, 32 at Rangitikei estuary (RL). Pauatahanui Inlet Oct 73, 35 (JAF). Masterton sewage ponds, Oct 72 and Oct 73, a single godwit, with stilts (RHDS). Wairau Bar, Dec 73, 3 (RJP); Pakawau, June 74, 200 over-wintering (EMG). 1973-74, 50 at Ashley mouth, 220 at Lake Ellesmere, one at Opihi, 5 at Wainono (RJP). Ewing's Bay, West Wanaka, Nov 73, two, with plovers and oyster-catchers, after a period of NW storms (PC). Aramoana, June 73, 18; July 73, 76 (RJP); Jan 74, 600 (JH). Invercargill, mixed flock of godwits, knots and turnstone arrived at estuary night of 26/9/73; c.1800 on 3/2/74 (RRS). Fortrose estuary Nov 74, 144 (SLL). 400 on pasture at Awarua, 5/5/74 (MLB).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

April 14-25 1973, a yellowlegs present at Westshore, H.B. (NBM, KVT). Karaka, one seen from Oct-Dec 73 and on 9/3/74. Upper surface at first brown, heavily spotted white, later fading to greyish with spots hardly noticeable; in March a scaly pattern was noted. Exceptionally active feeder, resting much less than other waders. Jinking flight, flashing white rump and projecting yellow legs show up well (BB). One at Farewell Spit, seen on 9-10/3/74 (RMW, BB); Lake Pukepukē, one from 18/3/74 till 19/4/74; when first seen it was feeding along the edge of the drought-reduced main lagoon; behaved like the 1962 Porirua bird, pecking at water and bobbing its head (IGA).

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*)

Ashley mouth, 8/5/73, one well seen (PG); one on 31/12/73, 19/1/74. Lake Ellesmere, Cooper's lagoon, 19/2/74, one (RJP).

WANDERING TATTLER (*T. incana*)

Kauri Mountain beach, Whangarei, 9/11/73, one calling frequently before I disturbed it (PM). Ashley river mouth, 3/12/73,

19/1/74, one; tended to keep apart from 3 Siberian Tattlers, was slightly larger, darker, streakings on wings and back, call of 5 notes (RJP).

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

Spirits Bay 16/1/74, one on reef; nasal groove clearly seen (GF). Rangiputa, one 30/10/73 (JHS). Portland, one March-April 74 (AMM). Manawatu estuary, one seen Feb-Mar 73 was probably the same bird already reported for Jan 73 (IGA). Ashley mouth, 3, Dec 73-Jan 74. Aramoana 24/5/73, one (RJP).

TATTLER SP.

Paua, Jan 74, 3 (HAR), Mar-Apr 74, one (ATE). Waituna lagoon, 31/12/73, two (SLL).

COMMON SANDPIPER (*T. hypoleucos*)

Port Albert 23/2/74, one watched as it fed over mud, perched on rocks and roots, bobbed continuously (BB).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

Manukau harbour, reports of one bird seen at Wiroa 16/9/73, 19/9 and 17/10 at Karaka, 27/12 at Pollen Island, 8/4/74 at Wiroa (RBS, BB, SMR). Firth of Thames, two on 31/10/73, one on 14/11, 1/12; two on 16/12, 3 on 12/3/74 and one on 31/3/74 (BB, MEMcK, TRH). Westshore, H.B., one present prior to Nov 73 harbour count, on 14/2/74 and on 16/2/74 (NBM, KVT). Manawatu estuary, one on 28/10/73, 8 and 22/12/73 (JMM) and on 23/2/74 (RL).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Paua, two over-wintered 1973; influx Oct-Nov, 350-700; very few Dec-early Jan 74; 1000 late Jan, 5-600 Feb-April 10, 34-70 April-June, 10 on 21/7/74 (ATE). Rangiputa Bank, 31/10/73, 50 (JHS); Tokerau beach 13/4/74, 30 (TGL). Whangarei harbour, 17/11/73, 3 (AMM), 12/1/74, 11 (PM). Jan 74, Te Arai-Pakiri 7, Waipu 13 (RBS, TGL). Tabora, 23/2/74, 230 (BB), 9/3/74, 94 (AH). Manukau, 1973, Sep, 10-60; Nov, 334; 21/7/74, 292 (BB). Firth of Thames, 20/9/73, 22; 31/10/73, 100; 16/12/73, 31; 1974, March, 311; May, 50; June, 41 (BB, MEMcK). Jan 74, 10 at Kaituna cut (JHS); 170 at Bowentown shellbank, feeding in compact flocks and usually roosting apart from other waders (JFC); a big tide boosted numbers to 250 (RBS). Hawkes Bay, 10 at Tutaekuri estuary 30/12/73 (KVT); Manawatu, only ones and twos reported 73/74 (JMM, HAR, JAF, RL) and one at Waikanae Dec 73 (MLF). Lake Grassmere, Dec 73-Jan 74, up to 12, and a flight of 12 arrived on 14/3/74 (TJT). Kaikoura, usually 6-9, but increased by 25 during a June 74 storm (JAC). Jan 74, 6 at Ashley mouth, 15 at Lake Ellesmere, 3 at Opihi mouth (RJP). Invercargill estuary, arrived 26/9/73, 4-500 on 3/2/74 (RRS); 25/5/74, 80 wintering, paddocks behind Oreti beach (MLB).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Paua, 1000 on 31/10/73, down to 400 at end Nov; 1974, Jan-Mar, 14-20; April, 40, May, 6 and July, 11 (ATE). Houhora, 1350, Rangiputa about 2500, Oct 73 (JHS). Whangarei harbour counts, Nov 73, 1975; 16/3/74, 1180; but 2000 at Portland on 9 Mar, reduced to 1500 on 13 Mar 74 (AMM). 40 at Waipu estuary, Jan 74 (TGL). Tabora, Feb 74, godwit/knot flock c.2500 (BB); only 30 knots on 9/3/74 (AH). Manukau, 1220 on 11/11/73, 6500 on 10/2/74, 132 on 21/7/74. Firth of Thames, Sep 73, 100; 16/12/73, 5295; a big

wintering flock of 3000 in June (BB) still present 25 July (RBS). Manawatu estuary, 37 in Dec 73, 46 in Mar 74, present till 12 April (JMM); 18 at Tutaekuri, Hawkes Bay, Nov 73 (KVT). Odd birds at Pauatahanui and Petone, and 8 at Wairarapa Lake reserve on 23/2/74 (JAF). Dec 73, Ashley mouth, 8, Kaitorete Spit, 11; Ashburton, one in an irrigated paddock; Wainono, 9 (RJP). Invercargill, arrived with godwits 26/9/73, at least 45 still present Feb 74 (RRS).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)

1973/74 season, Pua, 6 in Nov, 10-11 Feb-Mar (ATE). Portland, Feb, 4 (AMM). Kaipara, Dec, 4 (RBS). Manukau, Nov, 4 (RBS). Firth of Thames, Dec, 4; June, 3 (BB). Kaituna cut, Jan, 2 (JHS). Manawatu estuary, 15 in Feb 73, only 2-3 in 73-74 season (JMM). One at Rangitikei, Apr (RL) and a probable sighting at Pukepuke, with Banded Dotterel, Mar (WJP). 3 at Wairarapa Lake reserve, Feb (JAF). One at Ashley mouth, Dec; 19 at Lake Ellesmere, Feb; Lake Wainono, 23 on 9/2/73, 3 in Feb 74 (RJP). Invercargill, 4 in Feb 74 (RRS); Waimatuku, 2 in Sept, 3 in Oct 73 (MLB).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*)

Ruakaka, one in Nov 73 and Jan 74 (AMM). Kaituna cut, 30/12/73, 3 (PL). Westshore, H.B., 14/2/74, 2 (NBM). Manawatu estuary, single birds seen in Feb, Oct and Dec 73; two in Jan, one in Mar 74 (JMM). Wairarapa Lake reserve, 23/2/74, 4 (JAF). Lake Ellesmere, Greenpark, one on a flooded paddock about a mile from mudflats, 3/2/74; 19/2/74, 3 at Greenpark flats and 2 at Cooper's lagoon. Wainono, 21/2/74, one (RJP). Waimatuku, 3 on 28/12/73, 4 on 10/2/74 and 4/3/74 (MLB); Invercargill estuary, 2 on 3/2/74 (RRS).

DUNLIN (*C. alpina*)

Tapora, 24/2/74, one seen by D. Metherell, DMW, JAB and BB (SMR).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)

Pua, 31/10/73, 14 (JHS); 26/1/74, 15; Mar and Apr 74, one (ATE). Portland, 9/3/74, 2 (AMM). Manukau, 11/11/73, 6 (BB); 30/3/74, a fine red bird, with wrybills (RBS). Firth of Thames, 20/9/73, 9, some with colour (HRMcK); 16/12/73, 12 (BB); 10/4/74, 18, mostly reddened; 1/5/74, 9, all reddened (RBS). Whakaki lagoon, Wairoa, 4/1/74, one (JAF). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, 27/1/74, 25; Greenpark mudflats 3/2/74, 33; 16/12/74, 14; only two seen round lake on 19/2/74. Wainono, 16/12/73, one (RJP). Fortrose estuary, 9/10/73, one (SLL); Invercargill estuary 3/2/74, 4 (RRS).

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)

Pua, 29 on 31/10/73 (JHS), 35 in Jan 74 (HAR); 37 in Feb; 5, red, on 10/4/74; 2 (one red) on 24/4/74; two in June and July 74 (ATE). Rangiputa, 30/10/73, 9 (JHS). Tapora, 24/2/74, 5 (BB). Manukau, Wiroa island 1/7/73, 11, a wintering flock (RBS, TGL); 11/11/73, 14 (BB); 3/12/73, 20 (RBS); 9/2/74, 57 (AH); March, 24; April, 21; 12/5/74, 5 (BB). Firth of Thames, 20/9/73, 13 (HRMcK); 1/12/73, 17 (BB); 21/1/74, 22 (WFC); 31/3/74, 6 (TRH). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 6 on 3/2/74 (KVT). Turakina beach, 24/2/74, 2; Rangitikei estuary 24/3/74, 7 (RL). Lake Grassmere, Jan 74, 10, feeding with Turnstones at saltworks intake (TJT). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, 17/11/73, 56; Greenpark mudflats 19/2/74, 61 (RJP). Invercargill estuary, 25/9/73, 26; 3/2/74, 47 (RRS).

SANDERLING (*C. alba*)

Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, one on 1/12/73, at the same place where one was seen on 19/12/71 (RJP).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Paua, 1974 June-July counts at 1000-1200 were considerably higher than in past years when the autumn concentration did not exceed 700. Numbers were down to 600 in early August and practically all had gone by September (ATE). Winter counts 1970-1974, Manukau, 4624, 5502, 3376, 4746, 3058; Firth of Thames, 3922, 3341, 1406, 2506, 3289. These figures do not necessarily indicate maximum winter population; before the winter count some birds may already have left the census area, e.g., the 1970 figure of 3922 for Firth of Thames was recorded on 27/6/70; on census day 26/7/70 the number counted was 2316 (HRMcK, BB). Westshore, H.B., 7/4/73, 1044; 7/4/74, 1459 (NBM). Lake Ellesmere, 19/2/74, 3200 (RJP). Karaka, 25/4/74, stilts seen to take small fish (AH).

BLACK STILT (*H. novaezelandiae*)

Manukau, March-April 1973, "smudgies" at Onehunga and Karaka (SMR); 1/7/73, 4, black or smudgy (HRMcK); Wiroa roost, 21/7/74, one black, two smudgy (BB, RBS). Lake Pukepuke, Jan 9-26 1974, one with white feathers showing only on face, belly and under tail (WJP). Lake Elterwater, 23/4/73, one in a group of Pied Stilts had Pied x Black characteristics (TJT). One at Lake Wainono 21/2/74 (RIP). N.Z. population of pure blacks thought to be about 40 pairs. One of 11 chicks banded between 1966 and 1968 turned up in 1972 as a 5-year-old bird; as an adult it has turned out to be a near-black, i.e., black with small white patches on the flanks. Parents were a pure black and a Potts-type bird with black well down to the breast. The banded bird was mated with a Potts-type bird, and about 19 miles from the place of banding (JH).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*)

Reported at Puysegur Point, a few or occasional; Jan 74, one seen flying away from outermost Gilbert Island (CAF). Jan 74, four Great Skuas seen near Te Paki stream, Ninety mile beach (HAR).

ARCTIC SKUA (*S. parasiticus*)

Many sightings reported from Bay of Islands, Hauraki Gulf, Coromandel, Bay of Plenty, Tolaga Bay, Manawatu, Wellington, Canterbury coast and estuaries, Nov 73-Apr 74. Skuas seldom come right into Russell, but on 17/4/74 one systematically worked on White-fronted Terns sitting on a marker buoy amongst the moorings, making a series of passes at each of which one tern was disturbed, pursued and forced to disgorge (GC). 14/4/74, off Motiti island, Red-billed Gulls attacked by a skua formed a tight flock of about 200 birds about 300 ft. a.s.l. Each time the skua tried to get above them the flock rose as a body, changing formation in a confusing manner. When the skua dived in pursuit of one gull, one or two others would detach from the flock, dive on the skua and drive it off, then return to the flock. After several unsuccessful attacks the skua suddenly dived to sea level in a dazzling display of twists and turns and then flew off (JHS). Off Papamoa, skuas appear with some regularity to harry terns feeding at kahawai shoals that appear in Feb-April; six pale birds at one time in Dec 71, 8 in Feb 72 (PL).

BLACK BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)

Buffalo Beach, Whitianga, 21/1/74, one all white except for a few brown feathers on back, with normal gulls. Northernmost peak of Mt Tarawera, 25/11/73, N. Davenport saw 150 nesting (RWJ). SW Fiordland, Jan 74, on territory in many parts of Dusky and other Sounds, one with two downies on Anchor island. Lower population density in Fiordland contrasts with super-abundance near towns (CAF).

RED BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*)

Dargaville, late 1972, a pure white bird (BCC). Coromandel, R. Strongman reports 30 pairs bred 1973-74 on Ruffin's rock, for the first time he knows of in 25 years (BB). Nelson, Dec 73, a bird in a breeding colony had lost both feet and the remaining half-inch of tarsus was so callused as to be almost rounded. The bird seemed in no way incommode and made use of its tail to maintain its balance (FHB). Populations in Fiordland ubiquitous but small (CAF).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*)

Taramaire, Miranda, 15/1/74, 25 adults, 22 chicks near flying; some probably had flown. One Red-billed and one Black-billed Gull repeatedly swimming fast with head under water, 5-7 seconds each time (HRMcK). Wairoa river estuary, 150 wintered 1973; June 74, 80; c. 50 present previous December (GF). Hokio beach, Mar 74, 60 (EBJ); Manawatu estuary, May 74, 30 (JMM). Farewell Spit, 1973-74 season, 10 nests beyond lighthouse, 24 birds in attendance (FHB). Breaksea Sound, one, Apr 73; Jan 74, about 18 associated with Red-billed Gulls at head of Vancouver arm (CAF).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Two at Tarawera river mouth 18/8/73 (RWJ). 30/6/74, an adult bird still in breeding plumage flying about 50 ft up four miles from and towards Mayor Island (PL). Hokio, one apparently immature, 7/2/74 (EBJ); May 74, 7 at Manawatu estuary (JMM); Mar 74, 7 at Waikanae estuary (JAF). Confluence of Hutt and Wakatikei rivers, one on 27/1/74 (HLS). Dec 73, c. 10 nesting on Opihi beach (RJP). "Port Preservation," A. and C. Begg, p. 157, states 15/12/69, near Cording Islands, Preservation Inlet, some diving on a shoal of fish; checked, and apparently authentic (PC). Oreti river near Dipton, 4/11/73, 66 adults, 21 plus nests; while counting nests I was struck on the head at least 20 times, sometimes by the same bird coming round and round again. Two terns high above nesting area harassed and eventually drove off a Harrier. Magnificent camouflage on the stony river island, even the brilliant red bill simulating red sorrel leaves and stalks scattered among the stones (MLB).

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

Bowtown shell bank, one on 4 and 26 Jan, two on 27 Jan 74, on each occasion with White-fronted Terns; the two birds, though at one time only one metre apart, apparently ignored each other. A white-fronted tern chick approached one of them and begged for food; the WWBT adopted an aggressive posture and stabbed at the chick, then flew a short distance (JFC). Kaituna cut, records of one bird seen 9 and 29 Jan 72; 4/6/73, in summer plumage; on three occasions in Dec 73; on 14/7/74 (PL) and 21/7/74 (RMW). Usually alone, whether flying or at rest; once with a party of Pied Stilts. Normally hawking insects over the lagoon, but twice hovered above me uttering a sharp "queet queet" (PL). Westshore, H.B., 25/11/73, one in

breeding plumage flew over the lagoon for perhaps 10 minutes hawking for insects, not seen again (NBM). Wairarapa Lake Reserve, one on 23/2/74 (JAF).

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

Wairau Bar (Marlborough) 20/12/73, one adult with complete black cap, close to Caspian Terns at roost with gulls and waders (RJP).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

As all 1973-74 records of nesting received by the Recording Scheme have presumably also been sent to Wildlife Branch in response to their request, these are not repeated here.

CRESTED TERN (*Sterna bergii cristata*)

One at mouth of Piako River, Firth of Thames, 30/3/74; had a yellow bill and was flying with a Black-backed Gull about 6 m. above the water (AH).

FAIRY TERN (*S. nereis*)

Waipu estuary 13/10/73, a pair (AMM), 2/1/74, 4, of which 2 immature (PM). Mangawhai Spit, 12 on 15/12/73, 10 on 31/12/73, at least three pairs bred, two chicks banded (SMR). Post-breeding birds at Portland, 9/3/74, 13 (AMM). Port Albert, one on 1/2/74, 3 on 9/3/74 (SMR, AH). Tapora, 3/11/73, 2 pairs (AMM).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*)

Selwyn Huts, Lake Ellesmere, 23/12/72. 10 (PC). 1973-74 was a record year for Little Terns in New Zealand. Two were reported in Manukau (dark bills) on 29 Sep, and a freshly dead bird found at Waikanae on 15 Oct. In the last four days of October 81 were recorded — Paua, 4; Rangiputa, 61 (JHS, ATE); Manukau, 16 (BB, JU). No further figures are available from Rangiputa, but it seems likely that dispersion took place; at Paua, there was only one bird in Nov. 3 Jan-Mar, one April (ATE). Whangarei, 12 in Nov, 22-23 in Feb-Mar, 6 in April (AMM). A single bird at Kohukohu, Dec (ATE). Tapora, Feb, 13; Mar, 6 (BB, AH); Manukau, 22 (Nov), 17 (Dec), 8 (Jan), 3 (Feb), 8 (Mar); 18. later 8, two with yellow bill and black tip, in April and 3 on 12th May. Firth of Thames, 4 (Nov), 20 (Dec), 18 (Jan); 15, black bills (Feb), 19 (Mar), 13 (Apr) and 6 on 26th May (BB, AH, JU, RBS, HRMcK). Three birds at Kaituna cut 30/1/74; one of them hovered over another as if offering food, the recipient adopted a begging pose, bill upright, wings slightly extended (JHS). Ohope beach 1/1/74, 10 (RWI). Tutakuri, one or two birds 5/1/74-2/2/74 (KVT). One at Manawatu Jan-Mar (IMM); one at Waikanae Jan (CAF). Farewell Spit, one in Dec (RJP) and 5 in March. Lake Ellesmere, 1 (Nov), 2 (Dec) and 8 in February (RJP). It may be noted that of the 81 Little Terns known to be in New Zealand in Oct 73, 67 were accounted for in Feb and 65 in Mar 74.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*)

A bird banded at Kaikoura in 1973-74 summer was recovered dead at the mouth of Yarra river, Victoria (IAC). Small numbers well distributed in SW Fiordland; still feeding flying young in Edwardson Sound, 14/1/74 (CAF).

GREY TERNLET (*Procelsterna cerulea*)

Astrolabe reef, north of Motiti Island, 27/2/74, 3 (PL).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*)

Anderson Park, 31/5/74, one almost fledged young in a nest on top of elm tree; fledged by 7/6/74 (RRS).

MALAY SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Abundant between Mangere and Otahuhu railway stations, nests in disused stock wagons on sidings (TGL). Redhill, Papakura, seen and heard 20/10/73, still present May 74 (BB).

WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

McCallum's Beach, Clevedon, two seen 3/9/73 by Mr and Mrs R. McKenzie (HRMcK).

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

Wandering individuals at Kerikeri in an orchard and round homestead Nov 26-30 1973, and in Waihue Valley near Dargaville, late Feb - mid-April 74, where it flew up and down the valley between clumps of totara trees; was harassed by mynas and chased them from time to time (ATE, CDC). Moumoukai, 23/12/73, feeding on epiphytes on a tall dead tree (BB). Mayor Island, Jan 74, calling frequently (JHS). Reported numerous at Pukerimu reserve, Mamaku State Forest, Mar 74 (RWJ). Tunnel Gully, North Rimutaka range, two in high canopy of rimu and rata forest (HLS).

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

Karamea river, Mar 74, near third earthquake lake (JMC). Nelson Lakes, June 73, N. Judd reports one making a call almost exactly like the mew of a cat (FHB). Present Paparoa range, Grey-mouth, some years on gums at Marsden, New River; common in Taramakau valley above Aickens, found Jan 73 by BK and PM near west coast road to Taipo river; not found during mapping trips in Rough Wainihinui, Kawaka, Arahura, Styx, Kokatahi, Toaroha or Mikonui valleys; B. Detslaff reports present Jan 73 at Kea Flat, Waitaha valley (JRJ). Jan 74, heard at Cascade Cove, Sportsman Cove, the Basin (Resolution Island), head of Edwardson Sound and Cunaris Sound (CAF).

KEA (*N. notabilis*)

Upper Karamea, Mar 74, two feeding on the severed head of a red deer upstream from Slippery Creek; heard at Belltown hut; said to be quite common in the river valley in winter (JMC). SW Fiordland, Cook did not discover Keas at Dusky, but A. C. and N. C. Begg recorded them at Cascade Cove; Jan 74, calls heard from a bluff at Vancouver arm less than 100 m. a.s.l. (CAF). Mt Aspiring National Park east of main divide always a few present 1973-74 in headwaters of most valleys, but nowhere abundant; largest flock, 17 in head of Matukituki (PC).

CRIMSON ROSELLA (*Platycercus elegans*)

July 74, young bird reported seen in Wellington Botanic Gardens (HLS).

EASTERN ROSELLA (*P. eximius*)

Present in hills behind Waipu, visits coastal areas in winter (TGL). Wellington region, centred around the foothills of the Tararua, predominantly on the eastern side and the head of Hutt Valley (PDG). A Rosella, almost certainly Eastern, reported at Reikorangi early 1974 by Group-Captain Steff-Langston, is the first record from west of the Tararua (JAF).

RED-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)

Re-introduced to Tiritiri Matangi Island, Hauraki Gulf, 35 birds on 11/1/74; to Cuvier Island, 30 birds on 22/3/74 (CRV). Little Barrier, Apr 74, noisy flocks feeding on kanuka and coprosma sp. (BB). 1974, 4 in Whiteman's Valley area (JMM). Upper Karamea, Mar 74, parakeet sp. heard in the tops of hinau trees near Silvermine Creek; Mr Meyers informs me that a small number of red-fronted are found downstream from Venus hut (JMC). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73, parakeet sp. at Astronomers Point, Dusky Sound, but none recorded anywhere during Jan 74 visit (CAF).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*C. auriceps*)

Little Barrier, Jan 74, 3 on main track above 700 ft a.s.l., one on a ridge east of Waipawa creek among stunted kanuka, about 300 ft a.s.l. (TRH); Apr 74, one seen (BB). Leith Valley, few reports of recent years; mid-Feb 74, Mrs J. Thetford saw a single bird on two occasions about a mile below Leith saddle in second growth forest; description fits this sp. (JH).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*)

1973, first calls reported 11/9, Ponui (P. Chamberlain), 13/9, Clevedon (AJG), 16/9, Kerikeri (ATE), 19/9, near Gisborne (AB), 20/9, Rotorua (RWJ). Great Barrier, first week of Jan 74, three separate young cuckoos in 10 acres, two still being fed by Grey Warblers (AJG). Alexandra, 4/4/74, very late specimen caught by cat; fully coloured, small and light, had a blackish (viral) infection half way along each mandible, causing a wart-like growth (PC).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*)

Little Barrier, New Year 1974, constant calling at all levels; 16 recorded on main track, 7 on Thumb track; one in pohutukawa near bunkhouse closely attended by Bellbirds (TRH). Jan 12-15 1974, SW Fiordland, heard at Edwardson Sound, Sportsman Cove, the Basin (CAF).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

Little Barrier, New Year 74, twice heard calling at midday (TRH). Hamilton, 13/10/73, nest with two eggs, 10 ft above ground in a hole in kahikatea; eggs hatched 8/11/73; on 12/11/73 young found to have been taken, probably rats (JFC). Hatepe, Lake Taupo, seems to have decreased over recent years (WAW). Upper Karamea, Mar 74, heard at Stay Flat Hut and around earthquake lakes (JMC). SW Fiordland, Jan 74, at Sportsman Cove, the Basin and Edwardson Sound (CAF).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*)

Little Barrier, New Year 74, 18 recorded; parties, each of four birds, were noted (TRH). Waikareiti track 14/4/74, 20 (PL). Apparent decline in numbers, Tararuas and Rimutakas (HLS). Hanmer State Forest lookout, Mar 74 (SCS). SW Fiordland, none seen Apr 73 or in 14 bush landings in Jan 74 (CAF).

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*)

Homer Tunnel 19/12/73, pair with two or three fledged young (JAF).

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Auckland area, increase spectacular and phenomenal; 1973-74, nesting at Lower Nihotipu and the new Lower Huia Dam, 20 birds seen at each locality in Apr 74; Whitford, Waikopua valley, bred, 12 reported winter 74 (RBS). Low over fields at King's College (TGL). Mangatawhiri dam, Nov 73, 2 (AJG). Ponui Island, 31/8/73, south end, two at lighthouse; did not nest (HRMcK). Te Maiha, Kawhia harbour, 3 flying over small swamp; Tanner's Point, 22/10/73, three nests under road bridge over tidal stream; old nest in abandoned launch on mudflats; nest, 4 young, on side of beam under eaves above front door of a recently built holiday house (JFC). Opoutere, 9/1/74, flock of 50 (BB). Gordon, a nest 2-3 miles to north 27/10/73 (RWJ). Coromandel, Port Charles, pair nesting 2/2/74, three birds at Waikawau (SMR), 7 at Whangapoua beach 25/1/74 (RWJ). Seen by M. P. Moore at Kuratao dam, SW Taupo, in 1971; two at Tokaanu jetty 25/2/74 (RBS). Westshore, H.B., 37 on 7/4/74 (NBM). 1973-74, nesting pair at Te Horo stream; extended family of 14 birds roosting at bridge in Ngarara road area, Waikanae, where there was a three-tiered compound nest (CAF). Wairarapa Lake Reserve 23/2/74, 50 (JAF). Commonly seen from Lake Elterwater to Lake Grassmere, 1973 (TJT). Greenpark Huts, Lake Ellesmere, 40 on 16/2/74; birds back at the bridge between Ashburton and Methven, 1973; 10 at Opihi, Apr 73 (RJP). Temuka, near railway bridge over Opihi river, 21 on 20/10/73 (PC). Wainono 1973, 30 in April, 3 in Aug, one in Nov (RJP). Dunedin, June 74, many birds seen, mostly in early morning or late evening and mainly in the area of Hooper's Inlet; 30 at Murry's Pond on 20/6/74 (AW). Stirling, Inchclutha, swallows first seen this year in last week of March 73; April, 19 roosting on clothes lines and garden shrubs close to the river (LO). Southland, no evidence of breeding 1973/4; in October 73, birds were seen at Oreti beach (1), Wallacetown (4) and West Plains (2), but no mid-summer records. The first autumn sighting was 14/2/74 at Lake Murihuku; over 30 at Waimatuku mouth on 17/2/74; many sightings in autumn (RRS).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*)

First song, Waipu, 19/8/73 (TGL); Rotorua, 1/7/72 (HL), 9/8/73 (RWJ). Red Hill, Papakura, seems to be disappearing, none seen or heard since Spring 1973 (BB). Upper Karamea, Mar 74, one near Kendall Creek Bluffs (JMC). SW Fiordland, two at Astronomer's Point, Dusky Sound, Apr 73 (DGM); Jan 74, Puysegur Point, outermost Gilbert Island, Pigeon Island (CAF).

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

Jan 74, two at Cape Reinga, two at Spirits Bay (GF). Clark's Bay, Manukau, 7/10/73, one seen, three heard (BB). Great Barrier, Kaitoke swamp, 19/3/74, birds calling both sides of Claris-Whangaparapara road (AJG). Opoutere, still plentiful Jan 74 (BB). Volcanic Plateau, Feb 74, widespread, often among heather (*Calluna*) along northern edge of Tongariro National Park to Otamangakau and Rotoaira (RBS); Lake Ngahewa, Rainbow Mountain, Rotorua, 28/12/73, calling in raupo on lake edge (HL).

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

Karamea, Aug 72, 10 in pakihi, bulrush and coprosma (RJP). Confluence of Landsborough and Haast rivers, S. Westland, in a swamp, Oct 72 (PC). Port Molyneux, Clutha Mouth, two, Feb 73 (RJP).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*)

Ward, Flaxbourne Hill, June 72, several (TJT). Hanmer State Forest lookout, Mar 74 (SCS). SW Fiordland, Apr 73, several at Gaer Arm, Bradshaw Sound (DGM); Jan 74, only one pair seen in 14 landings between Breaksea Sound and Puysegur Point, at head of Vancouver Arm, Breaksea Sound (CAF).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*)

Waikareiti track, Apr 74, 10 plus (PL). North Rimutaka range, Dec 73, calling from beech and rimu in lower part of Tunnel Gully; recorded close by 10 years ago; several present on ridge top, 2000 ft a.s.l. in beech forest (HLS). Eastbourne, Jan 74 (JMM).

YELLOWHEAD (*M. ochrocephala*)

Three among a flock of creepers 100 yards from Cameron's Hut, Hurunui Valley, 26/4/74. D. W. Cowlin, Forest Ranger, writes (July 73) "... a recent visit to the headwaters of the Clarke Valley revealed a high population of these birds, as did another trip to the headwaters of the Rough or Otututu Valley in Paparoa range. I have seen them in the Upper Grey catchment but never in the numbers present in Clarke Valley" (JRJ).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*)

Upper Karama, Mar 74, one near Belltown Hut and one near Kendall's Creek (JMC). SW Fiordland, rather local (or else silent); recorded Apr 73 Gaer Arm, Bradshaw Sound, Cascade Cove and Astronomer's Point, Dusky Sound; Jan 74, Cascade Cove, Sportsman Cove, Outer Gilbert Island, head of Vancouver Arm, Cunaris Sound (DGM, CAF).

NORTH ISLAND FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis*)

Bay of Plenty, 1630 hrs on a fine evening, 5/5/74, at the old river bed lagoon in the swamp at the mouth of Kaituna river, from my point of observation I counted 28 fantails in flight. Further visits to the area during the ensuing week confirmed my impression that the concentration of fantails in this locality was greater than I have observed in any other area. All birds seen were pied (RDL). Manawatu, April 74, K. Couchman reports seeing a fantail chase, catch in flight and carry away a Monarch butterfly. Predation by birds on the Monarch butterfly is regarded as very rare (IGA).

Black Fantails recorded Feb-June 74 at Whakarau road, 28 miles from Gisborne, where one was seen 4-5 years ago (AB); on forest edge at Te Marua, North Rimutaka range, 31/12/73 (HLS); in Lansdowne garden, Masterton, in late March 74 (RHDS).

SOUTH ISLAND FANTAIL (*R. f. fuliginosa*)

Ward, 1972; a fantail, probably first year bird, developed the habit of coming into the house in Jan-Feb and was still doing so in June, often spending more than half the daylight hours indoors. When no door or window was open it uttered a sort of distress call to be allowed in and a similar call when it was inside and wanted to get out. In summer it fed on blowflies, which were safe as long as they were on the window but taken as soon as they flew; at first it seemed to find the flies difficult to swallow but improved with practice. It sat on the table at meal times and ate small scraps of meat, vegetable, bread or dough provided these were flicked of the tables and became

airborne in its vicinity; it would sometimes sit on the edge of a mixing bowl while my wife was making a cake of custard and drank from a few drops of water on the bottom of the sink (TJT). Karamea river, Mar 74, common in almost all localities but nowhere as common as Tomtit. Pied and black phases often seen together, ratio of pied: black roughly as 12:5 (JMC). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73 and Jan 74, present but not common (CAF).

PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*)

Warawara forest, Dec 73, a pair (ATE). Moumoukai, Dec 73, seems to be increasing (BB). Little Barrier, seen at all levels (TRH); song heard on 7/4/74 (BB). Summit of Mt Pirongia in sub-alpine scrub, Nov 73, one seen, several heard (JFC).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*P. m. macrocephala*)

Karamea river, Mar 74, common in pairs or singles (JMC). Cromwell, a male in willows on bank of Clutha river, Dec 73; no native bush in vicinity (JAF). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73 and Jan 74, virtually ubiquitous; a very orange-breasted male on Breaksea Island (CAF).

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*P. australis longipes*)

Little Barrier, Nov 71, dawn song just below summit, another near junction of Summit and Thumb tracks; 7/4/74, singing at 400 ft a.s.l. (BB). Volcanic Plateau, two in Kaingaroa forest July 72; two at Mamaku, tawa ridge and valley, Dec 72; two seen and c. 12 heard, Dansey scenic reserve, Dec 73 (RWJ). 3 miles south of Atiamuri, 19/7/73, 1030 hrs, one singing strongly in pines (BB). Hatepe, Lake Taupo, one in low bush near lakeside cottage Apr 74, the first seen here for several years (WAW).

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*P. a. australis*)

Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, sightings at south end Jan 72 and at north end Apr 72. Alfred river, track to Lake Daniells, many seen Feb 73 (PJ). Karamea river, Mar 74, seen from Taipo bridge to Jupiter creek, nowhere very common; virtually fearless, usually seen in pairs (JMC). Dart Valley, Apr 74, small numbers in forest of valley floor all the way up as far as Whitburn junction (PC). Breaksea Island, vigorous population, observed by Sir Robert Falla 25 years ago, confirmed on 12/1/74; may be the only robins in S.W. Fiordland (CAF) — but see *Notornis* 19 supp., p. 82. Southland, Sep 73, in beech forest, Piano Flat; small population found in pine plantation at Waikaia; breeding reported but not confirmed (RRS).

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

Rakeahua river catchment, Nov 71, 2-3 males singing (JAF). Heard abundantly from lower part of freshwater valley to south end of Ruggedy range, Feb 74, obviously thriving (WAW). May 73, seen at Freshwater hut, in manuka along Scott burn and one at Doughboy Bay (RJP).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

Clevedon, 16/8/72, one picked up a blade of dry grass and approached another in a manner indicating courtship; the offer was ignored. Have seen Blackbirds behave like this but until now, not thrushes (HRMcK). Mayor Island, Jan 74 (JHS). Levin, noticeable decrease, possibly due to poisoning of snails and slugs which were very

bad in 1973 (EBJ). Nelson 1974, when rain came after a long drought, one seen bathing in water held within the leaves of an endive plant in garden (FHB). Karamea river, Mar 74, one singing near Thor Hut and two seen nearby in bush; common from Crow to Lesley rivers (JMC). Ashburton, a young thrush fed by parents 23-24/6/73 was fending for itself on 26/6/73 (ML).

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*)

King's College, Auckland, beginning to sing 14/6/73; full song 27/7/73 (TGL). Rotorua, a plastic sprinkler with saucer-like edge was just overflowing on to bare soil, 18/1/74; a male Blackbird drank from the saucer edge, stepped back and scratched a depression in the soil, large enough to bathe in when it filled with water; a female tried to bathe but was chased off (RWJ). Ward, Oct 73, on a cold day, one eating fat from a sheepskin hung over a branch (TJT). S.W. Fiordland 1973-74, seen at head of Vancouver arm, Edwardson and Cunaris Sounds; Harbour Island, Breaksea Sound (CAF, DGM).

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Little Barrier, none recorded 5-7/4/74 (BB) or 29/12/73-2/1/74 (TRH). Levin, May 74, eating beakfuls from strawberry tree fruits already partly eaten by Blackbirds. Many years ago, in Wellington, Silvereyes were regularly fed in the garden in winter. On August 6th about 20 birds had just flown up from their feeding place to a holly tree, from which came a burst of song as a number of the birds sang in chorus (EBJ). Normandale, Hutt Valley, two "yellow" Silvereyes banded in 1972 and four more in 1973. All six had a strong yellowish tinge over the whole under surface from throat to vent, and the green of the upper surface also looked yellower than usual; any one of these could easily be detected amongst normal birds at the feeding station by their lighter, more yellow appearance. One 1973 bird was particularly yellow — twice as yellow as any of the others (MLF). Ashburton, "yellow" birds reappeared in Sep 73 (ML). Photographs and notes were sent to FCK who confirms that they are flavistic *Z. lateralis*. Karamea river, Mar 74, common everywhere in small parties (JMV). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73, Jan 74, not abundant but observed at Breaksea and Dusky Sounds, Facile Harbour, Breaksea and outer Gilbert Islands (CAF, DGM).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)

Mayor Island, Jan 74, very numerous (JHS). Karamea river, Mar 74, while rafting the top half of the last earthquake lake, towering limestone walls acted as a soundshell for the thousand small cathedral bells in early morning sunlight (JMC). Both Bellbird and Tui feed on wattle bloom, which contains no nectar; presumably they are consuming pollen of which wattle has a good supply (SCS). Staveland, 12/4/74, two very young birds just out of the nest and learning to fly, attended by six adults making excited calls. Both young birds were on the forest floor and could have been caught by hand, but managed to fly up into the branches. They were one on either side of the track, separated by 4 metres, and may have had different parents. Eggs would have been laid about mid-March when weather was cold, strong NW gales and 5 cm. snow, followed by a week of southerly wind, rain and snow (ML). S.W. Fiordland, Apr 73 and Jan 74, ubiquitous but nowhere abundant, perhaps most common on Breaksea, Gilbert and Cooper's Islands (CAF).

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*)

Clevedon, 12 Feb-6 Mar 74, immature in garden, learning to sing; no adult present at any time; head and neck grey, throat tuft hardly showing (HRMcK). Mayor Island, Jan 74, plentiful near summit (JHS). Foxton Beach, 23/12/73, only the second seen here in 5 years (JMM). Mt Holdsworth, 26/2/74, two juveniles feeding on kaikamako berries, tree bearing both green and ripe berries and also flowers (RHDS). Nelson, Mar 74, none seen in Little Wanganui valley nor in Karamea catchment above Moonstone lake; common towards Lesley hut and around earthquake lakes (JMC). Mt Aspiring National Park, a relatively rare bird in beech forests east of the main divide; there seem to be two well established "pockets," one in vicinity Makarora ranger station up the valley for a few km towards Cameron Flat and Haast, where there is some mixed forest with some West Coast elements in it; the other near mouth of Bean's Burn, western Dart tributary, a very wet area with red, silver and mountain beech plus a good mixture of scrub. Odd birds, apparently seasonal visitors, in Lower Routeburn and East Matukituki (PC). One at Akatore Creek, Otago, June 73 (RJP). S.W. Fiordland, scarce; not seen Apr 73 but recorded Jan 74 at Cascade Cove, Dusky Sound and Islet Cove, Cunaris Sound (CAF).

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirrus*)

Marsden Valley, Stoke, one, 18/6/73 (HFH). Ward, numbers increase late August-early September each year. They do not mix with Yellowhammers. Nov 73, taking seed from heads of barley grass, which no other bird has been seen to take (TJT). Methven, 9/8/73, one on 2 ft of snow (RJP).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Waikato Heads, June 73, flock of 11 on upper tide flat (HRMcK). Karamea river, Mar 74, heard at various localities between Trevor Carter hut and second earthquake lake (JMC). S.W. Fiordland, Sportsman Cove, The Basin, Pigeon Island (Dusky Sound) and head of Cunaris Sound, Jan 74; Astronomer's Point, Apr 73 (CAF).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Northland, Karikari Bay, 1/7/74, large mixed flock, with Goldfinches (ATE). Levin, scarce (EBJ). Hutt Valley, many banded Spring 72 (MLF). Stewart Island, area Duck Creek, flock of 10 (RJP).

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*)

Kerikeri, June 73. Goldfinches, Greenfinches and Sparrows probing a lawn, apparently feeding on underground stems of kikuyu grass (D. E. Calvert). Stewart Island, May 73, single birds at Mason Bay (RJP).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Papamoa, late Aug 73, huge mixed flocks of Redpolls, Greenfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches and Yellowhammers on farmland; Redpolls were the dominant species in these flocks and at times must have numbered thousands in a large field behind my home. Kaituna cut, 16/1/72, breeding in lupins, successfully reared 4 young (PL). Opoutere, Jan 74, several, including juveniles (BB). Wairoa golf course Oct 73, c.60; unusual in this district (GF). Levin, 28/8/73,

six in garden; the first I have noticed in town (EBJ). S.W. Fiordland, Jan 74, at head of Vancouver Arm and Cunaris Sound (CAF). Stewart Island, May 73, conspicuous in most areas (RJP).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Kerikeri, May 74, a hatch of insects from the soil of a flower bed; about ten sparrows flying up and "flycatching" (ATE). Mayor Island, Jan 74 (JHS). Rotorua, June 73, feeding on seed of birch tree (*Betula* sp.) hanging from branches as do Silvereyes or Tits (*Parus*); one female drove off a male by pecking at his face (RWJ). Levin, Oct 72-June 74, a female with white secondaries (EBJ). Christchurch, early morning 6/12/73, feeding on nectar from blossom of bottle brush (JRJ).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Tanner's Point, 25/11/73, nest with young, in a hole left for a light switch in the concrete block wall of a partially built house (JFC). Rotorua, C. Low saw a Starling land, lay an egg, try to pick it up but failed to do so and left (RWJ). Ward, May 74, 15 Starlings taking insects on the wing (TJT). South of Karamea, evening of 14/3/74, several hundred Starlings settling to roost in two large podocarps set in dairy pasture. As a Harrier approached a large mob of Starlings rose from one tree and attacked it; the Harrier fled, the Starlings wheeled to return to the tree; another mob rose and continued the pursuit. The whole incident took no more than 30 seconds (JMC).

INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Little Barrier, Jan 74, at least 24 (TRH). Mercury Bay, 28/12/73-4/1/74, two mynas with a juvenile Starling in constant attendance; on three separate occasions one of the mynas fed the Starling. It seems possible that the mynas took over a Starling's nest containing a fertile egg which subsequently hatched (SCS). Opoutere, 9/1/74, mynas flying up from power poles at dusk, chasing moths or beetles (BB). Roger's beach, Bay of Plenty, 1/1/74, mynas coming out of holes in pumice cliff (RWJ). Hamilton, Oct-Nov 73, predation of Starling nest boxes; two eggs eaten and shells dropped below the box entrance; two 3-week-old young killed inside the box by pecking about head and neck; after I removed the dead chicks three more eggs were laid but later eaten. Three 3-day-old young were removed from another box and dropped 10-15 metres away. A third box about 20 m. distant was unmolested (JFC). Tikitiki, Dec 73, five birds on a farm 4 miles north of settlement; local residents say mynas only established in the area during the recent few years. Manutuke, 27/8/73, several hundred mynas roosting in an isolated patch of bush (IFC). Trentham, seen for three years, still present spring 1973 (HLS).

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*)

Moumoukai, 19/12/73, first call 0445 (sunrise 0456 hrs), preceded by Tui at 0350 and Blackbird at 0415 hrs; on this day no calls heard after 0715 hrs. 23/4/74, two in tawa near road, call barely audible: one appeared much browner and had wattles greyish, slightly tinged blue (AJG). Heard in the vicinity of Kaimai youth camp; R. St Paul reports them from bush above Waitekuri and at a location near Te Aroha (RVMcL). Hauturu North road, east of Kawhia

harbour, a pair said to have bred in 1972; heard calling across valley, Oct 73 (CS). Kaharoa, Oct 73, Kokako called with tape of Rotoehu birds; the local bird had a deeper note (RWJ).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen tibicen*)

Reports 1972 and 1973 from Tangimoana, Oroua river, Parouta-whao and Levin (EBJ, JMM).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*G. t. hypoleuca*)

Auckland, one dead on road at Newmarket, Jan 74 (SMR); Middlemore golf course, 6/6/73, two, first noted here for 5 years; still present 24/9/73 (TGL). Tikitiki, Dec 73, flocks up to 30 (JFC). Manawatu, 150-200 near Tangimoana; numbers increase in May-June, decrease in the breeding season. Oct 73, a flock of c. 50 appeared near Aokautere, seem attracted to newly ploughed fields (HAR). 25/3/74, from north of Levin to near Palmerston North via Shannon, none seen where usually dozens; this strip of country is an old marine terrace between the foothills of Tararuas and Manawatu flood plain and must be very dry after a long hot summer; do magpies shift in dry weather? (EBJ). Akatore Creek, Otago, 2/6/73, 2 (RJP). Southland, Dipton, 27/8/73, 2. Pahia, small colony apparently established from a pair brought from Canterbury in 1970. 3, 5 and 4 young reared in successive seasons, population in May 74 c.14 birds (RRS).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Miranda, 31/10/73, 12 (BB); 12/3/74, 29 left shell bank and flew towards rookery (AH). Papaaroha, Coromandel, one on 3/2/74 (SMR). Flock of 13 near Nuhaka, 1/11/73; Tolaga Bay 3/6/74, 6 (GF). Lake Wairitoa (Wanganui district), a lone Rook observed 19/5/73, 6/6/73. Manawatu, many sightings reported Oroua Downs area 1970-72 (WJP); 3 over Palmerston North city 4/10/73, one at Aokautere, breeding reported near Colyton (HAR); still present around Kiwitea (IGA). Ward, one or two occasionally, Aug-Oct 73 (TJT). Dunedin district, a single bird part of 1973-74 summer; lone Rook at Kaikorai estuary 15/11/73; one flying north over Aramoana Spit chased by Black-backed Gulls 24/11/73; a dead juvenile sent to Otago museum in Feb 74 from Palmerston could have been from the small Sutton rookery (JH).