

Dr P. C. Bull, Ecology Division, DSIR, informs me that a Kea was also observed at Totara Flats in the south eastern Tararua Range, on 2-3 March 1974.

The possibility of Keas flying across to the Tararuas from the South Island has long been the subject of speculation, but it would be unwise to assume that the bird or birds observed in the Tararua Range this year had in fact made the journey directly.

Three Keas are held at Staglands Wildlife Park in the Aka-tarawa Valley, about 13 kilometres in a direct line from Alpha Hut. Two of these are males which are allowed free access to the Tararua Range. These birds have no identifying marks or leg bands, and it is not known whether they were absent from Staglands on the days when Keas were observed in the Tararuas. I am informed that Keas are also kept at Reikorangi, near Waikanae, and that there are several other places around the periphery of the Tararua Range where Keas have been kept in the recent past.

For providing information on this subject I am grateful to the following:— Mr J. R. Simister, Staglands Wildlife Park; Dr P. C. Bull, Ecology Division, DSIR; Mr K. M. McGee, N.Z. Forest Service, Upper Hutt; and Mr B. J. McKinnon, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

#### REFERENCE

OLIVER, W. R. B. 1955. New Zealand birds. 2nd ed. Pp. 1-661, illus. Wellington: A. H. & A. W. Reed.

A. CUNNINGHAM

Senior Forester,  
N.Z. Forest Service,  
Napier



#### FERAL BARBARY DOVES IN MASTERTON

In the autumn of 1971 one or two Barbary Doves (*Streptopelia risoria*) appeared in our garden. As my wife puts out food for birds it was not long before more doves turned up and in the winter of 1972 as many as 30 were to be seen on most days. Occasional nests were reported to me in gardens in neighbouring areas. The 1973-1974 breeding season seems to have been a successful one as at least five juveniles (with pale bills and lacking the black neck band) were present in the garden. The breeding season evidently is fairly extended as on 11 October 1973 a young one still soliciting food appeared. At the beginning of the same month a pair built a nest in an Akeake in the garden but strong winds displaced the egg, which lay broken on the ground a day or so after it was laid. On 19 January 1974 a dove was watched in the garden searching for twigs and eventually flying off with one.

The Barbary Dove is by nature exceptionally confiding, so much so that it is doubtful if it would really succeed in the wild state

unless it changed its habits. It seems to be dependent on food being made available and when this is provided will readily enter buildings to obtain it. One, for instance, comes regularly to the kitchen window, which is then opened for it to come inside and have a feed on the bench. Up to a dozen, if doors are left open, march boldly into the kitchen for food. One which was nursed with a wing injury and released allows itself to be picked up.

This dove appears prone to suffer injury. We have had several with ruptured crops, in one case requiring surgery, though all seemed to recover after "hospital" care. Another turned up with a foot dangling but after a week or so at rest in a cage, the fracture had mended and the dove was released in good shape.

Liberated initially by private individuals, the doves have become feral in a restricted area in Masterton Park and in the suburban region to the west of the town, where there is an abundance of trees and shrubs.

According to Goodwin (1964; 1969) the Barbary Dove is regarded as the domestic form of the African Collared Dove (*Streptopelia roseogrisea*) which is now considered as a subspecies of the Collared Dove (*S. decaoto*).

#### REFERENCES

- GOODWIN, D. 1964. Pigeon in: THOMSON, A. L. (ed.) New dictionary of birds. London and New York: Nelson.
- GOODWIN, D. 1969. Barbary Dove. Pp. 1121-1122, 4 figs in: GOODERS, J. (ed.) Birds of the World 4 (5). London: IPC Magazines Ltd.

R. H. D. STIDOLPH

120 Cole Street,  
Masterton



#### MATING BEHAVIOUR OF BROWN KIWI IN CAPTIVITY

A pair of North Island Brown Kiwi (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) housed in the Otorohanga Zoological Society's nocturnal house have been under observation for approximately three hours daily since 1 October 1972.

Mating behaviour was first seen on 19 July 1973. The female subsequently laid two eggs — the first on 6 August and the second 196 days later on 18 February, 1974. Regrettably, both eggs were found broken shortly afterwards.

Both birds are relatively young, the female being estimated at two years old and the male at three years old. It is thought that both were mating for the first time. In addition to the apparently successful copulations, the male frequently abandons the attempt at any stage of the procedure often to return moments later to continue. The birds have mated, or attempted to mate, virtually daily since the first