

Count days per month averaged 5; days seen 4.9; days not seen .1.

Daily counts of birds seen ranged from 0 to 600.

Total count days were 234 and the total birds seen 10,709, giving an average of 49.7 (1043.7) per count day.

Notes on Analysis. The notes given for the Bellbird will apply also to the Tui.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to thank Mr Murray Douglas for his work in producing the map used to illustrate this account.



SHORT NOTE

SPOTTED SHAG REGURGITATING SHELLS AND STONES

During the past few years at Taiaroa Head I have noticed small heaps of shells on the cliff top two yards from the cliff edge.

This area is frequented by Spotted Shags (*Stictocarbo p. punctatus*), both adult and juveniles, during the non-breeding season at Taiaroa Head (January to June).

At 14.30 hours 5 June 1973, an adult Spotted Shag was observed in this area to regurgitate some material, preen itself, then fly off.

The material was inspected and found to contain a piece of Sea Lettuce (*Ulva* sp.), six shells of *Zethalia zelandica*, ranging from 12-15 mm, four pieces of broken shell and two stones, one round (10 mm) and one flat (15 mm).

Ten other heaps of shells, all dried, were inspected and found to contain between 4 and 12 shells, dried seaweed, fish bones and small stones.

van Tets (1968, *Emu* 67: 224) observed a White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*) swallow pebbles on land at Wright's Island near Devonport, Tasmania, and pointed out that "As a morphological adaptation to lower buoyancy for locomotion under-water, cormorants have a body plumage which is impervious to water. The swallowing of stones could be a behavioural adaptation which reduces buoyancy even further."

The swallowing of shells and stones could be part of the Spotted Shag food and fishing behaviour.

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