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SHORT NOTE

BIRD NOTES FROM HUNUA

While making regular surveys of the Kokako (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*), in the Hunua Ranges, other species of birds, some of which are locally rare, have been noted.

On 12/12/74, accompanied by G. Arnold and Mrs B. Brown, 3 Kakariki (*Cyanoramphus* sp.) were seen. Unfortunately, we were only to glimpse the parakeets so it was difficult to discern whether they were Red or Yellow-crowned.

On 12/11/74 we heard unfamiliar calls coming from the *Quintinia* scrub just below the summit of Mt Kohukohunui (Mt London), and before long we located a pair of Bellbirds. We have not seen Parakeets or Bellbirds on subsequent trips this year on 16/3/75 and 19/4/75.

Tomtit and Kaka are two species which are logged consistently during forays into the Kohukohunui bush. Along four km of track between Plow's Road and Mt Kohukohunui, Tomtit counts taken on a number of trips give an average of 19, while Kaka numbers average 3. According to H. R. McKenzie (pers. comm.), these figures indicate a substantial increase on past records when the bush suffered from heavy goat browsing. Since the area has been included in the Auckland Regional Authority water catchment reserve, shooting has reduced the goat population, resulting in steady regeneration which seems to be encouraging the local birdlife.

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