

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Very common and nearly always to be found following feeding Saddlebacks.

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*). Two observed, one in the bush, one near lighthouse settlement.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*). Very few in any part of the island.

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Common, but not so much as Fantail.

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). Abundant, especially flying juveniles being fed by parents. Calling and singing throughout the bush area; a few round the houses of the settlement.

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). One seen singing in clearing on edge of bush.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*). Not uncommon. Up to 4 seen together at one time on Lookout Spur.

REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea*). One seen in clearing on main ridge.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). A flock of 20-30 round the settlement.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). A flock of 30+ moving round the settlement and adjacent farmland.

SADDLEBACK (*Philesturnus carunculatus*). Abundant throughout the bush singly and in family parties. Many birds feeding low in bushes and on the ground. They were seen to feed on mahoe berries and flowers, tips of kawakawa catkins, coprosma and fivefinger berries, spiders, caterpillars and other insects. As they searched for food, often probing in the bark, pieces of twig and bark fell to the ground. The noise thus made can be imitated and will often attract the birds.

Tuataras:

Three were seen; two live near the houses of the settlement, the third near the only permanent stream. Length of third was 350 mm.

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CRESTED GREBE IN THE NORTH ISLAND

While counting shags and swans at Lake Rotorua on 21 December 1975, my attention was immediately drawn to a Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*). The white neck, crest and bill, and the bird's position in the water made the identification quite positive. I spent the next half-hour watching it dive for small fish and just "loaf around" with shags behind some rocks off-shore. Immediately afterwards I contacted Dr and Mrs M. Wilcox who confirmed the sighting that afternoon. The bird was then seen every day until 30 December when it disappeared. Both Dr Wilcox and I have seen this species before in England.

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