

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Compiled by A. T. EDGAR

Selected extracts from notes supplied to the Recording Scheme during 1975-76. Records of Reef Herons and 1975 records of White Herons, egrets, Ibis, Spoonbill and Kestrel are not included as these are subjects of Special Enquiries and will be published elsewhere.

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E. & O. E.

BROWN KIWI (*Apteryx australis*)

Kerikeri, January 1976, a local resident reports finding a stray kiwi egg in a small pinewood on his farm; another stray egg was found in the same locality last season (ATE).

Apteryx sp.

Arthur's Pass area, Mt Avalanche, 1725 m. a.s.l., 9/11/75, kiwi footprints going right up the main ridge and down the other side in snow, which was unusually widespread for the time of year (PD).

BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*)

Stephenson Island, off Whangaroa, 23-25/7/76, penguins came ashore at night all round the island and judging by the noise must

have been in good numbers. Some form of pre-mating courtship was going on. Once out of the water the birds became almost oblivious to humans and could be closely observed. Two, presumably a pair, would call each other and move together over the rocks, emitting "rattling" or "burring" noises; circle each other and while in an erect stance peck each other and make preening motions. After some minutes this display ceased and the birds separated but remained within a few yards of each other and joined in the loud chorus of screeches, cat-calls and bleating noises. One bird came into my tent and when I pushed it just outside, it remained almost all night, quietly crouching (MPK). Ashburton beach, 21/10/75, near the top of a cliff 20-25 metres high, departure of a rock pigeon from its nest (one egg) revealed a sitting Blue Penguin at the back of the same small cave (ML).

WHITE-FLIPPERED PENGUIN (*E. albosignata*)

A bird banded at Motunau Island was recovered at Hawke's Bay. This is unusual in that most of the movement of the species from its breeding area in Canterbury seems to be southward (RG). 1970 Checklist records straggling south to Otago Peninsula and north to Marlborough.

ERECT-CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus sclateri*)

Ashburton beach, 22/3/74, one in moult; 22/5/74, one, not in moult, seen at a point one km. from the first sighting (ML).

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Lake Matheson, October 1975, the first seen here for many years, may have come from nearby Lake Gault; April 1976, three at Lake Ianthe, two at Lake Mapourika (M. Hall). January 1976, a pair at Lake Lyndon, six in a small bay at Lake Heron (RG). Lake Hauroko, 21/3/75, one near Mary Island (JST).

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

Muriwai Lakes. Feb 76, 52 (SMR). Kaiaua, McKerras farm dam, late Spring 1973, six young, one-third grown, no adults seen; 1-2 adults seen at times in 1974 winter; 21/2/75, pair with 2 young on dam; 1974-1976, sometimes seen on Guy C. Goss Pools (JW). Lake Waikare, 11/10/75, seven (BB). Taupo, Hatepe stream, 4 on upper dam, 7/1/76 (WAW); Hardcastle lagoon near Broadlands, 13/9/75, one (RWJ). Lake Rotorua, 1975, 26 in June, 11 in December (AP); 1975 records from Blue and Green Lakes and Lake Okataina, 1-3 birds; at least 5 on Lake Rotoma, 3/4/76 (RWJ). Hawke's Bay, Hurimoana, 10/8/75, six; Westshore, 24/4/76, five (KVT). Lake Horowhenua, 1976, January-May, one to five; 15th June, 25 (EBJ, MLF). Waikanae sewage ponds, May 76, 15 (BDB). Sewage ponds at Waingawa, near Masterton, 1976, 12 in April, 3 in May, none on 9th July; Carterton sewage ponds, 9/7/76, 9 (BDH).

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE (*P. novaehollandiae*)

Lake Elterwater, two on 24/10/75, present till Aug 76 (MLF, TJT). Doctor's Dam, Aorere valley, March 76, two (BDB).

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*)

Orongorongo estuary, 27/9/75, 20; 29/5/76, 10 plus (JLMM). Hinds River mouth, 4/7/71, a young bird flapping along the beach trying to take off eventually climbed a sheep track to the top of a

cliff 10 m. high, preened for a while and then successfully launched itself off the cliff (ML).

ROYAL ALBATROSS (*D. epomophora*)

Wandering Albatross are frequently recorded, but a Royal picked up on Somes Island by Mr Benfell may be the first record of this species within Wellington harbour (MLF, Dec 75).

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*D. melanophris*)

Orongorongo estuary, 50 on 13th and 19th July 1975, one on 17th August (JLMM).

SHY MOLLYMAWK (*D. cauta cauta*)

Orongorongo estuary, 20 on 13/7/75 (JLMM).

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

One blown inland to Rongotea on 21/5/75, released in fairly strong condition the following day (HAR).

NELLY (*Macronectes giganteus*)

Three reports of white phase birds — one off Cape Runaway, first seen 5/7/75, remained in the area for about three weeks, reported by a crayfisherman; one, liberally dark spotted, near Tiritiri island 7/10/75 and 2-3 near North Cape 13/7/76, reported by E. D. Willis, Fisheries Research Vessel (SMR). Dark phase birds, Orongorongo estuary, 1975, 20 on 13th July, 30 on 17th Aug; Wellington, Ngauranga outfall, 15 on 14/11/75 and on 9/2/76 (JLMM).

ANTARCTIC FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

Flying 100 metres offshore, Waikato Heads, 25/9/75 (IWJ).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*)

Mainly a winter visitor to Wellington harbour and not commonly seen close inshore but three on 16/9/75 and two on 17/9/75 off Petone (JLMM, HLS). 1975 winter, fewer birds seen at Nelson sewer outlet, no large rafts as noted in 1974 (CFJO'D).

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*)

Occupied burrows at Laingholm and Karekare, Auckland West Coast, September 1976 (SMR, JFS). 10/11/74, during a cruise from Orere Point to Manaia Heads, three, with other petrels at a school of fish; our first daytime record for Hauraki Gulf (GKMCK). Taranaki, Pukearuhe colony, burrows occupied 18/10/75 (DGM, RWW, CDP).

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*)

Ashburton, 16 km from sea, one under a street gutter bridge on 29/12/75, after a day of southerly wind; released on coast (ML).

FAIRY PRION (*P. turtur*)

Lake Horowhenua, 31/1/76, one, straight and level flight, flaps and glide; twice alighted on the water; at least four picked up in Levin after westerly gales (EBJ). Palmerston North, one found injured in a street 1/2/76 (IGA).

WESTLAND BLACK PETREL (*Procellaria parkinsoni*)

One dead at Waikato Heads, 13/9/75 (IWJ). One in flight offshore from Petone 20/4/76 (HLS). Black Petrel sp. off Orongorongo estuary, 20 on 13th and 30 plus on 19th July 75 (JLMM).

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*)

Hauraki Gulf, 15/2/74, c. 400 on eastern side, many of them on a school of fish, others scattered widely, mostly singly, all over the gulf (HRMcK). Clevedon to Great Barrier, 17/3/76, 200 + (BB).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*P. bulleri*)

Cape Brett, January 1-5, 1976, very large numbers seen flying north each morning; movement of birds first seen about 0620 hours, i.e., about 20 minutes after dawn. Greatest numbers at 0700 hours, dwindling to very few at 0745 hours. Birds fly close to the surface of the water and extend about 2 km out to sea; at Cape Brett the stream of birds is partially funneled between the Cape and Piercy Island. At the peak of the northward movement it is estimated that thousands of birds pass a single point at the same time. Little or no feeding is observed during this movement, but small numbers remain in the vicinity of Piercy Island during the day to feed. It was noted that *P. bulleri* was the main species attracted to the lights of the light-house station at night and a few crash-land on ground near the buildings; the main direction of night flight is southward (MPK). Ashburton beach, 3/5/75, one mobbed by a flock of Red-billed Gulls which had been resting on the water 50 m. offshore, was chased for about 150 metres (ML).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*)

Mercury Bay, 26/10/75, 200 (ABJ). Foxton, 1/1/76, several thousands per hour passing south; 18/1/76, 100 + (JLMM). Kapiti, June 1976, burrows evident in black soil just below the crest of the main ridge on the eastern side; no sign of recent use (MLF). Birdling's Flat, 8/11/75, c. 3000 flying close inshore during a southerly gale (RG). Coast near Lake Vincent, Fortrose, 26/1/76, 8-10,000 feeding on shoals of fish close inshore, watched for two hours. They dived underwater to feed, circled round to the back of the queue and dived again, following the shoals about the bay. White-fronted Terns were also feeding and four Southern Skuas chasing the terns (MLB). Stewart Island, 2/3/76, 300 feeding to within 10 metres of Acker's Point, following a fish shoal; individual birds seem to sit on the water and make brief shallow dives (PMS).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*)

Mangonui harbour, large rafts close inshore, April 1976 (ECMC). Whangarei Heads, Kauri Mountain beach, 25/4/76, c. 7000 less than one km. offshore (PJM). Mercury Bay, thousands, often close inshore, 17-30/7/75, similar to the invasion reported for 16-25/7/74 (ABJ). Bay of Plenty, Kaituna-Maketu, hundreds offshore in bad weather — 650 in June 1974, 1000+ in Oct 1975 (AP). Foxton, 1/1/76, 3000 per hour, passing south; over 100 off Eastbourne 20/7/75, off Orongorongo estuary 17/8/75 (JLMM).

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*)

July 1976, one on Petone beach (S. Cotter).

AUSTRALIAN GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

A new gannetry at Pillar Rock, off Muriwai, six chicks in January 1976 (SMR). Motutakapu gannetry off Colville, 15/2/76, 20-25% of the population were juveniles (BB). Juveniles noted at

Kawaroa, 13/4/76 (DJB); fresh corpses on 20/7/75 (two) and 3/8/75, Foxton beach (HAR); one immature with 50 adults at sea off Great Mercury 8/9/75 (ABJ).

BROWN BOOBY (*S. leucogaster*)

Petone beach, 2/3/76. Body chocolate-brown with a clean line junction across breast and creamy-white underparts spotted brown (JLMM).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Waimamaku, 13/3/76, one dived and came up with a flounder, large enough to take ten minutes to swallow after much rearranging and recovery after escape; swallowing followed by neck stretching and the shag had trouble getting airborne, which it did after much splashing, on the second attempt (PGS). Whangarei, 15-30 present in Hatea river, April 1976 (ATP). Manukau harbour, only 8 counted Dec 75, 148 in June 76; Firth of Thames, Nov 75, 37; July 76, 76 (BB); 94 on 29/6/75 (WFC). Whitianga, 5/5/75, 23; Buffalo Beach, 19/7/75, 30 (ABJ). Little Waihi, 13/12/75, 26; Lake Rotorua, Dec 75, 83; only 8 counted in June 75 (AP). Rangitaiki river at Katangaroa 5/10/75, marked drop in numbers, only one nest occupied; there had been aerial spraying of gorse in the area (RWJ). Manawatu estuary, March 76, 27 (HAR). Nelson, summer 1976, several large flocks of c. 100 birds flying over Nelson tidal flats or along Boulder Beach, probably towards feeding grounds in the harbour (CFJO'D). March 1976, 50 at Takaka and 38 at Aorere, in estuaries (RBS). Washdyke lagoon, 27 at creek mouth, 14/3/76 (PMS). Arthur's Pass, Oct 75, one in a stream, choked to death on a rainbow trout (PD). Southland, new nesting colony at Lora Falls, Kokonui hills, 16/10/75, 12 nests, 24 young and 15 eggs (RRS).

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*)

Whitianga, colony opposite wharf, 31/12/75, 43 birds, 29 nests (BB). Ponui passage, 15/2/75, c. 40 at nesting colony (HRMcK). Kaituna-Maketu, regular, maximum 24, Dec 75; Little Waihi, maximum 20, 30/11/75 (AP). East Cape, Lottin Point, skin divers observed at 14 metres depth a shag swimming fast along a rock crack, mandibles rapidly opening and closing as it caught some unknown prey; probably this species; plumage was coated with bubbles and colour difficult to make out at this depth (RWJ). Ngauranga, 1/4/76, one immature (HLS). Stewart Island, Little Kaipipi Bay, 4/3/76, 8 nests, six occupied by sitting birds (PMS).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*)

Rangiputa Bank, 13/6/76, 20 (BDB). Lake Ngatu, a single bird, 24/11/76 (ATE). Mangonui, May-June 1976, 20-40 use a pontoon in the harbour as a high tide roost; June maximum, 58 birds, lined up on the edge of a runnel, waiting for the tide to flow; when fishing close inshore they are sometimes attended by White-fronted Terns (ECMC). Kaeo, 29/6/76, 8 on a beach in bend of the river (PJM). Kerikeri Inlet, regular in winter, fishing or resting on rocks or stumps on a farm dam, parties of 18-20 birds (ATE); 3 birds in Stone Store basin 23/6/76 (PJM). Muriwai Lakes, 28/2/76, 15 (SMR). Clark's Beach, 8/6/74, 230 (HRMcK). Orakei basin, peak numbers May, present May-July; when fish are shoaling *varius*, *melanoleucos* and *sulcirostris*

feed together (MB, MJT). Ryburn's lagoon, Pokeno Valley, Oct 75, mixed flock, mostly *ulcirostris* but some *carbo* and *melanoleucos*; nests in weeping willows, breeding well advanced, most young ready to fly (DAL). Miranda coast, one at Tarata Point 12/11/75, the first recorded here; Port Waikato, 4/1/75, 3 (HRMcK). Kawhia, 4/7/76, 10 (JHS). Buffalo Beach, Coromandel, 10/7/75, 25 in close formation near beach (ABJ). Tauranga harbour, near Matapihi bridge, 17/7/76, 205 on power pylon at high water (JHS). Little Waihi, 28/6/75, 33 (RWJ), Dec 75, 2 and Jan 76, 4. Regular at Kaituna-Maketu, 17 on 22/11/75. Lake Rotorua, 1975, 190 in June, 560 in December (AP). Hawke's Bay, East Clive, 8/6/75, 60; Ngaruroro estuary, 20/12/75, 30; Westshore, 8/5/76, 80, in a long group following shoal fish down the channel; a great turmoil in water as they dived and emerged; finally all sat on a shingle bank (KVT); Ahuriri, 18/5/76, 32+ (BDH). Taranaki, 10/4/76 one and 2/5/76, nine at Perth Road plus one at Barrett Lagoon (DGM); 3/5/76, Kawarua, first seen here since 9/9/75 (DJB). One dead on bank of Manawatu river near Palmerston North, winter 1976 (LJD). Lake Horowhenua, 1976, 16 on 3rd January, up to 12 on three occasions April-July (EBJ). Wellington harbour, Petone 1975, 7 in July, 10 in August; Eastbourne, 5 in Sept (JLMM).

LITTLE SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*)

Waimamaku, 13/3/76, neck stretching after eating small flounders (PGS). Lake Whangape, one khaki-coloured bird, 9/1/75 (HRMcK). Opoutere, Jan 76, pair courting; swimming, diving and neck weaving in unison (BB). Lake Elterwater, numbers seem to have increased in 1975 (TIT). Nelson, one wrestled for over 5 minutes with a large perch, often dropping it and moving its position in its bill before finally swallowing it (CFJO'D). Timaru, Washdyke lagoon, 3 white-throated and 4 black young, 14/3/76; Stewart Island, March 1976, all observed birds were white-throated phase (PMS).

CHATHAM ISLAND SHAG (*Leucocarbo carunculatus onslowi*)

August 1975, 100+ building at Matarakau Point and 100 at Kaiangaroa (LMcP).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus punctatus*)

A count in Hauraki Gulf-Firth of Thames on 15/2/76 gave an estimated population for the area of 3197 birds (BB). A previous estimate was 4750. Evidence that there is much individual movement is sightings of a near-albino bird which in the space of a year or so has been seen at Tarakihi, Ponui, Coromandel coast and lately Tarata Point, north Kaiaua (HRMcK). One, resting on rocks at Karioitahi Gap, Waiuku, 6/7/75 (IWJ). Lion Rock, Port Taranaki, a juvenile and an adult on 26/9/75 (REL, CDP) and further sightings of single birds in April and May 1976 (DJB). Wellington harbour, regular breeding for 3-4 seasons at Shag Rock, at the south end of Somes island; 22 chicks banded in 1975 by R. Benfell. Sightings reported 1975-1976 at Eastbourne and Ngauranga; one bird with a cockle stuck on its bill (MLF, JLMM). Nelson, Fifeshire Rock, 11/7/76, 200, plus 60 feeding in the sea (CFJO'D). Punakaiki, June 76, several nests on wave-formed shelves on cliff (JD). 9/11/75, most eggs had hatched at Whitewash Head, Sumner, but most birds at Tumbledown Bay still sitting on eggs (RG).

PITT ISLAND SHAG (*S. p. featherstoni*)

Chatham Islands, 10/8/75, 100+ building at Matarakau Point; c.500 at Kaiangaroa (LMcP).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

Tamaterau, Whangarei harbour, a pair nested in 1973 on a branch of a dead pine tree. The nest is about 15 metres above ground level and can be seen from the house, but its contents cannot be checked as the tree is not climbable. Two young were raised in 1973; in 1974 the same nest was used, three chicks hatched and two were raised to maturity. A pair of adults inspected the nest, which was in poor condition, on 29/6/75; repair work started on 3/7/75, copulation was observed on 11 and 13 July and incubation apparently started on or about 4 August; additional twigs were brought and added to the nest structure at intervals up to 28 August. Chicks were seen on 15 September, but had been fed by parents for about two weeks before that date; a partly fledged young bird was picked up dead below the nest on 22 September; the other fledgling moved out of the nest on to the branch on 2nd October and appeared to be fully fledged by 12 October. It stayed in the tree for some time before venturing further afield. The parents remained in the area, and again showed interest in the nest in mid-January 1976; were continually around it by 21 January and adding twigs to the nest on January 24-27. Incubation apparently started on 28 January and part of an egg, still damp, was picked up on 23 February. Three chicks hatched; one, smaller than the other two, was picked up dead on 6 March but the remaining two grew to maturity and eventually left the vicinity of the nest about the third week of April (CWD). Rawene, one perched on the centre of a single power line, causing considerable sag (PGS). One at Little Barrier, 22/1/76 (BB). Manukau, Dec 75, 378; June 76, 241; Firth of Thames, Nov 75, 130; July 76, 116; Opoutere, Jan 75, 100+; Dec 75, 113+ (BB). Bay of Plenty, very common in Tauranga harbour (RVMcL); Nov 75, 56 at Little Waihi, 42 at Kaituna-Maketu; Oct 75, 158 at Ohiwa (AP). Tairua harbour, 6/12/75, 200+ (ABJ). Nelson, single birds feeding on worms on the edge of the main road out of town, were apparently undisturbed by passing cars only two feet away; in summer, five roosted on Boulder Bank — an unusual location (CFJO'D). Southland coastal counts, 14/2/76, 148+; 27/6/76, 105 (RRS).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*)

Rangaunu Bay, 4 on Rangiputa Spit 13/6/76; J. Perry, a local fisherman, reported a total of 14 present in the bay (BDB). Rawene, 15/2/76, one (PGS). Pokapu, 11/5/76, one reported by I. E. Courtney. Kaipara, Aug-Sept 76, 3 on Puketotara peninsula, with a probable Little Egret (MEW). Parakai, 24/8/76, one (SMR). Port Waikato 20/3/76, one (RCB). Miranda, Jan 76, one, appeared to be in breeding plumage (HRMcK), AP). East Clive 28/2/76, one (KVT); Ahuriri 18/5/76, 6 (BDH). Lake Horowhenua, one seen at intervals June-Sept 76 (EBJ). Nelson 1976, May, Westhaven Inlet (BDB); June, seen at Hapua and Riwaka wharves, Mariri and Waimea Inlets, on pasture on Waimea plain and three in a paddock at Appleby (CFJO'D). McCormack's Bay, July 76 (RG). Lake Wainono, 1976, two present Jan-Mar and May, 4 in April, 3 in June (RJP). Orowaiti

lagoon Mar 76 (JD); Hokitika 13/5/76 (GPSA); Fox Glacier township Dec 75 (M. Hall); Okarito lagoon, six on 3-6/5/76, one occasionally roosted on a rooftop in Okarito township (PMS).

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

Whangateau harbour, recorded on sixteen occasions between 13/3/76 and 9/10/76; two birds March-May, three in early July and three still present in October. One at Pakiri on 19/6/76 (LH, GE, RBS). Parau, one present in winter 1975 till mid September, by which time it had developed breeding plumes; 1976, one still had plumes when first sighted on 19 June and was observed at weekly intervals till August, usually with White-faced Herons, frequenting mangroves and occasionally perching in gum trees (CS). Two present in Manukau harbour mid-February 1976 (BB); single birds at Kirk's in March, Yates Dam-Seagrove in March-April, Weymouth in June (BB, RBS). Tarawera river mouth, one 12/6/76 (RMW). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, six on 21/2/76, seven on 24/4/76 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, one Nov 75 - 1/1/76, one on two dates in April, 1/5/76 and 6/6/76 (HAR, JLMM); Lake Horowhenua, one on 30/6/76 and 15/7/76 (EBJ). Pauatahanui Inlet, one on 15/4/76 (JLMM). Taupata Creek, Golden Bay, 10/5/76, one (BDB). Canterbury, McCormack's Bay, July 76; Ashley lagoon, Aug 76 (RG). West Coast, Orowaiti Inlet, 5/4/76 (JD); Okarito lagoon, May 76, one, mostly associating with a White Heron (PMS). Riverton, 27/6/76, one (IAM).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Dargaville, 14/5/76, a single bird on a farm at Turiwiri, where two birds were seen in May-June 1975; a few days earlier there was a report of a white egret, possibly the same bird, further north at Omamari, among cattle (CDC). Two, south of Wellsford, 3/5/76 (KR). Meremere, 28/5/76, 2 (RBS); 13/6/76, seven, feeding actively in very wet pasture, with cattle, about midday; not there at 1545 hours (JPW). August, one near Kawhia (RD). Rangariri, 18 present from early June (BB), 24 in September (RD). Lake Ngaroto, two on 22/8/76 (ARL). Little Waihi, one on 6/1/76 (AP). Taranaki, May 1976, two at Hawera 11th-16th, one at Opunake 12th; two birds, probably this species, at Lepperton 3rd-19th (RWW). Lake Horowhenua, 12/6/76, one; others reported present by Mrs Duffy, but not seen by me (EBJ). Marlborough, 1976, two in July at Bay Paddock road, two in August. Fernleigh area (JAC). Golden Bay, one near Taupata Creek 10/5/76; a probable sighting on 8/5/76 at Puponga Inlet (BDB). Westport, May 76, two seen on three occasions, once with and twice in the absence of cattle (JD); Hokitika, 3/5/76, two (GPSA); Fox Glacier township, 1976, 3 in April, two in May (M. Hall). Southland, 2/2/76, Kaka Point, one, with Angus cross steers (JST); 2/6/76, Gorge Road, seven (SLL); 15/8/76, Otama, near Gore, two (CB).

AUSTRALIAN BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Frequents reedbeds on the Awanui river bank; 27/10/75, feeding young in rushes on lake edge, one seen with a frog in its bill (M. Hows). Waipapakauri, 27/2/76, one temporarily caught in bracken, lying with wings outstretched (PGS). Muriwai Lakes 8/2/76, 10 (SMR). Waikato river bank near Otatau, 7/6/75, two (IWJ). Bay of Plenty, Kaituna lagoon, 27/4/75, 4; Little Waihi, 13/12/75, 2; Matata, Nov 75, 8 (AP).

Heard near Okataina lodge, 11/10/75 (RWJ). Hurimoana swamp, H.B., 10/8/75 (KVT). McKay's crossing, Paekakariki, 16/7/76 (JLMM). Canterbury, August 1975, Ashworth lagoon; at least three at Saltwater Creek, in swamp; July 1976, Styx river, Brooklands (RG). Southland, 31/8/75, one in the middle of the main highway 5 km south of Balfour (JST).

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Lake Wahi, one present 5-7 Jan 76, seen by Mr Metcalfe (RBS). Lake Ngaroto, one on 22/8/76 (ARL). Bay of Plenty, one on Mata-pihi mudflats on 2/2/76 was possibly one of the two birds, one larger than the other, which had been observed along the coast between Little Waihi and Thornton in Oct-Dec 1975 (RMW, RWJ, AP). Manawatu estuary, 1/5/76, one landed and fed near a party of godwits; when a shot was fired from a nearby maimai it took off and was chased by a dozen godwits up river until it was out of sight (HAR); seen again 6/6/76 and 26/6/76 (LJD, MLF). Nelson, Waimea estuary, two, 24/1/76 (FHB); Farewell Spit, March 1976, one, later four, on flooded paddock (BDB). Lake Wainono, April 1976, one (RJP).

WHITE IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*)

Far North, one near Awanui on 3/4/76 (M. Hows), one at Rangiputa Bank 13/6/76 (BDB) and one at Unahi 23/8/76 (A. Billing). Lake Wahi, one on 8/1/76 (RBS). Maketu, 18/7/76, one, probably a first year bird, present since about mid-June (JHS).

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Far North, April 1976, one at Awanui and one at Swan Lake, Waiharara (M. Hows); June, 4 at Rangiputa Bank (BDB); August, 2 at Unahi (A. Billing). Bay of Plenty, Maketu, one on 18/7/76 (JHS). Hawkes Bay, three at Westshore 24/4/76 (KVT), three at Ahuriri 18/5/76 (BDH). Manawatu estuary, maximum recorded 1976, 52, in March (M. Butcher); April-July, 26, 28, 25, 21 (HAR, LJD); in June one appeared to be moulting; plumage yellowish, stood and flew apart from the rest of the flock (HAR); five present 6 and 19 September (EBJ). Nelson, Waimea estuary, 15 on tidal flats 24/1/76 (FHB), regularly present through winter (CFJO'D); Motueka, 20/9/76, 12 (FHB); Farewell Spit, 16 in March, 21 at pools 16/5/76 (BDB). Canterbury, Lake Wainono, 9 in January 1976, one in March, two in April (RJP); McCormack's Bay, July 1976 (RG).

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*)

Kawhia harbour, 4/7/76, 286 (JHS). Lake Horowhenua, a big influx in February-March 1976, numbers up to 4-500 (EBJ). Lake Elterwater, Feb-April 1976, up to c. 250 (TJT). Lagoons south of Punakaiki, 13/6/76, 32 including 2 juveniles (JD); Lake Paringa, 7/7/75, 5; Lake Pratt, 24/10/76, 8 (GPSA); Okarito lagoon, 3/5/76, loose flocks up to 137 birds, two cygnets in down, several non-flying juveniles. Washdyke lagoon 14/3/76, 378, six on nests; 20/6/76, 65 adults, 20 cygnets in down (PMS). Southland, 22 on a new oxidation pond at Gore, 4/9/75; notable increase on Mataura river upstream to Gore (RRS). Stewart Island, Freshwater river mouth, c. 200 on flats, January 1976 (DAL); March, 105 feeding on grass area (PMS).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Long Bay, Auckland, 28/1/76 (DFB). Lake Waikare, 1975, July, 8; November, pair with 4 young (BB). Lake Pukepuke, one for four months, 1976 (LJD). Porirua harbour, north arm, 1975, two June-August, one Sept-December (COF). Lake Elterwater, 1976, February, 9; August, 17 (TJT). Mesopotamia flats, Havelock River, Feb 76, 16 (JD). Waiau valley above Lake Guyon, 19/9/75, 1352 m., evidence of feeding on carpet grass (*Chionochloa australis*) considered to be an unpalatable species to most browsing animals (RG). Washdyke lagoon, 1976, 152 in March, 427 in June (PMS).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)

Northland, widespread and in some places in large numbers (PJM). Clevedon north, 1975 winter, parties up to 12 birds (HRMcK); Miranda, pools, 4 on 21/12/75 (RBS). Greymouth 15/4/76, 100 feeding on barley crop at Totara Flat (GPSA). Dawson Dam, Te Anau, 3/1/76, 750; 13/9/75, Waimatuku mouth, 19 (MLB).

GREY TEAL (*Anas gibberifrons*)

Miranda, 8/3/76, 20+ (HRMcK). Hawkes Bay, Hurimoana swamp 10/8/75, 60+; Westshore, 15/5/76, 80 (KVT). Bay of Plenty, 1975, 22 at Kaituna-Maketu, March; Little Waihi, Oct-Nov, 3 (AP).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*)

Paradise Valley, Rotorua, 1/5/76, one in a mountain stream in tawa bush (RWJ). Whirinaki river, 6 km north of Minginui, 2/12/75, two (AP). Karamea, July 1976, one pair in Lower Kakapo and two pairs in Lower Cuckoo (JD). 1976, January, a pair with two mature young near valley head, Forgotten river, 790 m.; May, a drake at Forge Flat, Lower Routeburn (PC).

N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*)

Whau Valley Dam, Whangarei, three on 16/5/76, not present on 23/5/76 (PJM). Muriwai Lakes 8/2/76, 12 (SMR). Hurimoana swamp, H.B., 10/8/75, 56 (KVT). Lake Rotorua, 1975 best count, 1130, May (AP). Wairarapa, 23/3/75, several on a lake; recently liberated in the area (RHDS).

AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

Helensville river, January 1976, a harrier which had flown low over the flats dropped both feet into the calm water but immediately took off when startled; there were no floating objects so it must have been attempting to pick up a fish (BSC). 25/1/76, one cruising over the forest canopy, Summit track, Little Barrier (BB). Particularly plentiful at Lake Whangape, 9/1/75 (HRMcK). Whakarewarewa Forest Park, a pair of Grey Warblers attacking two harriers, 9/8/75 (RWJ). Hochstetter Forest, near Lake Ahaura, 11/12/75, two flying over cut-over bush (MDW).

N.Z. FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*)

Kaingaroa, 15/9/75, one chasing a skylark (RWJ). Taranaki, 1975, two at Tangarakau gorge, January; one at Te Popo, near Stratford, May; one at Waitara headwaters, December (RWJ). One at Upper Hutt, Nov 75 (HLS): sightings in Lower Hutt, March and June 1975 (WAW, JLM). Nelson, Upper Travers Valley, Nov 75, one vigorously attacked a party of three people, knocking off the hat of one member

(SCS). Arthur's Pass, June 76, one on a lamp post, watched for five minutes at a range of 6 metres till it flew to bush (JD). 1976, April, one on a telephone pole at Cook river flats, one at Knight's Point (RJP), one at Karangarua; regular at Fox Glacier township; settling in scrub on the sheer face of Cone rock (M. Hall). Mt Cook National Park, 1975, relatively common; recorded Hopkins valley, Ball Hut, Hooker river; from 29/10/75 to 4/11/75 one flew down from above the Hermitage each morning at 0830 hours (GG, RG). Haast River, Mossy Creek, two beautifully marked immatures flew from the forest to a large driftwood stump, 15/2/76 (PC). April 1976, one in Rees valley; Routeburn valley, track below Falls hut, one which glided down into an area of beech forest was immediately chased away by two kakas, which then returned and protested vigorously; a third kaka, apparently juvenile, was present in the area (WMJ).

CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukar*)

Kaikoura, Mt Patutu, 30/4/76, 4 seen by L. Bowring (JAC). Matakaitaki valley, heavy snow pushed birds down to 517 metres a.s.l. (CFJO'D). Mt Cook National Park, Oct-Nov 75, several near Ball Hut, a pair on White Horse hill (GG).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsiliphorus*)

Hokianga 1976, seen on most outings; March 75, covey of 10 including very small young (PGS). Waipu, 17/8/75, persistently scratching out young cabbages and cauliflowers; November, sunbaking and dust bathing on edge of garden (TGL). Bay of Plenty, formerly common, now rare at Kaituna-Maketu; Little Waihi, probably regular, not often seen; Ohiwa Spit, 8 + 5 chicks, 20/12/75 (AP). Clevedon north road, present again in small numbers (AJG). Sightings at Matingarahi and Karaka (BB, HRMcK). Tairua forest headquarters, 4 in nursery 8/7/75 (RWJ).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*)

Recorded from Kaituna, Maketu, Little Waihi (AP), Tairua forest and various localities around Rotorua (RWJ); Golden Bay, Jan 76, nest under gorse bush, 5 chicks, at Tata Beach (JST). Grey-mouth, Red Jack's village, 20/2/76, among dredge tailings and broom regrowth (GPSA). Queenstown, party of 15, 24/5/76 (JST).

BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*)

Spirits Bay, Jan 76, in swamp by camping ground (GE). Waiotira, May 76, on edge of swampy area, rushes and willow weed (TGL). Hokianga, Omanaia and Mangungu, Mar 76 (PGS). South Kaipara, mangroves at Tangitike Bay and downstream from Helensville, Jan 76 (BSC); near bridge at Parakai-North road junction, Dec 75 (DFB). Kaituna-Maketu, Feb 75 (AP). Coroglen, two chicks 26/3/76, three chicks 5/4/76 (ABJ). Lake Taupo, Moturapa, Feb 76, in reed bed near old boat marina (HAR).

WESTERN WEKA (*Gallirallus australis australis*)

Tasman Bay, June 76, calling at night at Mapua; one wandering round street in Kaiteriteri (CFJO'D). Tata Beach, Golden Bay, less numerous than a decade ago (JST). Karamea, plentiful on flats, Cuckoo and Kakapo rivers; a pair can dig up quite a considerable area of flat, loosening ground cover to a depth of 2-3 inches, with bill

(JD). Common in Reefton and Ahaura district; 12 seen, mostly crossing road or disappearing into bush, Hochstetter Forest, Granville Forest (in exotic plantations), Inangahua West Forest (MDW). One near Lake Katrine, 14/10/75; Thompson river, Arthur's Pass National Park, many calling at night, 18/5/76 (RG).

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

Ulva Island, 6/3/76, 3 at Landing Cove, 2 at Boulder Beach, 5 at Sydney Cove; all foraged food off visitors (PMS).

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)

Karamea, Granite Creek, Sept 75, a sick bird which later died (JS). Upper Lake Heron Station, 24/6/75, a young bird found dead on top of 50 cm of snow, which had fallen the previous night; footprints of the bird led to an opening under the snow grass. 10/3/74, in a swamp 10 km S.E. of Ashburton; cat-killed birds at Ashburton, 21/10/74 and 6/5/75 (ML). Dawson Dam, Te Anau, 3/1/76; Oreti beach ponds, 6/12/75 (RRS).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*)

Kerikeri, Kennedy property, Jan 76 (BDH). Bethell's swamp, near Auckland, 21/8/76, 4 (JFS). Port Waikato, 12/10/75, two seen and others heard in a swamp close to houses at Sunset beach (BB). Tauranga harbour, Te Puna Inlet, 18/9/75 (RVMcL); present in small numbers in most raupo swamps, Bay of Plenty and Rotorua lakes (AP). Plimmerton swamp, one probable, 23/11/75 (MLF).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Awanui, two pairs reared 2 and 3 chicks, from nests on river bank, early 1976 (M. Hows). Muriwai lakes, 8/2/76, 34 (SMR). Regular, Kaituna mouth and Little Waihi (AP). Westshore, H.B., 15/5/76, 32 (KVT). Manawatu estuary 13/6/76, 107, far more than normally seen here (HAR). Silverstream, Hutt Valley, up to six still present till July 76 (HLS). Common in wet farmland, Inangahua and Grey Valleys (MDW).

AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Poutu, Lake Kahuparere, 24/1/76, one swimming in an area of water clear of raupo; may have been a recent arrival; seemed rather agitated, and grey ducks noticeably curious; at about 5-minute intervals the coot dived and came up with bill full of vegetation which it carried round for a while (CDC). Lake Tarawera, 14/12/75, four (AP). Lake Heron, 18/1/76, two pairs, one pair with two chicks (RG). Lake Hayes, 4/4/76, 3 (JST).

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

Paua, 1976, maximum 60, April-May; 22 still present on 27/9/76 (ATE). Whangarei harbour, 7/3/76, 490, plus 130 at Waipu (D. E. Crockett). Manukau harbour, 7/12/75, 2478; 13/6/76, 17,359 (BB); c. 300 at Huia 19/4/76 (RBS). Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 1001; 4/7/76, 3356 (BB). Apparently a scarce bird Whangapoua-Whitianga, along the Bay of Plenty and at Hawkes Bay (AP, ABJ, et al.). Hatepe, Lake Taupo, 10-17/1/76, a single bird feeding along the shore and on nearby lawns and road verge (WAW). Kawhia harbour 4/7/76, 1454 (JHS). New Plymouth, 12/1/76, c.75 in four flocks flew north over a 15 minute period; other flocks reported flying north during the

same day (DGM). Manawatu estuary, 100+ 28/3/76, 48-63 April-June (JLMM, HAR). Awatere river mouth, Oct 75, one small chick of a pair on a paddock was restricted by wool twisted round its legs (TJT). Nelson, March 1976, only about 2000 at Farewell Spit, but 400 at Westhaven Inlet, 200 at Golden Bay and 2000 at Motueka (BDB, MLF). Mid-Arawhata riverbed 30/12/75, several pairs and one chick between Waipara and Grassy Huts, about 60 m. a.s.l.; 8/1/76, Waikatoto river headwaters, a pair at Moraine Lake, 700 metres (PC). Southland counts, 14/2/76, 3137; 27/6/76, 3412 (RRS); but c. 4000 at Invercargill estuary 28/3/76 (MLB). Stewart Island, Jan 76, seen only at Halfmoon Bay and the head of Paterson Inlet (DAL); 4/3/76, 75 at Freshwater river mouth (PMS).

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*)

Post-breeding flocks, 1976, Paua 128, June (ATE); north head, Rangaunu Bay, 30, June (BDB); Ruakaka, February, 60; Waipu, May, 50 (TGL). Waipu, 30/11/75, 12 nests; one clutch of 3 chicks had hatched, one nest 2 eggs one chick, 10 nests still with eggs (AHG). Waikato North Head 2/9/75, 25, seven pure blacks (IWJ). Coromandel Peninsula, Colville, Jan 75, 18 (BDH); Whangapoua harbour, 18/11/75, 12; Kuaotunu, 18/1/76, 21; Cooks Beach 4/12/75, 13 (ABJ); Oputere, 18/4/76, 24 (BB). Little Waihi, 9/1/76, 15 (AP). Ohau river mouth, Levin, 24/1/73, 19 (BDH). Post breeding flock, Wellington harbour, about 30 (MLF). Westland, Okarito lagoon, 4 on shingle beach 3/5/76 (PMS); Okuru, 27/12/75, two in cattle pasture 2 km from coast, with one *finshi* (PC). Stewart Island, Jan 76, 6 around Oban, 10 at Doughboy Bay, 20 plus two broods of young along Mason Bay (DAL).

CHATHAM ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*H. chathamensis*)

Two on Pateriki beach, 19/5/76 (HAR).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*)

Hatuma, Hawkes Bay, 2/5/76, two being attacked by two magpies, but fighting back and holding their own (LWW). Manawatu, several sightings near Whirikino and Waitare forest in winter 1976; well established, breeding round Pukepuke lagoon and appears to be spreading throughout the Manawatu sand country (LJD); Manawatu estuary, 21/3/76, 14 (HAR). Wellington, sightings in late 1975 at Shandon golf course, Horokiwi quarry area on a shingle bank, and at Karori (MLF); two birds at the head of Pauatahanui Inlet, 3/7/76 (MMN) and three in September, following an August report of sighting on farmland in Horokiwi valley (MLF). Wairarapa, July 76, reported near Lake Pounui on the western side of Lake Wairarapa (PER); nest with 4 eggs in August on a shingle island in Maunganui river near Pounui Lake (DS); Te Ore Ore, near Masterton, pair with young on 16/9/76 (RHDS). Marlborough, Ure river, one on flats, Nov 75; 1976, Jan-June, between Lake Grassmere and Lake Elterwater, up to 14 in groups, in paddocks close to the lakes (TJT); thinly spread over Kaikoura plain (JAC). Nelson, Jan-Feb 75, 25 near Lake Rototiti and 26 in Upper Wairau at turnoff to Rainbow Station (PJ); two at Farewell Spit farm April-May 75, one in September (BR). 1976, large numbers, groups up to 8, over farmland near Westport; 7 at Hokitika, February (JD); reported at Inchbonnie, Arnold River, Bell Hill, Mussel Point (GPSA); 4 at Okarito lagoon, May (PMS). Lake

Wainono, March 76, 46 (RJP). Ewing's Bay, West Wanaka, 538+ in winter 1976, cf. 426 in 1974 (PC). Southland, now very common in Waikaia valley; August 75, 42 counted near Glenary Station (JST). Invercargill, a pair nested 23/9/75-22/10/75 on a marshy triangle of land bordered by three busy streets; hatched three chicks two days before a bulldozer moved in; 26/10/75, two chicks still surviving on bulldozed area (MLB).

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Taramaire, Firth of Thames, probable sighting 22/2/76 (BB) confirmed 20/3/76, black axillaries well seen (AH).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. dominica*)

Paua, 1976, 67 in January, 20 in March, 10 in April (ATE). Waipu, Nov 75, a single bird present for a few days on an area recently planted with maize (TGL). Taporā, 3, 24/4/76 (ATP). Manukau, 16 at Karaka 22/11/75; Manukau summer count 7/12/75, 34 and about the same number present till early Feb 76; 20 in March (HRMcK, BB). Bay of Plenty, Little Waihi, Oct 75, 24 (JFS); 27/12/75, 11; Ohiwa harbour 30/11/75, 15 (AP). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, 11 on 1/11/75, 39 on 7/12/75; Westshore, 3/4/76, 15 most of them in breeding plumage and 8/5/76, one, in breeding plumage (KVT). Manawatu estuary, 21/10/75, one in almost full plumage (EBJ); regularly recorded 25/10/75-28/3/76, maximum seven on 19/1/76 (JLMM); 21/3/76, nine (HAR). One at Waikanae river mouth 14/2/76 (S. Cook). Farewell Spit, March 76, five (possibly ten) birds (BDB). Fox Glacier township, one sighted Oct 1974, one in Nov 75 (M. Hall). Southland, 9 at Fortrose, 30/12/75; summer count 14/2/76, 31 (MLB, RRS).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

Spirits Bay, Jan 76, an oystercatcher which had been pecking at something in the sand was attacked and chased by a dotterel pair which had a nest with 3 eggs (GE). The species is holding its own in the Far North; post-breeding flock at Paua, April 76, 87 (ATE); on a January 1976 survey of beaches on Aupouri Peninsula 120+ were recorded, and of these only 9 were on 90 mile beach, which of recent years has had a population of nearly 100 birds; in January many of these would be off the beach except on a falling tide (D. E. Crockett). Numerous records from other parts of Northland, North Auckland and Firth of Thames. Waikato, North Head, 2/9/75, 18 (IWJ); Kawhia harbour, 4/7/76, 10 (JHS). Coromandel Peninsula, a total of 40 birds recorded on 18/1/76 at Whangapoua, Matarangi and Kuaotunu (ABJ). May be decreasing in Bay of Plenty; Little Waihi, 6/9/75, 7; Kaituna-Maketu, February 75, 12 (AP). Southland count, 27/6/76, 28 (RRS). Stewart Island, March 76, 20 in a loose flock on shell-covered flats at Freshwater river mouth were very flighty; 30 on one mile of beach at Mason Bay (PMS).

RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL (*C. alexandrinus*)

Karaka, 7/12/75, one, alone on the mud as the tide fell; lacked the red cap; broad white forehead, pale grey-brown above and white below, tail dark-centred with light edges (BB).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*C. bicinctus*)

Paua, ref, 1975 Classified Notes, the statement "none found

after March " was in error; in fact, several hundred were present until June 75. 1976, numbers built up from 100 in early January to 500 in April; an influx in May brought the total up to c. 1000, but numbers were down to c. 500 in June-July; only 10 birds on 15/8/76 (ATE). Whangarei, 113 on 7/3/76 (D. E. Crockett); Ocean beach, 4/4/76, c. 40, very restless, obviously on the move; not seen here before (ATP). Miranda, 2/1/75, a flying chick, the first known to be reared here for many years (HRMcK). Kawhia harbour 4/7/76, 104 (JHS). Manawatu estuary, maximum 85 on 16/4/76 (JLMM). Breeding on Motueka sandbar 1975-76 (CFJO'D). Lower Cook River flats, Fox Glacier, May 76, six (M. Hall). Okarito township, 20 on paddock 3-5 May 1976 (PMS). Lake Ellesmere, 18/2/76, 500+ at Kaitorete Spit; June 1976, 180 at Lake Wainono (RJP). Southland counts, 14/2/76, 769; 27/6/76, 165 (RRS).

MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL (*C. mongolus*)

Paua, 3/2/76, one, broken red band on upper breast (ATE). Karaka, one 11-19/2/75 (HRMcK), one 7/12/75 (BB). Miranda, one on 8/3/76 and 6/4/76 on which date the band was right across (HRMcK). Lake Ellesmere 9/11/75, one on mudflat at Kaitorete Spit, often chased by Banded Dotterels (RJP).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

Hokio, one on 20/3/74 and on 1/4/75 — identification checked with HRMcK (EBJ). Firth of Thames, 1975/76, one (BB).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*)

Manawatu, a good feeding spot discovered by M. Dennison and myself, behind Longburn freezing works, where there is a slight fanning slope of sludge with waste water running over it when the works are in operation; maximum count was 39 on 10/6/76; the birds seem to come off the rivers at 1500-1600 hours to the feeding and night roosting spot (HAR). Awatere river bed, Marlborough, railway bridge to mouth, 23/10/75, 5 (TJT). Rakaia south branch, Oct 75, one (RG).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

An Aupouri peninsula count on 26/1/76 gave Paua, 90; Great Exhibition Bay, 4; Henderson Bay, 22; East Beach, 1; total 117 birds (D. E. Crockett). 90 still present at Paua in April (ATE). Whangarei harbour count 7/3/76, 81, plus one at Waipu (D. E. Crockett). Kaipara, 110 at Jordan's 3/3/76 (RBS), 118 at Taporā 10/7/76 (LH). Whangateau, 17/7/76, 4 (LH). Manukau 7/12/75, 17; 13/5/76, 551; Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 39; 4/7/76, 2017 (BB). Waikato north head, 7/6/75, 5 (IWI). Kawhia harbour, 4/7/76, 8 (JHS). Bay of Plenty, Kaituna-Maketu, 1975, one in January, two in February (AP); Tauranga, Sulphur Point, 18/9/76, 6 (RVMcL). Hawkes Bay, Ngaruroro estuary, 28/2/76, 3 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, 22 on 16/4/76 and on 5/6/76 (JLMM). Ruamahanga river near Greytown, 31/12/74, one, no chest band, feeding and washing in shingle runnels; gone 1/1/75 (BDH). Lake Ellesmere 9/11/75, 29; 18/2/76, 2. Cass delta, 20+ 1975-76 summer, two on 1/3/76 (RJP). Matukituki river mouth, 8/2/76, one immature, a very late migrant, feeding along water edge of river and breakwater, with immature banded dotterel nearby (PC). Southland, Waimatuku mouth, 27/10/75, one in breeding plumage; Awarua Bay 14/2/76, 2 (MLB).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Paua, 3 on 26/8/75, and in September; 2 in October-November; 1976, 7 in January, 6 in February-March; one on 15/8/76, 4 on 27/9/76 (ATE). Jordan's, Kaipara, 4/2/76, one (RBS). Manukau, 7/12/75, 4 (BB). Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 15 (BB); 5/3/76, 17 (TC); 5-8 in May, 6 on 4/7/76 (BB, HRMcK). Bay of Plenty, Spring 1975, one at Kaituna, 3 at Tauranga (AP, KF). Manawatu, one 9/8/75 till 8/5/76, two in the last week of March (JLMM, EBJ, HAR). Farewell Spit, March 76, 7 (BDB); Takaka, April-May 76, one (KLO). Southland, one at Fortrose 9/1/76; at Awarua 14/2/76 (MLB, RRS).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*)

Paua, present in Oct 75, 3 in March 1976 (ATE). Rangiputa, 13/6/76, 7 (BDB). Whangarei, 6/12/75, 10 (D. E. Crockett). Taporā, 24/4/76 (ATP). Karaka, 6/2/76, 3 (BB). Farewell Spit, March 1976, 7 (BDB).

LITTLE WHIMBREL (*N. minutus*)

Paua, 22/1/76, one, in paddock, delicately picking an insect off a blade of grass (ATE). Karaka, 7/12/75, one, resting with golden plover (BB). Kaituna Lagoon, one, 6/1/76 (AP).

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa* sp.)

Jordan's road, Kaipara, one seen on 29/8/76 by R. D. Hooper, not specifically identified (SMR).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*)

Aupouri peninsula count, Jan 76, Paua, 460; Rangiputa, 3500; Great Exhibition Bay, Henderson Bay, East Beach 621 (D. E. Crockett). Paua, maximum noted in 1975-76 season only about 1000; c. 300 wintered at Paua and 340 at Rangiputa (ATE, BB). Whangarei counts, 6/12/75, 2278; 7/3/76, 1518 (D. E. Crockett). Manukau, 7/12/75, 15,054; 13/6/76, 1155; Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 5672; 4/7/76, 601; Port Waikato 12/10/75, 120 (BB). Kawhia, 4/7/76, 215 (JHS). Whangapoua, Nov 75-Jan 76, c. 2000 (HRMcK, ABJ). Opoutere, Jan 76, 350 (BB). Bay of Plenty, June 1975 counts at Ohiwa, Little Waihi and Kaituna, respectively 185, 5, 18; December counts for the same localities 3500, 372, 380 (AP). Manawatu estuary 1975-76, maximum 350; wintering birds 30-50 (JLMM, HAR, MLF). Christchurch estuary, birds normally arrive in the first ten days of October and leave in the third week of March (GG). Inland Otago, 19/10/75, two males and four females at Matukituki river mouth, on a sand bar among Black-backed Gulls (PC). Southland counts, 14/2/76, 2324; 27/6/76, 384 (RRS). Stewart Island, Jan 76, several hundred at Freshwater Inlet (DAL).

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*)

Puponga Inlet, Golden Bay, March 1976, one (ATE). Lake Wainono, one, Oct 75 (RJP).

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

Paua, 3/3/76, one (ATE). Mataitai, 20/4/76, one (AJG). Miranda, 21/2/75, one ?sp (BB). Hawkes Bay, Ngaruroro estuary, 20/12/75, one (KVT). Kaikoura, one on 27/10/75, two on 29/1/76 (call heard on both occasions) and two on 22/2/76 (MLF, BDB, RG, JAC). Farewell Spit, March 1976, one (BDB). Awarua Bay, 14/2/76, one ?sp (RRS).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

Great Exhibition Bay, 24/1/76, one (D. E. Crockett). Firth of Thames, Taramaire, 2-9/1/76, one (AP, HRMcK). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri harbour board marsh, 7/12/75, one; Westshore, two on 3/4/76, one on 15/5/76 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, 14/3/76, two with godwits, knots and wrybills (HAR). Motueka, outside Moutere Inlet, one on 14/6/76 on mudflats, feeding with oystercatchers, godwits and dotterel; seen again on 16/6/76 on a sandspit, with dotterel and oystercatchers (KLO). Awarua Bay, 14/2/76, one (RRS).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Aupouri peninsula count, Jan 76, Paua, 380; Great Exhibition Bay, 12; Rangiputa, 160 (D. E. Crockett). None seen at Paua in the early part of the season; from January numbers built up to 700 in March, fell to 5-400 in April, 60 in May, 40 in June-September 76 (ATE). 4 birds at Aurere, Doubtless Bay, 3/7/76 (PGS). Whangarei harbour, none found on 6/12/75, 60 on 7/3/76; Ruakaka, some dates, 6 and 2; Waipu, 1975, 4 in June, 14 in August, 6 in November, 21 in December; Feb 76, 11 (D. E. Crockett, TGL). Taporu, 1976, April, 20-30; July, 28 (ATP). Manukau counts, 7/12/75, 119; 13/6/76, 85; but 150 at Karaka in Nov 75 and on 4/4/76 (BB). Firth of Thames counts, 9/11/75, 117; 4/7/76, 32; but at Taramaire 200 on 21/12/75, 260 on 4/1/76, 160 in February and 140 in March (BB, AP, RBS). Coromandel, one at Whangapoua Jan 75 (BDH), one at Buffalo Beach Nov 75, chasing a New Zealand Dotterel in the air (ABJ). Bay of Plenty, Kaituna-Maketu, 22/11/75, one; 7/1/76, 4; Little Waihi, Nov-Dec 75, 2; Tarawera mouth, 4 in Nov and 3 in Dec 75 (RWJ, AP); Ohope Spit, 29/12/74, 2 (RMW). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri 1/11/75, 4; Ngaruroro estuary 20/12/75, 14 (KVT); Porangahau 22/10/73, 3 (BDH). Manawatu estuary, one 6/12/75-21/1/76, 2 on January 1-4, 1976 (JLMM). Kaikoura, 9/2/76, 42 (GW). Nelson, Farewell Spit 900, Motueka 100, March 76 (BDB, MLF); two on Tahunanui beach 12/6/76 (CFJO'D). Lake Ellesmere, one at Kaitorete Spit, 9/11/75; Lake Wainono, Dec 75, 7; 1976 March, 3; April and June, one (RJP). Southland, 32 at Waimatuku mouth, 13/9/75 (MLB); general counts, 14/2/76, 675, 27/6/76, 34 (RRS). Chatham Island, May 1976, 11 at Cape Pattison, 29 along north coast, Tuapeka Point to Matarakau, Pateriki (LH, HAR).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Paua, first seen this season in Jan 76, 20; April, 120; June-July, 150. Rangiputa, 26/11/75, 200; 24/1/76, 125. Whangarei, 6/12/75, 790; 7/3/76, 600. Ruakaka, same dates, 19 and 62. Waipu, 26/11/75, 181; 6/12/75, 80; 7/2/76, 127 (D. E. Crockett, ATE, TGL). A bird banded at Swan River, W. Australia, on 30/10/73 was recovered on 21/3/76 in Kaipara harbour, 5 km north of Poutu Point (BSC). Manukau, 7/12/75, 8770; 13/6/76, 668. Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 7277; 4/7/76, 195 (BB). Bay of Plenty, Little Waihi, 30/11/75, 18 (AP). Ahuriri, H.B., 29/11/75, 5; 7/12/75, 2 (KVT). One at Waitara mouth, Taranaki, 18/10/75 (DGM). Manawatu estuary, recorded 14/9/75 to 16/4/76, maximum 75 on 4/1/76; c. 50 in March-April (JLMM, HAR). Waikanae estuary 26/10/75, one (WLG); only previous record, one on 11/11/72 (MLF). Farewell Spit, March 1976, c. 10,000 (BDB). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, 9/11/75, 4; Lake Wainono, Oct 75, 6; Cass river delta, 5/11/75-29/12/75, one feeding

in muddy pools, taking chironomid larvae and worms (RJP). Southland count, 14/2/76, 437 (RRS).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)

Paua, 1976, Jan-March, maximum 6 (ATE). Jordan's, Kaipara, 1976, 4 in January, 5 Feb-March (RBS). Manukau, one at Huia 11/10/75 (JFS); 1976, Feb-March, 16; April, 8 (BB). Firth of Thames, 1976, January, 17 (AP); March, 6 (BB). Bay of Plenty, Little Waihi, Oct 75, two (JFS); Kaituna 27/12/75 - 6/1/76, 6 (AP). Ahuriri 1975, 3 in Nov, 4 in Dec (KVT). Manawatu, 5 on 13/12/75 and 21/3/76 (JLMM, HAR). Farewell Spit, March 76, 5 (BDB). Lake Wainono, Dec 75, 4; March 76, 10 (RJP). Southland count 14/2/76, 16 (RRS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*)

Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, one (BB). Ahuriri, H.B., one in Nov-Dec 75 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, one on 26/10/75 and 15/11/75, in company with *acuminata* (JLMM). Lake Wainono, one in December 1975, 3 in Jan-Feb 1976, 4 in March, one in April. Cass river delta, 1/3/76, 3 photographed (RJP).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*C. bairdi*)

Karaka, 21/4/76, one (HRMcK).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)

Paua, 3 in January, March and April 1976 (ATE). Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 2; 21/12/75, 9; 4/1/76, 10; 20/3/76, 9; 19/5/76, 3 full red, one half red (BB, RBS, AP, HRMcK). Tauranga, Sulphur Point, 18/9/76, one (RVMcL). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, one 29/11/75, 7/12/75; Westshore, one on 3/4/76 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, 25/12/75 - 4/1/76, one (JLMM). Lake Ellesmere, one on 18/2/76 — very scarce this season (RJP). Southland, 4 on 14/2/76 (RRS).

WESTERN SANDPIPER (*C. mauri*)

Paua, 3/4/76, one, on paddock with stints and wrybill (ATE).

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)

Paua, 1976, present Jan-April, maximum 6; one very red bird on 3/6/76 (ATE). Manukau, 2/11/75, 9; 3/1/76, 11; 21/4/76, 14 (BB, AP). Firth of Thames, 9/11/75, 5; 21/12/75, 9; 20/3/76, 9 at Taramaire, some well coloured, 9 at Limeworks, one well coloured; 6/4/76, 4 (BB, HRMcK). Tarawera river mouth, 300 m. upstream, two on 22/11/75 (RWJ). Ahuriri, H.B., 29/11/75, one (KVT). Farewell Spit, March 1976, 6 (BDB). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, 9/11/75, 15; 18/2/76, 25; Lake Wainono, 1975, Oct, 2; Dec. one; one in June 1976 (RJP). Southland, one at Waimatuku 2/11/75; 14/2/76 general count, 23; Invercargill estuary, 28/3/76, 9 (RRS, MLB).

SANDERLING (*C. alba*)

Manawatu estuary 21/10/75, one in intermediate plumage, with 10 wrybills (EBJ). Farewell Spit, March 1976, one (BDB). Awarua Bay, 14/2/76, 2 (RRS).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Paua, maximum 1976 winter population only c. 400 birds (ATE). Whangarei, 7/3/76, 712 (D. E. Crockett). Manukau winter counts,

July 75, 2972; June 76, 3505. Firth of Thames winter counts, June 75, 3091; July 76, 2383 (BB). Central Otago, 1975-76 breeding season, noticeable lack of stilts; several areas which typically support good populations had few or no birds (PC).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua*)

Porangahau, H.B., 4-12/4/75, four in bay, which was full of fish, attended by 2000 Fluttering Shearwaters and 700 White-fronted Terns (LWW). 1976, sightings of five birds in January (DAL) and one in February (HAR), during crossing to and around Stewart Island.

POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*)

Off Leigh, 2/2/76, one, twisted tail feathers well seen (BB). Ponui-Waiheke, 9/2/76, one juvenile, white rump (TC). Westland, Gillespie's Beach, 19/4/76, a dark phase bird, larger and more leisurely than Arctic Skua, chasing White-fronted Terns and small gulls (RJP).

ARCTIC SKUA (*S. parasiticus*)

Hauraki Gulf, several records by various observers, 2/11/75 - 6/4/76. One preening on the water off Orewa, 22/2/76 (DFB); birds close inshore at Waiti Bay and Taramaire in March and at Miranda in April 76 (HRMcK, BB, MEMcK). One off Orakei wharf 7/3/76 (TGL). Porangahau, H.B., three in the bay 4-12 April 75 (LWW). Foxton, 28/12/75, 2 (JLMM). Taranaki, Jan-April 76, offshore records from north of Awakino river to New Plymouth (DJB, DGM, REL). Wellington harbour, 2 in January, 4 in March (JLMM), 2 in April 76 (MLF). Washdyke lagoon, Timaru, two dark and one light phase, March 76 (PMS).

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)

Aupouri peninsula, 23/11/75, chicks already hatched at Te Kao colony but in the small colony 14 km north of Forest headquarters 11 nests had three eggs, 11 had two eggs and three nests still empty (M. Hows). Tarawera mouth, 12/6/76, gulls picking up poisoned dead eels; Little Shags catching live fish in the same area (RMW).

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*)

Ngawhi, Palliser Bay, 16/11/75, breeding on a rock surrounded by water, near beach alongside settlement, c. 150; birds incubating (RHDS). Wellington harbour, 6000+ in June 1976 (MLF).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*)

One adult at Clark's beach, Manukau, 6/6/74 (HRMcK). Clevedon, 12 at Mataitai, 15 at Peach Point, April and May 76 (AJG). Kaiaua, 19/5/76, c. 450 (HRMcK). Kairito, Spring 1975, 14 pairs hatched chicks on a shellbank hidden amongst mangroves (RBS). Ohiwa harbour, 1975, 14 pairs on eggs at a White-fronted Tern colony; first breeding record here. One bird at Little Waihi 30/11/75 (AP). Hawkes Bay winter records, 8/6/75, East Clive, 194; 16/5/76, Ngaururo, 300 (KVT). Manawatu, reported breeding near Pahiatua, 1975 (HAR); May 1976, 50 at Manawatu estuary and 65, many immature, at Waikanae; Wellington harbour, small numbers, Feb-August (MLF). Masterton sewage ponds, March 73, 8 (BDH). Stewart Island, January 76, one, one and four at Butterfield beach, Lee Bay and Horseshoe Bay, with Red-billed Gulls (RHDS).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Bay of Plenty, Rangitaiki mouth, best winter count 1975, 38; one still present spring and early summer (AP); Tarawera mouth 12/6/76, two (RMW). Ngaruroro estuary, 80+ in May 75 and in July 76; one on 20/12/75 and two on 28/6/76 (KVT). Orongorongo estuary 29/5/76, one (JLMM). Southland counts 14/2/76, 6; 27/6/76, 45 (RRS).

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

Cass delta 27/12/75, one, full breeding plumage; Wainono, June 76, one, breeding plumage (RJP).

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelichelidon nilotica*)

Karaka, Manukau, December 75, one, much reduced black cap; 21/2/76, eight, seven with full black caps; 19/3/76, 7; April, 5; 8/5/76, 2 (BB). Ruamahanga river near Greytown, one on 22/11/75 (BDH). Waimatuku mouth, one on 2/11/75, not found on later visits (MLB). Two Karaka birds watched diving headlong on to just-wet mud to catch large worms; the worm was grasped as the bird faced forward and dragged from its hole with an over-the-shoulder motion (BB).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Awanui, 24/7/75, six hunting over river near cowshed (M. Hows). Hunua ranges, 19/7/75, one flying over Cossey's dam (TGL). Kawhia harbour, 4/7/76, 30, many more than previously seen here (JHS). Tarawera river mouth, one caught a 15 cm. herring, dropped it and caught another (RWJ). Whangapoua harbour 18/11/75, 100; Buffalo Beach 6/9/75, one diving into deep water, wings swept back like a gannet (ABJ). Lake Rotorua, only one pair bred 1975 (AP). Haast river 14/2/76, two flying downstream near Big Bluff, 11 km. from coast (PC). Cass delta, a pair nested unsuccessfully 1975-76 summer (RJP).

ANTARCTIC TERN (*Sterna vittata*)

SW arm, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island, one seen January 1976 (DAL).

FAIRY TERN (*S. nereis*)

6/12/75, 5 at Portland, 4 at Waipu (D. E. Crockett). Waipu, one feeding a mile up river on 4/12/75 and one fishing up Pohuenui river on 21/12/75 (TGL). 30/11/75, two feeding on mudflats, another two very active and challenging; after an hour's search of about half an acre of bare sand a nest was found, containing two eggs; as we left, the bird settled and brooded. An hour later we returned and watched with binoculars from about 180 m. Change-over of parents was observed; the bird which had been relieved preened, shaking out all its feathers and combing them with its bill (AHG). Mangawhai Spit, 3 birds on two occasions, Dec 75, no sign of nesting. Kaipara, South Head, 27/12/75, two showing agitation over an area which held an N.Z. Dotterel nest (SMR); Taporu, Sand Island, 1/2/76, a nest, one egg one chick (LH). Sulphur Point, Tauranga, probable nesting recorded in November 1972 (RVMcL); 29/12/75, nest with 3 eggs; two had hatched by 0930 hours on 30/12/75; heavy rain prevented detailed observation on 31/12/75, when the chicks had

left the nest but one was on the sand a few feet away and I was mobbed by the parents; chicks not seen again, but adults were vigorously mobbing observers on January 1-7, near an adjacent colony of White-fronted Terns, from which a number of chicks were on the territory of the Fairy Terns by 1/2/76, a Fairy Tern adult among them (KF).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*)

Rangiputa Bank, 26/11/75, 69; 7/12/75, 65+ (ATE); 24/1/76, 88. Whangarei, 6/12/75, 9; 7/3/76, 11, both records from Portland (D. E. Crockett). Kaipara, one at Jordans, 2/1/76 (RBS). Manukau, 8 in Nov 75; 1976, January, 9; Feb, 8; March, 7; April, 3; May, one (BB, AP, RBS). Firth of Thames 1975, 13 in November, 21 in December; 1976, 19+ in January, 22 in February, 16 in March (BB, AP, RBS). 3 at Ohiwa, 7/12/75 (AP). Manawatu, numerous sightings from 6/12/75 to 16/4/76, each of one bird, on Lake Horowhenua and on the estuary, where it was frequently seen in company with knots (JLMM, HAR, EBJ). Motueka, 7 in January 1976 (MLF).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*)

Numerous locality records received. Some years ago, in Spring, a small flock of terns was crouched low on a stony shore, facing into a fairly strong wind, the birds occasionally moving forwards in short flights. Copulation took place several times and on one occasion a presumed male mounted just as the presumed female moved forward leaving him squatting on the ground, where he attempted to copulate with a stone (FHB).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*)

Waiotira, 20/5/76, party of 8 in taraire trees. Auckland, Parnell Rose Gardens, July 1975, one often seen flying round with a group of domestic pigeons (TGL). Huia, October, one sat on an empty tui nest in a tall kanuka; was driven off by tuis, which eventually raised two chicks (JFS). Ponui, 19/9/74, stripping buds and leaf shoots of plum trees, reported by P. Chamberlin (HRMcK). Miranda, March 76, one chased a godwit for several minutes, twice in a wide circle and then on out of sight (BB). Southern Alps, above bushline, Hunter river, 7/2/74, 4 at 1320 m.; 16/3/76, Hope river, 3 at 1300 m. On both occasions birds moving into sub-alpine scrub where they were feeding on berries of snow totara (*Podocarpus nivalis*) which were in abundance at that time of year (RG). E. Matukituki, Mt Aosta, 24/3/76, one flew out of snow tussock at 1200 m., probably feeding on berries of stunted coprosma (PC). Hollyford valley, 1976, numerous in beech forest, 27 in air at one time (MPD). Numbers in bush in and around Delamore Park, Gore, 1976 (JST). Stewart Island, Jan 76, common around Oban (DAL), the commonest bush bird in Bragg Bay-Lee Bay area (RHDS); March 76, feeding on wineberry (makomako) round Oban, flocks of up to 27 seen; individuals at Fred's camp-Mason Bay, Freshwater Landing, North Arm (PMS).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Little Barrier, Dec 75, one (DAL). Manutuke, near Gisborne, 27/8/73, one non-flying young found beneath a nest in a kahikatea tree (JFC). Ashburton and Hinds beaches, nesting in shingle cliffs; scrape out holes in sandy patches which occur in these cliffs; frequently there are stones in the burrows, and where these occur nests are built behind them, using fine driftwood sticks, dry grass or seaweed (ML).

BARBARY DOVE (*Streptopelia risoria*)

Masterton 21/7/75, three in garden eating karamu berries (RHDS).

WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

Huia, one on a kauri, 20/3/76 (JFS). One flying south at Port Waikato, 12/10/75 (BB). 16 km north-west of Onewhero, 4/1/76, 40+ in a bush valley (AP). McCallum's beach, Whakatiri, Clevedon, 3/9/73, two (HRMcK). Kaiaua, 20/8/75, in trees behind beach (DAL); 21/10/75, a few in the district, in ti-tree and on maize on a neighbour's form (JW).

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

A stray bird around Kerikeri, August 1976 (ATE). Whangarei Heads, April 1976, one found dead on beach at Smugglers Cove had been in the water for some days; one seen at Peach Cove (CWD, PJM). 1976, Kakas observed at various localities in Waitakere Ranges; 1/8/76, one bird settled on a branch about 2 metres above the observer, watched for a while and then flew, quietly; birds observed at two localities in Titirangi, June-August (JFS). One over Herne Bay on 25/4/76 (TGL); May-August, numerous reports of up to 3 birds in Auckland — Cornwall Park, St Cuthbert's school, Mater Hospital and a private garden in Epsom; may have been the same birds moving around, attracted by flowering gums and prunus (SMR). Hurua ranges, two in Nov 75, one in March 76 (TGL); two flew NW high over Clevedon, 16/1/67 (AJG). 1976 winter reports of birds at Alfriston-Brookby and Pukekohe east; Little Barrier, 30/1/76, one feeding a young bird, which was puffed up like a feather duster and later flew, clumsily (BB). Taranaki, Waitara headwaters Nov-Dec 75, two (RWW), numerus in Tongaporutu headwaters, Jan 76 (DJB).

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

Nelson Lakes, Nov 75, upstream from forks, Sabine west branch (5), at Travers Falls and Lake head hut, all in bush dominated by red beech; Hopeless Valley, two in silver/mountain beech (SCS). Jan 76, Mt Crusader, Tasman Range, one flying down bushline on ridge, 1352 m. (JST). Reefton, Tawhai State Forest, beech/podocarp, one 10/12/75 at Brown's Creek (MDW). Gillespie's beach, occasional in summer (M. Hall). Hope River, one calling loudly, mobbing a harrier (RG). Stewart Island, 1976, January, up to 12 at Oban, 6 at North Arm (DAL), February, several at Port William (HAR); Ulva Island, March, 4 landed in rimu (PMS).

KEA (*N. notabilis*)

1975, March, 3 at Lewis Pass (RMW); Cobb saddle, Takaka R., Oct (JHS); Oct-Nov, one each in W and E branch of Sabine (SCS); fine sunny day in November, Canaan, 762 m., hopping on rocks and dead trees (CFJO'D). November 75-March 76, two (possibly three) birds visited Farewell Spit (BR). 1976, January, St Arnaud, Mt Robert car park, three around cars; Homer Tunnel, May, several in vicinity; one offered a banana, which became the subject of a squabble between two others (JST). Karamea, July, one at Cuckoo river, one at Kakapo river; the first was slow in movement, unafraid and destructive round camp; the second was interested, but kept its distance (JD).

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*)

Wharekawa, north of Kaiaua, up to 9 reported 1976 (HRMcK). Coromandel peninsula, Coroglen and Te Mata Creek, Oct 75; Hikuai, April 76 (ABJ); Te Rerenga, a pair on 21/6/76 (PJ).

RED-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*)

Coromandel peninsula, Road 309, 17/10/75; near Tapu, 25/3/76 (ABJ). Stewart Island, March 76, Leask's Bay, Fern Gully, Ulva Island (PMS); Moturau Moana, 1/2/76, close view of one feeding in mountain beech (specimen planted tree); other parakeets seen in flight (RHDS).

Parakeet sp. recorded Waitira, 5/1/76 (TGL); Whangarei Heads, McLeod's Bay, Peach Cove — Bream Head, 1976 (PJM); Coromandel peninsula near Coroglen, 1975-76 (ABJ); Hatepe, Lake Taupo, in cut-over bush, Dec 75 (WAW); Tawhai forest, Station Creek, Maruia, Dec 75 (MDW).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*C. auriceps*)

Coromandel Peninsula, Tapu Hill, 17/10/75 (ABJ). Hope and Hurunui valleys, quite common, apparently increasing. A number seen in and above sub-alpine scrub, 1380 m., Hope River, 25/11/75 (RG). Ulva Island, 6/3/76, one feeding with seven red-crowned parakeets, in canopy of rimu (PMS).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*)

Northland, September 1975, Parua Bay, 13th, by M. Sanson; Pukenui, 17th (press report); Opuia, 19th (D. E. Calvert); Awanui, 27th (M. Hows). Ponui, 19/9/74, by P. Chamberlin; North Road, Clevedon, 21/9/74, 22/9/75; 12/10/75, singing at 2200 hours, in spite of near gale and rain (AJG). Whangapoua, Nov 75, six at once, on lupins (HRMcK). Taranaki, first for season 5/10/75; Jan 76, Waiau river, East Mt Egmont, several between 400 and 600 metres a.s.l. (DGM); numerous in headwaters of Tongaporutu river (DJB, CDP). Foxton beach, 15/11/75 was our first record in this locality in six years (JLMM). Christchurch, 6/3/76, eating small caterpillars from leaves of greengage tree (RG). Lake Mapourika, first for season, 1/10/75 (DM).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*)

Houhora, March 76, one flew into a window (ATE). Waipu, 2200 hours, 7/2/76, one calling, flying north (TGL). Little Barrier, very numerous 1975-76 season; 20/1/76 - 1/2/76, prolonged bouts of the "rrrp-pe-pe" call heard till 1030-1100 hours, well up Summit track; one would start and others at increasing distances join in, producing a chorus (BB). Hunua ranges, 1/3/75, two together, feeding (G. Doherty per HRMcK). Taranaki, December 1975, seen in headwaters of Waitara river and heard day and night (RWW); plentiful in Matemateonga ranges (GM), and in Tongaporutu headwaters early Jan 76 (CDP, DJB). Massey University 26/9/75, in gum trees (HAR). Head of Hopeless Creek, Nelson, 3/11/75 (SCS). Arthur's Pass, arrived by 10/11/75; one chased by a Blackbird for about 5 minutes; a thrush panicked at the cuckoo call and took off to her nest (PD). Lake Mapourika, first for season 29/10/75 (DM). Stewart Island, Deep Bay and Ulva Island, calling 6/3/76, the Deep Bay bird loudly and persistently (PMS).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

Dome Valley State Forest, north of Warkworth, 1630 hours on 6/4/75, one roosting 5 m. above ground level was approached first by one and later by two other tuis; the first tui swooped to within one metre of the owl then perched about 3 m. from it and gave a prolonged series of scolding calls. After about 5 minutes, with all three tuis in attendance, the owl flew a short distance to a more sheltered situation. As it took flight the three tuis, which immediately before had been silent, joined in a loud chorus of mewing calls; they did not attempt to pursue the owl further (MJT). Rotorua, 18/7/75, one perched in an akeake, mobbed by thrushes, was apparently unconcerned at the presence of four observers; raised its head and peered at a cat; flew off after two minutes (RWJ). Nelson, Lake Rototoi settlement, two at dusk (PJ); Hole Hut, three calling on bush-line at 1350 m. (CFJO'D). Millerton, one seen in daylight on a haystack; Karamea, July 76, one flushed from roosting place in tall open bush at about 610 metres a.s.l., flew from tree to tree at not much more than a metre above ground (JD). Stewart Island, March 1976, Leask's Bay, Fred's camp, Fern Gully (PMS).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

Nelson, road-killed bird found on Maitai valley road; one perched on telephone line in early morning, Riwaka (CFJO'D).

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura caudacuta*)

Just north of Haast river, late Nov 75, about 10, seen by R. Russ (BDB).

FORK-TAILED SWIFT (*Apus pacificus*)

Waipapakauri (90 mile beach) 11/10/75, a swift seen by R. Jeffrey may have been this species; reported to have had a forked tail (ATE). Lyttleton, 17/1/76, one seen for a few seconds only; forked tail and white throat observed (SCS).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta*)

Parengarenga block, 16/5/76, 25 on power lines on 9 km of road from main road junction to jetty was an unusually large count for the area (ATE). Opoutere, 9/7/75, 26 on power lines at high tide, regularly dropping on prey below (RWJ). Kaituna-Maketu, regular in winter, up to 15 (AP). Foxton beach 1/5/76, 15 in vicinity of motor camp (HAR). Porirua harbour, 12 and 11, June and July 1976; 5 in August, scarce or absent Sept-Dec (COF). Station Creek, Maruia, one deep in beech forest, 12/12/75 (MDW). Glendhu Bluff, West Wanaka, 290 m., one on a power line, 22/6/75 (PC). Stewart Island, Jan 76, round North Arm, also in bush behind coastal areas round Paterson Inlet (DAL); March, at mouths of Mill Creek (one) and three at Ryan's Creek (PMS).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*)

Little Barrier, May 1975, relatively few seen searching trunks in the typical manner; most of those seen were searching branches and twigs in the understorey 2-10 m. above ground and ground feeding was also recorded. Of all sightings, 58% were on twigs and branches among foliage, 30% on trunks, 12% on ground (JFS); 1/2/76, ground feeding recorded on two occasions (BB). 28/8/71 Whiritoa, south of Whangamata, one caught by cat: only odd bits of bush along creek,

scrub and wattle across the road (HRMcK). West Mt Egmont, January 76, common at 600-800 m. near Waiaua river (DGM); a few in headwaters of Waitara and Tongaporutu rivers (CDP, DJB). Urewera National Park, Dec 75, numerous family groups with young being fed; one parent, thought to be male, was particularly responsive to cork-and-bottle squeaker; in an almost vertical dive from 6 m. above it narrowly missed one of our heads, then perched a metre from our faces with wings quivering and chirring alarm call; dived at us once more before moving away with the family (BRK). North Rimutaka range, Tunnel valley, 10/11/75, one seen and one heard after 5 visits and 30 hours searching; present at the same spot on 11/2/76 (HLS). 1976, seems evenly distributed through Abel Tasman National Park (JST); Nelson Lakes, abundant in beech forest up to the grass line, main Sabine, east and west branch Sabine, Travers Valley, Hopeless Creek (SCS).

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*)

February 1976, Onlooker Spur, Mt D'Archaic, 1350 m.; Forbes River (tributary of Havelock river) 1676 m., two (JD).

TREE MARTIN (*Hylochelidon nigricans*)

Lake Wainono, one in June 1976 (RJP).

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

Orewa, 18/2/76, five, chasing a kingfisher away from bridge where swallows nest (DFB). Winter counts, Manukau, 13/6/76, 267; Firth of Thames, 4/7/76, 107; Papakura, present all season, nesting suspected; 11-14 daily, Jan-Feb 76 (BB). Otua 12/6/75, 150 on power lines (IWJ). Tairua nursery, Opoutere, 3/11/75, 2 (RWJ). Little Waihi 27/12/75, 26+ (AP). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, 17/7/75, 25; 12 sitting on gravel on causeway, warm in sun after a frosty night; Ngaruroro estuary, 5 in May; East Clive, 20 in June; Hurimoana swamp, 3 in August 1975 (KVT); Tukituki river bed 24/7/76, c. 100 perching amongst shingle took to flight when a Caspian Tern passed over them (JLL). Taranaki, numerous north of Awakino, 11/1/76; Mokau 27/10/75; Bell Block oxidation ponds 3/7/76, 100-200; lakes south of Opunake 22/5/75, c. 30 (REL, RWW). Pahiatua, a pair nested in a culvert near the ponds, 1975 (MLF); 29/1/76, 100+ on a line (RN and Shane Cotter). Awatere valley, Sept 75, a pair on Richmond brook, 20 km upstream from Seddon (TJT). Arahura, Feb 76 (JD); Charleston, 9/12/75, two on wire (MDW); Okarito lagoon 3/5/76, c. 50 (PMS). Lake Wainono, Dec 75, 2; 30-40 birds May-June 76 (RJP). Southland, 2 at Waimatuku 27/10/75, no nest found (MLB); many reports in and around Gore, Feb-May 75 (JST); first autumn sightings, 7/3/76, 60+ in Lower Mataura; 8/3/76, 20+ in Lower Oreti; numerous sightings of increasingly large flocks over a wide area of the district throughout winter; number greatly diminished by late August; no summer sightings (RRS). Chatham I., Kaiangaroa, 9/8/75 (LMcP).

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

Far North, still quite numerous in the rough country in Cape Reinga-Tapotupotu area, but a scarce bird at Parengarenga on pasture land, where skylarks are numerous (ATE). A rare bird in Firth of Thames (RBS) and around Kaituna-Maketu, where only one or two

are usually recorded (AP). Buffalo beach, Whitianga, 14/4/76 (ABJ). Lake Waikare outlet, Nov 75 and June 76 (BB). Rotongata, 11/10/75, two; Whaka forest, in cutty grass and swamp area, 9/8/75; April 76, Te Matea, in cut-over forest; at Rotorua airport (RWJ). Fossil Point, Farewell Spit, six on beach, one with a very large lesion on leg (BDB). Numerous in Aorere valley, March 76 (ATE); up to 1800 m. in snow, Matakītiki region, 1975 (CFJO'D). Lake Wainono, 1976, one or two, April-June (RJP). Mt Hutt car park, 4 on 13/9/75, in snow (ML). Stewart Island, March 76, two in tussock country, Mason Bay, and two in sand dunes (PMS). Chatham Island, May 1976, abundant; obviously not showing the decline apparent in some areas of the New Zealand mainland (HAR).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*)

Singing in Tairua forest 30/3/75 and at Matea, in understorey of 18-year-old *Pinus radiata*, on 29/4/76; 11/10/75, 12 seen on a bush walk above Rotongata and Rotatūha (RWJ). Hastings, 28/2/76, two locked in battle on a driveway, would have been run over by a car if the driver had not stopped, got out and made them move, which they did, only to resume the battle further on (KVT). Stewart Island, occasional near Oban, March 76 (PMS).

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*)

Mangonui county, in stunted scrub and fern along a 5 km track from Stony Creek Lands and Survey block westward towards Taemaro Bay, 18 pairs counted on 29/7/76. Parahaki, Whangarei, estimated population in 2.5 hectares, 3 pairs; birds carrying nesting material on 31/8/76 (RSC). Awarua (south of Kaikohe), Gammon's road, 6/11/76 (AJG). Karaka, 1976, seen in two places after apparent absence (BB). Waiuku, two seen and others heard at Lake Pukeroa, 22/6/75 (IWJ). Present on a farm at Kaiaua, 1975 (RBS). Takaka, Pupū Springs, in low manuka scrub, 19/1/76 (JST). Aorere valley, plentiful in scrub, March 1976 (BDB). Seddonville, near Mokihinui mine, 9/12/75, two seen, others heard in a coprosma thicket (MDW). Stewart Island, Jan 76, seen and heard in thick low scrub above bushline near Doughboy Hill, also in low scrub along Mason Bay coast (DAL).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandia*)

Nelson, Whangamoā saddle, mixed flock of Brown Creepers, Silveryeyes and one Yellowhead (RG); Canaan, Abel Tasman National Park, Oct 75 (JHS); Nelson Lakes, Blue, Lake, Sabine west branch, 31/10/75, two in high level pure mountain beech (SCS). Lake Matheson, occasionally seen (M. Hall). Ada riverbed 21/9/75, very common in matagouri scrub (RG). Seven in pine plantation near summit of Queenstown Hill, 4/4/76 (JST). Stewart Island, Jan 76, common in manuka bush, Freshwater flats (DAL); March 76, a flock of about ten birds feeding in upper and outer areas of manuka trees between Freshwater Landing and Mason Bay; occasionally a bird would stop feeding and give a small snatch of song (PMS).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*)

Little Barrier, Feb 76, feeding on mahoe berries; one bird used its foot to hold a berry or berries, apparently to stop the fruit rolling away off a branch after it had been plucked (SMR). Near mouth of Hatepe stream, Lake Taupo, Jan 75 (WAW). Otaniwainuku Mt,

south of Te Puke, 16/8/75 and 24/4/76 (RWJ). Kaingaroa, 16/6/75, five in 6-year *Pinus radiata*, unthinned but pruned (MDW); in *Pinus nigra* 9/8/75 (RWJ). Taranaki, numerous in headwaters of Waitara and Tongaporutu rivers, 1975 and 1976 (CDP, DJB, RWW); West Mt Egmont, 6/1/76, one near Brames Falls (DGM). Tiritea, July 1976 (LJD).

YELLOWHEAD (*M. ochrocephala*)

Whangamoa saddle, Nelson, one with a mixed flock of Brown Creepers and Silvereyes (RG). Mt Aspiring National Park, 1974-76, present in very small numbers in the Upper Haast catchment, west of the main divide, e.g., Brewster ridge, Blue Duck Flat, mid-Howe (Burke), Roaring Swine Creek; none recorded in several areas (PC). Routeburn Valley, 21/8/75, 11 seen foraging on ground, others in high canopy (JST); 18/4/76, a flock of ten feeding on a fallen log and on young hoheria trees beside the track. One female was seen to pick out a large grub, pull it in half and feed a piece to each of two juveniles; this was our first sighting of Yellowheads feeding at ground level (WMJ).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*)

Kapiti, only rarely found in scrub transect at north end of island, where other bush birds are present in good numbers (MLF). Millerton, 6/8/76, one caught by cat, managed to escape and took refuge on a wall hanging inside house; removed and taken outside, it perched on my finger, fluffed itself up, swayed drunkenly as in a fainting fit for over three minutes. It then opened its eyes, gradually perked up till reasonably steady on its legs, taking increasing notice of surroundings but still reluctant to fly. Carried into a breeze which appeared to steady it more, then another 20 yards down a track, when it flew into a bush, giving a half-song as it landed; apparently unharmed except for fright and ruffled tail feathers (JD). Stewart Island, March 76, regular along tracks near Oban, Fred's camp, Mason Bay, Freshwater landing, West Arm (PMS).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*)

One black fantail seen in bush near New Plymouth 24/1/75. Nelson, Kaiteriteri, a fantail stood on my head while feeding around me (CFJO'D); Cobb, 10/1/75, 15-20 blacks chasing and snapping at flies over the river (JST); Roding river 13/4/75, one black, with white ears (SC). Karamaea bush country, one black, otherwise all seen were pied (JD). South of Christchurch estuary 17/7/75, two black, three pied (GG). A number of blacks seen at Taupoiti river and around Waimate-White river confluence, not many in other places in Arthur's Pass National Park (PD). Southland, Leitham reserve, 24/2/76, one black, 12 pied (JST). Stewart Island, Feb 76, one black between Murray beach and Christmas village, otherwise all noted were pied (HAR); March 76, regular along tracks, only pied phase seen (PMS).

PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*)

Kaitaia, 5 km up Kiwanis track, Jan 76 (M. Hows). Whangarei, Parahaki Memorial drive, a pair carrying food, 20/8/76 (RSC). Waitakere ranges, tits favour large rimus; sit, sing and hunt high in trees, frequenting the understorey much less than in some localities;

attracted to squeak bottle or taped call but soon fly back to high branches (JFS). Hunua ranges, Kohukohunui ridge, four counts 12/11/75 - 4/4/76 each produced 18-20 birds (TGL). Taranaki, numerous in Waitara headwaters, Dec 75 (RWW).

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

Karamea back country, one typical yellow-breasted and one which appeared pied, in the same locality, July 76 (JD). Mt Hutt, 21/8/75, one sheltering in a derelict hut during very cold southerly conditions (RG). Hokonui hills, seven seen on a track through bush, 11/2/76 (JST). Stewart Island, regular along tracks, March 76 (PMS).

N.I. ROBIN (*P. australis longipes*)

Little Barrier, Summit track, 15/11/75, one took crumbs and when well fed placed surplus in a "larder" — a broken ponga 1.2 m. high; part song 21/1/76 (BB). Mamaku State Forest, scrub and hardwoods, 31/5/75, 2; Paradise Valley, Rotorua, mountain stream and remnant of tawa bush, one; Te Matea, 29/4/76, in 18-year-old *Pinus radiata* with understorey of ferns, bracken and pomaderris, three, constantly chasing each other; when an apple core was thrown down one flew to it; a second landed and the first bird flew to the second and pecked its face (RWW). Taranaki, Dec 75 - Jan 76, numerous in Waitara headwaters; present in Tongaporutu headwaters and Mateamateonga range; few at Mt Damper where bush has been eaten out by goats (RWW, CDP, DJB, GM). Kapiti, June 1976, common and unafraid; one half a metre from observer, sorting through leaves that had been turned over; one perched on observer's boot (MLF).

S.I. ROBIN (*P. a. australis*)

Nelson Lakes, widespread and quite common, all habitats except pure mountain beech and snow grass, Oct-Nov 75 (SCS); frequent in bush near Lake Rototoi settlement; one undid shoelace and pulled at sock (PJ). Dec 75, Maruia, red beech forest, six seen, including a family group of 4; not seen in other Buller and Westland forests visited (DMW). Routeburn, 21/8/75, seven flying back and forth, accepting titbits of bread (JST). Lower Hollyford, 19/4/76, Marion junction to below Gunn's camp, very few birds; said to have been back for 2-3 years after an absence of several years — possibly wiped out by stoats and now re-colonising from the Eglinton (PC).

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

1976, January, Lower Rakeahua valley and at Freshwater Inlet (DAL); March, five in manuka country, Freshwater landing - Mason Bay (PMS).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

One still singing at Waipu, 7/2/76; first songs Waipu 19/4/76, Auckland 2/5/76 (TGL). Nelson, 17/9/76, a bird which had been preening on the bare branch of an elm then flew to the flat top of the stump of a shortened branch of a tree lucerne; the stump was about 100 mm wide and flat. From there, with legs extended downwards and beak pointing downwards, it did a sort of aerial dance, flitting up and down above the stump, giving every indication of extreme excitement; it then flew about a metre to another shortened branch which was at an angle of something less than 45 degrees to the horizontal, landed and attempted to copulate with the stump, which was about

100 mm long and in diameter about the size of a thrush; this happened three times before the bird returned to the elm tree, paused briefly and then swooped downwards and out of sight (FHB).

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*)

Clevedon, 28/9/74, one singing with its bill full of worms (HRMcK). South Westland, Waipara valley, 27/12/75, a nest in sub-alpine scrub above moraine lake, 975 metres a.s.l. (PC). On a back road 6 km north-west of Methven, 6/12/75, several pairs of Blackbirds were nesting at intervals along a pine hedge; one male was pied, two had more white than black and other males showed white feathers; none of the females showed any white (ML).

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Rotorua, feeding on aphids off pussy willow (RWJ). Only occasionally seen on Kapiti (MLF). Stewart Island, March 76, flock of 12 in a rimu, Horseshoe Bay (PMS).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)

Clevedon, Otau Hill road, 21/9/71, one on peach blossom, reported by D. Betts; Hunua ranges, Wairoa dam, 5 km east of Cossey's dam, one on 10/9/75, reported by B. McClure (HRMcK). Mercury Bay Golf Course, early on a misty morning 19/4/75, c. 50; a roseate gum tree was alive with them, all singing together, sounding like tinkling bells. After ten minutes the singing suddenly stopped and they flew away (ABJ). Female eating coprosma berries, Blue Lake, 3/8/75 (RWJ). Hopkins river, May and Dec 75, relatively uncommon; not recorded Rangitata forests Feb 76 (RG). Feed in my Christchurch garden Apr-Oct, mainly on flowering gums (GG). Stewart Island, March 76, regular (PMS).

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*)

Waipu, 1/9/75, scores of birds feeding and singing on flowering wattle behind dunes, Uretiti beach (TGL). Kawakawa Bay 12/9/74, 50+, c. 100 in distance (HRMcK). Okataina 11/10/75, some Tui calls mimic note of Kokako (RWJ). Nelson Lakes, Oct-Nov 75, present and vocal in all areas of mixed beech forest but not noted in pure mountain beech, also vocal in mixed beech forest at 1060-1200 m., Sabine side of Travers saddle (SCS). Rarely seen in my Christchurch garden, a pair on 4/6/76 (GG). Stewart Island, March 76, regular (PMS).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Kaingaroa 4/3/76, 50+ feeding on seeds of scorched radiata cones, in a burnt-off area (RWJ). Buffalo Beach, Whitianga, 9/7/75, one feeding along low tide mark among debris and shells (ABJ). Gore, winter flocks of 50+ were regular in 1974, not seen in 1975 (JST).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Whitianga, 5/11/75, 6 (ABJ). Bay of Plenty, uncommon at Kaituna-Maketu and Little Waihi (AP). Rotorua, 18/8/75, 12 on lawn (RWJ). Nelson, feeding on yew tree seeds, 1975 (CFJO'D). Invercargill, Bluff road, Oct 75, grain spilt from a truck on 2/10/75 attracted sparrows and greenfinches; from Oct 2-8, two counts of live

birds gave 202 sparrows, 60 greenfinches; three counts of road killed birds, 6 sparrows, 18 greenfinches; it seems that greenfinches are slower off the road than sparrows (MLB).

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*)

Whitianga, pulling petals out of marigolds and eating seeds (ABJ). Masterton, post-breeding flock of 300 on playing field (RHDS). Stewart Island March 76, occasional near Oban (PMS).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Large flocks in May 75 near State Forest, Waiuku (IWJ). Kaituna-Maketu, regular; large flocks; breeding (AP). April-March 75, near Rotorua airport, c. 100; Matea, c. 1000 in an area of old stump with bare patches, fog grass and tussock (RWJ). Stewart Island, Mar 76, usually in small flocks; one of these on snow tussock country near Mason Bay (PMS).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Clevedon, one took a dry grass stalk, flew up and soaked it in the garage spouting and then flew on with it to a nest under house roof (HRMcK). 1976, March, April, feeding on seeds of Bermuda grass; taking aphids from a birch tree (*Betula*) from underside of leaves and by hanging from branch tips. May, feeding on seeds of marigolds (RWJ). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, a very light coloured male with a normal female, 4/11/75 (EBJ); Foxton beach 6/6/76, an almost complete albino feeding with birds of normal plumage (JLMM). Stewart Island, March 76, only around Oban (PMS).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Awanui, March 76, about 400 roost in macrocarpas near river (M. Hows). Westshore, H.B., a flock of 3-400 mobbed a harrier; they wheeled in perfect formation, chasing it from high in the air to below a belt of ngaio trees, when the starlings dispersed; the harrier presumably landed (KVT). Nov 75, Somes Island, very large numbers roost, a small number nesting in old buildings; Ward Island, several hundred roost, no sign of breeding (MLF). Rotorua 25/4/76, feeding on birch tree, crept out along branches and fed from a standing position (RWJ).

INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Two records of partial albinos; Patumahoe, 6/9/75, body cream colour, wings very light brown (DAL); north of Kerikeri, June 76, general colour buffy white, but pure white markings on wings could be seen when it flew (D. E. Calvert). Kaingaroa forest, 26/2/76, in a compartment which had been clear felled last winter and the debris of radiata branches, cones and logs burnt, a flock of 60 mynas, more than I have ever seen before in this area; presumably they had been attracted by insects. At Whakarewarewa a sparrow, hit by a car, was injured but still alive when two mynas started to peck at it; 6 sparrows tried to drive off the mynas (RW). Little Waihi, common, up to 50 (AP). Trentham, seen in Spring 1973, still present April and May 1976 (HLS).

KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea*)

Kohukohunui track, Hunuas, 4/4/76, one (TGL); heard from

time to time at Cossey's dam (HRMcK). Lake Rotoma, Oct 75, 11 seen on 6 km stretch of road (AP). Taranaki, Rerekapa Hut, headwaters of Waitara river, Nov 75, 6 observed; none heard or seen on 14/2/76 (DJB).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen tibicen*)

Wharehuia, near Stratford, one on 3/4/76 (JM). Foxton two, Waikanae one, 6/9/75 (JLMM). In Feb-Mar 76 a large influx of *tibicen* and *hypoleuca* into Tararua foothills at Aokautere; not uncommonly flocks of 60 include 5-10 identifiable as *tibicen*; possibly this is an overflow from Hawkes Bay (HAR).

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

Whitianga 10/10/75, 8; Ohui 6/12/75, 7 (ABJ). Tairua, 9/7/75, one in a burnt-over area (RWJ). Ohauti, increased over recent years (RVMcL). Kaituna, scarce; 3 on 15/2/75 (AP). Sightings at Rotorua 26/8/75, seven near Kaingaroa forest 15/9/75, one at Matea 29/4/76 (RWJ). Inland road from Kaikoura, 27/10/75, one, buff coloured on parts normally black (MLF). Grey and Inangahua valleys, Dec 75, 12 seen (MDW). Southland, numerous sightings of ones and twos over the whole Southland area in 1975-76; unusual; taken to be evidence of a quite sudden spread of the species (RRS).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Firth of Thames, 1975, January, 44; March, 30; December, 19 (RBS, JW). Waikato, Te Kohanga, one before Xmas 75, not seen since (A. Prickett); near Hinuera, 31/3/75, flock of 15 feeding in paddock (DAL). Manawatu, Forest Hill Road, Aokautere, 14/9/76, new colony, 50 birds, 7 nests; 3-4 pairs reported nesting at Cloverlea and feeding towards Opihi; a flock of c. 1000 reported near Ashhurst, Feb 76 (HAR). Marlborough, Grassmere district, numbers built up from 14 in Dec 75 to 40 in Apr 76; group reduced and dispersed by poisoning (TJT). One visited Farewell Spit in December 1975 (BR). Canterbury, records from Geraldine and Motunau, August 76 (RG).

