

When bathing in heavy rain, the birds stood out in the water and wet their heads only, probably because the back was already wet, nevertheless bathing as such was practised, even in the heaviest rain.

Once bathing is over, the bird steps out onto the bank and walks some distance from the water to preen, always it seems with its back to the pond — this is probably not significant. During preening Takahe often stand with both wings outstretched. This is understandable when the bird has just bathed — it probably assists in the drying process. However, Takahe preen regardless of weather conditions and without necessarily bathing first. Not infrequently while preening, a bird would hold both wings out. This is not done for balance, because at any time during preening the bird may fold its wings.

Interspecific displays: The male Takahe was twice observed chasing Blackbirds from his feed tray by running at them flapping his wings. It was windy on the two occasions and the Takahe almost appeared to be trying to fly after the birds! On numerous other occasions he ignored the same birds around his feed tray. Takahe were often observed apparently trying to fly, especially on very windy days.

Once when the female was out feeding a White-faced Heron appeared high overhead. The Takahe upon seeing it, crept furtively towards the bush, her head tilted skyward the whole time, then quite suddenly, she assumed a more normal posture and commenced grazing again. The heron was still overhead but considerably lower and now had its neck outstretched. At a greater altitude and with its neck withdrawn, the bird's silhouette must have resembled that of a raptor. Takahe of both sexes, the females especially, became very furtive when Harriers or Black-backed Gulls flew overhead.

R. B. MORRIS, *Wildlife Service, Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington.*



REDPOLL CAUGHT IN HOOK-SEDGE

Previous references to the phenomenon of birds being trapped in hook-sedges (Merilees 1969, *Notornis* 16 (2): 144; Hilton 1969, *Notornis* 16 (4): 236; Daniel 1970, *Notornis* 17 (2): 101) have reminded me of a similar experience in the valley of the Fish River (Makarora, near Haast Pass, Otago).

On 17 February 1974 I rescued a Redpoll (*Carduelis flammea*) firmly entangled by its wing primaries in a clump of relatively short hook-sedge (*Uncinia* sp.) in a beech forest clearing at c. 760 m (2500'). After removal of the attached seeds the bird flew off quite vigorously.

PETER CHILD, 10 Royal Tce, Alexandra