

Skylark, Pukeko and Yellowhammer lost their habitat when a large area of open land a short distance up the street was developed for housing; the Pukeko and Skylark formerly bred in the area. The Californian Quail, Morepork, Redpoll and Yellowhammer have all declined district-wide. The Redpoll was formerly recorded during the breeding season and bred in the garden and vicinity.

Recorded in 1942-1943, substantially increased in 1971-1972: White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*) 9-127. This species has increased throughout the district.

Not present in 1942-1943, recorded in 1971-1972: Barbary Dove, feral, (*Streptopelia risoria*) 0-365; N.Z. Falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) 0-4.

Since it became established in a feral state in 1971 the Barbary Dove has been a constant inhabitant of the garden and other areas in the neighbourhood. The Falcon is widely distributed throughout the district and is frequently observed flying overhead from the garden.

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REACTIONS OF FEEDING WADERS TO BROWN RATS

On 23 March 1975, *Union South Pacific* was at the wharf at Nuku'alofa, Tonga. Since it was Sunday there were no cargo operations in progress and the wharf area was quiet. From the ship it was possible to see over the wharf shed onto a reclaimed area where, after recent heavy rain, there were some large shallow pools. Throughout the day, waders were seen at these pools, three species being noted: Pacific Golden Plover (*P. dominica*), Turnstone (*A. interpres*) and Tattler, probably *T. incana*. The highest numbers seen together were six Golden Plover, four Turnstones and three Tattlers.

The whole area was alive with rats, up to 15 being counted in sight at once. It was interesting to observe the reactions of different species of birds to the rats. Many times a rat was seen to run at the birds as if to attack, and each time the specific reaction was the same. The Golden Plovers and the Turnstones just lifted clear of the rat, drifted a few feet, and landed again, remaining quiet throughout. The Tattlers, however, jumped up, calling loudly and flew rapidly clear of the reclamation altogether.

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