

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Compiled by A. T. EDGAR

Selected extracts from notes sent to me during 1976-77. 1977 Cattle Egret records are not included as these will be published elsewhere. A correction to *Notornis* 23: 342 appears under White-winged Black Tern. My grateful thanks to all my correspondents who, over the 15-year period 1963-1977, have provided the mass of material from which successive CSN have been compiled.

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E. & O. E.

BROWN KIWI (*Apteryx australis*)

Takou Bay, 15/6/77, a fresh egg in a hole, in a pile of soil, sticks and logs formed during mechanical clearing of gorse and scrub (ATE). Little Barrier, May 1977, a juvenile found dead in a small

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freshwater rock pool; around the eye of another young bird were three ticks, which were removed and the bird released (RCM). Ponui Island, 6/12/76, male and female calling 2200-2300 hours 8/12/76; nest with one egg found on 8/12/76 by P. Chamberlin in a small hole about 20 metres from where a cast egg was found the previous season (HRMcK). Reliable report of one in Wanganui township, July 77 (AP). Upper Copeland, November 76, calls heard at Douglas Rock Hut and Welcome Flat Hut (SCS). Stewart Island, Port Adventure, January 76, five birds seen feeding by day — two single and a group of two adults and one half-grown bird (GF); March 76, calls around Fred's camp; probes, footprints and feathers caught in hook grass along tracks to Freshwater Landing and Mason Bay; no sign found on the eastern side of Thomson ridge (PMS); December 76, tracks on sand dunes at Mason Bay, one bird seen at 1400 hours in tussock near Island Hill (PJM).

LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI (*A. oweni*)

Okarito State Forest, night of 3/10/76, twelve birds heard calling in one area, two within a few feet of a parked car (HFH).

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*)

Sandford's Fish Factory, Tauranga, March 77, three, whole, found inside a large kingfish (KF). Snares Islands, 14/1/77, one in sea off Mollymawk Bay, very weak and died within an hour, spots of oil on abdomen (PMS).

WHITE FLIPPED PENGUIN (*E. albosignata*)

A bird banded at Motunau Island was found in July 75 at Pouawa, north of Gisborne, by G. Anderson (JCH).

ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN (*Eudyptes crestatus*)

Okitu, near Gisborne, 6/12/76, one came ashore; fat and in perfect condition, pure white droppings; kept overnight to save it from prowling dogs and released next morning (AB). Dunedin, moulting birds ashore at Blackhead Quarry 30/1/77 and at Ocean View, Brighton, 8/2/77, banded and released on completion of moult; one ashore at Oyster Bay, S.E. Otago, 22/2/77, identified by photograph (AW). Snares Islands, Penguin Slope, 3 moulting 17/1/77, 5 moulting 18/1/77; 19/1/77, 2 yearlings just beginning to moult, Boat Harbour landing rocks; 29/1/77, one moulting, Station Cove landing rocks; 2/2/77, one just beginning to moult, vicinity of station; 5/2/77, one just completed moulting, Station Point and two on Penguin Slope (PMS).

FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN (*E. p. pachyrhynchus*)

19/2/77, one on Kapiti Island, resting among flax (SP). Brighton Beach, Dunedin, one on 2/2/77, banded and released at Taiaroa Head (AW). Jack Bay, S.E. Otago, 28/1/77 (J. Hamel). Snares Islands, single yearlings 22/11/76, 3/12/76, 17/1/77 (in fat moult condition) and 19/1/77; 11/2/77, two recently moulted (PMS).

SNARES CRESTED PENGUIN (*E. p. atratus*)

Snares Islands, pairs with downclad chicks, 9/11/76; chicks leaving colonies for sea during late January; yearlings moulting during early February; adults in fat moult condition returning to the colonies

during late February-early March (PMS). Single birds ashore at St Clair beach 29/1/77 and Brighton beach 2/2/77, banded and released at Taiaaroa Head; Papanui Inlet 27/2/77, one dead, moult near complete; Tautuku mouth, S.E. Otago, one in moult 26/2/77, identified by photograph (AW).

ERECT CRESTED PENGUIN (*E. p. sclateri*)

Snares Islands, yearlings in fat moult condition 4/2/77 and 11/2/77; a recently moulted bird on 16/2/77 and a moulting bird on 1/3/77 (PMS).

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*)

Waikato river just below Taupiri mountain, near bridge, one reported 15/5/77 (RCM). Ref. *Notornis* 23/262, a single bird present on Lake Rotorua in June 76, at the same place as one was seen in December 75 (AP). Lake Elterwater, a pair raised 3 young in 1976/77 season (TJT, BDH, CS, *et al*). Westland, Lake Ianthe, 31/10/76 (GG); 26/1/77, a pair, head shaking display (BB). Lake Mapourika 13/1/77, 3 near boating wharf, and Saltwater lagoon 20/1/77, 2 adults (KLO). Canterbury, Lake McGregor, 2/1/77, two pairs, each with two young. One lot of chicks very pale in colour, downy, seen to be fed by adult; the other pair sleeping. Each family had one adult on guard. An adult dived for 48 seconds and surfaced for 12 seconds; a chick dived for 24 seconds; it piped in a high insistent voice each time the parent surfaced, and was fed (BB); 12/1/77, total of 10 birds on lake (ARL). Lake Grassmere, 10/3/77, 1 (ARL); also recorded in January 1977, one on Lake Emma, 2 on Maori Lakes, 2 at south end of Lake Heron, 5 adults and a half-grown young on Lake Clearwater (BDH).

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

Aupouri Peninsula lakes, only two recorded, Jan 77 (ATE). February 77, Dargaville Lakes, 67 (PJM), Muriwai Lakes, 57 (SMR). On Lake Kereta a family group of two adults and two young about two-thirds grown; one young bird attached itself to the parent's rear and was towed along for about 5 minutes, during which the feet of the juvenile were visible paddling at the water surface. We assumed that attachment was by means of the juvenile's beak, until we could see clearly the beak raised above the level of the adult's back; we then wondered if the juvenile's head or neck were being held between the parent's wing tips. On another lake the same thing was being observed by A. and L. Howell, who were fairly sure that attachment was by the juvenile's beak. Presumably this behaviour is the equivalent to riding on the parent's back by young birds which are too big to do this any longer, but are not yet independent (BRK). One on a small lake at Karioitahi, Waiuku, 29/5/77 (BB). Clevedon river, one in salt water below cruising club landing (GKMck). Lake Ngaroto, singles 17/9/76 (ARL) and 6/8/77 (BHS). Lake Rotorua, Motuatara Point, winter count 6/6/76, 38; 6/6/77, 55; Lake Rotomahana, 19/5/76, 19 (AP). Lake Rotoehu, 8/8/76, 19 (AP), 13/5/77, 32 (CHL). Also recorded from Lakes Okareka, Rotoiti and Rotoma (RWJ, JCH). Lake Whakamaru, 22/12/76, 2 (JCH). Lake Rotopounamu, two pairs 25/2/77 (TGL) and 26/5/77 (HAR). Hinemaia dam, near Taupo, 25/4/76, three adults feeding one fully fledged young (AP). Wairoa 25/11/75, 2; Lake Tutira 17/8/76, 6; 16/2/77, 12; Whirinaki, Napier,

16/2/77, 5 (JCH). Fernhill, 25/9/76, 6 (KVT). Manawatu, several permanently on all the larger dune lakes. C. McLennan reports that one on his lake near Waitarere courts and attempts to copulate with decoy ducks during the shooting season (HAR). Lake Horowhenua, 26/3/77, six, still in summer plumage, the first seen this season; numbers increased to 21 by 28/5/77 (EBJ). Bred successfully at Waimeha lagoon 1976 (CAF). Marton sewage ponds, 11/7/77, 28, apparently in pairs, in rich plumage and all with raised eye-pattern backsides. Waingawa ponds near Masterton, 21/5/77, 7; 30/7/77, 8 (BDH).

AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE (*P. novaehollandiae*)

Lake Tarawera, one on 27/8/77 (AP). Lake Elterwater, 24/1/77, two in rich breeding plumage skulking very warily in partly submerged willows. Remained apart; chatter-call and surface-skimming chase of one by the other seen the only time they both appeared (BDH). Pukepuke Lagoon, 13/11/75, one (WJP). Diamond Lake, near Glendhu Bay, Lake Wanaka, 12/3/77, pair with 3 young (MFS).

HOARY HEADED GREBE (*P. poliocephalus*)

Pukepuke Lagoon, one present 3/6/76 till 29/6/76 (WJP). Diamond Lake, near Lake Wanaka, 12/3/77, one bird thought to be this species. On a subsequent visit, of six small grebes on the lakelet, five were a pair of Little Grebes with three large young. The sixth bird was pale sandy grey, kept to itself, was extremely suspicious and had a different call note (MFS). Te Anau, Lagoon Creek, 28/10/76, nest building on old site; 17/11/76, re-building on new site; 1/12/76, nest, 4 eggs; distraction display, broken wing action in water, displaying white wing bar (MLB). Three young said to have been reared from this nest. 23/3/77, 5 birds present, 2 eggs being incubated (RRS). Dawson Dam, 5/2/77, one full sized juvenile; drab pale grey, darker on crown, nape and back, no crest, no black chin stripe (MLB).

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*)

Manutuke, near Gisborne, storm-driven juvenile, out of nest 2-3 months, picked up and released at sea 23/4/76 (AB).

ROYAL ALBATROSS (*D. epomophora*)

Snares Islands, groups of up to 7 birds seen offshore Nov. 76-March 77 (PMS).

BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*D. bulleri*)

Snares Islands, first bird seen ashore at breeding colonies 6/12/76; first egg recorded 1/1/77 (PMS).

SHY MOLLYMAWK (*D. cauta cauta*)

Off Foxton beach, 2-3/10/76, 30, mainly passing north (JLMM).

LIGHT MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

October 76, one dead on top of cliffs at Urenui (REL). 5/3/77, one 15 miles off New Plymouth fed on fish scraps from launch (DD). Snares Islands, 9/11/76-3/3/77, flying singles recorded on 9/1/77, 10/1/77 and 25/2/77 (PMS).

NELLY (*Macronectes giganteus*)

July 77, one far up Hokianga harbour, off Kohukohu wharf (KB). Bay of Plenty, off Mayor Island, 28/6/75, 15; Penguin Reef, 12/7/75, 20 (PCL). Foxton Beach, 14 going north, 23/10/76; Ngauranga outfall, 15/11/76, 20 (JLMM). Petone, 7/2/76, 7 (JCH). Snares Islands, groups of up to 5 birds of the northern race *halli* seen offshore November-December 1976; numbers increased rapidly during January 77 as Snares Crested Penguin chicks took to the sea, largest group seen was one of 36 birds. A white phase bird of the southern race *giganteus* was seen off Western Chain on 21/11/76 (PMS).

ANTARCTIC FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialis*)

September 76, Kapiti Island, during a storm, one rested on the water in full view, 25 m from shore; previous records of beach specimens, but this may be the first live record (MLF).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*)

Winter 1977, one flying over Northern Wairoa river just south of Dargaville (CDC). Penguin Reef, Bay of Plenty, 12/7/75, 40 (PCL). A bird banded in 1957 at Cape Campbell and one banded in 1963 in Tory Channel were recaptured between the Snares and Auckland Islands in January 1977 (JAB).

GREY FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*)

Seen at dusk off Kawau 30/4/77 and at dawn as they headed out to sea 20 miles off Cape Brett, 1/6/77; calls heard soon after dusk 25/7/77 over Leigh Marine Lab., birds coming and going from Goat Island colony (TGL). Add Piha to list of locations of small colonies, Auckland West Coast (SMR). Cuvier, a fully fledged juvenile seen at night, 21/1/77 (PCL). Ohope (near Whakatane) west end, eleven fresh burrows, two of which occupied 8/8/76 (AP). Taranaki, Pukearuhe colony, young in some burrows 17/10/76, no sign of predation (RRW).

GADFLY PETREL (*P. externa* subsp.)

After a severe southerly storm a bird was found 30 km from the sea at Kanakanaia, north of Gisborne. It had a jet black cap surrounded by a ½-inch white collar; traces of grey down were still adhering to the middle of its back. After dosing with codliver oil it was released on the beach and flew strongly, but was harassed by several Black-backed Gulls (AB).

MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpectata*)

One, picked up 30 km inland from Gisborne 28/6/77, died overnight (AB). Snares Islands, first egg found 21/12/76, first chick found 13/2/77 (PMS).

COOK'S PETREL (*P. cooki*)

Heard at night, 3/1/77, Cuvier Island (BB). One landed in the grounds of Government House, Auckland and was later released, 31/3/77 (TGL).

BROAD BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*)

Snares Islands, 30/11/76, freshly killed adults in a skua midden on Broughton Island; 10/12/76, two large chicks in light grey down in a deep crevice on Rocky Islet; 2/1/77, a near fledged chick found in a cave on the main island (PMS).

FAIRY PRION (*P. turtur*)

Huge flocks (*turtur* and *desolata*) feeding around Penguin Reef, Bay of Plenty, 12/7/75 (PCL). Snares Islands, November 76-March 77, regularly seen feeding offshore; incubating birds from 12/11/76, first chicks seen at the beginning of January, these fledged about mid-February and all were gone by 21/2/77. This species is readily taken by Southern Skuas (PMS).

FLESH FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*)

Numerous between Cuvier and Kawitihi Islands and inside Great Mercury, 23/1/77 (TGL). 40+ off Mt Maunganui, 31/1/76 (AP). Hauraki Gulf, mid-March, about 200 (RH).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*P. bulleri*)

Kaituna cut, Maketu, 25/1/76, 150+ close inshore, heading east (AP).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*)

Foxton beach, 9/1/77, 7/3/77, c. 1000 per hour moving south 0700-0800 hours on each occasion (JLMM). Otago Peninsula, 1-12/11/76, large flocks observed as far as the eye could see, feeding and flying south. At the peak (5-7 November) estimated 10,000 just off Taiaroa Head. Skipper of Research boat Munida reported a continuous stream of birds from Taiaroa Head to six miles south, the largest number he had seen for a long time. From past records the birds were 5 weeks late in returning south (AW). Snares Islands, first surface eggs found 19/11/76, first chipping egg found on 6/1/77; during periods of high winds a continuous stream of birds could be seen flying to within 50 metres of the shore during the day; large flocks on the sea close inshore seen feeding on hyperiid amphipods and euphausiids (PMS).

WHITE FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*)

After a spell of stormy winds from a westerly quarter the evening of 18/2/76 was calm and cloudless. I was on a high ridge on a farm 10 miles north of Taumarunui at sunset when a bird passed only 4 metres from me, flying well on a southerly course, silhouetted against the western sky. Colour pattern could not be distinguished but it had the dangling legs and bouncy flight of a storm petrel and its size seemed correct for this species (WSS). Small numbers seen 1/6/77 about 20 miles offshore, north of Poor Knights (TGL).

BLACK BELLIED STORM PETREL (*Fregetta tropica*)

3/3/77, seen 10 km off Snares during our return to New Zealand and we continued to see them till dark when we were 15 km off Big South Cape (PMS).

DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*)

Abundant around Sugarloaf and Pinnacles (Poor Knights) 13/8/77 (PJM), Mercury Bay 24/7/76 (TGL), Mayor Island 28/6/75 and Penguin Reef 12/7/75 (PCL). Snares, 1976-77, heard calling from just outside their burrows shortly after darkness each night during November and December, infrequently during January and February; dead downclad chick found in tussock 6/12/76, fully feathered chicks alive in tussock 10/1/77 to 24/2/77 (PMS).

GANNET (*Sula bassana*)

Poor Knights, gannets numerous around Pinnacles 1/6/77 (TGL); 13/8/77, a large colony on Sugarloaf and smaller colonies on each of the Pinnacles; many birds seen carrying nesting material; one bird was carrying a piece of Neptune's Necklace near the Sugarloaf when another flew up beneath and stole it in mid-air (PGM). 13/2/77, colonies on Coromandel islands still contain many adult birds, indicating a somewhat later breeding than usual; young birds noted exercising their wings (SMR). Buffalo Beach, one or two birds May-June 1976, increased to 40 in July; 26/7/76, twelve birds 50 m from shore, fishing a concentrated school about 6 m diameter, showed great dexterity in avoiding collision during dives (ABJ). Muriwai, 2/12/76, strong westerly, 30 gannets on cliff tops on the mainland side of the recently occupied island-like promontory taken over by gannets as a roost in the last few years (AR). Tolaga Bay, Gannet Rock, 29/11/75, about 170 occupied nests, an increase in recent years; about 20% of nests contained young birds (GF). Snares, 20/11/76, one seen flying offshore but no feeding seen (PMS).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*)

Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 24; 26/6/77, 64; but on 23/4/77 82, and on 10/5/77 115, some with white flank patches and crests, flew in, in groups, at high tide; remained on a shell bank for about 2 hours, then dispersed towards Waitakaruru (BHS). Maketu, 12/2/77, 25 (PCL). Westshore, H.B., 13/2/77, 52 (NBM). Manawatu estuary, 20/2/77, 25; Ohau river mouth 4/1/77, 33 (HAR). Snares Islands Nov. 76-March 77, flocks of up to 50, all birds appeared to be in immature plumage, with whitish or brown underparts (PMS).

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*)

Pakihi, 14/1/77, Black-backed Gulls circling round a Pied Shag swimming towards the shore with an eel protruding from its bill; the shag later found dead on the foreshore, eyes bulging, the eel firmly wedged, head first, in its throat (JMcC).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*)

Manгонui harbour, numbers up to 64 on 7/5/77 (ECMC). Poor Knights, a single bird on east coast of Aorangi, 13/8/77 (AHG). Muriwai Lakes, 6/2/77, 13 (SMR). Manukau counts, 21/11/76, 3; 3/7/77, 135 (BB). Firth of Thames counts, 6 on 28/11/76 and on 26/6/77 (BB). Port Jackson, 5/6/77, 4 (PJM). Buffalo Beach, up to 80, June 77 (ABJ). Kawhia, 3/7/77, 4 (JHS). Tauranga, eastern harbour, absent September-February; March-early August, packs of up to 100 in Welcome Bay, Waimapu estuary, mouth of Wairoa river; usually fish in main harbour channels when sprats are running in or

out on the tide (KF). Sulphur Point, 19/6/77, 120 flew out of Waikareao estuary 2 hours after high tide; later counted c. 200 on pylon opposite Matapihi bridge and 90 on sandbanks in channel to east (JHS). Thornton beach 25/4/77, 40. Lake Rotorua 17/1/76, a huge raft, estimated 500 birds (PCL). Tolaga Bay 11/4/77, one; Lake Tutira 16/2/77, 5 (JCH). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 13/2/77, 85 (NBM); Ngaruroro 1/5/77, 80 (KVT). Taranaki, one at Waingona mouth Sep. 76, 3 at Waitotara mouth 28/11/76, 4 on Oaonui coast 26/2/77 (RWW, DGM). Manawatu, estuary, 17/4/77, tight flock of 10 herding and diving after fish (HAR), and two on Lake Horowhenua (EBJ); 13/10/75, party of 9 paid a fleeting visit to Pukepuke lagoon (WJP). Lake Wairarapa, Oct. 76, at least 2 nests in a large colony of *carbo* and *melanoleucos* (DS, CHL). One at Paremata 2/5/76 (JCH), 3 at Petone 12/8/76 (JLMM). Lake Wainono, Feb. 77, 3 (RJP). Otago harbour 9/11/75, eleven, scattered, observed by Dr G. van Tets (AW).

LITTLE SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*)

Lake Taupo, at Waihora Bay, there is a half submerged cave; water is about 10 ft deep at the entrance, which is 8 ft across at the water line and extends upwards to about 6 ft above water level. The cave narrows towards the back, where a rock 2-3 ft above the water provides a site for 5-6 shag nests — no room for more. Shags have nested in this cave and raised chicks for five years up to 1975. Within a few feet of the cave entrance attempts to build nests on small bushes growing on the cliff face have been unsuccessful; the bushes are not strong enough to take the weight of nest and birds, and the area is much exposed to strong winds. On Motowhara, near Karanga-hape Cliffs, there are about 20 shag nests on vines or small trees covered with vines, plus about 10 Black-backed Gull nests on the rocks beneath the shag nests, some almost within pecking range (TBST). Waitarere, colony of 80 pairs in macrocarpas overhanging lake, Turn-bull's Lagoon; Kaputara colony seems to be declining (HAR). Snares, Nov. 76-March 77, up to seven pied phase, in Boat Harbour (PMS).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*)

Opua, Bay of Islands, 18/8/77, one bird, roosting on beacon in channel; black on throat and back of neck, partial crest (D. E. Calvert). Bethell's Beach 22/8/76, 30+, some with plumes, many with double crests. Hauraki Gulf Census 13/2/77, 3480, of which 754 at Tarahiki and 2215 on Coromandel Islands. It is thought that the population is reaching saturation point in that practically all suitable nesting habitat is occupied. There is a great deal of movement and change of roosting sites from one side of the Gulf to another, depending on weather conditions (SMR). 20/8/77, one, pale plumage, at Kawhia (JHS). A juvenile on beach between Mokau and Awakino rivers, 25/4/77 (RWW). Manawatu estuary, one juvenile 11/6/77 (JLMM), one 19/6/77; one adult and 2 juveniles wrecked between Waitarere and Manawatu river on 17/7/77 (HAR). Somes Island colony 1976, 11 chicks (RB). Nelson, between 24/4/77 and 15/5/77 a number of juvenile and adult birds were found dead in Tasman and Golden Bay region. 40 were accounted for and it is probable that a large kill took place; reports of deaths as far away as Wellington were recorded. All shags handled were badly emaciated. Two sent for laboratory

analysis contained in their proventriculus intestines (a) 60 ascarid worms, one acanthocephalid worm, (b) 170 ascarid worms, 20 acanthocephalid worms. At the initial outbreak of deaths there was a drastic weather change, fresh snow falling on the mountains and a pronounced drop in temperature, which may have affected shags already sick and vulnerable (KLO). 27/6/77, 0900 hours, Nelson Haven covered with Black-backed Gulls and Shags, mostly Spotted. As the tide receded over 1000 shags flew down the haven towards the harbour. I have not seen so many birds on the haven before or since; at this time large quantities of krill were reported (J. Hawkins). Lake Wainono, Apr-May 77, c. 100 fishing for smelt and probably other fish (RJP).

BLUE SHAG (*S. p. steadi*)

Stewart Island, December 76, birds observed were very tame, and allowed close approach — one photographed at a range of one metre (PJM).

WHITE FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*)

Little Barrier, May 77, one present on three days, feeding in the grass paddock near generator (RCM). Hamilton 27/8/76, a nest in a leafless oak (TC). Mayor Island, 16/2/77, one on shores of Blue Lake, in crater (JFC). Sanson, 1/2/75, 3 large young in nest, 15 metres, in *Pinus radiata* (CHL). Lake Ianthe, nest, 10 m from ground in rimu (GG). Routeburn Flats Hut, 685 metres a.s.l., one in back-water (PC). Stewart Island, 6/1/75, 2 at Port Adventure (GF); December 76, one at Moses corner, several at North Arm (PGM). 28/9/76, one perched on ship's foremast 35 miles WSW from Maungani Bluff, Dargaville beach; disappeared after half an hour (NC).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*)

1977, Far North, single birds Paua and Te Hapua, April-June; Mangonui and Tauranga Bay, May; May-June, Kaimaumau, at least 8; Rawene, 2; singles at Russell, July and Oakleigh, April (KB, ATE, MH, PJM). North Kaipara, one in March, two more in April (MEW); Kaukapakapa, April (5), May (3), June (7) (DFB). Manukau, April-July, reported at Kirk's, Pahurehure and Waimahia Inlets, Weymouth, two at Puketutu (BB, K. Fisher, TRK, HRMcK, SMR). One at Waiuku, 5/9/77 (AP). Firth of Thames, 1976, January, one (RH); November, one at Waitakaruru (PCL); 1977, Miranda, March-July (BB), Hauraki Plains near Piako river, August, two (BHS). Waikato, June 1977, one at Kokopu, Whangamarino by F. Thompson (BB). Bay of Plenty, 1976, one-two birds at Maketu, March-Sep.; one at Little Waihi, May; 1977, Maketu, one-three, Feb.-May; Matata, one in April, singles at Tarawera mouth and Whakatane, June (PCL, AP, RMW). Korito lagoon, Wairoa, 1975, July-Sept., 4-7; 1976, June, 1; August, 2; 1977, May, 2 (GF). Whakaki lagoon, 1976 Aug-Sep, 3 (JCH). Hawkes Bay, 1976 Sep, Fernhill, June 1977, Ngaruroro, singles (KVT). Manawatu, Lake Horowhenua, 1976, singles June, Oct, Nov (EBJ, AP); 1977, estuary, one in January and April (JLMM); one at Barrett's Lagoon, May (DGM). Omata, April-May, one-two; Onaero river, April; Waitara river, April-May (RWW). Nelson, 1976, Waimea Inlet, August, 5; Sep, 3; Oct, 4; Nov-Dec, one; Moutere, July-Sep, 2; Westhaven, July, one. 1977, Waimea, 2 in February and April; 5 March-May, 6 in June, 3 in July; Corder Park, one April-July and late August

(KLO, J. Hawkins). Farewell Spit 1977, singles Feb and April (BR). Ashley river mouth, 3/4/77, one (AH). Spencerville, 8/7/76, one feeding on small (15 cm) eels; one of these was skewered with the bill, others snapped up, swallowed head first; bill washed in water after each one was swallowed (RG). Victoria Lake, 1977, two in June, 3 in July; two appear to be a pair and have been seen moving twigs in a nearby tree (PMS). Lake Wainono, up to 5 irregularly present 1975-77 (RJP). Lake Benmore, Ahuriri arm, 20/5/77; two miles upstream in Opihi river, 1/6/77 (BDB). Clutha valley, Greenfield, one at a farm pond, 21/5/77 (PC).

LITTLE EGRET (*E. garzetta*)

Rawene, August 77, 2 (KB); one on 13/8/77, feeding busily 20 yards from ferry ramp, stabbing at crustaceans and rushing in and out of the water's edge, taking no notice of observer only 6-7 yards from it, was in full nuptial plumage (MPK). North Kaipara, a small egret, probably this sp., Aug-Sep 76 (MEW). Whangateau harbour, March-May 1977, 1-3 birds (LH, GJHM). Parau, one stayed till 12/10/76; one again present 7/6/77, showing back plumes; also seen in July (CS). Waimimihi Inlet, Manurewa, June 76 (K. Fisher); one at Waiuku, 5/9/77 (AP). Ahuriri, 23/6/77, 2 (KVT). Matata, 25/7/76, one (AP). Taranaki, April-May 1977, two, probably three birds at mouths of Waiwakaiho and Waiongona rivers (RWW). Manawatu estuary, one Apr-June 77 (LJD, JLM, HAR), Waikanae, 5/5/77, one (LG). Nelson, Waimea Inlet, 1976, two-three present Aug-Oct, one Nov-Dec. 1977, January, 2; February, one; April-May, 2; June, 3; July, 4; Takaka, 1976, one July-August (KLO), 4 in September (RG). Puponga, July 1976 (KLO). Grey river mouth, May-June 77 (CSL, PGS). Taramakau mouth 18/8/77 (PGS). Single birds at Waipara mouth 20/10/75 (PH), Lake Wainono May 77, Taieri mouth Sep 76, Karitane Autumn 1977 (RJP), Lake Benmore, Ahuriri arm, 30/5/77 (BDB).

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Waikato, 1976, 24 birds at Rangariri, many assuming breeding plumage by 3/10/76 (BB, HRMcK *et al*). One at Meremere, already coloured by 13/9/76 (DWW) and two, still white, on 1/10/76 (HRMcK). Lake Ngatoro, two, coloured, 24/9/76 (ARL). Nelson, 1976, one on a stony beach at Pakawau, July; Takaka, 8 in July; 6, one with apricot plumes, in September; Aorere valley, six in August; Motueka, 2 in September (KLO).

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*)

Northland, bitterns have an unfortunate habit of loitering on farm roads or even main roads; this can cause casualties if cars do not stop to let the bird move off; one observer, bending down to tend an injured bittern, suffered a stab from its beak which fortunately missed his eye (ATE, MPK *et al*). Swamp on road Taheke-Motukiore, 6 birds, 1977 (KB). Ohiwa harbour, 2/5/76, one on road verge, apparently feeding on some carrion, undisturbed by passing traffic; Gisborne, Matawhero loop, June 76, 4 in a recently developed habitat (AB). Taranaki 1976-77, reported from Waitotara mouth (3), Omata, and Barrett Lagoon, first sighting in this locality for many years (Mrs Marfurt, DGM, RWW). Manawatu, 1977, recorded from dune lakes;

5 at Lake Ngakawau, Waitarere (JLMM, HAR). Kaikoura, 14/5/77, one on a beach 5 km south of Peninsula, seen by T. Mackie (JAC). Clutha river near Lowburn, one flying up river into a strong head wind (PC).

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*)

Lake Ngaroto, one present Aug-Oct 76, July-August 77 (BHS, ARL). Manawatu estuary, Dec 76-Jan 77, 2 (JLMM); Turnbull's lagoon, Waitarere, 17/7/77, one, feeding along lake shore with Pukeko (HAR). Late 1976, one north of Waverley (DJ). Lake Wairarapa, one present April and November 1975, April 76; 25/1/77, two on a tidal flat with Pied Stilts and Paradise Duck (DS). April 77, one at Waimea Inlet, Nelson (KLO). 3 at Farewell Spit in April, one on 27/7/77 (BR); Taupata stream, 29/7/77, one (MLF). Lake Ellesmere, 1977, one in July (PMS); Lake Wainono, 1977, 4 in February, 3 in March (RJP). Invercargill estuary May 77, seen by B. Boyle (BDB).

WHITE IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*)

Records of single birds from Awanui, August 77 (MH); Waima, August 1977, in the same area where one was present in 1975 (KB); Lake Whangape, 4/11/76 (JC); Lake Hakanoa near Huntly, June 77 (BB); Maketu, irregularly present for about 15 months till September 1976, and in May-August 77 (AP, PCL, RMW); Manawatu estuary December 76-April 77 (JLMM, HAR). On 19/6/77 the Maketu bird was on the inner part of the ocean beach picking up sticks; it later flew to a lagoon and after a while put the sticks down and commenced preening (BB).

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*)

Awanui, Aug-Sep 77, 3 (MH). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 18/12/76, 5 (four with thick tufty plumes on nape); 1977, Feb, one; June, 4; August, 3 (KVT, NM, JCH). Maketu, singles 23/5/76, 3/10/76 (AP). Manawatu estuary, 1976, 18 in August, 7 in September; only 2 Oct-Nov, 10 in December. 1977, January, 15; Feb-May, 30-33; June, 26; July, 25 (LJD, JLMM, HAR). Rangitikei estuary 13/2/77, one (LJD). Blenheim, Wairau Bar, 4, 8/12/76 (RC). Nelson, Tasman Bay (Waimea-Motueka) 1976, July c. 10; Aug-Sep, 9; Oct-Nov, 4; 1977 Jan, 11; Feb, 14; March, 16; April-May, 12-13; July, 11; (MLF, RG, KLO). Farewell Spit, Sep 76, 8; 1977, January, 2; July, 17 (BR, KLO, MLF). Bromley Ponds, Christchurch, one all 1975 winter (W. Rogers, per JRJ). Lake Wainono, Nov 76-Feb 77, maximum 13 (RJP). Okarito, 27-30 Oct 76, one (GG). Fortrose, fairly regular; 10 on 28/11/76, 6 on 2/1/77 (LL); Waituna, 6 on 29/12/76 (MLB).

YELLOW BILLED SPOONBILL (*P. flavipes*)

The bird reported and photographed by A. Billing at Unahi Road near Awanui on 23/8/76 apparently did not stay, but in August-September 1977 one was seen in approximately the same area (KB, MH). PJM sends a report of a possible sighting of the 1976 bird at Lake Ngatu, 5 km west of Unahi, on 12/5/76, by Mrs Harlow. If correct, this might mean that the bird had been around for about 3 months.

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*)

Kohukohu, Hokianga, 1/8/77, 12 flew up Mangamuka river (KB). Lake Waikare, 30/9/76, 11 (BB). Whakaki lagoon, 22/9/76, 19; New Plymouth, Lake Mangamahoe, 11/1/77, 22, breeding (JCH); Barrett Lagoon 30/5/77, 6 (DGM). Taupo, Hinemaia Dam, 25/4/76, 19; Lake Rotoehu, September 76, one (AP). Westshore, H.B., 2, June and August 1977 (NBM, KVT). Lake Horowhenua, 4/12/76, one (EBJ). Lake Elterwater, 23/1/77, 9 (TJT). Hilderthorpe, north of Oamaru, 6/3/77, 7 on coastal lagoon (TCD).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)

Aupouri Peninsula dune lakes, Jan 77, over 1100 (D. E. Crockett). Dargaville Lakes, Feb 77, 295 (PJM). South Auckland, breeding Waiuku, Mangatangi and near Kaiaua (BB). Matata, 7/5/77, 120 (PCL). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 13/2/77, 263 (NBM); Te Pohue lagoon, 29/1/77, 80+ (RMW). Barrett Lagoon, New Plymouth, 16/1/77, 23 (DGM). Dog Hill, Ward, a pair made two diving attacks on a harrier, 9/4/77 (TJT).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

Kawhia, 3/7/77, 297 mallard/2 grey duck (JHS); Matata, 25/4/77, v. 1000 mallard/30 grey; 7/5/77 c. 3000/100 (PCL). Hawkes Bay, Westshore, 13/2/77, 3145 mallard/14 grey (NBM); Te Pohue lagoon, 29/1/77, 50/4 (RMW). Hamilton, University of Waikato Lake, 9/10/76, an adult with 34 ducklings, all feathered but of different sizes; over the next two weeks the party broke up and the ducklings became increasingly independent (TC).

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*)

February 1977. Dargaville Lakes, 47 (PJM); Muriwai Lakes, 31 (SMR); Wiroa Island (Mangere), 40 (RBS). Pokeno valley, 31/10/76, pair with 6 young (DAL). 7/5/77, Matata, 100; Maketu, 26 (PCL). Ahuriri 23/6/77, 120 (KVT). Manawatu dune lakes, number increasing 1977 (HAR).

BROWN TEAL (*A. Aucklandica chlorotis*)

Helena Bay, June 76, 62 (RA). Takou river, 13/3/77, 30; Kaeo river 12/3/77, 22 (ATE).

N.Z. SHOVELER (*A. rhynchotis*)

Scarce in the far north — odd birds at Aupouri peninsula dune lakes and on ponds around Kerikeri; Dargaville lakes, Feb 77, 15 (ATE, PGM). Matata, 7/5/77, c. 300 (PCL). Westshore, H.B., 13/2/77, 74 (NBM). Foxton No. 2 lake, 30/12/76, 20; 23/4/77, c. 500 (JLMM).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*)

1976, March, Wairoa stream, Parahaki Hut, Urewera, 3; reported from five localities in Rotorua district (AP). Glenrae river headwaters, 24/1/77, 2 (RG).

N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*)

Aupouri peninsula dune lakes, Jan 77, 59 (D. E. Crockett). Dargaville Lakes, Feb 77, 284 (PJM). 1976-77, small numbers at Matata, Tarawera estuary, and Te Pohue lagoon (RMW et al). Lake

Tutira, 16/2/77, 90 (JCH). Plentiful 1976-77 on ponds and lakes around New Plymouth, especially Lake Mangamahoe where there is a large population (RWW, DGM, JCH). Lake Wainono, March 77, 3 (RJP).

AUSTRALASIAN HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

Karikari peninsula, May 77, one hovering and quartering over a Pied Shag colony; when shags vacated their nests on approach of observer the harrier dropped vertically on to one nest, remained on it for about a minute, but was not seen to take anything (AHG). Two harriers in constant attendance at an inland shag colony at Kerikeri, August 77; frequent low swoops caused swimming shags to dive (ATE). Papakura, 6/7/77, one chased off by a N.Z. Pigeon (BB). Bulls, 23/11/75, 7 eggs in a nest among lupins (CHL). Altitude records, Mt Egmont, 19/2/77, 1350 m (DGM); Lake Harris basin, Routeburn, 19/2/77, soaring over subalpine scrub at 1200 m (PC). Kowhiterangi, August 77, while I was using a "squeak bottle" under a tree on the edge of bush, a harrier which had been mewing overhead squeaked agitatedly, swooped down to 8-10 feet above me, hovered for 30 seconds after it saw me and flew up again; as I continued to use the lure this set of actions was repeated four times (PGS).

N.Z. FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*)

Taupo, foot of Mt Tauhara, 14/5/77, one flying over farmland disturbing starlings (GE). East Mt Egmont, 9/4/77, attacking a pipit (MJT). Ward, June 76, one made several diving attacks on an aviary close to the house (TJT). Hooker Glacier, Mt Cook, 20/10/76, pair occupying a large rock cleft 100 metres above terminal face of glacier; hedge-sparrows, chaffinches and yellowhammers present in the area (GG). Glendhu Bay, Lake Wanaka, immature bird on a telegraph post, plucked and ate a female house sparrow; Lower Arawhata river, 10/7/77, one chasing a harrier downstream; further upstream, a pair calling to each other (PC). Harrison Valley, Fiordland, one seen to chase a kea (TRH).

CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukar*)

February 76, 5 at L. Aviemore, 15 at L. Waitaki, 12 at Lindis Pass (JCH). April 77, abundant at Mt Hutt, calling freely in the middle of the day (RG).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*)

Maketu, a count of 15 on 25/9/76 indicates increasing numbers in the area (AP). Manawatu, not uncommon, but usually seen along the eastern edge of the coastal dunes; one at Pukepuke lagoon 30/4/76 (WJP).

BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*)

Whangateau, Feb 77, in tidal creek; adult and chick near old rubbish tip (KJT). Whitianga, Cook's Beach, Jan 77, 2 adults and two juveniles; single birds also observed (SCS). Tahuna, 30 miles from Thames coastline, 21/3/76, one on roadside; no apparently suitable habitat nearby (AP).

WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*)

North Island — ssp. *greyi*; Bay of Islands, 1977, present from Clendon Cove throughout Cape Brett Peninsula, plentiful at Whangamumu (D. E. Calvert); March 77, adult and four half-grown chicks at Horeke (KB); Waipu, breeding; calls frequently heard in evening (TGL). 1977 liberation in Waitakere ranges; in August 76 no sign found of birds liberated at Bethells 15 years ago (JFS). South Island — ssp. *australis*; Lake Sumner, Oct 75 (RG). West Coast, 1976-77, seen at Kamaka, Grey Valley, and in Taramakau valley at Kumara junction, Kumara and near Dillmanstown (JRJ); Kotari, 31/12/76, adult with 5 half grown chicks, calls constantly heard (WAW); Copland valley, 21/11/76, pair and 3 half grown chicks at 426 metres a.s.l., birds seen at 730 m (SCS); Transit Valley, Dec 75, one around hut 1013 metres a.s.l., but departed to tree line on approach of bad weather (TRH).

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*)

Te Teko, 21/7/75, one being chased by a Spotless Crake (PCL). Waitarere, Lake Ngakawau, 29/4/77, one called by Spotless Crake tape (HAR). Nelson airport, one, 10/2/77 (KLO). Kurow, 11/2/76, group of six in weed-grown stream (JCH).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*)

1977, Raio (near Pukenui) in mangroves on edge of muddy creek; reported from near Lake Ohia (ATE). Tawharanui reserve, June 77, 8-10 in raupo (SMR). Tiritiri island, widespread (MJT). Hunua, Wairoa dam, September 76, 6-7 pairs in shortish cutty grass, blackberries and drowned willows at head of dam; came out on to willows and drowned bracken at dusk (BB). Whitehall, Cambridge, one up a willow tree (BHS). Whakarewarewa Forest Park, found in three localities (RWJ). Lake Rotoehu, 3 or more feeding on lake edge in raupo, with two bitterns (AP). Tangoio, 16/3/76 (JCH). Oakura, Taranaki, one killed by car, March 77 (REL). Manawatu, many records from dune lakes; 6 calling at once at Lake Ngakawau, April 77 (HAR). Wanganui, Lake Kaitoke, 8/7/76 (IWJ).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*)

Coromandel, Port Jackson, June 77, 10 (PJM). 1976, Sep, Mercury Bay Golf Course, 15; June, Whitianga-Coroglen, 17; September, Coroglen-Hikuaui, 54; July, Hikuaui, 20 (ABJ). Manawatu, influx to coastal areas during winter, e.g., 81 at Manawatu estuary and 86 at Turnbull's lagoon, Waitarere, 17/7/77 (HAR). Heathcote-Avon estuary, Oct 76, 48; 1977, January, 19, February, 1, March 6 (BA). Wickliffe Bay, Otago Peninsula, again bred successfully, 1976 (AW).

AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra*)

Poutu, Lake Kahuparere, Feb 77, 6 (PJM). Hamilton Lake, 1976 Aug-Oct, 2-3, tame; 6/5/77, one with well grown young (TC, DWW, JPW). 1977, good populations reported on Lakes Rotoiti and Rotoma; Lake Okareka, 18/2/77, 11 and 2 juveniles in Acacia Bay, 75, 2 juveniles on the Tarawera side of the peninsula guarding Acacia Bay (RWJ). Lake Whakamaru, near power station, 16/8/76, 28 (IWJ). Hawkes Bay, Te Pohue lagoon, 9/1/77, 2 (RMW); Lake Tutira, 16/2/77, 100+ (JCH). Wanganui, Lake Virginia, 11/1/77, c. 120 (JCH). Lake Elterwater, 24/1/77, 3-4 seen and others heard

(BDH); also recorded by TJT, CS). Amberley beach, North Canterbury, 3/3/77, one on a tiny lagoon (KCH). Maori Lakes, 9/1/77, 7+ (BDH). Alexandra, Upper Lane's Dam, small colony apparently recently established; 13/3/77, pair with two chicks, pair with 3 chicks, one lone adult — total 10 birds (PC). Lake Paringa, 27/1/77, 2 (BB).

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

Whangarei, 1977, March, 940; July, 719 (D. E. Crockett); Manukau, Nov 76, 3177; July 77, 20636; Firth of Thames, Nov 76, 1451; June 77, 7430 (BB). Kawhia, 1977, 2656 in February, 1248 in July; Aotea, July 77, 340 (JHS). Manawatu, range from 5 on 30/10/76 to 71 on 8/5/77 (HAR). Farewell Spit, January 77, 4312 (ATE). Ashley mouth, 6/1/77, 147 (BDH). Heathcote-Avon estuary, monthly counts 17/10/76-26/3/77, 438, 402, 537, 1356, 3710, 2387 (BA); Lyttleton upper harbour, 1/2/77, 120; South Brighton, 22/2/77, c. 5000 (GG). Albino birds observed at Owaka, 14/10/76 (DC), Lower Portobello 21/10/76 (AW), Sulár beach, 23/10/76 (Mr Lockerbie per AW). Arawata river near Waipara hut, 10/7/77, one ? an early arrival or over-wintering (PC). Southland coastal count, 2/1/77, 2036; 30/7/77, 1056 (RRS). Old Neck, Stewart Island, 7/5/77, 72 (LEH).

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*)

Recorded from many localities around North Island. Waipu, 8/1/77, several patches of opened tuatua and pipi shells near a nest, from which chicks had hatched some days earlier (AHG). Pey Bay (Mercury Bay), 10/4/77, 8 blacks and one with a white belly, noisy, aggressive chasing, sometimes flying as a group quite far out to sea; a pair breeds regularly in this bay (JHS). Manawatu estuary, maximum 17 on 8/5/77 (HAR). Muriwai lagoon, Gisborne, 9 blacks, 9/4/77 (JCH). 2 blacks at Black Reef, H.B. (KVT). Lake Wainono, one black, Feb 77 (RJP). Broken wing display at Okarito 27/1/77 (BB).

SPUR WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*)

Rere, Gisborne, 10/4/77, 4 (JCH). Near Mamaku, two August 77 (AP, MDW). 11 on newly cultivated land at Waipawa, 1977 (PDG); reported at Pakipaki, August 77 (NBM). Two reported 3 miles south of Wanganui, March 77 (DJ). Manawatu, common and breeding Waitarere-Tangimoana, in dunelands (HAR); Feb 77, 7 at Manawatu estuary, 26 at Rangitikei estuary (LJD). Bred at Paekakariki 1976 and 1977; sighting at Pauatahanui Inlet 1976 (MLF); 1977 sightings at Woburn, Wainuiomata coast road, Orongorongo (SC, PDG). Wairarapa, continued breeding south of lake; sightings north of lake and near Featherston (DS, HC, MLF). Nelson, Waimea West, ten on a paddock 17/8/77 (J. Hawkins). Taupata creek, 2 in February 1977; Farewell Spit, 9 on farm 12/8/77 (BR). North Otago, irrigation from the Waitaki scheme has produced ideal conditions; August 1976 sightings at Hilderthorpe, Kakanui, Waiareka (MDD); January 1977, 11 at Otaika, 18 in 5 localities in Waitaki valley (JCH); Waihaorunga, 600 metres a.s.l., a pair, 13/10/76 (GG). Otago peninsula, young birds at Wickliffe Bay, November 76 (AW). March 77, Buller, regularly seen in moderate numbers; Harihari and Whataroa districts, numerous and well established; sightings at Jacobs and Manakiaua rivers and at Paringa (KLO) and in January 11 at Bruce Bay (BB).

GREY PLOVER (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Farewell Spit, January 1977, 4 (BB).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*P. dominica*)

1976-77 season has produced an interesting set of records, relatively large flocks appearing for short periods at various localities. Paua, 200 on 24/10/76; Rangiputa, 3 on 28/10/76 (JHS); the usual summer influx at Paua was not recorded — only 12 in December 76 and 6 in March 77. 10 on a coastal farm at Kerikeri mid-October (ATE). Whangarei, 37 in November, 17 in March (D. E. Crockett). Waipu, 8 on a cultivated paddock, 11/12/76 (TGL). Manukau, a single bird on 19/9/76, 3-17 in October, 41 in November, 9-17 December-January, c. 50 in February, 26 and 7 on two dates in March 77 (BB, AH). Firth of Thames, October, 3; 28/11/76, 246, of which 37 were at Waitakaruru, 206 at Piako (BB). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, 27/11/76, one (PCL); 6 in December, 8 in February, 10-19 in March and 16 on 5/4/77 (KF); Maketu, 25/11/76, 30+ (AP), 13/2/77, 10 (PCL), a record 104 on 15/1/77; one over-wintered, still present in June. Little Waihi, 15/11/76, 24; Ohiwa, 21/11/76, 34 (AP); Ohope Spit 28/12/76, 51 (RMW). Gisborne, Muriwai lagoon, 9/4/77, 2 (JCH). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, 13/11/76, 11 (one flew up and chased a Black-backed Gull); 29/1/77, c. 50; 26/2/77, 130, in one big group in the bay; 19/3/77, 23 (KVT). Manawatu estuary, present 23/10/76-8/4/77, 14-15 in Oct-Jan, 32 on 20/2/77 (LJD, JLMM, HAR). Nelson, 11/12/76, 7 (KLO). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 49 (BDB). Ashley mouth, 16/1/77, 6 (BDH). Lake Wainono, Nov 76-Feb 77, up to 3 (RJP). Clutha mouth, 24/10/76 (PS). Southland summer count (2/1/77) was a record — Fortrose 53, Awarua Bay 24, Invercargill estuary 189, Riverton 5, total 271; none recorded on winter count — 30/7/77 (RRS); 32 at Colyer's road 18/3/77 (MLB).

N.Z. DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*)

Numerous reports from Auckland province. Waipu, 1976-77, about nine pairs; 32 birds on 9/4/77. On 8/1/77 a parent bird put on a fantastic performance, feigning broken wing, broken leg; tail drooped, feathers ruffled, frantic rushing about colliding with everything that could be bumped into; as soon as we moved away it settled on the eggs. In several years of close observation, photographing and measuring eggs, I have never seen anything like this display (AHG). Manawatu, 14-19/12/76, a juvenile, on north side of estuary (HAR, EBJ). Awarua Bay, Southland, 7 on 19/3/77 (MLB).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*C. bicinctus*)

Paua, flocks of local migrants usually arrive in January, reach a peak about March and are gone by August. A few pairs breed in the Far North. PCL recorded 10 pairs at Te Paki mouth, 6 pairs at Te Werahi, December 74; generally one or two pairs around Spirits Bay, Paua, and near streams at 90 mile beach; PGS found birds on the peninsula which runs from Te Kao down to the harbour, Sep-Oct 76. Tukituki river bed, 4/9/76, a hen bird with pale greyish plumage, a pale greyish neck band and no chestnut, only a touch of fawn on sides of breast, settled on a nest with 3 eggs; the ground colour of the

eggs was greyish, almost the colour of wood ash (JLL). Alexandra, 25/5/77, the first over-wintering birds seen here, two on the muddy floor of a new irrigation dam near the airport; 3 on 26/6/77, one on 10/7/77 (PC). Southland counts, 2/1/77, 307; 30/7/77, 32 (RRS).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*C. leschenaulti*)

Manukau, one 14/11/76 - 19/3/77 (BB). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 2 (JHS).

ORIENTAL DOTTEREL (*C. veredus*)

Lake Wainono, Jan 77, one (RJP).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*)

Bay of Plenty, Thornton, 15/5/77, 2 adults and two juveniles (PCL); Maketu, June-July 77, 6-7 birds (BB, PCL, AP). Turakina beach, 8/7/76, 3 (IWJ). Fielding sewage ponds, 10/7/77, 32, including 5 immature (BDH); Longburn, a flood in late June 76 ruined the feeding spot, but the situation is back to normal this winter — maximum count, 3/7/77, 54; they seem to arrive at the sludge pool about 90 minutes before sunset, from Manawatu river and from small ponds around freezing works (MDD, HAR). Te Ore Ore gravel pit, 1976, a three-egg clutch followed by a two-egg clutch, all hatched safely; 24/2/77, 9 present; 7 juveniles feeding in a group; Masterton sewage ponds, 28/5/77, winter flock of 20, including 5 young, on stock-trampled mud bordering pools of water lying in the paddock (MDD). Papawai, July 77, 9 near sewage ponds (MLF, SC). Tauherikarua, 28/8/77, 21 (DP, SC). Ruamahanga flood gates, 14/11/76, a nest, 3 eggs, on gravel only four metres from edge of road (CHL).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*)

Paua, 5/7/77, a record 174; 2/8/77, 154 and only 2 on 19/8/77 (ATE). Whangarei, 17/7/76, 154; 12/3/77, 228; 9/7/77, 212; well above previous counts (D. E. Crockett). Mangawhai Spit, 23/5/77, 16 (GE). Taporu, 10/10/76, 33; 19/6/77, 106 (LH). Manukau, 21/11/76, 33; 3/7/77, 607. Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 81; 25/6/77, 2240 (BB); 5/8/77, 2500+ on a big shellbank opposite beach access (BHS). Port Waikato, 9/5/76, 8; 27/6/76, 5 (AH). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, 1976, May, 70; October, 30; mid-November, 17; 1977, January, 14-60; February-April, c. 100 (KF); May, 73 (DJB); June, 53 (JHS). 1976, one-two birds at Maketu, Little Waihi and Rangitaiki mouth (AP, RMW). Ngaruroro estuary, Oct 76, 2; June 77, 3 (KVT). Manawatu, numbers fluctuate throughout the season, maximum count 37 on 13/3/77 (HAR). Ohau estuary, 4/9/77, 14 (BDH, WFC). Lake Grassmere, 24/1/77, 2 adults, bands still visible (BDH). Nelson, 5/5/77, 18; 11/6/77, 3 (KLO), 20/8/77, 3 (FHB). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 27 (BDB). Ashley river mouth, 20/8/76, 20 (GG). Brooklands, 24/7/76, one with 88 Banded Dotterel (RG). Rangitara river, Erewhon area, 7-12/1/77, 9 on north bank channel below Potts home-stand and 17 on lower Potts river below airstrip. Several flying young seen on 8 Jan, thereafter adults only, well spread on river margins; none on main Rangitara bed (BDH). Lake Benmore, 19/2/76, 17; 26/1/77, 3 (JCH). Awarua Bay, 19/3/77, one with a stint and turnstones (MLB).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*)

Paua, Sep-Nov 76, 4; 23/12/76, 6; 8/3/77, 2;; none seen April-July; 2/8/77, 2; 19/8/77, 3; 16/9/77, 4 (ATE). Kaipara, 5/12/76, 18 (AH); 27/12/76, 12+; 10/3/77, one (RBS). Manukau, 25/9/76, 4; 31/10/76, one; 21/11/76, 3; 12/3/77, 2 (BB). Firth of Thames, 3/9/76, 14; October, 16; November, 19 (BB), December, 13-19 (DAL, AH); 24/2/77, 6 (MSF); 13/3/77, 14 (RBS); 12-29/3/77, 3 (BB, JHS); 5/8/77, 2 (BHS, ARL). One seen to capture and eat mud crabs, gradually working them along the bill till swallowed whole (DAL). Kawhia, 19/2/77, 3, first record for this area (TBST). Bay of Plenty, Maketu, 1976, 6 in January, 3 Aug-Sep, one in November, 7 on 25/12/76 (AP, PCL); Sulphur Point, 6-10/1/77, one (KF). Manawatu, 4/12/76, 2; 1977, Jan-April, 3, one on 8/5/77 (JLMM, HAR). Farewell Spit, one on 2/9/76 (KLO), 16 in January 77 (BDB). Parapara Inlet, Golden Bay, 21/2/77, one (LT). Heathcote-Avon estuary, one, 4-15/9/77 (BA, PMS). Otago, one at Papanui Inlet, 27/12/75; one at Purakanui beach, 19/1/76 (AW). Southland, 30/7/77, one (RRS).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*)

Paua, one on 27/9/76; 24/10/76, 34; 9 in November, 5 in December; 8/3/77, 4; one on 19/8 and 16/9/77. Rangiputa, 25/10/76, 23; 28/10/76, 12 (ATE, JHS). Whangarei, July 76, 5 (MPK). Kaipara, 27/12/76, at least one; others may have been present (RBS). Manukau, 19/3/77, 3 (DAL). Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 24; 26/6/77, 1 (BB). Kawhia, 1977, one in February, 2 in July-August (JHS). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, 14/11/76, 3; 9/1/77, one (AP, KF); Ohiwa, 12/12/76, one (RMW). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, 9/4/77, one (JCH). Hawkes Bay, one (?subsp.) December 76, stayed for a month (KVT). Lake Wairarapa, 14/11/76, one (JAC). Ashley river mouth, one, 6/1/77 and 3/4/77 (BDH, AH). Invercargill, 2/1/77, one ?ssp (RRS).

AMERICAN WHIMBREL (*N. p. hudsonicus*)

Paua, 24/10/76, one (JHS). Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 2 (BB). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, one with a flock of Asiatic Whimbrels, sunning in a depression in the sandhills, necks stretched, wings spread, rumps exposed (GS).

LITTLE WHIMBREL (*N. minutus*)

Whangarei harbour (Takihiwai) 13/3/77, 2 (PJM).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa*)

Waipu, 9/4/77, a Black-tailed Godwit ?sp, in colour (AHG). Manawatu, 8/3/77, one; black tail, white rump and light underwing well seen (EBJ). Lake Wairarapa, N.E. shore, two on 19/12/76 (MDD, SC); 13/2/77, one (MLF et al). Lake Wainono, Nov 76, one; May 77, 2, still in non-breeding plumage. Lake Ellesmere, Feb 77, one (RJP).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*L. haemasticta*)

Waipu, 12/3/77, 2 (MPK). Manawatu, 14/12/76, 2; the only godwits on the beach; smooth appearance, straight bills, white rump, black tail, narrow wing bar, dark underwing (EBJ).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*)

Paua, 1500 on 17/9/76, c. 3000 Oct 76-Jan 77; 700 in July, 800 in August, 2000 on 16/9/77 (ATE). Rangiputa, Oct 76, 3000 (JHS). Whangarei, 12/3/77, 3768; 9/7/77, 433 (MPK). Kaipara, Jordan's, 5/12/76, 1350 (AH); winter counts, Tabora, 19/6/77, 505 (LH); Kelly's Bay, 16/7/77, 130 (CDC). Whangateau harbour, 14/11/76, 450; 30/12/76, 549 (LH). Manukau, 21/11/76, 18983; 3/7/77, 1501 (BB). Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 10549; 26/6/77, 628 (BB). 19/2/77, Kawhia, 3887; Aotea, 1556; August 77, Kawhia, 400; Aotea, 257 (JHS). Buffalo beach, 120 on 3/10/76, first of the season; large flocks in Whangapoua harbour 31/12/76 (ABJ). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, 1977, February, 4000 (KF); March, 3000 (PCL); June, 270 (JHS). Little Waihi-Maketu, Feb 77, c. 500 (PCL); winter count at Maketu, June 77, 38 (AP). Port Ohope Spit, 1976, June, 157; December, 2000 (RMW). Westshore, H.B., Aug 76, 18 (JCH); 13/2/77, 375 (NBM). Manawatu, present all months, 450 on 26/2/77; wintering birds, 35 (JLMM, HAR). Small numbers at Lake Wairarapa, 1976-77 (MDD). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 14861 (BB); 28/7/77, 800, and 300 at Taupata creek (MLF). Nelson Haven winter flock, 120; a very strongly coloured bird on 31/8/77, much more so than the few birds which showed colour in March (J. Hawkins). South Brighton, about 3000 in estuary on 22/2/77; 8-9/3/77, about 1000 in the same area, restless and circling; 11/3/77, less than 500 at the same state of tide (GG). Southland, flocks arrived 22-23/9/76 (MLB). Counts, 2/1/77, 4785; 30/7/77, 871 (RRS). Stewart Island, Old Neck, 7/5/77, 250 (LEH).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*)

Farewell Spit, January 77 (S. Cook).

GREENSHANK (*T. nebularia*)

Manawatu estuary, 13/10/76, one (EBJ). Puponga Inlet, Jan 77, one (MLF). Awarua Bay, Southland, one on 2/1/77, 30/1/77, 19/3/77; one on 10/9/77 (MLB, RRS).

WANDERING TATTLER (*T. incana*)

Near Rahotu, Taranaki, 26/2/77, one on a rocky coastline; call identified when flushed (DGM). Kaikoura, two on 24/12/76 (JAC).

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*)

Spirits Bay, 24/12/76, one on reef (GF). Kaituna cut, 28/11/76, one; call heard and nasal groove seen (AP). Mt Maunganui, 8/5/77, one feeding around rocks at low tide; fed for 30 minutes then preened; thrice repeated "troo-ee" on wing (PCL). Ngaruroro, H.B., one seen on three occasions 5/2/77-9/4/77 (KVT). Kaikoura, one on 2/10/76 (JAC), two on 10/10/76 (RG). Tattler sp., Awarua Bay, Southland, one on 2/1/77, two on 19/3/77 (MLB), one on 10/9/77 (RRS).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*)

Kaipara, Jordan's, 10/3/77, one (RBS). Firth of Thames, one on 23/11/76 and four subsequent dates up to 9/1/77; two on 24/2/77, three 12-29/3/77; two 23/4/77-11/6/77, one 26/6/77 and 5/8/77 (BB, ARL, DAL, HRMcK). On 12/3/77 three were standing together on a piece of driftwood (JHS); lying in salicornia, playing with a straw (BB); 11/6/77, feeding, running in short bursts, bill and head extended,

then snapping up some small round object (? crustacea or crab) with its bill, on the mud and sand of falling tide; no probing action. 5/8/77, high tide, one on a swampy paddock behind the shell bank along with turnstones and curlew sandpipers, most of which were resting; the Terek was busily feeding, stepping along quickly, pecking from side to side in a jerky manner, occasionally darting forward to snap up a food item and sometimes probing vigorously, 2-3 times in the same place (BHS). Manawatu, one on 28/12/76 (HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, one (BDB). Lake Ellesmere, Kaitorete Spit, December 76, one (RJP).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*)

Paua, 1976, 600 on 24/10, down to 2-300 Nov-December; 822 on 8/3/77, 250 on 21/4/77; only 46 found in July but 200 in August (ATE). Rangiputa, 300 on 25/10/76 but 500 on 28/10/76 — evidently on the move southwards (JHS). 24/1/77, 4 on 90 mile beach, Bluff-Te Pahi (RWJ). 4 over-wintering at Aurere (south end of Tokerau beach) 3/7/76 (PGS). Whangarei, 12/3/77, 19; May-July, only single birds recorded (PGM). Waipu, 29/1/77, 34 (TGL), 9/4/77, 14 (AHG). Mangawhai Spit, 28/5/77, 6 (GE). Tapanui, 5/12/76, 285; 19/6/77, 87 (LH). Tiritiri Matangi island, two, 12/12/76 (LH). Manukau, 21/11/76, 197; 3/7/77, 54. Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 176; 26/6/77, 101 (BB); on 9/4/77 HRMcK found 250 on a paddock at Kaiaua school, the biggest flock so far recorded in Firth of Thames. Bay of Plenty, Tauranga harbour, 1976, 6 in November, 8 in December; Kaituna cut, 19/11/76, 8; 28/12/76, 15; Ohiwa, 21/11/76, 10 (KF, AP); records of 1-3 birds on other dates; one at Sulphur Point, June (JHS). Ahuriri, H.B., one, 13/11/76 (KVT). Manawatu, present 23/10/76-18/3/77, maximum 13 on 23/10/76 (JLMM). Waikanae, 4/1/77, 6 (MDD, HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 1635; 30/7/77, 50 (MLF). Lake Grassmere, 24/1/77, 60 (BDH); 25/1/77, 20 (TJT). Kaikoura, Feb 77, 40-50 (ATP). Lake Wainono July 1976, one; Sep 76-May 77, up to 30 (RJP). Greenpark, Lake Ellesmere, May 77, 4 (AH). Clutha mouth, Nov 76, 10 (AW, PS). Southland, 1977, January count was low at 794; July, 351 (RRS).

SNARES ISLAND SNIPE (*Coenocorypha aucklandica huegeli*)

Found throughout the main island and Broughton island, in all habitats from tussock to forest. Nests containing 2 eggs each found on 20/11/76, 5/12/76 and 31/12/76; chicks seen from early December through to early March (PMS).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*)

Paua, 1976, August, 400; Sep, 500; Oct, 3000; Nov, 100; 100 in July 77, 400-500 August-September (ATE). Rangiputa, 25/10/76, 2000; 28/10/76, 4000 (JHS). Whangarei 12/11/76, 65; 12/3/77, 114; 9/7/77, 43 (D. E. Crockett). Kaipara, Jordan's, 5/12/76, 2500 (AH); Tapanui, 19/6/77, 36 (LH). Manukau, 21/11/76, 6152; 3/7/77, 270. Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 11103; 26/6/77, 422 (BB). 26/10/76, 30 feeding by probing in salicornia; when hit by a hailstorm they lifted to 2 ft above ground; when some dropped to resume feeding those above closed ranks and hovered till the hail ceased (BB). Kawhia, 19/2/77, 3 (JHS). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, 22/12/76, 6 (KF); Maketu, Jan 76, 22, a good count for this area; 4 on 26/6/77 (AP).

Westshore, HB, 4/3/76, 48 (JCH). Manawatu, present 9/9/76-11/6/77, maximum 85, December-January (JLMM); 6/6/77, 15; 29/6-17/7/77, 2 (HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 22537 (BDB). A rare bird in Nelson Haven, 2 on 7/3/77, with godwits (J. Hawkins). Heathcote-Avon estuary, a small flock arrived 15/9/77 (PMS). Lake Wainono, Sep-Dec 76, up to 13 (RJP). Clutha mouth, one, 24/10/76 (PS). Southland count 2/1/77, 113; none on 30/7/77 (RRS).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*)

One at Te Pahi stream, 24/1/77 (RWJ). Paua, 3/3/77, a record flock of 39 (ATE); Rangiputa, 28/10/76, 3 (JHS). Ruakaka, 17/7/76, one (MPK). Manukau, 24/11/76 and 11/3/77, 13 (BB, SMR). Firth of Thames, 17/10/76, 10 (BB), 31/12/76, 23 (DAL); 12/3/77, 15 (HRMcK). Bay of Plenty, Maketu, a build up from 3 on 25/9/76 to 10 in October, 14 in November, 16 in December; 1977, 20 in January, 13 in February (PCL, AP). Ahuriri, HB, 19/2/77, 29 (KVT). Manawatu, present 23/10/76-9/4/77, 12 on 16/1/77 (JLMM), 17 on 5/2/77 (HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 7 (BDB). Lake Grassmere, 24/1/77, 3 (BDH). Lake Wainono, Oct 76-March 77, up to 6 (RJP). Southland, 29/12/76, 9 (MLB), 2/1/77, 13 (RRS). Snares, one present Nov 76-March 77, seen feeding along littoral zone at low tide and roosting among olearia debris at a stream mouth (PMS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotus*)

Karikari Peninsula, 6/3/77, 5 preening on edge of small lake (GIHM). Miranda, 17/10/76, 3 (AH), 26/10/76, 2 (BB). Taranaki, 26/2/77, one feeding with Pied Stilts in shallow fresh water, at Pungareere stream near Rahotu (DGM). Manawatu, 30/10/76, 3 (HAR), 28/2/77, one (JLMM). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, one (BDB). Taumutu, Lake Ellesmere, 15/1/77, one in perfect breeding plumage, bright yellow legs (BDH). Lake Wainono, Apr 77, one (RJP). Southland, 29/12/76, one at Waituna (MLB); 2/1/77, one at Waituna, one at Invercargill (RRS).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*C. bairdii*)

Manawatu, 23-31/10/76, one (JLMM, HAR).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*)

Paua, 7-8 birds present Sep-Oct 76 and Jan 77; 8/3/77, 4; 21/4/77, 10, one red; 5/7/77, 5; 2/8/77, 10, one red; 19/8/77, 6 (ATE). Whangarei, 1977, March, 4; July, one (MPK). Manukau, 1976, 7 in November, 9 in December; singles February and April 1977 (BB, RBS). Firth of Thames, census figures, Nov 76, 22 and June 77, 19, but from mid-October 76 and in each month from Dec 76 to April 77 individual observers have recorded counts of 34-37 birds at Miranda and RBS considers that the population over this period was 40+; he also recorded 23+ on 11/7/77 and BHS counted 20 (one red) on 5/8/77. Bay of Plenty, Maketu area, a build-up from 3 in September to 13 in November 76; 2 on 12/2/77 (KF, AP, PCL). Ahuriri, HB, 18/12/76, 5 (KVT), 31/1/77, one (RMW). Manawatu, present 2/10/76-13/6/77; 3 in November, 8 in January, 10 in April, 8 on 8/5/77, 4 on 13/6/77 (LJD, HAR, JLMM, EBJ). Lake Wairarapa, N.E. shore, 15/1/77, 4 (MDD). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 5 (AP). Nelson Haven, 1/9/77, one, partly in breeding plumage, seen on four consecutive days feeding vigorously in a pond and along tide line (J.

Hawkins). Lake Wainono, 1976, Sep, 4; Nov, one; 1977, one in January, two in March (RJP). Clutha river, 24/10/76, one; 30/10/76, 4; 1/11 and 14/11/76, 5 (AW, PS). Southland, 29/12/76, 6 at Waituna (MLB); 2/1/77 count, 13 (RRS).

DUNLIN (*C. alpina*)

Miranda, one seen 12/3/77 (JHS), confirmed on 29/3/77 (BB).

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*)

Paua, 24/10/76, 10; 1977, 6 in March, 7 in April; 2/8/77, 6, winter plumage (AE). Rangiputa, 28/10/76, 5 (JHS). Taporā, 10/10/76, 4; 5/12/76, 12; 19/6/77, 2 (LH). Manukau, 1976, October, 5-8; November, 9; December, 13; 1977, Feb-March, 11; one in June; 4/7/77, 5 on paddock, 9 on shellbanks, one well coloured and two part coloured (BB, AH, DAL). Miranda, Nov-Dec 76, 9; 1977, January, 8; Feb-March, 5; April, 3; 26/6/77, one (BB, AH, DAL, GJHM, HRMcK, JHS). Bay of Plenty, Oct-Nov 76, 6 (AP). Westshore, HB, 18/11/76, one; 3/1/77, 3; 13/2/77, 2 (KVT, RMW, NBM). Manawatu, singles 13-14/10/76 and one in breeding plumage, 8/4/77 (LG, EBJ, HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 7 (BDB). Lake Ellesmere, one at Taumutu, 15/1/77; February 77, 53 at Greenpark (RJP). Lake Wainono, 1976, 2 in November, one in December (RJP). Southland, Waituna, 29/12/76, 13 (MLB); 2/1/77 census, 20 (RRS).

SANDERLING (*C. alba*)

Waituna, Southland, 29/12/76 and 2/1/77, 4 (MLB, RRS).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*)

Paua, July 77, c. 300, sheltering from cold SW wind behind small mangrove plants (ATE). Whangarei, July 77, 776 (MPK). Manukau, 21/11/76, 878; 3/7/77, 3993 (BB). Mangere, 13/11/76, a nest with six eggs (MSF). Firth of Thames, 28/11/76, 2186; 26/6/77, 1945 (BB). Kawhia, 19/2/77, 270; 3/7/77, 285 (JHS). Mercer, 2/6/77, 420 in a flooded field (BB). Westshore, HB, 13/2/77, 1173 (NBM). Manawatu, present all months, maximum 400+ on 7/5/77 (JLMM). Southland counts, 2/1/77, 657; 30/7/77, 301 (RRS).

BLACK STILT (*H. novaeseelandiae*)

Smudgy birds, Puketutu, 21/11/76, one; Firth of Thames, 26/6/77, 3 (BB). Kawhia, 19/2/77, 3; 3/7/77, 10, of which 7 black, with brown feathers round eye; one white flecks on belly; two, white face, belly and under tail, smudgy lower breast; all robust, distinctive call, red iris. Unusually, they mingled with Pied Stilts but tended to group separately in flight; August 1977, 4 (JHS). Lake Wainono, Nov 76, one defending feeding territory against Pied Stilts (RJP). Mandeville, near Gore, 16/9/76, a smudgy bird on a roadside pond with, but apart from, 13 Pied Stilts, which had 4 nests; behaviour differed from the Pied Stilts, repeated single call of different timbre; flew towards Mataura river, not seen on five later visits over the following three days (MLB).

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE (*Glareola maldivarum*)

Lake Wainono, one present 28/3-1/4/77; catching insects both aerially and on the ground; on wing, showed chestnut underwing coverts (RJP). May 1977, one on paddocks at South Turnbull, present for

about two weeks, mostly observed feeding on the ground; olive brown above, darker on head; rump and tail white, black tip; buff throat enclosed by a distinct black line from eye to eye; breast buffy, abdomen white (DM).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*)

Muriwai, Gisborne, 9/4/76, harassing one of a flock of White-fronted Terns (JCH). Lake Wainono, one, Nov 76 (RJP). Snares, most eggs hatching in the second week of November 1976. Mottled Petrels, Fairy Prions and Diving Petrels formed the bulk of prey found in middens (PMS).

POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*)

Mangonui, one of three skuas in the harbour in Feb 77 had a white rump and may have been a sub-adult Pomarine (ECMC). Hauraki Gulf, 7/11/76, one (BB); 15/1/77, dark phase off Rakino; 23/1/77, Cape Colville-Cuvier, 3 (PCL). Foxton beach singles 6/2 and 3/3/77, identified by large white areas on wings and white rump (JLMM). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, one certainly, two probably this species (BDB).

ARCTIC SKUA (*S. parasiticus*)

Numerous records Oct 76-April 77, usually of one or two birds, but small parties reported in April, at the time of northward movement, e.g., Waipu, 12 (AHG), Devil's Point, Mercury Bay, 5 (JHS), Ohope, 3 and Maketu, 6 (PJM). Regularly seen offshore and over lagoon at Lake Wainono, Dec 76-May 77 (RJP). Buffalo Beach, Coromandel, two on 1-5/5/76 (ABJ). 21/1/77, of three which were chasing terns in the channel, one landed on Paraparaumu beach (MT).

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*)

Lake Rotoehu, 24/12/76, nest, 3 chicks, on iron roof of a maimai, 100 m offshore; Little Shags also nesting on the maimai; eggs broken and chicks killed, probably by the gulls (CHL). Millerton burning mine, Nov 76, 80 nests, 60 occupied, 9 with newly hatched chicks (JCD). Waimakariri gorge, 4/12/76, up to 1000 nesting over 1 km of riverbed; some chicks nearly fledged, some hatching, many nests 1-3 eggs. Heathcote-Avon estuary, 1/2/77, large numbers returning, with young (GG). Mr Harris, Chief Keeper at Dog Island lighthouse, reports that in 1976 gulls arrived in late August as usual but by mid-September all had left the island and apparently will not nest there this year (PER).

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*)

There had been no nests on Mill Island, Russell, for 5-6 years, but in 1975, regarded locally as a summer of bad weather, nesting gulls colonised the whole top of the island. In 1976 only the eastern end of the island was occupied, gull numbers about half that of 1975 (GC). Ngaururo, 22/5/77, a juvenile fishing like a tern — looking down, hovering, diving, and fully submerging before surfacing and flying off; this was repeated three times (KVT). Riverton estuary, 1976, a small breeding colony, about 100 birds, on and in a maimai (RRS).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*)

Kawhia, 19/2/77, 2 immature (TBST). Miranda, 1/9/76, 50 (JHS); 31/12/76, 17 nests (DAL). Firth of Thames count 26/6/77,

131 (BB). Maketu, 26/6/77, 3 (AP); Sulphur Point, 6/6/77, 11 adult, 3 immature (JHS); Tarawera estuary 31/7/76, 5 (RMW). Wairoa bridge, Feb 77, 130; June 77, 150, plus 130 at Wairoa river mouth; 13/3/77, 20 at Mohaka river mouth (GF). Ngaruroro estuary, 5/3/77, 400 (KVT). Southland coastal count, 2/1/77, 3553 (RRS).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*)

Rangiputa, 28/10/76, a puzzling tern, thought to be sub-adult of this species, with Little Terns (ATE, JHS). Kaipara, off Ruawai, 11/2/77, two small grey terns, probably this species (BSC). Bay of Plenty, April-July 77, Matata, up to 9; Tarawera estuary, up to 5; Thornton-Rangitaiki mouth, up to 30 (PCL, RMW). Ngaruroro estuary, 17/4/77, 40 (KVT). Manawatu, singles Dec 76-Feb 77, 6 on 6/5/77 (JLMM). Wellington harbour, 2 in May, one in June (MLF, AP).

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

Correction:— Notornis 23, page 342 should read — Wainono, one in non-breeding plumage (RJP). Thornton, one seen at intervals 1976-77 season, 2 on 4/6/77 (RMW). Nelson, 2 at Boulder Bank 1-3/1/77, 2 over a pond at Nelson Haven 3-6/2/77; one at Rough Island 14/2/77 (J. Hawkins, BDB, PG, CO'D).

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

September 76 - April 77, one to six birds reported from Seagrove, Karaka and round to Waimahia inlet of Manukau harbour (BB). Waitemata harbour, 15/5/77, one (RG). Kaipara, Jordan's, 2/7/77, 3 (DFB, SPC). Lake Horowhenua, 15/9/76, 2 (BDH).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

Waipu, 23/12/76, one carrying a fish as it flew inland and landed in a paddock; no sign of young birds (TGL). Kawhia, 19/2/77, 104 (JHS). Parnassus, one at Waiau bridge, 15/8/76 (JRJ). Lake Benmore, 19/2/76, 7; 26/1/77, 6 (JCH).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*)

Whangarei, 4 at Portland, 12/11/76 (D. E. Crockett). Waipu, two pairs; one pair had two newly hatched chicks on 8/1/77; a pair nested in the same area the previous season and have been seen right through the year until now (AHG). Mangawhai, 14/11/76, a count of 12, the same number as recorded in 1973, since when there has been no record of nesting (SMR); this compares with 3-4, the most seen simultaneously on visits by several members during the past year (MJT). Tauranga, 5/12/76, two birds, a nest with 2 eggs (LH). Sulphur Point, KF reports two present on 1/3/76 and on 25/3/76 one at Maungatapu (SE end of harbour, 3 miles from Sulphur Point). No sighting for six months, then one at Sulphur Point 21/9-8/10/76; it mobbed me on 13/10 and 17/10/76, once with a fish in its beak; 27-30/10/76, two birds, one of which mobbed me; both mobbed me on 8-9/11/77, and two were seen together on 26/11. This was the last time two were seen together; by that date 9 Little Terns had arrived in the area. A single *nereis* remained, sometimes seen at Maungatapu but usually at Sulphur Point. During November-December KF, PCL and AP saw it offering fish to one of the Little Terns, on one occasion with its wings spread as if in courtship display. Usually

the Little Tern was unresponsive but on 6/1/77 accepted the fish and ate it. Mobbing ceased in December; the bird was still present on 25/4/77 (KF), 28/5/77 and 6/6/77, by which date it was going into eclipse (JHS). KF suggests that three of the birds seen in January-March 77 and provisionally identified as *albifrons* may in fact have been *nereis*; they tended to sit away from known *albifrons* and with the known *nereis*; the black on the head did not extend to the bill and was rather rounded in front of the eye, and when at rest they lacked the dark line on the flight feathers along the lower edge of the folded wing (DJB).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albifrons*)

Rangiputa, 28/10/76, 68; Mangonui, March 77, 2 (ATE). Whangarei, 12/11/76, 14 (D. E. Crockett). Kaipara, Jordan's, 3/12/76, 4 (AH); Taporā, 6/3/77, 25 (LH). South Manukau, 3 on 10/10, 5 on 31/10, 16 on 17/11/76; 20 on 12/3/77; of 19 on 19/3/77 at least 5 had yellow bills (BB, AH). Miranda, up to 14 on 28/10/76; 12 on 15/12/76, all with dark bills and reduced caps; 24/2/77, 14 (MSF); 23/3/77, 16, 5 with yellow bill, dark tip (JHS); 23/4/77, of 8 birds, six were in breeding plumage, one displaying, head high, strutting, chattering; 10/5/77, of seven, two seen in aerial display, chattering call (BHS). Bay of Plenty, Sulphur Point, numbers built up from 3 on 27/10/76 to 8 on 8/11, 9 on 23/11, 11 on 27/11/76, 12 on 10/1 and until 13/3/77; 7-10 up to 19/4/77, 4 on 25/4/77 (KF, PCL). Maketu, one, May and November 76; Rangitaiki mouth, 2, November and December (AP, RMW); Ohiwa, 4, Nov-Dec 76 and 26/3/77 (AP, RMW, DJB). Manawatu, one Oct-Nov 76 (HAR). Farewell Spit, Jan 77, 4 (BDB). Nelson, 14/2/77, one (J. Hawkins); Heathcote-Avon estuary, 18/1/77, 2 (BDH); Lake Wainono, Nov-Dec 76, one (RJP).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*)

Flocks of about 1000 birds at Matata, 8/4/77, at Port Jackson, 5/6/77 (PJM), and at Buffalo Beach, 19/6/77 (ABJ). A dead bird found at Lake Rotorua, 30/8/77 (AP). Early March 77, Wharariki beach near Cape Farewell, 600 on beach at low tide, making a terrific chattering; two days later at Patarau beach, about 500; two hours later almost all had gone; may have been preparing to cross the Tasman (ATP). No nesting in Invercargill estuary since 1969, until on 31/10/76 71 one-egg and two-egg nests were found adjoining the Caspian Tern colony. On next visit (28/11/76) no birds or eggs were found; there had been no big tides and the Caspian colony was intact. 9/1/77, 300 nests at Tiwai Spit, Awarua Bay, where by 9/1/77 there were 290+ chicks, most flying (MLB).

GREY TERNLET (*Procelsterna cerula*)

Pataua beach, near Whangarei, 13/2/77, one dead (D. Shand). Poor Knights, Aug 77, two flying, between Aorangi and Tawhiti Rahi (AHG). Unconfirmed reports from Matata beach, Jan 76 and from Whakatane river, Oct 76 (AP).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*)

Waiotira, 1/9/76, feeding on fresh young willow shoots (TGL). Copland Valley, 730 metres a.s.l., Nov 76 (SCS).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

Karaka, 19/2/77, seven racing pigeons rested and drank salt water from mudflat on a very hot day; others used tidal creek; birds skirt the shoreline, do not cross the open water of Manukau harbour (BB). Many resting in large sea caves, Tolaga Bay, 1975 (GF). Mount Maunganui, of recent years enormous numbers have built up in the dock area, where there is a flour mill. Poisoning has been done, but numbers soon build up again. They fly to Motuotau (Rabbit Island) to roost (KF). Lake Waitaki gravity dam, breeding 1976-77; population down to c. 120 in Jan 77, after Pest Destruction activity (JCH). Snares, a racing pigeon caught on 11/12/76 stayed in the vicinity till 4/1/77, when it flew north; a Palmerston North bird released at Bluff, it had not returned to its loft by 15/3/77 (PMS).

MALAY SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

Titirangi Golf Course, 1/4/77 (CS). Manurewa, Waimahia Inlet, regular 1976/77, one to three (K. Fisher).

WHITE COCKATOO (*Cacatua galerita*)

Vinegar Hill, Tikipunga, and Jordan Valley road, Whangarei district, one reported Aug 77 (MKT). Kaiaua hills, in manuka and maize, 1976 (RH). Mangahoe road, Turakina valley, 30/1/77, 14 (LJD).

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*)

North Island subsp. *septentrionalis*; Kerikeri, one around Stone Store basin Aug-Nov 76 and again June-July 77 (ATE). North Auckland, one at Leigh Cove and Mathieson Bay, Apr-May 77 (KJT). Auckland, One Tree Hill area, one in Oct 76, and in Aug 77 in a walnut tree (RT). June-July 77, Cornwall Park, 2, seen feeding on bare deciduous trees, presumably on insects (SMR). South Auckland, Brookby, Aug-Oct 76, eating taraira berries; Maraetai, Sep 76, two working on branches of dead gorse; Pukekohe East, Aug 76, nipping off bamboo leaf shoots (HRMcK). July 77, Patumahoe and Ngatea, in private gardens, on banksia and flowering gums (BB). Mayor Island, Feb 77, numerous (JFC). New Plymouth, Tukapa Street, 3-25/10/76, one irregularly present in a large puriri (RWW, GD); Bell Block, 20/5/77, one found dead (REL). Wellington, mid-June 77, reports of one at Woburn, Day's Bay and Waterloo road, Lower Hutt (PCB, HO, RAF). South Island subsp. *meridionalis*: Copland valley, 21/11/76, 436 metres a.s.l., flying very high and calling (SCS). Haast Pass, 21/2/76, one; no response to taped calls (JCH). Hurunui river, south branch, present eastwards to Lucy stream, Nov-Dec 76 (RG). Stewart Island, Port Adventure, up to 13 roost in rata by camp each night, Jan 76 (GF).

KEA (*N. notabilis*)

Motueka river valley, Mt Campbell radio repeater station, 11 birds, causing damage to aerals, etc; 5 captured, banded and released at Whangamoa saddle, Nelson, 30 miles away; one of these was later shot; it had returned to the general area of capture — Takaka hill, a mile north of limeworks (KLO). 1976-77 apparently a favourable breeding season; a party of 16 in South Young included 11 young, a party of 12 in North Wilkin included 8 young (PC).

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*)

Hihi (Doubtless Bay), Jan 77, feeding on ground, nipping off plantain seed heads (RWJ). Kchukohu, feeding on acmena berries, in association with blackbirds (KB). Apparent increase in Coromandel peninsula, 1977 (BB). Paraparaumu, 19/2/77, 5 (JLMM) and at Maungakotukutuku (WFC, MLF).

RED CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*)

Manitaha, Bream Islands group, 14/5/77, 3 flew to Bream Head, others seen and heard (PJM). Tiri Tiri island, breeding well, following releases in 1974-76 (MJT). Parakeet sp; again heard and seen at Waitotira, Jan-Feb 77 (TGL). Heard in cut-over forest, Oparara basin, Karamea (KLO).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*)

Heard at Mangonui 12/9/76; Kerikeri, 3/10/76 - 15/3/77 (ATE). Snares, one found dead near station, 12/11/76 (PMS).

LONG TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*)

Huia, seen and heard 17/2 - 15/3/77 (JFS). Massey University campus, a single bird calling regularly for 30 minutes about midnight 19/10/76, while apparently circling overhead; conditions were very cloudy (MDD). Lake Wombat, Franz Josef area, 29-30/10/76 (GG). Copeland valley, 22/11/76, calling continuously, late p.m. and morning till 1000 hours; one flew over hot pools calling a rapid "wetch wetch wetch" (SCS). Haast Pass 21/12/76 (JCH); Lakes Matheson and Hawea, Jan 77 (BB); Dart Hut, 7/1/77, one in stunted beech 970 metres a.s.l., a very high altitude for the species (PC). Snares, 29/11 - 9/12/76, seen and heard; Blackbirds giving unusual alarm calls, and one pursued a cuckoo flying over the olearia canopy on 8-9/12/76 (PMS).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*)

Huia, 23/1/77, two hunting; still light enough to see them catching large insects in talons, then sit on a branch and transfer the insect to their beaks, parrot fashion. A young bird, when fed a large cicada, clutched it in its talons, decapitated it with its beak, pecked wings and thorax, then manoeuvred it till it was in position to be gulped down (JFS). Tapu saddle, Coromandel, young birds heard late afternoon 24/10/76 (BB). Ngakaroa, Gisborne, a pair nested in a box under the roof of a shed, access by a broken window pane; 3 young independent by 15/1/76; the whole family used the rafters for a daylight roost for some months (AB). Wairoa, Sep 75, one roosted by day in a grapefruit tree for eight days; held its prey by its right claw; six house sparrows, two goldfinches (GF). Horahora road, Maungatautari, 28/5/77, one sitting in the middle of the road at 2000 hours (PCL). SE corner of Lake Rotoma, 1/5/76, one seen on forest floor, 1600 hours (AP). Ratapihipihi reserve, New Plymouth, three responded to taped calls, one followed the recorder for about 100 metres (JCH). Stewart Island, only two heard 15-27/12/76; calls not a clear "more pork" but more of a "bul bul" (PJM).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*)

Maitai Valley, Nelson, June-July 77, two calling at dusk, then spasmodically throughout the night (KLO). A pair at the Key, Te Anau highway; the furthest NW sighting to date in this area (RRS). Common in Central Otago (PC); Feb 76, recorded at Kurow, Tarras, Lakes Aviemore and Waitaki (JCH).

SPINE TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura caudacuta*)

90 mile beach, 8/5/75, one dead (TGM). Just south of Hampden, 1/6/77, a swift with a square tail flew in front of us and over a plantation (BDB, RNN).

FORK TAILED SWIFT (*Apus pacificus*)

Whau Valley, Whangarei, 29/8/77, one flew overhead at about 20 m., heading up the valley towards the dam, into a stiff southerly, with measured wing beats; 20 minutes later it returned, flying down the far side of the valley. Long sickle shaped wings, deeply forked tail; attention was first drawn to the bird by a shrill, rather piercing single note, regularly repeated (JCSK).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta*)

Taranaki, nest at Waitaanga saddle, Feb 77 (GD); foreshore, Greenwood Road, Okato, 11/9/76, 10-12 birds (REL). Routeburn Flat, 6/4/77, one in backwater of river at 685 metres a.s.l., a high altitude for the species (PC). Waihopai river, Invercargill, arrive end of March, leave early October (MLB).

KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gigas*)

Two on a tree between Whangateau and Omaha, 3/5/77 (MJT). Paraparaumu, Feb 77, one seen at Maungakotukutuku (LG).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*)

S.E. corner of Lake Rotoma, 1/5/76; tawa forest N. of Lake Rotoiti, Jan 77; Whaka forest in redwoods, Sep 76; 80+ counted between Lake Waikaremoana and a lagoon above Lake Waikareiti, Apr 77 (AP). Mount Holdsworth, a nest 12 m. up a beech tree, adults feeding young 22/11/76 (RHDS). Banks Peninsula, Oct 76, patchy distribution; three pockets of vigorous population, inhabiting bush, scrub, hedgerows and gardens (WFM, FH, EG).

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*)

Mt Aspiring National Park, Jan 77, several pairs, S. Young, Siberia and North Wilkin regions (PC). Homer Tunnel, north side, 21/1/77, two; one of them, approaching, hopped up and down almost vertically 3-4 inches for some time, then flew to join the second (ARL). Rather unapproachable in Tutoko and Harrison valleys, tame in Transit valley; one carrying a feather on 12/11/77 (TRH).

TREE MARTIN (*Hylochelidon nigricans*)

Rangitukia, East Cape area, 9/4/75, c. 20, with Welcome Swallows (JCH). Matata, 25/4/77, one with a flock of c. 40 Welcome Swallows, hawking insects over the river; it was observed resting on the sand on the southern bank and some rocks on the north bank. Once noticed, the paler underparts and white rump are very obvious; size difference between martin and swallow is not noticeable but with its square tail the martin tends to look more chunky. Flight less smooth and more fluttering than that of the swallows, and it was more inclined to pick insects from the water surface, getting a ducking in the process (PCL).

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*)

12/6/77, one settled on a vessel 23 miles SSW from Cape Maria van Diemen (19 miles west of 90 mile beach) and stayed for

2½ hours till the ship was 4 miles off Cape Reinga, when it flew off towards the land (NC). Ahipara, 28/2/77, occupied nest 2 ft from floor of a small shallow sea cave (GF). Poor Knights, 13/8/77, 2 at a large cave on west coast of Aorangi (PJM). Auckland area, New Lynn, 3/2/77 (CS); Ngapuhi road, Remuera, Sep 76 - Jan 77, one-four birds; first sighting here in 5 years' residence (MPB). Whitford, nesting on a beam under roof of carport, 4 young flew 5/11/76 (JB). Raglan, 4/6/77, flock of 150 over reservoir (GE). Coromandel, May-June 77, 20 at Buffalo Beach, 18 at Matarangi beach (ABJ). Rangitukia, April 75, 30; Tolaga Bay, 10/2/77, 8 flying up and down main street (JCH). Horahora, Mangatautari, 24/5/77, 3; have been in the vicinity for about a year (PCL). East end of Lake Rotoiti, a nest, 3 young, 19/12/76 (CHL). Westshore, H.B., 13/2/77, c. 100 (NBM). Mt Damper Station, Mangapapa road, Tahora, 27/7/76 (REL); Waitotara mouth, 28/11/76, 12 (RWW). Wanganui, Rapanui, Dec 76, 20 at a small lake (EGJ). Juddford and Pauatahanui, Feb 77 (RSS, WFC). Kapiti, 11-14/9/76, over a lagoon at north of island (MLF). Masterton, breeding at Te Ore Ore gravel pits (RHDS), c. 30 birds Jan-Feb 77; Ruamahanga river near Gladstone 25/2/77, 35, sunning on rocks or hawking nearby (MDD). West Coast, Kumara, 14/11/76, a pair (JRJ). Waimakariri gorge 4/12/76 (GG). Small flocks moving south, Oamaru March 77, Dunedin May 77; a few pairs breed around Lake Wainono, influx to lake late Feb-September (RJP). Hilderthorpe, 5/3/77, three over an irrigation pond near the sea (TCD). Southland, 1976, again abundant late autumn-late spring; odd birds still present at Lake Murihuku, Nov 76; one at Round Hill ponds 22/12/76; no evidence of breeding (RRS). Waimatuku, 13/3/77, 24 (MLB). Stewart Island, Old Neck, 7/5/77, 4 (LEH).

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*)

N. Mt Egmont, Tahurangi Lodge, 1524 m., 19/2/77, 2 on moss slopes (DGM). Plimmerton, 20/8/76, two on scree slopes adjacent to Paekakariki road; Rimutaka State Forest, two on a shallow stony stream (JLMM). Lake Wainono, late summer to winter visitor; nearest known breeding grounds Hunters Hills, 15 km away (RJP). Western Dart, vicinity Margaret Burn, Pass Burn, common among short tussock and mineral matter, 1200-1500 m., Jan 77 (PC).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*)

Clevedon, not seen for some years (HRMcK). Wairoa dam, Hunua, several heard 27/9/76; still in good numbers Tapu-Coroglen (BB). Taranaki, Oakura, 2/1/77, responded to taped calls as, on three occasions, did a stoat (JCH). Ward, April 77, group of 6 at sheep yards on a wet day (TJT).

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*)

Pakiri tidal estuary, 13/11/76 (BB). Te Toro, Waiuku, 11/9/76 (DAU). Turakina estuary, 8/7/76, many seen and heard (IWJ). Ngakawau river, Buller, many seen and heard on pakihi, 11/5/77 (KLO). West Coast, Kokiri 28/12/76 (WAW); inland from Okarito, and reported at Tatare, Oct 76 (GG); Okuru, Feb 76, answered taped calls (JCH). Deadman's swamp, Hollyford valley, 5/12/76 (MLB). Snares, 1976/77, the commonest passerine on the island, present in all habitats from near shore to forest; eggs found late Nov to late January (PMS).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*)

Franz Josef area, response of a party of 10 to a squeak bottle was an excited chattering, which ceased when the lure was silent but was resumed 50 yards further on when it was used again (PGS).

WHITEHEAD (*Mouhous albigilla*)

Little Barrier, birds feeding on the forest floor, apparently on insects, May 77 (RCM). Toatoa, 30/12/75 (JCH). E. Mt Egmont, Stratford Mountain House, Feb 77 (DGM). Manawatu, Tiritea dam, seen on several occasions 1976-77 (JI). Hinakura, Eastern Wairarapa, reported 21/11/76 (RHDS).

YELLOWHEAD (*M. ochrocephala*)

Nelson, Whangamoia saddle, 8/9/76, one with a flock of brown creepers and silvereyes (RG). Arthur's Pass, one seen to eat fungi from a tree trunk (AP). Dart, Jan 77, rather thinly distributed all the way to near Dart Hut, 940 m (PC). Rare in Harrison and Tutoko valleys, Dec 75 (TRH).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*)

Waioka river, Jan 77, on 40 yards of track I called up ten grey warblers, including a family of 5; I have never seen such aggressive or defensive behaviour as that displayed by the parent birds, which continually flew to within inches of my face (AB). Waihaorunga (near Waimate) 600 m., a nest 5 m. up in Oregon pine, opening facing NE, 13/10/76 (GG).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*)

Black fantails recorded at — Gisborne, 27/3/77; Mt Egmont, 6/6/77 (JCH); Mt Bruce, 5/4/77 (DJ); Tawa, 14/6/76 (MT) and Eastbourne, 25/4/77 (WAW); several near Greymouth (PGS); one at Okuru, 22/2/76 (JCH). Coromandel, small numbers 23-25/10/76; not recorded at Mt Maunapaki in Oct 76 or in May 77, small numbers only on Crosbie's Settlement track further south (BB). Wairoa, 27/2/77, one with a white tail; May 77, one with no tail, hawking insects with the same movement and skill as normal birds (GF).

PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*)

Apparently increasing in Hunua ranges and in Coromandel, 1976/77 (BB).

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

Lake Rotoiti, 15/2/76, three young fed near township (PJ). Banks Peninsula, confined to the last patches of bush, Summit road (WFM).

BLACK TIT (*P. m. danneferdi*)

Common throughout forested areas on Main and Broughton islands; seen feeding on the ground and hawking flies off a sealion; nests in cavities of logs which give some protection from the weather, eggs found early Nov-mid-Dec 76 (PMS).

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

Motu, 30/12/75, 4 (JCH). Paradise Valley Springs, Rotorua, 1/5/76 (AP). Waitaanga saddle, Feb 77, 3 (GD).

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

Tasman National Park, one seen on west side of Canaan valley, 9/2/77 (WAW). Two in cut-over forest, Oparara river basin, Karamea, 11/5/77 (KLO). Westland, frequent at Baxter's Creek and Moonlight river; 1/10/76, only few in S. branch, Hurunui river, in contrast to main branch. Eskhead Station homestead, 6/12/76; must have flown at least 6 miles from nearest known population, over open country (RG).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*)

Gisborne, a pair used the same nest for three successive clutches, 4, 3 and 2 eggs, last hatching 23/2/76 (AB). Snares, present in small numbers in forested areas Main and Broughton Islands; occasionally seen feeding in tussock areas; shy, did not allow close approach; nests found in forks of *Olearia* and on fern crowns, 3-4 eggs (PMS).

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*)

Okaihau, when we first arrived on the property in Dec 65 a young hen Blackbird joined us in our efforts to establish a vegetable garden, showing no fear of us, but markedly less confident with the children or with strangers. Year by year this friendliness continued; she would follow the rotary hoe wherever we used it and go up to 400 yards from her home ground. Her mate or mates never became tame; she raised two broods a year, but with less success than other Blackbirds in the area, sometimes only one chick surviving; we wondered if this was due to unsuitable diet as she frequently fed the chicks on food items from the household scrap heap. From the time she was 7 years old it appeared that moulting was becoming a more prolonged and debilitating effort; at age 9 this was even more apparent; she did not nest the following spring and died at age approx. 10 year 4 months (WSS). Rotorua, soft sub-song 2-9/5/77, under a japonica tree; clearly audible but quite different from normal song (RWJ). Gisborne, 26/10/77, a pair, which had a nest with newly hatched young, vigorously attacked a weka (JCH). Hastings, 31/10/76, just before 6 a.m., alarm calls from a pair of blackbirds. On the next door lawn were four fledglings in an evenly spaced group, all in a "freeze" position, beaks pointing upwards; 3 metres away a cat was crouching quietly. They were not, I think, ready to leave the nest, which was above them in a thick japonica bush, and apparently intact. Having chased the cat away I picked up 3 of the chicks and as the nest was inaccessible, put them on top of the fence, in sight of the parents; the fourth chick hopped under the japonica. As each chick was picked up it unfroze after a few seconds, struggled and emitted piercing screeches. Five days later two were being fed by the parents, the other two apparently perished (KVT). Snares, present in small numbers on Main and Broughton Islands, very flighty, did not allow close approach, likely to desert nests, of which 8 were found, eggs 2-4, in *Olearia* forks and fern crowns (PMS).

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)

Auckland, 15/11/76, 0600 hours, one bathing by fluttering its wings in the dew-covered leaves of a wattle, and later in a plum tree (AR). Whakaki lagoon, 22/9/76, late afternoon, 20 birds catching insects on the wing, in a weaving bat-like fashion, after the manner of swallows (JCH). Manawatu, very few in 1976 winter; 1977, came to fat in May, numerous since (EBJ). Snares, forest areas of Main and Broughton islands; most frequently seen feeding in *Hebe elliptica*;

3 nests with well feathered young found in *Hebe*, third and fourth weeks of Dec 76; adults seen to feed the young birds green Lepidoptera and craneflies; a bird heard singing late Feb 77 (PMS).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)

Tutukaka, Nov 76 (DW). Plentiful Tapu-Coroglen, Oct 76 (BB). Mercury Bay golf course, flock of 50 arrived 15/4/77, still there 30/6/77 (ABJ). Wairoa, June 77, numerous in town areas, on puriri and eucalyptus (GF). Nelson, Lake Rotoiti, 31/1/76, on a beech tree, probing bark, in which were small white insect eggs (PJ). Okarito, 6/6/67, extraordinary response to "squeak bottle"; one of three puffed out its feathers, assuming a round squat shape when perched on a branch and positively shouted back at me for about 3 minutes, then relaxed and uttered bell notes; the other two excited, uttered occasional small notes, but left the attack to the leader which was 6-9 ft from me all the time; at Alex Knob, Franz Josef, six within a few feet of me, again with a leader which kept up persistent shouting (PGS). Franz Josef, nest 16 metres up in a rata tree, 30/10/76; Wanaka, 25/10/76, feeding on flowering kowhai (GG).

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*)

Kamo, Tuis always used to come when flax was in flower; in 1977 a group of mynas arrived every forenoon; worked on each flax flower which had opened; only when the flowers were dead and mynas ceased their visits did a solitary tui appear, once only (AHG); Kerikeri, similar displacement of tuis by mynas in the flax flowering season (ATE). Waipu, 19/8/76, tui pursuing silvereyes for 30 metres, chase ending in a dense liquidamber tree (TGL). Huia, newly hatched tuis fed on nectar from flowering gum and Callistemon; 13/1/77, fledgling tuis on a pohutukawa tree being fed on nectar, and also feeding themselves on Pohutukawa flowers (JFS). Wairoa, June 77, regular visits to garden by tuis — my first sighting of a tui in town for over 2 years (GF).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*)

Tokerau beach. July, pecking at seaweed; 90 mile beach, July, feeding on the wet sand, apparently on some animal matter (ATE). Invercargill estuary, 5/9/76, 45 feeding in spartina grass (MLB). Stewart Island, March 76, one near Fern Gully (PMS); Dec 76, near Oban and on Mason-Freshwater flats (PJM). Snare, Nov 76, 2 feeding on seed heads of *Poa annua*, one on those of *P. astonii* (PMS).

CIRL BUNTING (*E. cirrus*)

Ward, male in full song dawn-dusk, 23/1/77; family group seen (BDH); Awatere valley, two miles from river mouth, Oct 75 (TJT). Feb 76, reported from Hawea, and from various localities in Waitaki valley, where in Jan 77 fewer were observed than in previous years (JCH).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*)

Snare, Main and Broughton islands, Nov 76-Jan 77, very small numbers; males heard calling, generally from predominantly *Senecio* forest; one nest found, 3 m. up in fork of *Senecio* just under the canopy, nest made of *Poa astonii*, wood fibres, lining of moss on the outside and feathers on the inside (PMS).

GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*)

Matata, 15/5/77, feeding on berries of boxthorn (PCL). Gisborne, Nov-Dec 75, an albino; taking maize, which was snatched from its beak by a sparrow; perhaps the same bird seen Sep-Oct 76 (JCH). Snares, Nov 76, male and female feeding on *Poa annua* seed heads; male and two females on landslide area (PMS).

GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*)

Snares, Nov 76, 2 feeding on *Poa annua* seed heads, later a flock of 6; two on landslide area, within forest (PMS).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*)

Aupouri peninsula, 1977, around dune lakes near Waihopo (ATE). Mangawhai, 14/11/76, on edge of pinewood at base of spit (BB). East Mt Egmont, Manganui ski ground, 1200 m., common 19/12/77 (DGM). Bulls, Dec 75, large numbers breeding in willow plantations and scrub along banks of Rangitikei river; not common on farmland away from the river (CHL). Rabbit Island, Nelson, flock of 150, 22/8/76 (FHB). North Esk river, 30/11/76, flock of 150 feeding on beech seed on floor of dense mountain beech forest (RG). Snares, up to 10 birds regularly seen and heard from Dec 76, in tussock and *Hebe* area of Sinkhole flat; 4/2/77, female and 7 juveniles feeding on *Poa annua* near station (PMS).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*)

Campbell Island, 5/7/76 - 1/2/77, two males and a female at hostel; may be nesting; one bird seen flying out from under corrugated iron roof of wharf shed (MM). Snares, Nov 76, 2 dead males found; up to 8 birds seen round station Nov 76-Jan 77, shy and retiring, no evidence of breeding (PMS).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

Poor Knights, 13/8/77, small flocks on Aorangi and Tawhiti Rahi (PJM). Cuvier, Jan 77, flocks engaged in aerobatics over pohutukawas; single birds "exploding" from long grass, like pheasants (BB). Auckland, 20/4/77, mimicking song of grey warbler (MJT). Large flocks fly to roost on Rabbit Island, off Mt Maunganui, but many birds breed and roost around Matapihi peninsula and Tauranga town area (KF). Hawkes Bay, Ahuriri, 23/4/77, about 1000 landed on mudflat to forage, then broke up into two groups, one group settling again where they had arisen, the other group flying to the middle of the estuary and settling on another sand flat (KVT). Tatare, Oct 76, four chicks in the pocket of a man's coat hanging in a farm shed (GG). Snares, a bird seen flying over the station at least twice on 19/12/76, not seen to land (PMS).

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Northland, several instances of mynas pecking at road-killed animals — hedgehog, harrier and a myna; a flock of 50 mynas gathered in an apple orchard at Kerikeri and caused much damage to the crop by pecking ripe fruit on the trees (ATE). Bay of Plenty, near Rangitaikei river bridge, 8/4/77, a partial albino; head not as dark as normal, back and breast brown, wings and tail except for middle pair of feathers, white (PJM).

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*)

Coromandel peninsula, Oct 76, a possible heard on Mt Moehau, a probable at Tapu saddle; April-May 77, one feeding on mahoe and coprosma berries at Mt Maumaupaki; Golden Cross, 3-4 birds Oct 76, one in Feb and April 77, in mixed forest with kamahi and tawa predominant; big timber trees (kauri, totara, rimu) were cut out some years ago; where the kokako were found the tawa was smaller than in nearby bush, and there were no very large trees at all in the area (BB, SMR, MSF et al). Otanewainuku, near Te Puke, a further report, 27/12/76, 3 in tawa trees on roadside only 100 yards in from road, at least 2 others calling; singing noticeably tapered off after 0700 hours (SCS).

SOUTH ISLAND KOKAKO (*C. c. cinerea*)

A possible sighting in Nov 76, south bank of Paringa river 2 miles upstream from main road bridge, by Mr T. F. Condon, Mahitahi; the area is under mixed silver beech-podocarp forest with a rich scrub understorey; the bird, seen when Mr Condon took shelter under a tree during a heavy shower, was dark, larger than a tui, with conspicuous markings on its face; when he tried to get closer it flew further into the bush (SCS).

BLACK BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)

Silverdale, Aug 76 (HAR). Numerous reports of black-backed and hybrids in Gisborne-East Cape area; a pair attacked and routed two cock pheasants (JCH). Manawatu, quite numerous throughout but tends to be more common away from the dunelands. This appears to be a relatively recent phenomenon, possibly a result of the influx in February-March 76. 3 seen in Southern Wairarapa 24/7/77 (HAR).

WHITE BACKED MAGPIE (*G. hypoleuca*)

Little Barrier, one appeared in May 77 (RCM). Mercury Bay Golf Course, 5/9/76, 8 attacking a harrier in the air (ABJ). Near Wanganui, May 77, occasionally attacking Cattle Egrets (DJ). Porirua, 25/6/75, chasing feeding gulls; Tawa, a drake mallard on an enclosed lawn was viciously pecked by magpies and forced down when it tried to take off; as I approached the magpies withdrew, the mallard recovered and flew, and the magpies resumed feeding (MT). Taramakau valley, Apr-June 77 (JRJ).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*)

Waiuku, 1977, one; Miranda, 12/3/77, 13 circling high on a thermal over the sea towards Kairito (HRMcK) and a further 3 seen later, thermalling up out of sight; 29/3/77, 40, feeding (BB); Waitakururu, 4 on 31/5/77 (JCH). Maketu, 3/10/76, juvenile being chased by Black-backed Gulls, Caspian Tern and Stilts (AP). Tolaga Bay, 11/4/77, 15 feeding in a paddock; regrowth of colony almost exterminated some years ago; spreading in Gisborne area, frequent reports of 1-5 birds since July 76; odd birds at Wairoa, Nov 75 (JCH), and Mahia, July 75 (GF). Putorino, Sep 75, 60 plus (JCH); Tutira, Jan 77, 17 (RMW); Tangoio, Oct 75, 80, 37 nests in gum trees (JCH); 6/5/75, 4 eggs in a nest 15-20 m. up a Norfolk pine, Napier marine parade (CHL). Apiti, 25/4/77, 54 (JI). Eketahuna, 28/8/75, 6 (GF). Aug 77, 7 at Pirinoa (RNC), 12 at Kumanga (MLF). Ward, 11/5/77, one feeding in a paddock infested with grass grub (TJT). Little River, Banks Peninsula, 2/2/77, 3 (BB).