

SHORT NOTES

SEEDS FROM A TUI

On 14 September 1976 a female Tui (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*) was found dead in the grounds of the Forest Research Institute, Whakarewarewa, Rotorua. It had apparently hit a window of a building close to Silviculture House.

On 15 September, I dissected the Tui to ascertain what it had been eating. The digestive tract contained eleven totara seeds (*Podocarpus totara*), two still attached to the receptacles, which appeared little altered except for colour. From the bright red of fresh totara receptacles they had turned to a bright yellow. There were also seven other receptacles in the gut. Little difference was apparent between the receptacles in the gizzard and those in the cloaca and all the seeds appeared unaltered.

The crop and oesophagus were damaged in the dissection.

Near the place where the Tui was found there is a totara tree approximately 11 metres high which was still bearing many seeds in September 1976. Some of the seed had undeveloped green receptacles but much of it had fully developed red receptacles.

When several of the seeds on red receptacles were cut in half they were found to contain no embryo.

The same tree had carried seed late in the previous year as well and although the seed was apparently inviable, tuis nevertheless made use of the fleshy receptacles available late in the season.

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AN UNUSUAL PETREL NEAR THE CHATHAM ISLANDS, NEW ZEALAND

INTRODUCTION

While trolling for tuna from f.r.v. *James Cook* 80 km west of the Chatham Islands on 8 March 1975, the vessel was accompanied by a peculiar petrel for about 15 minutes. Field observations supplemented with 35 mm colour slides taken with the aid of a 300 mm telescopic lens indicate that the bird was either a light-phase Kermadec Petrel, *Pterodroma neglecta* (Schlegel, 1863), or a light-phase Herald