

FIELD STUDY COURSE, BAY OF PLENTY, JANUARY 1978

By A. T. EDGAR

ABSTRACT

Activities during the Bay of Plenty Study Course of 8-15 January 1978 are described. 94 species seen during the course are listed, with notes on 27 other species not recorded during the course, but known to have occurred along this coastline in recent years.

INTRODUCTION

Planning the course was a joint effort by Roy Weston and Paddy Latham (Bay of Plenty), Ray Jackson (Volcanic Plateau), Beth Brown (South Auckland) and Betty Seddon (Waikato). Most of the visitors stayed at Papamoa Domain camping ground, not far from Papamoa Beach Play Centre where evening meetings were held for discussion, talks and slides and where excellent evening meals were provided. A final social gathering was held at the residence of Rosemary and Paddy Latham, where members enjoyed a barbecue, prepared by Bryony Veitch and Hazel Harty, with Richard Veitch in his best form as chef.

Fair weather throughout the week enabled completion of the work plan, which provided for a census of Tauranga Harbour (11 January) and of Ohiwa Harbour and Whakatane Heads (13 January). On 14 January members travelled inland to Otanewainuku Bush Reserve. On other days members split into three groups, each of which had one day at each of three predominantly coastal localities — Kaituna Cut-Maketu; Little Waihi-Kaikokopu Swamp; Matata-Tarawera estuary-Awaiti Reserve-Thornton. Beach patrols for seabird wrecks were conducted during the course as opportunity permitted.

Checklist sheets were provided for recording observations and from these 38 mapping cards were completed, covering 25 map squares. Two results sheets of waders and water birds were compiled and sent to all who took part.

The following field observers were present for all or part of the course — A. T. Edgar, J. Hawken (Northland); S. Chamberlin, R., P. & J. Hooper (North Auckland); P. Fooks, G. & C. Schischka, R. B. Sibson, E. Spragg, M. J. Taylor (Auckland); J. A. & B. Brown, H. Harty, C. R. Veitch (South Auckland); M. A. Barnes, J. F. Cockrem, R. Mayhill, M. Rossiter, S. M. Timmins, L. Wilson (Waikato); H. Anderson, P. Densem, K. Fletcher, B. Goffin, P. C. M. Latham, A. McCutchan, R. V. McLintock, R. M. Weston (Bay of Plenty); A. Palliser (Volcanic Plateau); C. Scadden (Wairarapa); G. A. Brown, A. Dorman, T. P. Fisher, E. Gibbons, D. Goodale, A. Husson, M. M. Neill, P. Rider, J. Young (Wellington); P. Jenkins (Marlborough); M. Feaver, D. Rorke (UK). (E. & O. E.)

OTANEWAINUKU BUSH RESERVE

This remnant of native forest, 15 km south of Te Puke, was visited on 14 January, the last day of the course. Parties worked over the bush reserve and adjoining open country and recorded: N.Z. Pigeon (24), Shining Cuckoo (1), Long-tailed Cuckoo (11), Kingfisher (7), Rifleman (1), Pipit (1), Whitehead (6+), Grey Warbler (71), Fantail (61), Pied Tit (19), Robin (19), Silvereye (40), Bellbird (33), Tui (25) and a probable Kokako (since confirmed). Also noted were Harrier, California Quail, Black-backed Gull (1), Skylark, Thrush, Blackbird, Yellowhammer (12), Chaffinch (12), Greenfinch (2), Goldfinch (6), Sparrow, Myna and White-backed Magpie.

These results are not repeated in the species list below.

AWAITI WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT RESERVE

This lies south of Tarawera river mouth and is a series of lagoons with raupo and willow swamp, surrounded by farmland. On 12 January, there were 32 Little Black, 14 Black and 4 Little Shags, but of 20 nests in two willows only one was occupied, by a Little Black Shag. Up to 50 Little Shags were counted on 10 January, plus White-faced Heron, Bittern, Mallard (150), Grey Duck (4), Shoveler (8), Pukeko (9). Other species recorded in and around the reserve were Black Swan, Pheasant, Harrier, Pied Stilt, Black-backed Gull, Kingfisher, Skylark, Swallow, Fantail, Thrush, Blackbird, Silvereye, Yellowhammer, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Sparrow, Starling and Myna.

SEABIRDS

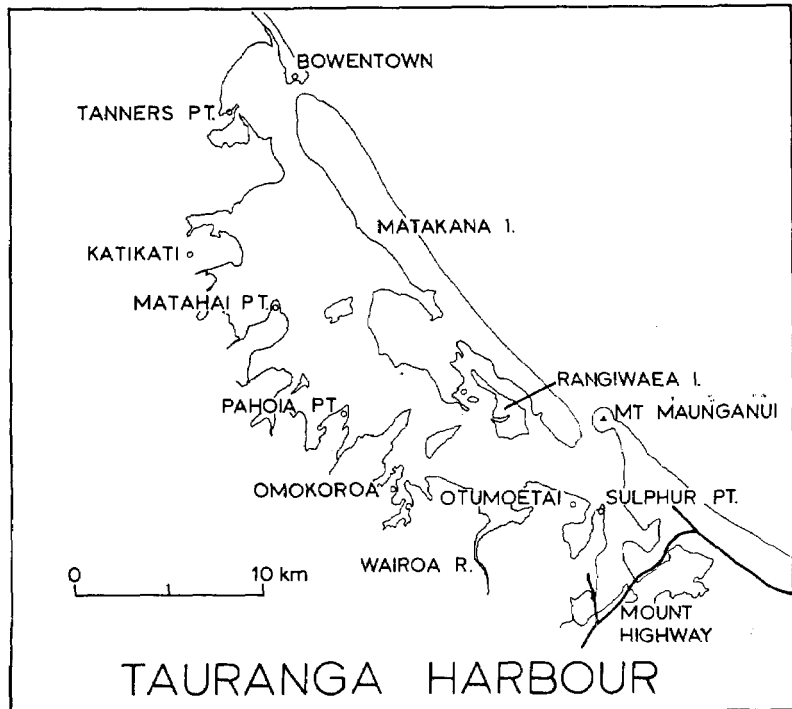
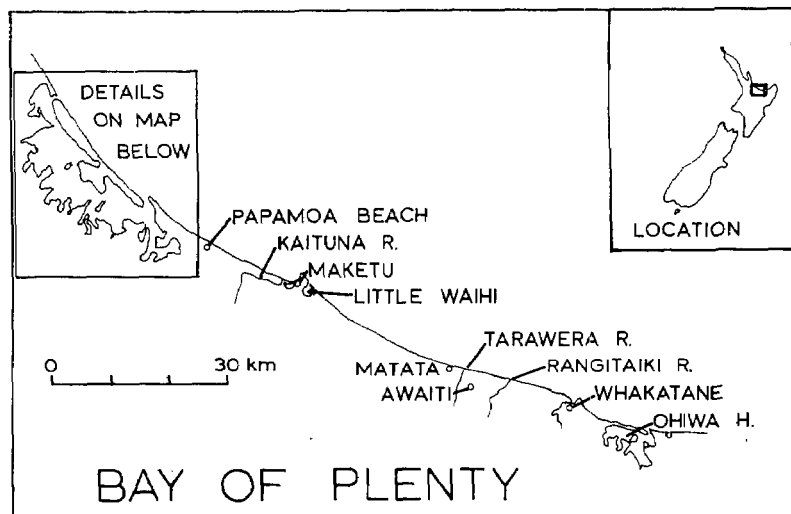
Beach patrols between Matakana and Whakatane produced 99 specimens including Blue Penguin (3), Cape Pigeon (1), Grey-faced Petrel (3), Prion sp. (2); Shearwaters: Flesh-footed (2), Buller's (2), Sooty (4), Short-tailed (46), Fluttering (12), Hutton's (1); Diving Petrel (9), White-faced Storm Petrel (2) and miscellaneous (12).

On 12 January observers at Maketu-Little Waihi had a bonus when strong winds brought close inshore flocks of free-flying Shearwaters — Flesh-footed (50), Buller's (10), Sooty (6), Fluttering (c. 300) and also Diving Petrels (10).

One Gannet was recorded inside Tauranga Harbour, and one or two birds offshore at Maketu, Little Waihi, Tarawera estuary and Whakatane.

COASTAL COUNTS: LAND, SHORE AND FRESHWATER BIRDS

Tauranga Harbour count was done at the top of a spring tide (3.6 m). Parties or individuals worked ten localities around the harbour, Tanner's Point-Bowentown, Matakana, Matahai Point, Katikati, Pahoia, Omokoroa, Wairoa estuary, Otumoetai, Sulphur Point, and the area east of the Mount highway (Welcome Bay etc.). Rangiwaia and other islands were covered by a boat party, and boats were also used in the Tanner's Point-Bowentown area.



Ohiwa Harbour was covered by one party on Ohiwa Spit, other parties working around the harbour, and a boat party. A brief visit was paid to Whakatane Heads and Ohope oxidation ponds.

Each of the other localities (Kaituna cut-Maketu, Little Waihi-Kaikokopu swamp and Matata-Tarawera estuary-Thornton) was visited on each of three days by different parties.

The information from the census sheets is presented in the form of an annotated list, which also includes species not observed during the course but known to have occurred along Bay of Plenty coastline during recent years. It is hoped that this will be useful to observers, as it provides a better picture of birdlife in the Bay than could be obtained from tabulated records for one week in midsummer 1978.

SPECIES LIST (COASTAL AREAS)

Locality names are abbreviated thus — Tauranga Harbour, TH; Kaituna cut-Maketu, KM; Little Waihi, LW; Matata, M; Tarawera estuary, T; Rangitaiki estuary (Thornton), R; Whakatane, W; Ohiwa Harbour and Ohope, OH.

For species recorded during coastal counts, the species name is followed by the course record — locality abbreviation and number of birds counted; where appropriate this is followed by a short note on previous sightings, etc.

Species not recorded in January 1978 are marked with an asterisk; their inclusion is supported by a brief reference to a local observer or published material.

Names of observers are omitted from course records, but for other records are given in full, or identified by initials if they were on the course.

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*) R, one at lagoon. A previous sighting at Maketu, May 1976 (PCML).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*) TH, 18; KM, 29; LW, 14; M/T/R, 23; OH, 8; total 92.

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*) TH, 35; KM, 33; LW, 4; M/T/R, 43; W, 35; total 150.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*) TH, 7; LW, 4; T, 25; R, 10; OH, 5; total 51. Seasonal in the eastern end of TH, scarce or absent September-February; winter flocks, each of c. 100 birds, at Wairoa estuary, Waimapu estuary and Welcome Bay (KF). June 1977, c. 200 on a pylon opposite Matapihi bridge (Mount highway) and 90 on sandbanks in the channel to the east (J. H. Seddon). Numbers are augmented in autumn and winter elsewhere along the Bay, e.g., LW, 32 in July 1975; R, 40 in April 1977 (PCML); known to have occurred at M since 1940 (RBS).

LITTLE SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*) TH, 165; KM, 27; LW, 24; T, 25; R, 4; W, 6; OH, 51; total 302. Probably an undercount (see under White-faced Heron). Plentiful and obvious around TH, March-August (KF).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) TH, 637; KM, 53; LW, 73; M/T/R, 14; W, 5; OH, 177; total 959. It has been suggested that even the large number recorded at TH may be an undercount. In harbour and estuary surveys where the principal objective is a count of waders, birds are counted when waders will be on their high tide roosts, and it is therefore not always practicable at the same time to inspect every location where herons and shags may have congregated in mangroves, pines or other trees, or where Pied Stilts, displaced by a high tide, may be in paddocks well back from the count area. It may be of interest to note that regular counts in Manukau Harbour usually give a total of about 350 White-faced Herons; once, in December 1969, 689 were recorded.

*WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*) Autumn and winter visitor (March-September) to estuaries and lagoons from TH to OH, in small numbers.

*LITTLE EGRET (*E. garzetta*) Recorded as a winter visitor since 1957 (RBS). LW, July-October 1975, two, later one (PCML); 1976, T, one, June; M, one, July (RMW, AP).

REEF HERON (*E. sacra*) TH, 4 (Matakana, Wairoa estuary, Sulphur Point); KM, one. At a high tide count some would have been missed. Reef Herons are present around Tanner's Point (JFC); up to 7 have recently been recorded in Tauranga city/Sulphur Point area (KF), and others are reported from LW, W and OH.

*CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) LW, January 1976, one; 1977, KM, one June-July; 7 between Thornton and Matata, August (PCML, AP).

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris*) TH, one (Matakana); KM, 3; LW, 1; M, 2; OH, 2; total 9. No special search; has been observed in Tanner's Point area (JFC) and around the southern end of TH (KF); widespread, in suitable localities.

*GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*) October 1975, LW, 2 (PCML).

*WHITE IBIS (*Threskiornis molucca*) Single birds at KM and LW, 1975 July, October; 1976 May; 1977 May (PCML).

*ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia*) KM, single birds 1975 July; 1976 May, October; and at M, 1975 July, one (PCML, AP).

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*) TH, 1058; M, c. 100; R, 30; total 1188.

*CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*) TH, Tanner's Point, one with Black Swans, January 1978 (JFC). KF informs me that Mr Turner, Pahoia, has a semi-domesticated flock of 65, some of which tend to go wild in the summer months.

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*) R, 4; W, 3; total 7. KM, September 1976, one (AP); M, April-May 1977, up to 120 (PCML).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*) TH, 622; KM, c. 100; LW, c. 200; M, c. 100; T, 12; R, c. 650; W, 35; OH, 56; total 1775.

GREY DUCK (*A. superciliosa*) TH, 251; KM, 1; LW, 20; M, 6; R, 100; W, 1; total 379.

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*) TH, 6; KM, 12; M, 5; total 23. May 1977, M, c. 100 (PCML).

N.Z. SHOVELER (*A. rhynchotis*) LW, 2; M, 50; R, 12; total 64. July 1974, KM, 15; July 1977, M, c. 300 (PCML).

N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) M, 5; T, 8; R, 1; total 14.

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*) Generally distributed.

*N.Z. FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) No recent records. One reported at Matata, October 1961 (J. M. Hamilton); five sightings around Tauranga Domain gates, Cameron Road, Welcome Bay, in June 1963 (D. C. Smith).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsiliphorus*) TH (Omokoroā), KM, M. Earlier records from other areas around TH, and from W and OH. Apparently not very common but may be increasing round Maketu (AP).

CALIFORNIA QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*) TH, three localities; KM, LW, R, OH. Apparently widely distributed.

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*) Recorded at eight localities, TH to OH.

BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*) LW, 1. Known to breed around Tauranga Harbour (RVMcL *et al*); recorded KM, 1975 and 1976 (PCML, AP); M, 1975-77 (AP); OH, 1972 (RMW) and 1974 (G. Foreman).

*WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*) In 1967, the caretaker of the hot pool at the foot of Mount Maunganui reported that two came out of the scrub behind the baths (RVMcL). Apparently some birds were illegally liberated in this area (RMW).

*MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*) April 1975, Matata (AP).

*SPOTLESS CRAKE (*P. tabuensis*) 1975, TH, Te Puna Inlet (RVMcL); formerly bred in a swamp at Papamoa Beach (PCML); present in small numbers in raupo swamps, 1975 sightings at LW and M (AP).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*) TH (five localities), LW, M, T, R, W, OH. Widespread.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*) TH, 89; KM, 2; LW, 2; OH, 51; total 144. No recent records of large winter flocks.

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*) TH, 84; KM, 40+; LW, 26; T, 1; R, 2; W, 7; OH, 37; total 147.

*SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*) October 1975, a single straggler at Matata (H. R. McKenzie, *Notornis* 7: 196).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*) TH (Matahai Point) 3; KM, 11; LW, 16; OH, 32; total 59. 1968, October, 44 at Matahai Point, TH; 1975, January, 45 at KM (J. H. Seddon); 1976, November, LW, 24; KM, 30; OH, 34; total 88 (AP). December, OH, 51 (RMW). 1977, January, KM, 104, one of which over-wintered (AP); TH, April, 16 at Sulphur Point (KF); November, 14 at north-east end of Welcome Bay, near Mount highway (BG) and a similar flock present in the same general area on 12 March 1978 (KF).

N.Z. DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*) TH, 34 (Matakana 22, Sulphur Point 12); KM, 8; LW, 13; R, 1; OH, 13; total 69. Autumn flocks at OH, March 1972, 42; March 1978, 43 (RMW). Five or six pairs breed at Sulphur Point, August-December, leaving the area about February. In September 1976 four very pale birds arrived; they had a lemon-yellow wash on their breasts (KF). One such bird was seen on 7 January 1978. It was actively "bobbing" and appeared to be loosely attached to three normal young birds of the year. Except on its face, the white parts of its plumage were suffused with pale yellow and the red patch on its belly also had a yellow tinge (J. H. Seddon, ATE).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*C. bicinctus*) TH, 78; KM, 26; LW, 2; R, 3; OH, 107; total 216. Breeds regularly at Sulphur Point, arriving late August and leaving when the chicks are ready to fly (KF).

*BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL (*C. melanops*) 1977, May, R, 2 adults and 2 juveniles; July, KM, 7 (PCML, AP).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) TH (Sulphur Point) 36; KM, 8; OH, 1; total 45. Wrybill were apparently on the move; only 23 were counted at Sulphur Point on 7 January, 36 on 11 January; numbers had built up to 100 in February (KF). In 1977, 99 were counted in March (PCML), peak numbers till May, some reduction thereafter, odd birds present until early November (KF).

Curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) KM, 5; OH, 1; total 6. In 1976, 6 were present at KM in January, 7 in December (AP).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus variegatus*) TH (Omokoroa), 1; KM, 1; OH, 9; total 11.

*AMERICAN WHIMBREL (*N. p. hudsonicus*) H. R. McKenzie recorded one at Ohiwa in June and December 1949 (Oliver, 1955).

*LITTLE WHIMBREL (*N. minutus*) KM, one on 6 January 1976 (AP).

*ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa limosa melanoroides*) Bowentown Heads, 19 December 1974, 15 January 1975 (G. L. N. Arnold, *Notornis* 23: 257).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*L. lapponica*) TH, 7469; KM, c. 1000; LW, 20; OH, 3595; W, 3; total 12087. The TH high tide count gave 3500 at Tanner's Point-Bowtown in the north and 3500 at Sulphur Point in the south; 305 at Matahai Point and small numbers (47, 71, 4, 42) at four other localities. Up to 450 godwits were recorded at Little Waihi but it appears that on a very high tide most of them fly to Kaituna for lack of roosting space on the Little Waihi side. For this record I have therefore shown the highest number recorded at KM and the lowest number at LW.

GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) TH (Matahai Point) one, which had been in the area since late November (PCML, BG). A doubtful record from KM was not confirmed.

*MARSH SANDPIPER (*T. stagnatilis*) January-February 1970, KM, 4 (J. H. Seddon, *Notornis* 18: 132).

SIBERIAN TATTLER (*T. brevipes*) KM, 1. 1977, May, one at Mount Maunganui (PCML). TH, Sulphur Point, January-March 1967, 3 tattlers, probably this species (RVMcL). T, September 1966, a single bird, not certainly identified but thought to be a Wandering Tattler (*T. incana*) because of its general dark colour, including underparts (H. R. McKenzie, *Notornis* 15: 38).

*TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*) OH, Port Ohope Spit, one on 16 October 1977, the first Bay of Plenty record (RMW).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) TH, 260; KM, 7; OH, 4; total 271. Has also been recorded at KM/LW (AP).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) KM, 7. A rare bird in Bay of Plenty; 22 at KM/LW, January 1976 (AP); a single bird at Bowen-town shellbank on 26 March 1978 was the first noted in this area in several years of observation (JFC).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*) TH (Sulphur Point), 7; KM, 7; total 14. 1976, November, KM, 14 (PCML).

*PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*) 1972 March, KM, one (J. H. Seddon).

*CURLEW SANDPIPER (*C. ferruginea*) 1976 records, Sulphur Point, TH (RVMcL) and up to 13 at KM (PCML).

RED-NECKED STINT (*C. ruficollis*) KM, 6. 1975, November, T, 1 (R. W. Jackson).

*SANDERLING (*C. alba*) 1967, December, KM, 5 (R. W. Jackson, *Notornis* 15: 122).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus h. leucocephalus*) TH, 1233; KM, 400; LW, 150; M, 10; T, 20; R, 6; W, 4; OH, 492; total 2315.

*GREY PHALAROPE (*Phalaropus fulicarius*) 1977, 19-26 June, Kaituna lagoon, one bird (BB, PCML, AP, RMW).

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) KM, 1; LW, 5; M/T/R, 1; total 7. Frequent sightings of up to six birds at a time, along the coastline from Mount Maunganui to Ohope, in season (PCML, AP, *et al*).

POMARINE SKUA (*S. pomarinus*) LW, 1.

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) TH, 4479; KM, 155; LW, 190; M/T/R, 138; W, 90; OH, 282; total 5334. The figure for TH includes a large concentration (4289) at Matakana, but does not include the large numbers which frequent town areas, docks and rubbish dumps, where no count was made. The same would apply to other centres of population in the Bay.

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*) TH, 377; KM, 228; LW, 360; M/T/R, 84; W, 209; OH, 84; total 1342. Here again the recorded count is no more than a fraction of the total population; no attempt was made to count birds in town areas, at dumps, or in paddocks except those adjacent to estuaries and lagoons.

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*) OH, 32. Mainly a winter visitor, usually in small numbers, but R. W. Jackson recorded c. 1000 on a Kaituna paddock in June 1966. P. Densem recorded nesting at Matakana in 1967; AP found 14 pairs on eggs at a White-fronted Tern colony at Ohiwa in 1975; J. H. Seddon noted 11 adults and 3 immatures at Sulphur Point, June 1977.

*BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*) A winter visitor, April-August, e.g. T, May 1976, 8 (PCML); R, 1975, 3 (AP); June 1977, 32 (RMW).

*WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*C. leucopterus*) Singles, and occasionally two birds, have visited Bowentown, KM and R at intervals over the period 1960-1977 (various observers).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) TH, 191; KM, 4; LW, 6; M/T/R, 4; W, 2; OH, 42; total 249. Has bred on a sandbank at Bowentown for some years; on 2 January 1978 80 adults were present, with eggs and chicks; by 11 January the colony had been washed out (JFC). 130 birds were counted at Sulphur Point in late February 1978 (KF).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*) A lone bird at Sulphur Point, offering fish to Little Terns (various observers) and once to a New Zealand Dotterel (J. H. Seddon).

LITTLE TERN (*S. albigrons*) TH (Sulphur Point) 7; R, 1; OH, 5; total 13. Single birds at KM, May and November 1976 (AP). Up to 12 present at Sulphur Point, January-March 1977. They tend to wander, as KF found 9 on a sandbank at Rotary Park, Maungatapu (Mount highway) at high tide on 29 January 1977; a single bird was present there on 7 January 1978 (ATE).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*) TH, 11 January, 147; 13 January, W, 300; OH, 624. Counts at other localities on 9, 10 and 12 January were — KM, 5, 65, 49; LW, 57, 23, 120; M/T/R, 435, 470, 3300; total c. 4500. Apparently considerable movement, and a big influx on 12 January. Nesting colonies at Mount Maunganui on offshore rocks and on Motuotau Island, were still occupied in January 1978 (KF).

*SOOTY TERN (*S. fuscata*) Tauranga, February 1936, after a heavy storm (Oliver 1955).

*GREY TERNLET (*Procelsterna cerulea*) February 1974, 3 at Astrolabe Reef, north of Motiti Island (PCML). Unconfirmed reports in 1976, Matata (January) and Whakatane River (October) per AP.

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) OH, 1.

FERAL PIGEON (*Columba livia*) Mt Maunganui, large numbers in dock area, flying to roost on Motuotau Island (KF) where they are reported to nest in shearwater burrows (CRV); also recorded at LW; M, 30; R, 20; W.

*BARBARY DOVE (*Streptopelia risoria*) Port Ohope, January 1975 (RMW).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx lucidus*) LW, 1.

*LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*) Mt Maunganui, December 1974, one (PCML).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta*) TH, 9; KM, 2; LW, 2; M, 2; OH/W, c. 40. More generally distributed around TH than the figure for that area would suggest (JFC, KF). Population along KM/LW/M coastline increases in winter, e.g. 10 at KM in June 1977 (RMW).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*) Generally distributed.

*TREE MARTIN (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) T, January 1977, one with a flock of 40 Welcome Swallows (PCML).

WELCOME SWALLOW (*Hirundo neoxena*) Plentiful throughout.

N.Z. PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) KM, W, OH.

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*) LW, T, OH.

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*) Plentiful around TH; LW, M, T. Also recorded at OH (AP).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*) TH, LW, R, W, OH; probably generally distributed.

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*); SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*); BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*); SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*) Recorded in all count areas.

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) TH, W. Much of the coastal strip is not "tui country." Tuis come into Tauranga city areas in fair numbers in winter and spring (KF).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*); CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*); GREENFINCH (*Carduelis chloris*); GOLDFINCH (*C. carduelis*) Recorded in all count areas.

REDPOLL (*Acanthis flammea*) Recorded only at Mount Maunganui and KM. Breeds at KM (AP). On Papamoa paddocks in winter 1973 PCML noted large mixed finch flocks in which Redpolls were the dominant species.

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) Throughout.

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) All count areas. Large flocks roost on Mctuctau island off Mt Maunganui; further large numbers breed and roost in Tauranga town area and around Matapihi, Mount highway (KF).

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) Plentiful throughout.

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen hypoleuca*) TH, 4; Papamoa, 1; LW, 1; OH, 8. Also recorded at TM (AP). Not plentiful on the coastal strip but commoner inland (KF).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*) KM, October 1976, a juvenile, being chased by gulls, terns and stilts (AP). During the course, one at Omokoroa, TH; 2 flying over paddocks near LW.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to the organisers of a highly successful operation, to those who planned and executed the catering arrangements and to landowners who permitted access through their properties. Many of the visitors had little or no previous knowledge of the area, and were most grateful for the help and guidance of local members and others already well acquainted with Bay of Plenty and its birdlife. Wildlife Service officers Peter Fisher and Richard Veitch made notable contributions to the success of the exercise and Wayne Price was also most helpful.

I am grateful to members who sent notes on the species sheets and particularly to those who read and commented on the draft of this paper, and to CRV for the maps. It is hoped that publication of course results will encourage members from other regions to visit this fruitful area and will stimulate local observers to continue their work. It is suggested that an important part of this, in the short term, should be completion of mapping cards. The Provisional Atlas shows gaps which, with diligent search and recording, can be filled before publication of the final atlas.

A. T. EDGAR, *Inlet Road, Kerikeri.*