

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF BIRDS IN N.Z.—V.

GANNET.

A fine study of a gannet in flight, taken at the Mahuki gannetry (see note below) by Dr. W. M. Hamilton, together with a general view of the colony is included in the photographic series in this issue (plates V. and VII).

KINGFISHER.

Male and female kingfishers (plates VI. and VII.) are featured in the latest contribution by Mr. K. V. Bigwood, of Christchurch. The male bird is depicted holding a crab in its bill and the female is perched momentarily at the entrance to its nesting hole, with a lizard.

MAHUKI GANNETRY, Great Barrier.—On January 5, 1950, Mahuki gannetry was revisited (see Vol 2, p. 128). The colony appeared to be in a thriving condition. A count showed 375 chicks in various stages of development and three eggs. A considerable number of birds took to the wing and did not settle while we remained in the vicinity. It was, therefore, not possible to make a count of the total birds in the colony.—W. M. Hamilton, Wellington.

DISTRIBUTION OF WEKA.—As regional organiser for the Auckland district I have sent the following circular to members in the Gisborne district. Members elsewhere who have information of interest regarding this bird are invited also to pass it on. The circular states: "The Society is interested in obtaining information on the North Island weka (*Gallirallus greyi*) in the Gisborne-East Coast area. It is known that wekas are subject to 'irruptions' in which whole populations leave one district for another (as is described by Guthrie-Smith in 'Tutira'). Apparently such a movement has taken place in the Gisborne area, where wekas have recently appeared. It will be greatly appreciated if you will make inquiries concerning the boundaries and numbers of this bird in your district, also of any noticeable increase or decrease since earlier times and any other details of interest. Please inform any friends who may care to help."—J. C. Davenport, Auckland.

STILTS NESTING AT ARDMORE, 1948-49 and 1949-50.—Pairs of stilts nested on my farm again in 1948 and 1949 but I was not so successful as in previous years in observing them. To the results given in "N.Z. Bird Notes," vol. 3, No. 4, p. 108, I can add only one further record from hatching to flying. Sept. 4, 1948: Found bird sitting on three eggs; 24th, egg chipped; 25th, chicks were hatched at 4 p.m.; Oct. 31st, one chick made first flight; Nov. 1, other two chicks flew; Nov. 30th, family left. For these chicks the periods from hatching to flying were 36, 37 and 37 days. This is longer than the average of previous observations. This family came back at intervals later, usually in spells of wet weather. In 1949 a pair made nests in July and August but did not use them. A third nest had three eggs which hatched on Sept. 11, but illness prevented my obtaining a record. The young birds were safely reared. The family of two adults and three chicks returned on 13/4/50 for a short visit.—A. F. Stokes, Ardmore, Papakura.

NEST RECORDS INVESTIGATION.—With a view to increasing our knowledge of breeding and incubation data, a nest records investigation is being undertaken by the Society. Members are invited to record their observations of all nests (in which eggs are laid) on cards which have been printed and are available to members. In order to collect as much information as possible, it is urged that members fill in cards for all nests of which they have records, for past as well as future years. The organisation of the investigation is being carried out by Mr. J. King, 124 Renall Street, Masterton, to whom requests for cards should be made, and to whom completed cards should be sent. Postage should be sent with the requests.