The life-history of the redpoll is complex and no authentic appreciation is attainable since elementary data relative to nesting activities remains incomplete. Puzzling features of the species behaviour in the breeding season is the tendency for non-breeding males of the previous year's hatch to skulk about with females in the territory when males are silent, or absent. Behaviour also requiring study is the congregation in mid-October of groups of males in patches of scrub with parties of females nearby. Though probably related to the mating activities described, this behaviour is interesting as superficially it shows resemblance to lek display.

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THE POSITION OF THE MYNA IN 1950.

by J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

Since publication of details of the distribution of the myna **(Acridotheres tristis)** in New Zealand (N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 3, No. 2, Oct., 1948) certain additional information has appeared in various issues of that journal and its continuation "Notornis." Other material has been passed on to me and is here reproduced and a survey made of the position as it is known up to the end of 1950. Thanks are offered to those members and others whose reports have been drawn on: particular mention must be made of Mr. E. G. Turbott who has collected many of the Auckland records.

WAIRARAPA.

In the Wairarapa the myna retains a precarious foothold in Featherston, Greytown, Carterton and Martinborough. It has apparently now disappeared from Masterton and the last record I have is of two birds in March, 1950.

HAWKE'S BAY—EAST CAPE.

An additional early record is of a bird seen at Woodville (1933, R. H. D. Stidolph). I have no record of any change of status in Hawke's Bay, but at Matahua Station, 14 miles west of Ruatoria, C. K. Williams states they are fewer in numbers than in 1920.

MANAWATU-TARANAKI.

Records from all parts of the Manawatu remain sparse, particularly from northern Manawatu.

From west of the Hawera-New Plymouth Road comes information from B. D. Heather that mynas are present in small numbers in most of the townships (e.g. Puniho, Rahotu, Pihama, Manaia) on the Opunake coast road and also inland, but are rarely seen away from townships. They exist in fair numbers in Opunake. He has also seen a bird between Mt. Messenger and Mokau.

WAIKATO-AUCKLAND.

They are now present at Atiamuri (October, 1950, R.H.D.S.), and C. A. Fleming writes (August, 1950), "Mynas are now in Rotorua, where they are said to be numerous—in fact, they were not there in May, 1948. I also saw a pair at Mihi on the Rotorua-Taupo Road."

On the Coromandel Peninsula, R. McKenzie (November, 1948) has persistent reports of birds breeding at Whitianga on the east coast, where

12 to 16 years ago they were said to be quite common, and of odd birds at Coromandel. They are common at Thames.

D. N. Lilburne states they are now (January, 1949) in Hunua, and a pair was seen in Moumoukai Valley. They are reported numerous in Matamata.

From Auckland there are increasingly numerous records, and those additional to published ones are:— Westfield, Mangere Bridge, West Tamaki-Glen Innes, Mt. Wellington Highway, Panmure Highway, small numbers (1950, B.D.H.),; Mangere East, 6 appeared, 1946 (H. R. Priest); Mission Bay, 1947 (A. Waller), Dec., 1949 (F. M. Brookfield), July, 1950; St. Heliers, Oct., 1947 (W. H. Blake), July, 1950; Zoo, 1 pair nested 1949-50 (J. C. Davenport); Remuera, April, 1950; Epsom, 1948 (A. Waller). Unacknowledged records are from newspaper correspondence.

Two northern reports have also been received. One pair was seen early in 1950 by C. Bowles at Tiritiri Lighthouse, and G. Wightman recorded five at Helensville in November, 1947. Additional early records are: H. Morrison saw mynas at Pio Pio in 1912, Te Kuiti in 1914 and Pirongia in 1916. J. P. Church wrote in 1950 that he remembered their release in Auckland 50-55 years ago. They only lasted a couple of years and he considered that starlings drove them away.

SUMMARY.

From a perusal of the above reports and those published in New Zealand Bird Notes, Vol. 3, Nos. 4, 5, 8 and Notornis, Vol 4, No. 3, it is evident that the myna is slowly but surely establishing itself in Auckland after an absence from about 1906 to 1947. It has consolidated its position to the immediate south of Auckland, and the first birds are now finding their way into the North Auckland peninsula. They have increased at Tauranga and are now plentiful, and have extended to Mt. Maunganui. They have become plentiful at Clevedon and are increasingly reported in the Firth of Thames-Hauraki Plains areas. They have extended (apparently eastward) along the Bay of Plenty coast in some numbers to Whakatane.. They are now established at Rotorua and are reported from several places on the volcanic plateau, an interesting locality being Te Whaiti.

Additional information now received makes it clear that mynas are present in small numbers in all of west Taranaki. No change is noted from Manawatu or Hawke's Bay-East Cape, but a further decline has taken place in the Wairarapa.

DESIDERATA.

Records of all birds (or the absence of any birds) from the following localities will be welcomed in the future. Dannevirke-Woodville; Manawatu (Levin, Feilding, Marton, etc.); Wanganui-Waverley line and inland; Raetihi; Stratford-Taumarunui line; Kawhia-Raglan-Port Waikato-Awhitu; all areas north of Auckland city; Coromandel Peninsula, north of Thames, and particularly the east coast including Waihi; Bay of Plenty coastline and inland; central volcanic plateau, Rotorua-Taupo, etc. From all the above, information is either scanty or changes are taking place. Records from other areas are not asked for unless they imply an alteration in the recorded status of the bird.

EFFECT OF THE MYNA.

Writers continue to emphasise the bad habits of the myna and their universal dislike of it. They have been described as destructive to apple crops and garden vegetables. They are stated to be a particular menace to nesting starlings **(Sturnus vulgaris)** and to have caused a large reduction in the starling population with a consequent increase in the grass grub menace in the Waikato. In view of these suggestions, it would be of particular interest if a survey of starling population in the North Auckland peninsula could be made before the myna reaches the area, as it seems certain to do. Recalling the effect of the myna on native birds in other countries where it has been introduced, its further progress can only be viewed with dismay.