

GODWITS AVOIDING HARRIER.—On April 1, 1949, on Ohiwa Harbour, Bay of Plenty, I saw a party of c 50 feeding godwits threatened by a harrier hawk. The godwits rose and flew low and straight to a party of c 25 black-backed gulls as if seeking protection. The move succeeded, the gulls driving the harrier away. It looked remarkably like a deliberate manoeuvre on the part of the godwits.—P. H. Basley, Ohiwa.

BIRDS AT PYRAMID VALLEY, NORTH CANTERBURY.—There follows a list of birds seen by Jim Eyles and myself at Pyramid Valley during February, March and early April, 1949, while we were excavating moa remains:—Black shag, one seen by J. R. Eyles. Paradise duck, (March), 6 in flight; 11/3/49, female at swamp. Black-backed gull, often flew over. Rock pigeon, feral, in the limestone rocky outcrops. Harrier, two seen at once and single birds at other times, which may or may not have been the same ones. Bush hawk, 3/4/49, one flew over, pursued by magpies which attacked it in relays; magpies also pursue the harriers. Pipit: Not uncommon on the swamp, which is dry in summer; up to six seen at once. Grey warbler: Several times heard singing but not seen. Yellow-breasted tit: One or two about; not plentiful. Fantail: Several pied and one black form (3/4/49 in plum tree) seen. Greenfinch: One nested in a pine outside our hut, but while we were away during the Science Congress week, some predator, apparently, got the eggs or young; nest was empty when we returned. Chaffinch: Several about. Goldfinch and silvereye: A few present. House sparrow: Plentiful. Yellowhammer: A few about. Blackbird, song thrush, starling: Some about, but not very plentiful. White-backed magpie: Plentiful, cheeky and raucous; valued by Mr. Hodgen, the owner of Pyramid Valley, as a useful bird. Pyramid Valley is in limestone country—on the left, looking up the valley, Amuri and Weka Pass limestone; on the right, Mt. Brown limestone, and in summer a glorious suntrap. The trees, nowadays, are mainly rows of exotic pines. As will be seen from the list, the birds there are mainly introduced ones. I was informed wekas (probably *Gallirallus australis*) and skylarks were not uncommon until the big snow of circa 1918, which wiped out nests. I think rodents may also have played a part. Hedgehogs, which are fairly plentiful there, would account for many larks' eggs.—R. J. Scarlett, Christchurch.

VISIT TO MILFORD SOUND AND LAKE MANAPOURI.—April 2, 1949: Near Mossburn huge flocks of paradise ducks were seen, and numbers of harriers and pukeko noted between Gore and Te Anau. April 5: Recorded at Glade House: Robin, 1; paradise ducks, 2; pied fantails, yellow-breasted tits, bellbirds, silvereyes. Recorded along the track by the Clinton River: Robins, 2; paradise ducks, 6; fantails, 12 mostly pied; yellow-breasted tits, 6; pigeon, 1; S.I. weka, 2; bellbirds, 2 seen, many heard; silvereyes; blackbirds, 2. Pompelona Hut, weka, 1. April 6: At foot of McKinnon Pass: Weka, 1; keas, heard, 1 seen on the Summit; paradise ducks, 12; yellow-breasted tits, 4. April 7: Quinton Huts to boatshed: Pigeons 2, fantails 8, yellow-breasted tits 4, riflemen 2, wekas 2, paradise ducks 2, bellbirds 2 and several finches. On the Arthur River beyond the boatshed were two blue ducks. Lake Ada: Kingfisher 1, pied shag 6, black shag 3, paradise ducks and 12 small ducks which were possibly teal, black swans 2 in flight; and on an islet in the lake about 12 small gulls too distant for identification. April 7 to 11: Milford Sound: Kingfisher 1, black shags 2, paradise ducks 4, pigeon 1, fantails, yellow-breasted tits, grey warblers, silvereyes, red-billed gulls and black-backed gulls. April 15 to 18, Lake Manapouri: Blue ducks 2 on a river at the head of the lake, paradise ducks, grey ducks, wekas 3, riflemen 2, fantails very numerous, yellow-breasted tits, silvereyes, grey warblers, bellbirds numerous, tuis and pigeons.—Miss M. Bayne, D.N.F. Club.

BIRDS IN MONOWAI DISTRICT, MAY 15-20, 1949.—At Borland Burn on May 15, four brown creepers were noted in young beech trees on the river bank. Parakeets (?sp.) were heard in numbers but only one a yellow-fronted, was seen close at hand. Two bush hawks were seen