

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

SONG THRUSH.

The introduced song thrush (plate XIX.) the subject of one of Mr. K. V. Bigwood's photographic studies, is one of the most numerous birds in New Zealand, being distributed throughout, even in remote forested areas. First liberated in New Zealand in the sixties of last century, the thrush found conditions to its liking and now is one of the best-known birds in the country.

STARLING.

Another abundant introduced bird in New Zealand is the starling (plate XX.). This species, brought here about the same time as the song thrush, likewise increased rapidly and has spread to all parts of the country suitable to its habits. In the non-breeding season large flocks may be seen towards dusk making their way to a communal roost, which may contain many thousands of birds. A roost observed near Masterton in 1944 was estimated to contain about 75,000 birds (July 22).—R.H.D.S.

RINGING IN NEW ZEALAND.

J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

As is shown by the writer (Emu 50, 3) many birds have been ringed in New Zealand by operators acting in the main independently. Now that the ringing scheme of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand is in operation, it has been thought desirable to place on record as much data as possible, of ringing prior to the inception of the scheme. With the dual object of preventing possibly valuable records being lost, and of making them readily accessible to future workers, many operators' records have been duplicated. They have been entered (some in summary form only) on schedules, species record, operators' record, and recovery cards in standard form, in a manner similar to which future records will be kept by the society in its ringing scheme. The writer gives his sincere thanks to those who have so kindly placed their records at his disposal, and again urges other members to put their records on schedules at the earliest possible date.

No records of rings used, however insignificant, should be overlooked as the most unlikely cases may be of value. Who would have expected, for example, that a magpie, released with a roughly fashioned ring of tinfoil in 1942, would have been again recorded in 1950? Or that a fantail, ringed as a nestling, would have flown the following year into a room a mile away to catch flies, and be noticed to be wearing a ring?

BIRDS RINGED.

The following records are shown alphabetically. They include only those of which full details are on file: other ringing known to the writer is mentioned in the section "Other Ringing."

RINGS.

Rings used were home made except where coloured aviculturalists' rings were used. Sorensen's were stamped "Return Southland Museum"; Gurr's, "Return Otago Univ."; Fleming's "Return Dominion Museum N.Z."; and some of Cunningham's and Welch's "Tell Times-Age" or "Tell N.Z. Outdoor." Others were of thin aluminium, or in some cases tin, with the number scratched on. It was found that these, including many painted with enamel in various colours, lasted for some years in good condition, but, of course, no address was shown on the rings and recoveries were most often made by the operators or through Press requests. Numbers were in many cases preceded by a letter, and those which have been used are C, D, F, H, L, M, N, P, R, S, W, WS, X, Y, Z.

BIRDS RINGED.

Species.	All Operators.		Individual Operators	
	Ringed.	Recov- ered.	Operators and Where Ringed.	Ringed. Recov- ered
Albatross—Light-mantled Sooty	23	9	J. H. Sorensen, Campbell Island	23 9
Royal	374	12	Ditto Ditto	374 12
Wandering	20	1	Ditto Ditto	7 1
			R. A. Falla, Crozet Island, Etc.	5
			C. A. Fleming, Auckland Islands	8
Blackbird	69	6	P. C. Bull, Mangere	2 1
			J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	11
			L. Gurr, Dunedin	11
			H. L. Secker, Wellington	42 5
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	3
Chaffinch	4		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	1
			L. Gurr, Dunedin	1
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	2
Dotterel—Banded	4		R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	4
Duck—Grey	1		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	1
Mallard	(c40)		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	(c20)
			E. O. Welch, Masterton	(c20)
Paradise	2		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	2
Fantail—Pied	19	3	P. C. Bull, Mangere	6 2
			J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	13 1
Godwit—Bar-tailed	1		J. H. Sorensen, Kermadec Islands	1
Greenfinch	10		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	1
			L. Gurr, Dunedin	9
Gull—Black-backed	11		J. M. Cunningham, Wairarapa	6
			L. Gurr, Nelson	5
Black-billed	32		J. M. Cunningham, Wellington	1
			L. Gurr, Lauder	31
Red-billed	78	6	J. M. Cunningham, Wairarapa	5
			L. Gurr, Nelson	73 6
Hedge Sparrow	14		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	7
			L. Gurr, Dunedin	4
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	3

Magpie—White-backed	1	1	E. O. Welch, Masterton	1	1
Petrel—Giant	1		C. A. Fleming, Auckland Islands	1	
Grey-faced	1		P. C. Bull, Great Mercury Island	1	
Pheasant	710	197	L. Gurr, Otago	710	197
Prion—Fairy	20		P. C. Bull, Poor Knights Islands	20	
Silvereye	4301	156	P. C. Bull, Mangere	300	47
			W. R. Cooper, Clevedon	43	2
			J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	1077	42
			B. F. Duder, Clevedon	105	5
			R. A. Falla, Christchurch	30	
			B. Fischer, Punakaiki	48	
			G. Milne, Masterton	191	2
			F. Murray, Clevedon	25	2
			H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon	13	
			E. Parr, Masterton	41	
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	1694	51
			O. R. Sutherland, Masterton	95	1
			E. O. Welch, Masterton	300	3
			West Spreydon School, Ch'church	49	
			S. B. Yelverton, Masterton	290	1
Skua—Southern	6		J. H. Sorensen, Campbell Islands	6	
Sparrow—House	7		R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	7	
Starling	30		J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	15	
			L. Gurr, Dunedin	4	
			H. L. Secker, Wellington	4	
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	7	
			J. M. Cunningham, Wairarapa	6	
Tern—Caspian	6		L. Gurr, Nelson	151	1
White-fronted	151	1	P. C. Bull, Mangere	15	3
Thrush—Song	38	4	J. M. Cunningham, Masterton	6	
			H. L. Secker, Wellington	9	1
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	8	
Warbler—Grey	16	1	P. C. Bull, Mangere	12	
			R. H. D. Stidolph, Masterton	4	1
	5950	397		5950	397

Records are thus available of 5,950 birds of 29 species, ringed by 19 operators (but see also section "Other Ringing"). The number of recoveries of all species is 397.

RECOVERIES.

Date & Where Ringed, Operator, Age, Sex, Ring No.		Where, How and Date Recovered.
ALBATROSS—Wandering.		
23.4.45	Campbell Island, J. H. Sorensen; adult; A220	Where ringed. 1947
ALBATROSSES—Light-Mantled Sooty and Royal.		
These recoveries represent birds ringed by J. H. Sorensen and recorded where ringed in following years. See "The Royal Albatross," Cape Expedition Series, Bulletin No. 2, 1950, by J. H. Sorensen for some case histories; also "The Light-mantled Sooty Albatross at Campbell Island," same series, Bulletin No. 8, 1951.		
BLACKBIRD.		
24.1.46	Mangere, P. C. Bull; adult; F; 118	Where ringed; killed in rat trap. 6.3.47
27.12.43	Wellington, H. L. Secker; juv; F; 1	Where ringed; re-trapped 5.2.46
5.1.44	Wellington, H. L. Secker; juv.; F; 4	Where ringed; re-trapped 19.8.44 & 22.12.46
22.1.44	Wellington, H. L. Secker; adult; M; 53	Where ringed; re-trapped 5.2.47
19.11.44	Wellington, H. L. Secker; juv.; F; 8	Where ringed; re-trapped 8.12.46
11.1.45	Wellington, H. L. Secker; juv.; F; 10	Where ringed; re-trapped 1.12.46
FANTAIL—Pied.		
19.5.40	Mangere, P. C. Bull; adult; 1	Where ringed. Seen monthly until August, 1940
12.5.41	Mangere, P. C. Bull; adult; —	Where ringed. Seen February, March, April, 1942
10.11.47	Masterton, J. M. Cunningham; nestling; 17c	Masterton; 1 mile away; released again 16.6.48
GULL—Red-Billed.		
22.1.44	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B777	Nelson; found dead 27.7.45
24.12.44	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B1180	Picton; found dead 13.6.45
24.12.44	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B1213	Mapua; found dying 20.4.45
9.1.45	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B817.	Nelson; found dying 7.8.48
9.1.45	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B807	Nelson; nesting; where ringed 22.12.50
9.1.45	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B818	Nelson; nesting; where ringed. 20.12.50

In addition, two ringed birds have been reported seen, but the numbers not recorded. One was seen by F. G. Fish at Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier, December 26, 1944, (New Zealand Bird Notes, 2, 7; p. 167). The age was not stated, but the date shows it unlikely to be one of Gurr's birds, and it seems likely that some other person has ringed these gulls. A bird of the year seen near Oamaru Railway Station by L. E. Richdale, on May 27, 1945, may have been from Nelson.

Where, How and Date Recovered.		Date & Where Ringed, Operator, Age, Sex, Ring No.	
MAGPIE—White-backed.			
Aug. 1942	Mt. Bruce, E. O. Welch; adult; —	Where ringed.	Seen for two years and 19.7.50 and 1.8.50
PHEASANT.			
Complete records of numbers ringed are not yet available. Cocks only were ringed by L. Gurr for the Otago Acclimatisation Society, which has since continued ringing.			
SILVEREYE.			
Most of these recoveries were in the following year or two, where ringed. They will be the subject of a separate paper. (See also Marples, New Zealand Bird Notes, Vol. 1; No. 5.)			
TERN—White-fronted.			
9.1.45	Nelson, L. Gurr; fledgling; B1059	Plimmerton; dead	5.4.48
THRUSH—Song.			
1942	Mangere, P. C. Bull.	Where ringed. Seen.	20.6.43 and 1.6.44
Dec., 1943	Mangere, P. C. Bull; young; —	Where ringed. Seen.	1.6.44
Dec. 1943	Mangere, P. C. Bull; —	Where ringed. Seen.	1.6.44
1.1.44	Wellington, H. L. Secker; —; 12	Where ringed; re-trapped	1.1.45
WARBLER—Grey.			
9.6.49	Masterton, R. H. D. Stidolph; adult; —	Where ringed. Seen.	9.7.50

OTHER RINGING.

For the sake of bringing together as much ringing data as possible, the following records have been collected from various sources. The list of species ringed, and particularly the number of individuals ringed, are not necessarily complete, being taken from the references given, which often do not show numbers ringed and recovered:—

Albatross, Royal.—Otago Peninsula; L. E. Richdale; November, 1936, to May, 1949; 37 ringed. (The Pre-Egg Stage in the Albatross Family. Biol. Monograph No. 3.)

Diving Petrel.—Whero; L. E. Richdale; December 1, 1942, to February 12, 1944; 490 ringed. (Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., Vol. 75, No. 1.)

Duck, Grey and Mallard.—Manawatu; R. L. Balham; 1947-49; 1654 ringed. (in ms.) Many ducks have also been ringed and released by various acclimatisation societies. The earliest record available is 100 mallard released by the Southland society in 1911. (G. M. Thompson, "The Naturalisation of Plants and Animals in New Zealand.")

Mollymawk, Buller's.—Snares Islands; L. E. Richdale, January 9, 1943, to February 26, 1948; 161 ringed. (The Pre-Egg Stage in Buller's Mollymawk, Biol. Monograph No. 2.)

Penguin, Erect-crested.—Otago Peninsula; L. E. Richdale, 1938; two ringed. (Emu, Vol. 49, No. 3.)

Penguin, Little Blue.—Otago Peninsula; L. E. Richdale, 1938-39; 50 ringed. (Emu, Vol. 40, No. 3.)

Penguin, Yellow-eyed.—Otago Peninsula; L. E. Richdale; August, 1936 to January, 1948; 644 ringed; rings marked "Tell Otago Museum." (Bird Banding, Vol. XVIII, No. 3.)

Prion, Broad-Billed.—Whero; L. E. Richdale; 1941-43; 93 ringed. (Emu, Vol. XLIII, No. 3.)

Prion, Fairy.—Whero; L. E. Richdale; 1950-42; 328 ringed. (Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., Vol. 74, Nos. 1, 2.)

Silvereye.—Many others have been ringed, and some results are at present being collated and will be published later. For others, see Marples (N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 1, No. 5) which includes some of those records given above.

Sooty Shearwater.—Whero; L. E. Richdale; 1940-43; at least 186 ringed. (Condor, Vol. 46, No. 3.)

White-faced Storm Petrel.—Whero; L. E. Richdale; 1940-42; 1041 ringed. (Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., Vol. 73, Nos. 2, 3, 4.)

REVIEWS.

Oiseaux. Tome XV. *Traite de Zoologie*, Publie sous la direction de M. Pierre P. Grasse, Masson & Cie., Ed Veurs, Paris, 1950. 1164 p.p; illustrated.

This volume, a recent addition to the series "Traite de Zoologie," is the most comprehensive single treatment on birds since Brunn's *Klassen und ordnung* or Demantieff's *Traite de Zoologie* (Acad. Sci. U.R.S.S.), etc. It presents the material in more accessible form than former works and the abundance of illustrations makes the work usable even by those not familiar with the language. The price is the only prohibitive factor (6,000 fr., or £6 15s. in N.Z.). The binding and general lay-out reflect credit on the publisher's art. Such authorities as Benoit, Berlioz, Mayaud, Pasteels, and Portmann have contributed to this volume and have concisely summarised the details of much-scattered literature together with their own personal knowledge.

This is not the place to extend a detailed discussion of the relative merits of the contents, but suffice it to say that here, in a readily accessible form, are presented all the facts that any ornithologist, professional or amateur, will want regarding such topics as detailed anatomy, flight, locomotion, reproduction and embryology, social behaviour and ecology,