

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.



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