

BIRDS SEEN ON A BANK'S PENINSULA TRAMP.—Starting on Thursday, January 12, 1950, and arriving home at Governor's Bay a week later, a friend and I tramped through the following Bank's Peninsula bays: Governor's Bay, Purau (via Lyttelton), Port Levy, Pigeon Bay, Decanter Bay, Little Akaloa, Okain's Bay, and from there by truck to Christchurch. The birds seen from the road during the tramp, with some species reported by residents, were:—Black-backed Gull: c. 150 on offal from Cass Bay Abattoir, Lyttelton Harbour; 5 at Purau Jetty; 2 immature birds at Port Levy; c. 20-30 immature and mature birds on the Decanter Rocks at Decanter Bay; occasionally seen about the road on both sides of the Hill Top. Red-billed Gull: Two on Little Okain's Bay beach. Black-billed Gull: Relatively common inside the Lyttelton moles; 7 at Port Levy and 1 at Little Okain's Bay. White-fronted Tern: c. 200-250 on Decanter Rocks at Decanter Bay; c. 300 on a small island near Okain's Bay jetty, their nesting site; four nests on the cliff above Okain's Bay Jetty Road. Black Shag: Three, Decanter Bay. Spotted Shag: Six, Decanter Bay and three Okain's Bay. White-flipped Penguin: Immature bird seen in mid-harbour; 25-30 nests about 15 yards above high-water level along coast between Okain's Bay and Little Okain's Bay. Many of these nests were overhung with the southern ice-plant (*Mesembryanthemum australe*), and seven were still in use; two adult corpses on Pigeon Bay beach; one decapitated body in a cave, Okain's Bay. Kingfisher: Port Levy, three on shore, one in tidal creek-bed after crabs, and one nest on the usual clay bank, c. 30 yards above high-tide level; two on Okain's Bay river-flat. Harrier: Nearly always in sight. Native Pigeon: One seen on willow at Pigeon Bay. According to residents it is common about the houses, especially in winter. Pipit: Constantly seen throughout the trip in groups of 2 to 4 and sometimes more. Tui: Two heard in cultivated shrubbery, Purau; heard in orchard at Pigeon Bay. Bell Bird: Heard often at Purau and a recently-killed adult bird was found in a horse-trough there. A resident asserted that a magpie had killed it. Its head was badly battered. Three at Pigeon Bay eating ripe plums. Silver-eye: Relatively common at Pigeon Bay. Fantail: Both phases reported at Purau, but only one pied seen; four pied and one black in manuka scrub at Port Levy; relatively common at Pigeon and Okain's bays. Introduced species seen were:—Black Swan: Three on Lake Forsyth; pheasant, pair in blue gum plantation, Purau, and flying at Port Levy; Californian quail, a pair at Port Levy and frequently heard there and heard at Pigeon Bay; greenfinch, seven in Port Levy; chaffinch; redpoll, constantly seen in groups of up to five on the Purau side of the Purau-Port Levy saddle, but one pair only seen on Port Levy side, the exposed south slope; goldfinch, house sparrow, thrush and blackbird, present everywhere; skylark; starling; white-backed magpie, relatively common in Purau blue gums, one at Port Levy and heard at Okain's Bay.—Ian D. R. Cresswell, Christchurch.

GREY DUCK CARRYING YOUNG IN BILL FROM NEST TO TREE.—At Waiuku, on September 18, 1949, I saw a grey duck alight in a clump of *astelia* high up in an old puriri. The next day I investigated, a rope being necessary to reach the spot. There was no sign of the sitting bird then, at 3.15 p.m. The creamish-coloured eggs were covered over with down and a few odd pieces of bark, small twigs and leaves. After taking photographs of the nest and eggs, I carefully re-covered the eggs with a stick I had broken off so as not to touch them by human hand, as this may cause a sitting bird to desert. On September 27 I returned to see the adult bird descending into a patch of *wiwi* (rush) near the Awaroa canal, in the Aka-aka Swamp. Later it flew up and headed off in the direction of the patch of bush. At 2.20 p.m. I returned. The duck was on the ground, and huddled in front of her were three small ducklings. None of them seemed aware of my intrusion. Suddenly the old bird took off and flew for approximately 300 yards and alighted in the tree. I was fortunate enough to see how the grey duck conveyed its young to the ground from a tree top nest—in its bill, as a cat carries her kittens.—H. J. Chapman, Onehunga.