other coveys; hence the high percentage of adults in the unshot covey. This then indicates that shooting exerts a pressure on the numbers of quail in Central Otago. Sumner (1935) has shown from population fluctuations during one year among quail residing in a 60-acre territory that juveniles constituted approximately 70% of the population throughout the year. From this he concludes, ". . . it can be seen that if the percentage of young birds taken is consistently less than about 71% of the total bag, it is an indication that the breeding season was not successful." In several individual coveys reported on, more than 70% were juveniles, but the overall percentage in both 1948 and 1949 fell short of this. (See Table I.) Until more is known of local conditions and replacement rates of quail in Central Otago it cannot be said that overshooting is taking place, but when the percentage of juveniles is in the low 50's caution is indicated.

TABLE II.

| | Percentage of Totals. | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Males. | Females. | No. Birds in Sample. |
| 1948 ..... ..... ..... ..... | 55 | 45 | 331 |
| 1949 ..... ..... ..... ..... | 58 | 42 | 503 |
| 1950 ..... ..... ..... ..... | 53 | 47 | 62 |

The sex ratios for the three years (see Table II.) were consistently in favour of the males, and for the three seasons combined, 896 birds, the ratio was 57% males to 43% females. Sumner (1935) obtained a ratio of 53.2% males to 46.8% females.

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FEEDING OF SILVER-EYE CHICKS.—When young silver-eyes were under observation the parent bird always brought three insects and fed one to each of the three chicks. Thus they all received an equal share every time the parent bird returned to the nest with food.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick.

FLIPPER PATTERN OF LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN IN COOK STRAIT.—According to reference works, the flipper of the little blue penguin is banded behind with one row of white feathers. This character appears in photographs taken of little blue penguins on Otago Peninsula, on the Five Islands, New South Wales, and in Western Australia. In Cook Strait it is usual for adult blue penguins to have anterior as well as posterior bands of white feathers on the flippers. The anterior band often becomes more extensive on the carpal flexure. Of 15 adult penguins collected as derelicts at Oharui Bay and Lyall Bay, Wellington, between 1946 and 1950, two only had a single band of white feathers on the posterior edge of the flippers. The culmens of single banded birds averaged 38mm. length, of double banded birds 36mm. length. Wing lengths of both varieties averaged 65mm. As regards juvenile birds, which are cast ashore in great numbers following the summer solstice, these have no anterior band to the flippers. Future work may serve to show whether the characters described have any taxonomic significance. —H. L. Secker, Wellington.