

feeding she would return indirectly. The great amount of food consumed by the female was remarkable.

Nov. 24.—12.15 p.m.: Female sitting and coming off to be fed as before.

Nov. 28: 4.45 p.m.: Female sitting.

Nov. 30.—5.30 p.m.: Female sitting, but flew off and feigned injury.

Dec. 4.—6.55 p.m.: Female sitting. She flew off but returned quickly.

Dec. 6.—3.25 p.m.: Male feeding female.

Dec. 8.—4.5 p.m.: Female sitting; three eggs. 6 p.m.: Three chicks; all had hatched since 4.5 p.m.

Dec. 10.—10 a.m.: Female on nest; male near.

Dec. 12.—3.35 p.m.: Female feeding chicks; male near.

Dec. 14 to 24.—Ten visits; parents always present.

Dec. 25.—10.40 a.m.: Parents near. 3.10 p.m.: Parents up above nest; chicks in nest. 6 p.m.: Chicks had left nest; seen with parents nearby.

The incubation period was apparently 16 days. The period from hatching to flying was 17 days. This nest was made of punga scales and odd bits of tea-tree bark, lined with feathers, mostly of red-fronted parakeet.

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SUGGESTED DISPERSAL MOVEMENT BY SACRED KINGFISHER.—The behaviour of the sacred kingfisher (*Halycon sanctus*) in the Wellington Peninsula definitely suggests that limited dispersal movements take place. During autumn, winter and early spring the species is vagrant throughout the district. In the Makara Valley it has been seen in February, April and August. From April to August it also resorts to parks and gardens, and to the seashore. In August, small groups consort on the cliffs of the Terewhiti area. According to Dr. Oliver ("N.Z. Birds," 1930) kingfishers breed from November to January. In Wellington the birds are breeding in forest at Eastbourne and west of Wellington City by mid-November. However, kingfishers do not occupy territories in the scrublands at South Karori and South Makara for breeding until the summer solstice. Since kingfishers have been heard screeching in built-up areas in Wellington where no nesting sites exist, in late November, it is logical to assume that these birds are late breeders still on passage.—H. L. Secker, Wellington.

BIRD NOTES FROM CANTERBURY.—Several of the pupils of the Hawarden District High School have seen a white heron and in two cases two birds, as follow: May 8, 1951, at Saltwater Creek, on main North Road, about 30 miles from Christchurch (Joan Tindale); May 11, at Scargill, which is just off the main North Road, about 40 miles from Christchurch (Penny Kellock); May 15, at Sheffield (Roger Scott); May 24, at Woodend, about 12 miles from Christchurch (Dudley Hartnell); June 1, do., (Pat Currey); June 7, do., (Margaret Beaton); June 15, at Saltwater Creek, two birds (Mary Neeve); June 21, do., two birds (Ivan Stack). On June 15, at The Peaks, in the Hawarden district, a native pigeon was seen (Peter Haszall).—Margaret Beaton, Hawarden District High School.