seasons, with the result that whereas in 1940 eighteen was the greatest number recorded, in 1945 at least ninety and in 1949 more than two hundred were present during May, June and July. This figure was surpassed in 1950, and during March and April, 1951, while c. 300 (max. 310) were being recorded on Puketutu Fats, U. at Karaka was recording over 200 (max. c. 250).

It is interesting to compare the size of the two wintering flocks over five years, autumn peaks being disregarded:—

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Puketutu	135-142	c. 192	196-210	200-225	c. 240
Karaka	c. 67	54-59	73	60-65	c. 190

Thus, while at Puketutu the increase in 1950 was comparatively slight, at Karaka the number of wintering wrybills trebled. The two flocks appear to keep quite distinct and so far there is no evidence of intermingling. At very high tides the Puketutu wrybills have been seen to mount very high and disappear in a north-easterly direction. Where they go has not yet been discovered, but it certainly is not Karaka.

In the Emu (Vol. 43, p. 50) it as stated by S. that the first migrant wrybills reached Manukau in early February. In the light of later experience this statement must be revised; for since the numbers visiting Puketutu have increased, many birds have been reaching their winter quarters in early January, and both at Karaka and at Puketutu the earliest arrivals have occasionally been recorded even in December, viz., Puketutu, one on Dec 27, four on Dec. 30, 1947, two on Dec. 23, 1948; Karaka, three on Dec. 25, 1947. These U. described as appearing to be "two adults fussing around a juvenile."

Observations of wrybills in their winter haunts on the great tidal flats of the Auckland province indicate that this unique endemic species is flourishing. On its breeding rivers in Canterbury it may have benefited from erosion and the cleansing effects of great floods. Introduced vermin do not appear to be a serious menace and not improbably it is as numerous as it ever was. In Manukau alone, on 31/3/51, the two known flocks contained at least 530 birds; for while U., at Karaka, was counting almost exactly 250, S., near Puketutu, was showing more than 280 to two visitors from England, one of whom was busy taking a film of them.

VISIT TO THREE KINGS.—I have recently returned from my seventh visit in my yacht "Rosemary" to the Three Kings. I saw very few gannets until I approached the Kings, when about 100 were observed diving into a shoal of fish. Large numbers of Buller's shearwater were seen around the Kings, often in flocks of 50 to 100. This year it was more numerous than during my previous visits. Thousands of fluttering shearwater were seen near and one egg was obtained on the West King. The white-faced storm petrel and the diving petrel were fairly common and on each of the three days I was at the Kings I estimated that I saw at least 100 of each. The red-billed gull was thicker than ever and is steadily increasing each year since the extermination of the goats. The gannet appears to be slowly increasing, but the weather prevented me making a check of all its nesting places. At the Kings I estimate that there must be close on 6,000 gannets, and yet I saw only one flock diving in the vicinity of the Kings. All the gannets when on the wing were either going to or coming from the north-east. As to bird life on the West King I saw very little. The weather was wet and very foggy and I saw only six bellbirds, parakeets, and an odd blackbird during the short time I was on the island. During my seven visits to the Kings I have observed that there is a strip of sea extending up to 12 miles off the north-east coast in which very few sea birds appear, but outside of this strip I have seen sea birds by the thousands, principally Buller's and the fluttering shearwaters. This area of sea also is devoid of whales and shoal fish.—Magnus E. Johnson, Auckland, 23/1/51.