

Myrtaceae (myrtle family)—

Leptospermum sp (manuka): 2 leaves.

Loganiaceae—

Geniostoma ligustrifolium (hangehange): 2 valves of capsule.

As well as the above, two lumps of material that appear to be the endosperm of a seed.

In addition to the above, I have been able to examine the insect parts only from some kiwi droppings. These had been preserved and kept at the Entomology Research Station, Cawthron Institute, Nelson. They were collected in September, 1949, by Mr. E. Rye, in the Tangahua Ranges, North Auckland. They were as follow:—

Myriapoda—

Chilopoda (centipedes): Head and several segments of the body.

Insecta—

Coleoptera (beetles)—

Carabidae (ground beetles): Fragment of an adult.

Elatерidae (click beetles): 1 sp. 2 larvae, entire.

Scarabaeidae (chafers): 1 sp. 9 larvae, 1 entire, the rest, head capsules only; 1 sp. 1 adult, fragmentary.

Hymenoptera (ants, bees, wasps, etc.)—

Formiciodae (ants): 1 adult, entire.

Arachnida—

Araneida (spiders): 1 palp only.

It appears, therefore, from the foregoing, that the kiwi's range of animal food is wide both in variety and size and the nature of the vegetable remains suggest that the kiwi could serve as a dispersal agent for seeds.

REFERENCE.

Buller, W. L. (1888).—“A History of the Birds of New Zealand.” second edition, vol. 2, pp. 318-319, London.

BREEDING OF THE GREY DUCK AT MOA POINT.—On October 25, 1951, while in search of some material for a museum exhibit, I came upon a grey duck (*Anas superciliosa* Gmelin) with seven ducklings. The latter were in down, and, but a few days old. The birds were ashore, a few yards from the water's edge, and on my approach the parent bird made for the sea and the young followed. The ducklings kept close to the parent and she led them away between the rocks. At one time a black-backed gull (*Larus dominicanus* Lichtenstein) came overhead, and, for a moment, it looked as if the gull intended to swoop down upon them. The duck “gathered” her young under an overhanging ledge of rock while she remained on the outside. After a while the gull flew off. The ducks finally disappeared among the rocks. On referring the matter to Mr. R. K. Dell and Mr. J. Moreland, they informed me that they came upon a nest with eggs not far from the point where I made this observation, the previous season, at about the same time of the year. The nest was hidden under some taupata (*Coprosma repens* Rich.). Incidentally, it might be of interest to add that I found two ducklings, in down, washed up on the beach at Pukerua Bay in September of 1948. From these records it would appear that the grey duck does occasionally breed along the coast within reach of the sea.—C. McCann, Dominion Museum.

MEETING OF DUNEDIN MEMBERS.—On October 1, 1951, a well-attended meeting of Dunedin members and friends was held in the Biology Lecture Room at the Otago Museum. Professor B. J. Marples occupied the chair, and the local regional organiser spoke briefly on the need for members to be active recorders, and suggested ways and methods of activity. Recordings of bird-songs, some of native birds recorded in Dunedin, and some of introduced birds, were heard, and films of bird-life shown.