

A NORTH ISLAND COLONY OF SPOTTED SHAGS.—In N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 2, p. 40, mention is made of a colony of spotted shags (*Sticto carbo punctatus*) at the "south head of Kaawa Creek," some miles south of Port Waikato. The site of the colony is actually at Girdwood's Point, an impressively rugged headland lying between the Kaawa and Ohuka streams and exposed to the full force of the westerly gales. Through the kindness of Mr. K. M. Sorby, who has known the colony for many years, I was enabled on 19/10/51 to visit this rather inaccessible stretch of coast. The main shaggery is on what is locally and aptly called Cylinder Rock—the "inaccessible basalt stack" of N.Z.B.N., II., 40, which rises to a height of about 150 feet and is separated from the mainland cliffs by a narrow cleft. On the southern and south-eastern faces of this stack I counted respectively about 85 and 40 nests; and across the cleft on the mainland cliffs were about 40 more. On the top of Cylinder Rock there is some wind-torn scrub in which a few black shags (*P. carbo*) were sitting, though I was unable to see any nests. Seaward of Cylinder Rock is the Little Cylinder. There were no nests of spotted shags on this, but about 20 birds were resting on it. On the mainland cliffs a hundred yards or so to the south of the big colony, about 10 more pairs of spotted shags had their nests. Offshore there are two steep basalt pinnacles; but on neither of these did there appear to be any spotted shags breeding. About 40 shags were resting on the inner pinnacle. A considerable gale was blowing and even a spotted shag might have found it difficult to rest with comfort on the outer pinnacle. In this colony there must be at least 175 pairs of breeding birds, most of which had nests with eggs; but some were still building and one was seen flying with difficulty in the teeth of the wind carrying a large piece of seaweed. No nests were seen containing young. Most of the sixty birds which were resting on the Little Cylinder and inner pinnacle were young of the previous season. The only other known colony of spotted shags on the west coast of the North Island is fifty miles to the north, at Te Henga. Spotted shags also visit Oaia, the "gannet rock," which is visible from Te Henga and well out from the southern end of Muriwai Beach, but it is not known if they breed there. —R. B. Sibson, Auckland.

BIRD SONG RECORDS WANTED.—Mr. Noble Rollin, of the Bird Research Station, Glanton, Northumberland, asks for the co-operation of New Zealand bird watchers in assisting to time the passage of the first dawn singing of birds as it sweeps around the world with the dawn light. What is required is the exact time of the first call or song of one or more species in the morning and the exact time of the last call or song of one or more species in the evening. Particulars of locality, height above sea level, and weather conditions should be given. Records are to be taken on April 13 and September 21, 1952.—W. J. Noble, editor "The Evening Star," Dunedin.

GLOSSY IBIS IN WESTLAND.—Mr. Peter Lucas, of Hari Hari, South Westland, has forwarded a description, accompanied by a sketch, of a strange bird which appeared in September, 1951, on the property of Mrs. St. George. The identification of the bird as a glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) was confirmed by Mr. E. G. Turbott, of the Auckland Museum, after reading the description and seeing the sketch. The bird frequented swampy drains and fed by wriggling its bill into the soft earth, sometimes up to its eyes, and extracting worms, grubs, etc.—E. L. Keñoe, Greymouth.

NEW MEMBERS.

Acres, Mrs. C. Laughton St., Taupo.	McDowall, R., 32 Worcester St. P.Nth.
Barker, H. F., Box 25, Kaiapoi.	Parlane, S. G., Dist. School, Mamaku.
Clouston, W.F., 58 Louisa St., Invercargill	Priest, D., District School, Bulls.
Coom, Mrs. J., Te Ore Ore, Masterton.	Smith, C., 44 Workshop Rd., Masterton.
Dempster, A.G., 7 Wardlaw St., Dunedin	Sorrell, C. C., 2 Priestley Tce., Napier.
Evans, R. A., 25 Sullivan Av., Chch.	Todd, Miss L.R., Solway Coll., Maston.
Ferdinand, Dr. L., Copenhagen, Dmrk.	Warburton, H. G., Oruru School,
Hart, A. J., 11 Benares St., Khandallah	Kaitaia, R.D.
Kimmel, Mrs. R. I., 154 Woburn Rd.,	Williams, Miss D.N., Dept. of Maori
Lower Hutt.	Affairs, Gisborne.