this species, but in the absence of sufficient data I cannot discuss the matter much further. Nevertheless, I feel I cannot leave the subject without commenting on Thomson's objection to the possibility of insect pollination. His main objections rent on the pendulous character of the flower and the absence of a 'landing stage' for the insect visitor. There are several moths with a sufficiently long proboscis to enable them to reach the nectar cup by landing on the flower itself and stealing the nectar without being of service to the plant at all. However, that is beside the point. The much exerted style, with its spherical stigma, provides a sufficient landing stage for a visitor, which if covered with pollen from other flowers would effect cross-pollination. Having landed on the pendulous style it would then proceed upwards along it to the nectar cup, and in doing so would have to crawl over the anthers which lie adpressed to the style and thus receive a fresh dusting of pollen. Under such circumstances, there is every possibility of some insects (moths) serving as pollinating agents. However, the pollination of the **Fuchsia** needs further study.

SILVEREYE IN RELATION TO AGRICULTURE.—The N.S.W. Gould League is carrying out an investigation concerning the food of the silvereye, with particular reference to the fruit-growing industry. A questionnaire has been prepared relative to the numbers of this species present in a district, evidence of migration, food in different seasons of the year, whether considered beneficial or harmful, control measures (if necessary) breeding and evidence of the bird spreading noxious weeds. Members having information on the lines indicated should send same to the Horticultural Division of the Department of Agriculture, Wellington.

NOTES ON SHEARWATERS.—Among the remains of petrels found during the summer by the writers were three birds of particular interest. The first two specimens were short-tailed shearwaters (**Puffinus tenuirostris**) one being found by M.B.G. at Muriwai on 21/12/51, and the other at Bethells on 29/12/51 by G.E.T. The plumage of these two birds was quite distinct from any examined in the Auckland Museum collection. The underparts were paler than the upper parts, with a definite whitish area round the chin and throat and also on the under wing coverts, the latter being quite as marked as in many sooty shearwaters (**P. griseus**). This variation from the normal wholly dark plumage has been noted by D. L. Serventy ("Birds of Western Australia") but does not seem to have been recorded previously in New Zealand. The following are the measurements of the Muriwai bird: Wing, 260 m.m.; tail, 111 m.m.; tarsus 49.5 m.m.; mid-toe and claw, 57 m.m.; culmen, 32.1 m.m. Bethells bird: Wing, 267 m.m.; culmen, 34.6 m.m. The third specimen was a sooty shearwater found on 27/12/51 at Bethells. (G.E.T.) This bird, which must have been ashore for at least ten days, had a fully developed and hard shelled unbroken egg protruding from its abdomen. The egg measured 71.1 x 49.0 m.m.—G. E. Thomas and M. B. Gill, Auckland.

DISTRIBUTION OF KAKAPO.—The Department of Internal Affairs is asking for the assistance of members in efforts to locate areas in which the kakapo exists. A circular has been prepared for distribution to those likely to be able to assist the Department. The information is being sought with a view to taking steps to conserve this bird, as reports indicate that it is decreasing rather rapidly in numbers. The main kakapo signs that should be looked for are set out. These include small oval masses of well-chewed vegetation (pellets) to be found among tussock. They are about three-quarters of an inch long. The pellets may still remain attached to the roots by a short length of unbitten leaf blade. Although they are inconspicuous, the pellets are the most common sign left by the bird. Kakapo feathers are olive-green and yellow, barred with brown. Any likely feathers should be kept. The bird calls during the night, the male having a booming note in the breeding season, repeated five or six times and sounding like a muffled drum. A hoarse cough or a grunt also is uttered. The kakapo is not known to occur nowadays in the North Island and is confined to the mountainous country of the South Island.