

RINGING OPERATIONS.

SUMMARY FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 1952.

Compiled by J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

The following is a statistical summary of the birds ringed and recovered during the past year. It includes a number of birds of various species outside the normal scope of the society's scheme, ringed by special permission of the Hon. Minister of Internal Affairs, and also some birds ringed with other than the society's rings, but details of which have been provided by the operators. No distinction is made in either case. The grand totals, by incorporating the totals published in "Notornis," Vol. 4, No. 6, thus include details of all ringing of which the records are on the society's files. Recoveries this year are not given in full detail but some are grouped. It should be noted that this year only those recoveries made up to March 31, 1952, are included; recoveries made since then will be published later.

BIRDS RINGED. (*Denotes colour rings used.)

Species. Operators and Where Ringed.	Totals for 1951-52.		Grand Totals to 31/3/52	
	Ringed.	Recovd.	Ringed.	Recovd.
ALBATROSS—Light-mantled Sooty		1	23	10
ALBATROSS—Royal			374	12
ALBATROSS—Wandering			30	1
BLACKBIRD		4	167	10
*P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt	79			
H. L. Secker, Wellington	15			
CHAFFINCH			4	
DOTTEREL—Banded			32	
*M. J. S. Black, Rotorua	3			
*J. M. Cunningham, Wairarapa, Wanaka	2			
*E. W. Dawson, Canterbury	2			
*H. R. McKenzie, Firth of Thames	7			
*R. B. Sibson, Firth of Thames	1			
*R. H. D. Stidolph, Wairarapa, Ellesmere	2			
DOTTEREL—New Zealand		1	3	2
DUCK—Grey			1	
DUCK—Paradise			4	
FANTAIL—Pied			19	3
GANNET		6	490	8
D. L. Serventey and C.S.I.R.O., Aus.	17			
P. A. S. Stein, Horu Horu	198			
K. A. Wodzicki and F. H. Robertson, Cape Kidnappers	106			
GODWIT—Bar-tailed			1	
GREENFINCH			12	
L. Gurr, Marlborough (1943)	2			
GULL—Black-backed		15	683	16
J. M. Cunningham, Porangahau, Wai.	21			
G. W. Gummer, Rangitoto	524			
L. Gurr, Nelson	52			
F. C. Kinsky, Baring Head	23			
W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth	1			
P. A. S. Stein, Hauraki Gulf	10			
GULL—Black-billed		10	632	10
M. J. S. Black, Rotorua	31			
*D. H. Brathwaite, Napier	60			
*J. M. Cunningham, Napier	26			
*E. W. Dawson, Canterbury	179			
GULL—Red-billed		9	321	15
*J. M. Cunningham, Porangahau, Wai.	30			
L. Gurr, Nelson	14			
W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth	13			
J. H. Sutherland, The Brothers	50			

BIRDS RINGED. (*Denotes colour rings used.)

Species.	Operators and Where Ringed.	Totals for 1951-52.		Grand Totals to 31/3/52	
		Ringed.	Recovd.	Ringed.	Recovd.
HARRIER			17	81	18
	J. S. Watson, Hawke's Bay	69			
HEDGE SPARROW			1	25	1
	P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt	8			
KEA				7	
	C. H. Tyndale-Biscoe, Canterbury	7			
KOKAKO				3	
MAGPIE—White-backed				1	1
PETREL—Diving			2	52	3
	J. H. Sutherland, The Brothers	49			
	R. B. Sibson, Auckland	3			
PETREL—Giant			3	1	2
	A.N.A.R.E., Heard Island. (Numbers ringed not yet known.)				
PETREL—Grey-faced				1	
PHEASANT				710	197
PRION—Fairy				51	
	J. H. Sutherland, The Brothers	31			
PUKEKO				2	
QUAIL—Californian				22	
RAIL—Banded				4	
	D. A. Urquhart, Auckland	4			
SILVEREYE				4760	183
	H. L. Secker, Wellington (1943-47)	458	27		
SKUA—Southern				6	
SHEARWATER—Sooty				14	
	W. H. Dawbin, Wellington	14			
SHEARWATER—Fluttering				2	
	R. B. Sibson, Auckland	2			
SPARROW—House				7	
STARLING				33	
	C. A. Fleming, Wellington	3			
STILT—Pied				15	
	M. J. S. Black, Rotorua	2			
	*H. R. McKenzie, Auckland	11			
	*R. H. D. Stidolph, Wairarapa	2			
STORM PETREL—White-faced				3	
	R. B. Sibson, Auckland	3			
TERN—Caspian				6	
TERN—White-fronted			38	899	40
	*D. H. Brathwaite, Napier	100			
	*J. M. Cunningham, Napier	92			
	J. C. Davenport, Auckland	178			
	L. Gurr, Nelson	109			
	W. R. Marsden, New Plymouth	55			
	H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon	50			
	J. H. Sutherland, The Brothers	50			
THRUSH—Song			2	63	6
	*P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt	23			
	H. L. Secker, Wellington	2			
WARBLER—Grey				16	1
YELLOWHAMMER				4	
	L. Gurr, Marlborough (1943)	4			
Numbers ringed and recovered, 1951-52		2797	136		
Numbers ringed and recovered to 31/3/51		6787	403		
Numbers ringed and recovered to 31/3/52		9584	539	9584	539

RECOVERIES.

ALBATROSS, Light-Mantled Sooty (*Phoebastria palpebrata*).

24A, ringed by J. H. Sorensen (adult), 25/11/47, Campbell Islands; was reported nesting there, 4/12/51.

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).

These four recoveries are of birds re-trapped or found dead where ringed within a few months of ringing.

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).

Z 7 858, a close-ring, was removed from a bird "probably a chaffinch" killed by a cat, Heretaunga, Wellington, and given to the Dept. of Internal Affairs. It may have been an escaped cage bird, but any member knowing anything of it is requested to inform the convener.

GANNET (*Sula serrator*).

15236, ringed adult 15/1/51, at Cape Kidnappers, was found nesting in almost the same place, 19/1/52.

Three birds, ringed as chicks, were found dead where ringed soon after.

GULL, Black-backed (*Larus dominicanus*).

13501 and 13793, ringed as chicks, on 18/11/51 and 16/12/51 respectively, on Rangitoto Island, took the baits on fishing lines near the island 21/2/52 and 4/3/52. The latter bird was released bearing the ring intact.

Seven birds, ringed as chicks on 16/12/51 or 29/12/51, on Rangitoto Island were found injured or dead of injuries on various dates in March, 1952, in the vicinity of Auckland—none more than about five miles from where ringed.

Six birds ringed as chicks were found dead where ringed soon after.

GULL, Black-billed (*L. bulleri*).

9185 ringed as a chick 26/12/51, Ashley River, was found dead 31/1/52 about three miles down the river.

9922 and 10267, ringed as chicks, 3/12/50, Ashley River, were seen 14/11/51 at the Ashley Mouth.

10779 ringed as a chick 18/1/52 at the mouth of the Tutaekuri River, H.B., was found dead 22/3/51, about 10 miles inland on the Ngaruroro River, near Fernhill, H.B.

Four birds ringed as chicks in November and December, 1951, in the Ashley River, were seen on various dates in March, 1952, in two localities in Christchurch.

One bird, ringed as a chick, was found dead where ringed a few days later.

GULL, Red-billed (*L. novaehollandiae*).

B 1237 and B 1248, ringed by L. Gurr, as chicks, 24/12/44, on the Boulder Bank, Nelson, were seen by him 14/1/52 at the Port, Nelson.

9335, ringed as a chick 14/1/51, Boulder Bank, was seen in Nelson, 18/12/51, and at the Port, Nelson, 14/1/52.

9355, ringed similarly, was seen 18/1/52, at the Port, Nelson.

9415, ringed as a chick 21/1/52, Boulder Bank, was caught and released, ring intact, 4/2/52, in Nelson City.

10063, ringed as a chick 15/12/51, on The Brothers Island, Cook Strait, was caught in a fishing net and the ring removed, 15/3/52, on Makara Beach, some 15 miles across the Strait.

The birds reported "seen" were fed with bread, and the ring numbers read at close quarters with binoculars. In addition, birds bearing the coastal Canterbury colour combination, and which were ringed in the Ashley River, November and December, 1951, have been seen on six dates in 1952 in two localities in Christchurch, about 20 miles south, and one in New Brighton, a nearby beach. Ringed "gulls" have also been reported from Nelson and Kairakau Beach, 30 miles south of Cape Kidnappers.

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).

Of the harriers ringed at Hynish, H.B., between March, 1951, and 1952, six have been retrapped and eight have been killed, all within six miles of where ringed.

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).

3130, ringed adult, 4/1/52, in Lower Hutt, was again recorded where ringed on January 4, 7, and 22, and was killed by a cat 20/2/52, nearby.

DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).

5282, ringed adult, 19/7/51, on The Brothers Island, Cook Strait, and again recorded 1/9/51, was found dead near the Lighthouse, 1/11/51.

5284, ringed adult 22/7/51 on The Brothers Island, was found where ringed 8/8/51, 12/9/51 and 13/11/51.

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).

16693, was ringed 6/3/51 at Heard Island at a probable age of 2½ months and it began flying in the middle of April. It was shot by a fisherman at the end of January, 1952, at Laguna Verde, on the coast a few miles south of Valparaiso, Chile.

16713, ringed similarly, was shot early in February, 1952, by fishermen at San Antonio, a port 40 miles south of Valparaiso. The rings were returned by Edwyn P. Reed, Asessor Technico, Direccion de Pesca y Caza, Valparaiso.

SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*).

27 recoveries are included in the records just received of 183 birds ringed in 1943-1947.

TERN, White-fronted (*Sterna striata*).

6233, ringed as a chick 7/1/52, Motutapu Island, Auckland, was found dead under power lines, 26/2/52, at Devonport.

37 birds ringed as chicks in the various colonies were found dead where ringed soon after.

THRUSH, Song (*Turdus ericetorum*).

4432, colour-ringed, age not known, 31/7/51, at Lower Hutt, was seen where ringed in August and October, and was found dead 19/11/51.

4431, ringed similarly 29/7/51, was seen several times weekly until 2/9/51, and was killed by a cat 2/10/51 nearby.

KAKAS IN SETTLED COUNTRY.—Miss E. Strange, Te Aroha, wrote on 15/5/52 that for several weeks past there had been ten or twelve kakas (*Nestor meridionalis*) at their farm, some five miles from the nearest bush (Mt. Te Aroha). The birds were probably attracted by the old orchard with a good deal of fruit. As, according to Miss Strange, this is an exceptional occurrence here, it is suggested that members take special note or make inquiries for similar records in their district. Evidence of a more widespread irruption during the autumn or winter into settled country would be of interest.—E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum.

EUROPEAN WASP.—The Department of Internal Affairs, Box 8007, Government Buildings, Wellington, has received reports which suggest that the newly acclimatised wasp *Vespa germanica*, in the Rotorua Acclimatisation district may be competing with birds for food, namely, nectar and fruits of forest trees. It is possible that this may have harmful effects on such species as the tui and the bellbird in upsetting their seasonal movements in seeking food supplies. Any member having information bearing on wasp-bird relationships in New Zealand is requested to inform the Department.