

along roads west to Taranaki and north to Waikato, but not seen along road south towards Taumaranui (F.M., H.R.McK.). Kairimu Road, Te Kuiti, 1952, increasing again, troublesome with fruit (R.E.W.F.).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Glen Murray, 20/10/51, a pair found nesting seemed to be only pair in district (R.B.S.). Nukuhou N. (19 m. Opotiki), four or five during last three or four years; Tirohanga (5m. E. Opotiki), 8/5/52, one reported for past three months (J.D.C.). Rangipo, south of Lake Taupo, April, 1952, five reported where only two had been before, probably had bred (K.E.F.). Retaruke, King Country, 8-12/11/51, plentiful, none seen north of Taumaranui on this trip (W.P.M., F.M., H.R.McK.). Mt. Ruapehu (Salt Hut, altitude 5080ft.), two birds 21/3/52 (F.L.N.). Havelock North, 1952, one with two black-backed, first white-backed I have identified in this district (D.B.). 15/5/52, most northerly seen c. six miles north of Kaikoura (J.M.C.). Lindis Pass, 1/11/51, two; Dunback, 12/11/51, two, the most southerly seen on an extensive camping tour (R.H.D.S., J.M.C.). Evansdale, Otago, 25/2/52, one reported about six miles north of Evansdale; in summer of 1950-51 about 24 seen just north of Waikouaiti, Otago (J.G.). St. Leonards, West Harbour, Dunedin, one seen by several people 17-18-19/3/52; none seen before or since (W.W.).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*G. tibicen*).—15/5/52, four seen north of Waiau, Marlborough (J.M.C.).

NOTES ON BLACK TEAL NESTS.

By H. W. Axbey, Wildlife Division, Rotorua.

Black teal are not uncommon in the Rotorua lakes district; however, it is seldom that nests are found in numbers. While investigating black-backed gulls' nests on Banded Hill Island with Mr. R. T. Thomson, of Murupara, from November 15-19, 1951, several nests of this teal were found.

The following notes of interest relating to these nests were taken:—

1.—Situatd 20 yards from water on steep incline in a depression on top side of cutty grass clump—no lining, one egg (fresh) in slight depression scratched in ground. Cover good, nest hidden from all angles.

2.—Situatd 20 yards from water in a depression between two cutty grass clumps, thin lining of grass; three eggs (fresh). Cover good, but could be seen from one point—directly above.

3.—Situatd at base of tutu bush, 20 yards from water, lining of dead tutu bark and leaves. Tutu branch in background was bent back from over the nest to obtain photos. Bird was sitting when discovered—seven eggs.

4.—Situatd at bottom of narrow gap 30 yards from water on a steep incline, no lining, eight eggs in a shallow depression at base of tutu bush surrounded by cutty grass, cover excellent.

The above four nests were found on the south-eastern side of the island in an area 25 yards by 25 yards. Five, 6 and 7 were found on the north-eastern side in an area 10 yards by 10 yards.

5.—Situatd at base of tutu bush 10 feet from water; five eggs, lining of tutu leaves and dead bark with a little down. Cover excellent when bird sitting, but exposed when bird absent.

6.—Situatd beneath a rock and sheltered on open side by cutty grass clumps, down lined, eight eggs, 20 feet from water. Bird sitting when discovered.

7.—Situatd on side of narrow gap eight feet from water at base of tutu bush and toe-toe plant; one egg, no lining.