

Finally, on 24/1/1923, twelve birds arrived with the s.s. Ulimaroa in Auckland. The ranger of the Rotorua Acclimatisation Society, Mr. W. Cobeldick, went to Auckland and picked them up. There were four males and eight females, costing a total of £4/2/6.

A short account in the "Rotorua Chronicle," 31/1/1923, gives some general information on the blue wren. The N.Z. Gazette of 15/3/1923 contains an official announcement: "Blue wren or superb warbler absolutely protected," as effective from 1/3/1923, the bird being included in the First Schedule to the Animals Protection and Game Act, 1921-22.

The blue wrens were kept for a couple of weeks at the ranger's home, after which they were liberated in four separate localities, in groups of two females to one male at Rangitaiki, Rotoma Hill, Mokoia Island (in Lake Rotorua) and at the base of Mt. Tongariro.

Nothing more is recorded about the fates of the introduced blue wrens and a recent paper on the birds of the Rotorua District (Phillipps and Lindsay, 1948) makes no mention of the blue wrens.

The colder climate, less abundant growth of vegetation, lack of accustomed food, and the small number of birds released are apparently major reasons in the failure of the experiment.

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WHITE HERON FEEDING HABITS.—On April 14, 1952, a white heron was seen on the mudflats near the Taipa camping ground, four miles north of Mangonui, Northland. The bird was feeding on the mudflats at almost low water. Sometimes it would stretch fully upright and peer around as if searching the water; then it would stalk very slowly forward with neck outstretched; on seeing something (or just prior to attack) the neck would develop a kink just below the head, so that the head was brought back a little; then the whole neck would swing downwards, with the kink still in place, and there would be a sudden darting forward of the head and bill as the spring-like kink straightened out; a small object was snatched from the water, and the head raised quickly to swallow it. The stalking was upstream, very slowly. A catch was being made about every half-minute, and I watched this for about twenty minutes. This bird remained in the area for some time but it finally disappeared on May 3. However, a heron was later seen at Mangonui, five miles away, and was presumably the same bird.—H. G. Warburton.

POSTURING IN LESSER REDPOLL.—Further studies by the writer of the habits of the lesser redpoll indicate that he was mistaken in his view put forward in a previous issue that nuptial displays in this species are limited to a couple of phases only. In fact, there are several kinds of postures to be seen at this stage. In addition to those already described, the cock performs a hovering, hesitant manner of flight over the hen, apparently just before coition takes place. There is also what might be called supplication flight. Two forms coexist. The writer has watched a cock and hen bird making threat calls, and anxiety notes, characteristic of mated birds in the presence of strange birds entering a gully held as a