

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.

REFERENCES.

Oliver, W. R. B.

1930—New Zealand Birds. Wellington, pp. 1-541.

Phillipps, W. J. and C. J. Lindsay.

1948—Preliminary List of Birds of Rotorua Acclimatisation District. N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 3 (2): 43-50.

Thomson, Hon. Geo. M.

1922—The Naturalisation of Animals and Plants in New Zealand. Cambridge, pp. 1-607.

1926—Wild Life in New Zealand, Part II. Introduced Birds and Fishes. Wellington, pp. 1-110.

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

territory. While the hen perched on a bush uttering calls denoting threat at the intruders, the cock flew round it, wings rigid, in circles. The hen then took wing and approached the cock, quivering the wings, retracting its head, and protruding its breast. Evidently such behaviour keeps mated birds together if they are disturbed. The latter actions closely resemble threat posturing in flight, previously regarded by the writer as display flight proper. Threat behaviour is seen until mid-February.—H. Secker, Wellington.

MEETING OF DUNEDIN MEMBERS.—Dunedin members and friends met in the Biology Lecture Room of the Otago Museum on September 16, 1952, there being an attendance of 67. Mrs. I. Tily presided and gave a report of the annual meeting held in Christchurch, and of the excursions which followed. The local regional organiser, Mrs. L. E. Walker, outlined practical methods whereby members could take an active part in observing and recording bird life, her talk being illustrated by coloured pictures of the birds under discussion. These pictures were shown through an epidiroscope so that all present could see the special points mentioned. Some excellent films taken by Mr. E. G. Turbott, of Auckland, and depicting bird life in Notornis Valley in winter, and on Little Barrier Island were shown, and, in another room, Professor B. J. Marples had on display a fine selection of reproductions of sketches and paintings by eminent bird artists.

PIED TIT IN NORTH AUCKLAND.—On 8/3/52, in company with Mr. S. G. Gittos, a brief visit was made to the forest area of some 1000 acres at the head of Waiwhio Valley, immediately north of the Dome State Forest, Warkworth. The area, containing heavy mixed forest with some kauri, is separated from the Dome Forest only by the comparatively narrow belt of farmland occupying Waiwhio Valley. One tit was heard and another seen. The latter was a male, the greyish throat indicating that it was immature. The pied tit occurs elsewhere so far as is known only at Waipoua Forest on the mainland north of Auckland, although it was "virtually ubiquitous in 1840" (Fleming, Trans. Roy. Soc. N.Z., vol. 78, p. 35). As indicated by this brief visit, it appears that the Waiwhio forest at present forms an "island" with an established population. None was observed in the Dome State Forest, of which a longer examination was made on the previous day.—E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum.

NEW MEMBERS.

Austin, Rev. H. W., Collegiate School, Wanganui	Johnston, W. H., Seddonville.
Black, Miss M., 8 Roxburgh St., Dunedin	Lowe, Miss S., Glenbrook School, Waiuku
Butterfield, R.L., 9 Kiritirawa Rd., Remuera	Martyn, J.C., 228 Thames St., Oamaru
Campbell, Miss E.H., 14 George St. Napier	Maude, H. F., 35 Greta St., Oamaru.
Cave, F. W., 41 Kelvin Road, Dunedin.	Maude, C.F., Box 888, Ch.ch.
Cottrell, H. S., 1a Selwyn Rd., Napier.	Moisley, W.L., Ness Valley Rd., Clevedon
Coutts, A., 703 Remuera Rd., Auckland.	Nuttall, Arthur, 37 Greta St., Oamaru.
Cruttwell, C. R., 76 Sydney St. Inver-gill	Orum, Mrs. C.R., Ness Valley Rd., Clevedon
Cumming, W. A., 23 Ngarimu St., Pal. N.	Ringer, B. A., 39 Powell St., Avondale.
Dodd, D., 31 Shortland St. Wainoni, Chch.	Shanks, Miss Rae., Monovale, Cambridge
Donaldson, Mrs. L.B., 20 Glengyle St Ddn.	Shanks, Miss V., Monovale, Cambridge
Downes, M. C., 13 Yeovil Rd. Burwood, El3, Victoria, Aust.	Sipos, F., Tawhai Rd., Stokes Valley.
Findlay, H. A., Box 77, Kaitaia.	Stevens, R., 33 Portland Rd. Remuera
Galloway, Miss N., Nurses' Home, Mastn.	Strange, Miss E., R.D. No. 2, Te Aroha
Gillespie, Miss P., French Bay, Titirangi	Thompson, Cpl S.W.J., Wigram.
Gordon, Miss I.N., 43 Yates Rd., Mangere	Tipping, Miss E.C., 27 Pife St, West-mere, Auckland.
Grant, P., Rae House, A.T.C., Auckland	Townsend, E.F., Ardmore Training Coll.
Hazeldine, A. W.	Walker, H. W., P.O. Awanui, N. Auckland.
Hill, Rev. W. R., Na Savusavu, Fiji.	Wallis, T. W., Forestry Service, Mamaku
Hodgkinson, Miss G., School, Waiuku.	Whittaker, Mrs. B.P., Shelly Park, Howick
Hollander, D., St. Kilda Hostel, Dunedin.	Williams, Miss H., 26 Pitt St., Dunedin.
	Worthington, E. C., Box 4, Waitotara.

Date of Publication—1st January, 1953.

The Masterton Printing Co., Ltd., Lincoln Road, Masterton.