

resume until the takahe had moved on. Whenever a weka called, the takahe, if visible, was seen trying to locate the weka.

Kiwis.

These birds were heard in Waterfall Creek and in the Esk Burn, and in November kiwi were reported as nesting in the Takahe Valley—Mystery Burn area. Four nests were definitely located and they were usually in a hole in the ground near water. In January, two hatchings were reported and one chick was seen in the nest. Another kiwi was also seen that same month near the upper camp in the Point Burn.

Other Birds.

In the Takahe Valley—Mystery Burn area the following birds were reported in December: Keas, riflemen, pied tits, kakas, grey warblers, fantails, waxeyes, blackbirds, chaffinches hedge sparrows and rock wrens. In the same month there were seen in the Waterfall Creek—Esk Burn area: pair of brown duck and five young, eight wekas (two pairs each with a single young), grey ducks, keas, kakas, tomtits, wrens, bellbirds, pigeons, moreporks and the common introduced birds, such as blackbirds and chaffinches. One bat (sp.) was also seen and on the Junction Burn, two pairs of blue ducks. In January, four young paradise ducks, three young blue ducks, five young black teal and a brood of grey ducks were on the Takahe Valley lake.

REFERENCES.

- Turbott, E. G.—“Notornis” 4 (5), 107-113, “Winter Observations on Notornis in 1949.”
- Williams, G. R.—“Notornis,” 4 (8), 202-208, “Notornis in March, 1951—A Report of the Sixth Expedition.”

MATING OF LESSER REDPOLL.—P. J. Conder, quoting Lack, “Ibis,” 90 : 4, states that cardueline birds mate in the flock, but there is reason to believe that mating in the flock is often not practised by redpolls (*Carduelis cabaret*) resident in the Wellington area. Some birds in winter are only loosely attached to flocks and may never join one for mating. Individual birds call loudly in summer breeding habitats in August when they should, it seems, be with a flock, cf. “Notornis,” 4 : 64. In flocks in October sex ratios are not equal; hens predominate. Significantly single birds retire in mid-spring across Karori, a suburb of Wellington city to breeding habitats from winter haunts in a nearby reservoir reserve. Lone hens were seen on 1 September 1951, scattered throughout the usual breeding places, perching on cassinia bushes and one on a ngaio tree (*Myoporum laetum*). In mid-October, 1951, ten birds were seen together on the banks of a stream. Two were cocks with faint pink breasts, several looked to be in immature plumage but were probably young hens, and the remainder were old hens. A cock redpoll was watched crouching low, winding through the short grass toward a nearby hen. This cock once took up the slim, craned stance before the hen, of the domestic Belgian canary. It appeared to be trying to mate with the hen. At the same time lone cock redpolls were flying out of nearby scrub-filled gullies, suitable for nesting in, over the flock, calling loudly. This flock shortly afterwards broke up. The hen redpolls moved off independently in the direction of these particular cocks. Several fast chases then took place. On these grounds, it is difficult to agree with the statement that cardueline birds pair up in the flock.—H. L. Secker, Wellington.