

## PAST RECORDS.

A number of records have been received referring to previous years, and though they are not considered in this paper, it seems desirable to place them on record.

**Wellsford** (H. H. Clark).—1938, October 3; 1939, October 4; 1940, September 30; 1941, October 5; 1942, October 7; 1943, October 15; 1944, October 11; 1945, October 26; 1946, September 24; 1947, September 28; 1948, October 1; 1949, September 28; 1950, no record; 1951, October 13; 1952, September 24.

**New Plymouth** (A. B. Norman).—1945, September 28; 1946, September 30; 1947, September 30; 1948, September 24; 1949, September 22; 1950, September 28; 1951, September 23; 1952, September 20.

**Masterton** (Te Whiti) (W. A. Wardell).—1943, October 7; 1946, October 6; 1947, September 30; 1948, October 1; 1949, October 3; 1950, September 24; 1951, September 30; 1952, October 5.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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## SUMMARY.

In 1952 a pilot study was made of the dates of arrival of the shining cuckoo (*Chalcites lucidus*) in New Zealand. An indication of the rigorous methods of ensuring the validity of reports, from persons not known personally to the writer, is given. It is indicated that reports from the same persons for a number of years are desirable. There are several August records, the earliest being August 7, but most reports are towards the end of September.

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**PRIVET BERRIES AS BIRD FOOD.**—Evidence of a native pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) eating privet berries has been reported to me by Mr and Mrs J. Gandy, of Howick. They observed the bird on several occasions in June feeding on the berries of a Japanese privet tree in their garden. Both last year and this year silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) have fed busily on privet berries in our garden also.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick,

**CURLEW AT MIRANDA.**—The first curlew (*Numenius madagascariensis*) to be observed at the Firth of Thames for some years were seen feeding on a muddy lagoon near the Miranda limeworks on 6/6/53. The next day the observation was confirmed, when I again visited the area with Mr. H. R. McKenzie. When I first saw the pair they were digging their long, down-curved bills deep into the soft mud, not pausing at all. They appeared very hungry and only when I approached within a couple of hundred feet did they rise together in slow, leisurely flight. They wheeled very slowly in a circle overhead and then alighted again a little further away on the mudflat again. These birds called musically as they flew, unlike the single curlew that Mr. R. B. Sibson and I observed at Karaka on 3/1/53 which called constantly while still on the ground. One bird of the Miranda pair was lighter in colour than the other, but there were no white markings on either bird. When landing, the birds gave several quick twists of their bodies before touching down. Once they flew up with a small party of godwit. Then their larger size was very marked.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick.