

catch it and read the ring number. There is little doubt that the ring was one of those made and put on by F. Murray on 22/1/47. (See "New Zealand Bird Notes," Vol. 2, No. 2, p. 26.) Two chicks were ringed that day with white metal home-made rings numbered respectively 47-1 and 47-2, both on the right leg. No. 47-1 was much the larger chick and the present bird is a very large stilt so it is probably the first of the two ringed. If it is one of these it was nearly six years old when found. The ring was hard to see and the bird could have been present each season without its ring being noticed. All observers agreed that this was the fiercest stilt they had known. It would swoop wildly, throwing forward its "shoulder" to stiffen the wing for striking. This was not bluff for it actually struck with the wing. It could be, therefore, that a bird at the age of six years is in full vigour.

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**REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.**—Miss G. di Menna, 23 Mardale Street, Roslyn, Dunedin, invites members to pass on to her information relating to the distribution of the brown creeper, yellowhead and whitehead. She would like to know what other native and introduced birds occur in the same habitat and if possible, an indication of the class of habitat, i.e., *Pinus insignis* plantation, *Podocarp* (native pine) bush, beech forest, manuka scrub 15ft. high, etc. Miss di Menna is doing research work on the brown creeper.

**REPORTS AND BULLETINS.**—The reprinting of the society's cyclostyled issues as "Reports and Bulletins, 1939-42" was made possible by the donations received. These do not appear in the accounts as donations as they were credited to the reprinting account together with orders for the reprint, but their receipt is here acknowledged with thanks, as follow:—I. A. E. Atkinson, A. G. Bagnall, B. D. Bell, M. J. S. Black, A. A. Boulton, P. C. Bull, W. J. Burns, J. C. Davenport, E. Dear (10/- each), C. A. Fleming £5, G. V. Gow 10/-, R. L. Grant 35/-, Mrs. J. Hickman, late E. W. Hursthouse, W. R. Marsden, D. Miller, G. J. H. Moon, L. W. McCaskill (10/- each), Miss N. Macdonald 12/6, Miss B. McDougall 10/-, H. R. McKenzie £2, D. Macmillan £3 10s., R. St. Paul £1, Mrs. M. A. Scott 10/-, T. Shout 10/-, R. B. Sibson 22/-, E. G. Turbott £1, C. K. Williams 10/-, R. A. Wilson 10/-, G. H. Young £1, J. A. Tubbs £1; total, £28/9/6.

**BEHAVIOUR OF OYSTERCATCHERS.**—On 3 September, 1952, I was on Taieri Beach, south of the river mouth; a strong nor'easterly was blowing in from the sea. Conspicuous against the white sand was a group of six black oystercatchers (*Haematopus unicolor*). From some distance, a friend and I saw one bird standing as if on guard and facing seawards, the other five all standing on one leg. The strong wind may have prevented us from being heard as we were able to approach within 30 yards of the birds, which seemed intent on their "game." As if on a given signal, the five birds danced round in a small circle; then they stood on both feet for a spell; then off again round and round on one leg. This was repeated several times and the birds took no notice of us. As it was so cold we had to move on and walked towards the group, and it was not until the sentinel bird turned its head and saw us that they flew off.—Mrs. A. C. Prentice, Dunedin.

**WHITE-FACED HERON INQUIRY.**—An inquiry is being made into the status of the white-faced heron (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*) and members are invited to submit sight records, localities where seen, field notes of any kind, and especially breeding records, to J. H. Sorensen, 25 Arawa Road, Hataitai, Wellington, E2.

A home-made aluminium ring bearing the inscription "W411" was taken recently from the leg of a white-eye caught near Clarkville, North Canterbury. The society has no record of the use of this ring and as convener of the Ringing Committee I would appreciate any information which might lead to the discovery of circumstances under which the bird was ringed.—P. Bull,