

FURTHER NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MYNA.

By J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

Since my last note on the distribution of the myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Notornis, 4(4): 66-67, and see also 3(2): 57-64) a little additional information has come to hand and there have been some records published in Notornis. The following is a summary of this new information and includes all the records I have up to mid 1953. It is still desirable to record every myna seen in districts not given in these three papers.

Wairarapa.—I have not seen it in Featherston for some two years, and in Martinborough there is now only one bird, or perhaps two. There are a few still in Carterton and Greytown, but none in Masterton.

Hawke's Bay—East Cape.—No important change is reported: it may be seen all the way to Te Araroa where it is plentiful (P. J. Couchman, who adds it is not at Waihou Bay). It is numerous at least as far as Te Karaka on the Gisborne-Opotiki Road. In March, 1953, I did not see any beyond Frasertown on the Wairoa-Waikaremoana Road.

Manawatu-Taranaki.—E. Dear states it was quite plentiful at Kopane, Palmerston North, about 1910 and was then present in Taihape, but Feilding (where there are small numbers still) is now its last main stronghold in the Manawatu. R. E. W. Fordham states that south of Kawhia Harbour it was not very numerous in 1919. Near the mouth of the Marokopa River he found it very numerous in 1931. In 1951 J. C. Davenport reported it very common in Kawhia.

Rotorua.—It is evidently not yet very numerous here, as two observers reported odd birds, Ohau Channel, May, 1953 (W. J. Phillipps), and six miles north of Rotorua, November, 1950 (M. J. S. Black). S. G. Parlange saw 14 settle but fly on, at Mamaku, in November 1951 but said they were scarce.

Bay of Plenty.—A report of birds nesting at Edgecombe in November 1951 was given in a Nature Time Radio Session and reported to me by C. A. Fleming.

Auckland.—No further reports have been received from north of Auckland. Additional suburbs where mynas have been seen, are: Ponsonby (June 1951, P. A. S. Stein), Orakei (September 1952, A. C. Hipwell) and others are mentioned in Notornis 4(7): 197, and 5(3): 104. They had not reached Waiheke Island in 1951 (P.A.S.S.).

SUMMARY.

A few additional records received or published up to mid 1953 show that the expansion is continuing in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty. No important change is noted from Rotorua, Manawatu-Taranaki, or Hawke's Bay-East Cape, but there are still fewer left in the Wairarapa.

WHITE HERON ROBBING PIED SHAG.—I saw an amusing piece of by-play with a lone white heron and a pied shag at Shelly Park. The shag was swimming and diving near the heron and each time it came up with a fish the heron very neatly took away the catch. As the shag dived again the heron very slowly stalked it, always managing to be at the exact spot where the shag appeared with its fish and so had an easy meal, until the shag eventually flew away to another part of the creek. As from June 6, 1952, this white heron was a daily visitor to Shelly Park, arriving about two hours before low tide and fed in the shallows until the tide was well in. I also saw a "pair" on June 14, July 22 and October 21, but they did not mix with the daily visitor at all. They were busy courting on October 21, 1952.—Mrs. B. Whittaker, Shelly Park, Howick.