

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO (*Callacas cinerea wilsoni*).—Moumoukai Clevedon, 1953, seem to be holding their own; seen and heard in all their usual places (J.W.StP.).

CORRIGENDA—CLASSIFIED NOTES, January, 1953.

Page 90—Not Shoveler but Paradise Duck, at Harania Creek.

Page 95.—Godwit, Puketutu, 2/3/52, c 3500 not 2/5/52.

Page 98—Read Yellow-fronted not red-fronted parakeets.

PROBABLE AUSTRALIAN AVOCET AT CATLINS RIVER.—Late in the afternoon of April 12, 1952, from the road near Jack's Bay, Catlins, I saw a bird that was new to me standing on the sand at the mouth of the Catlins River. It seemed larger than a stilt, the body being chiefly white with some black markings on the wings. The legs were long like a stilt's, but the outstanding feature of the bird was the bright tawny colouring of its head and neck. The bird had its back towards me and I did not note its bill. On arriving back at the Owaka Manse, where I was staying with my son, we together looked up bird references and decided the bird was probably an avocet (*Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae*). When I returned to Dunedin I visited the Museum and recognised the avocet there as the bird I had seen at Catlins.—May E. Moore, Dunedin. (It is a pity that the recorder was unable to observe the bill of the bird reported above, as an indication of an upturned bill, in conjunction with the above description, would have provided conclusive evidence. In reporting rarities such as this, it is advisable for the observer to state the distance from the bird and whether field glasses were used or not, also the conditions of the light at the time of the observation. The utmost care and accuracy are essential in describing rare species, as from a sufficiently detailed and correct description it is often possible to establish the identity of the bird in question. It is 60 years since the avocet was last recorded in New Zealand. The publication of this note may stimulate other observers.—Ed.)

REGIONAL ORGANISERS.—Mr. L. Gurr, c/o the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, has been appointed by council as regional organiser for Nelson. The boundaries of the district are roughly Farewell Spit to Lake Rotaroa, Tophouse, French Pass.

BELLBIRDS IN WELLINGTON CITY.—At about 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, September 5th, 1953, I was astonished to hear the song of a bellbird. I was inside my house at 33 Northland Road, at the time, and, of course, I lost no time in getting outside. I was rewarded by a clear sight of the bird which was on a telephone wire in my front garden. However, my view was very brief as the bird flew away within a minute. I reported the matter to the local papers and a "Dominion" reporter interviewed Dr. R. A. Falla and others. The reporter made quite a feature of the occurrence for his paper and it was stated that two other local reports had been received, also that no known reports of the bird had been made since the turn of the century. It is significant that the recent appearances occurred when many nectar-bearing trees and shrubs are in bloom. My own place had a lot of flowering currant in bloom at the time. A few days later a lady wrote to the "Evening Post" and stated that she had seen the bellbird at Haywards Bush and also near Woburn Station. Her letter appeared to be genuine as she appeared to know both the bellbird and the tui. The bellbird is reasonably common on the bush-covered hills of the eastern bays of Wellington, but its appearance in the city was a real thrill.—A. A. Boulton, Wellington.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.—The society is much indebted to the King's College Bird Club which has donated the cost (about £6) of binding the sets of "The Wilson Bulletin." This is a welcome step and may enable the library to spend some of its small annual grant on the purchase of books. Members are reminded that donations to the library fund are welcomed and gifts of books will be especially appreciated.