

RECORD OF BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE.—In June, 1953, a description of a strange bird at Poutu, North Kaipara Heads, was received from Mr. W. L. Baker, of the Lands and Survey Department. Mr. Baker, who is stationed at Poutu, first observed the bird in April, and later saw it frequently until September. It remained in the same area and could be approached easily. On a visit to the Museum, Mr. Baker was able to identify the bird from specimens as a black-faced cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novaeollandiae*). It was immature, as indicated by the black line passing through the eye, the remainder of the plumage being dove grey; the white tip of the tail was especially marked in the field. The bird moved with characteristic undulating, or swooping, flight. It was observed eating worms, and obtained ripe boxthorn berries which it took on the wing. When feeding, it often stripped off small pieces of bark which were hammered against the branch and swallowed; and leaves were treated in the same way before being eaten.—E. G. Turbott, Auckland Museum.

SHINING CUCKOOS.—At Winiata's Bush, Poroutawhao, on December 14, 1953, at about noon an excited and rapid series of calls (tiu, ti-u, ti-u, etc.) was heard. These were recognised as the less-frequently heard call of the shining cuckoo (*Lamprolaima lucidus*). The birds, six in number, paused for a minute or two on tall trees—pukatea, titoki and large old plum trees. After being on one tree for a period all would fly to the next, and so on. Towards evening we saw six birds, probably the same birds, behaving similarly. Perhaps they were feeding on leech on the plum leaves.—A. T. Gudopp, Ohau.

BIRDS ON MOKO HINAU ISLAND.—The kaka flies over the island at times; first seen in April, 1951, about seven birds; next year, April, 1952, four were recorded. They flew around for an hour or so and then disappeared. I was away in April, 1953, but my son told me the kaka flew over again, about five all told; they were seen singly or no more than two in a day. The New Zealand parakeet is very plentiful. The morepork is seen and heard. The bellbird and the tui are visitors. The red-billed gull arrives every year to breed, first coming in small numbers in August, being heard in the evening and early morning and disappearing during the day. It seems to increase in numbers every day. After about a week it continues to fly around, calling, until 10 or 11 a.m. and then disappears. Finally, hundreds fill the air, circling and then landing, in 1953, on August 20, to go straight to work building nests. The white-fronted tern also breeds here in small numbers. The kingfisher is plentiful.—Mrs. C. Emmens.

THE MYNA IN THE ROTORUA-TAUPO DISTRICT.—Cunningham (Notornis 4 (4) : 66) showed that the myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) established itself at Rotorua between 1948 and 1950, and in the latter year they occurred as far south as Atiamuri and Mihi. No change in the distribution of the birds had been reported by mid-1953 (Cunningham, Notornis 5 (7) : 210). During a recent visit to the Rotorua-Taupo area (15-20 Dec., 1953) mynas were seen at the following places: Reporoa (at least three birds); Sandhills, Broadlands (one bird); on the reclaimed land just north of Wairakei (one bird); between Upper Atiamuri and Guthrie on the Rotorua-Taupo Road (several birds); and the Wangapoa settlements east of Atiamuri (birds round many of the new farms). Mr. M. F. Weeks, Iwitihi, told us that a single bird appeared at his house, 17 miles south of Taupo near the Taupo-Napier highway, during two week-ends in November 1953; it has not been seen since. Mr. A. E. Moore, Reporoa, stated that the first myna was seen by him in Reporoa during the winter 1952. No mynas were seen by us in Taupo though this is less than 10 miles from Wairakei. The above records suggest a recent southerly extension of the myna's range in this district. Further observations recording the spread of this species would be of interest.—J. S. Watson and K. Wodzicki, Animal Ecology Section, D.S.I.R.