

The records consist of 34 recoveries of black swans ringed at Lake Ellesmere over the period 1935-1952. Four birds were recovered within a year of ringing, nine in the second year, three in the third, five in the fourth, five in the fifth, two in the sixth, and one each in the ninth, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth and fifteenth year after ringing. The date of recovery of one bird was not known. Six of the birds were recovered at Lake Ellesmere, five at Lake Wairarapa, four at Lake Kaitangata, two in Hawke's Bay, two at Motukarara, and one each at Berwick Lake, Waitata Hatchery, Taieri River mouth, Waituna Lagoon, Lake Wainone, Marlborough, Lake Waiholā, mouth of Selwyn River, Cooper's Lagoon, Lake Waipori, Green Island Swamp, Greenslades Flat, Irwell, Carterton and Greenpark Sands.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to the North Canterbury Acclimatisation Society for permission to publish these recoveries and to the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs to whom the records were originally sent.

Two recoveries of birds ringed outside New Zealand are of interest.

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).

No. ANARE 2486 ringed at Heard Island on 6/1/53 by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition was recovered at Moki Island (near Stewart Island) in June of the same year.

AMERICAN PINTAIL DUCK (*Dafila acuta*).

No. 41-679296 ringed in California on 16/8/49 and recovered at Penrhyn Island, Northern Cook Group, on 15/11/49. Full details of this interesting recovery will be published separately.

VISITATION OF GLOSSY IBIS.

Towards the end of 1953, flocks of glossy ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) appeared in Southland, Marlborough and Wellington provinces. The reports received follow:—

Southland.—On November 18 on Lake Hawkins, a marshy lagoon on reclaimed land, Invercargill Estuary, Mr. George Moffett, of Invercargill, and Mr. and Mrs. K. Bigwood, of Christchurch, saw a flock of "strange" birds and found them to be glossy ibises. Mr. Moffett and I have visited the locality frequently since then and have seen the birds on every occasion. Although they fly up and circle, they return to some part of the area. When the sun catches them the plumage has a reddish appearance; but from a distance they appear like a black curlew, which I think they have sometimes been called. They are always feeding when on the ground—busy all the time, like starlings. Many people here are interested in them, including two Dutch boys who know them from bird-watching in Europe. Yesterday, 29/11/53 there were 24 birds still there. This was the first count, on 18/11/53.—Olga Sansom, Invercargill, 30/11/53.

Marlborough.—First seen at Dillon's Point, Blenheim, by Mr. G. Holdaway on 13/11/53, about 16 glossy ibises were present for about one week and then departed. (These were identified by the Dominion Museum from a description sent in by Mr. Holdaway.) They returned to the same spot again on 6/12/53, when 16 were reported by Mr. Holdaway. (Eighteen were seen in the morning of 7/12/53 by the school teacher and school children from the Dillon's Point School, and five were seen the same evening by myself. The following dates and counts were taken by G. Holdaway with one exception: 8/12/53, 16; 10/12/53, 16 (Rev. Fr. Feehly, S.M.); 14/12/53, 18; 18/12/53, 18; 21/12/53, 18. This was the last date they were seen but the birds may have remained a few days longer as the pond was not visited for over a week. The ibis kept together near a swampy pond in the low-lying Dillon's Point area, between the

Opawa River and Rose's Overflow. They seemed very contented and appeared to feed ravenously whenever observed. They fed about the edges of the pond but never in the water, and probed among the grass, etc., often taking flight when a harrier flew near. When last observed, the pond was receding very fast with the onset of the dry spell and dried up completely shortly after. My thanks are due to Mr. Holdaway on whose property the ibis occurred. He recorded most of the above counts.—Brian D. Bell, Blenheim.

Wellington.—Fourteen glossy ibis put in an appearance on a property at Opiki, about ten miles from Palmerston North. The birds arrived about the last week in December and are apparently living on tadpoles and what insect life they can find. They vary in size and I would say that five are immature. They appear to be little more than half the size of the larger birds. It is noticeable that the larger birds will occasionally completely enfold a smaller bird with a wing as though protecting it from the hot sun. They are rather shy and will take wing if approached closer than about eighty yards. They are all strong fliers and attain considerable height when disturbed. I took Major Wilson to Opiki to verify the identity of the species. About ten years ago we had one glossy ibis living about the Manawatu but it eventually disappeared.—Tom Andrews, Palmerston North, 20/1/54.

Mr. T. Andrews, Acclimatisation Society ranger, took me down to Mr Gosling's property, near Opiki, on January 8, 1954, where, on a piece of shallow water behind his home, quite close to the road, were 14 glossy ibises. We walked to within a hundred yards and examined them through field glasses. Some of them were much smaller than others, and one of the smaller ones sheltered itself under the wing of a larger one as if it was a young bird of this season. We then approached to within 50 yards when they rose in the air, wheeled round, and went off to the south. They showed great powers of flight and swooped down, making a noise like the shoveler duck when descending swiftly. The water they were in is not permanent, but only occurs in the wet season. Mr. Gosling states that there were large numbers of tadpoles in the water, which was probably what the ibises were feeding on. The whole flock of 14 were there nearly continuously for about a month but since then they have only returned occasionally. On February 5, Mr. Gosling reported four had been there in the morning. Previously the numbers had varied from four to nine. They apparently have found better feeding grounds elsewhere as the water on Mr. Gosling's place has nearly dried up.—Robert A. Wilson, Bulls, 6/2/54.

ALBATROSS STRANDED AT PAEROA.—On 5/6/53 a large sea bird was found in a field by Mrs. A. Rogers, successfully defending itself against the attacks of a dog. The bird was rescued with some difficulty. I identified it as a light-mantled sooty albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*). In response to a telephone call, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. McKenzie, of Clevedon, and Miss N. Macdonald, of Howick, came by car on 7/6/53, and it was decided that the best way to try to ensure the recovery of the bird was to take it to the Auckland Zoo, where the director, Mr. R. W. Roach, specialises in the care and curing of sick creatures. During the journey, Miss Macdonald suffered many pecks while holding the bird to keep it safe. At Clevedon it was placed, swimming, in a bath where it drank some fresh water. It appeared hungry but no suitable food was available, so Miss Macdonald took it on to the Zoo. Regardless of the late hour, Mr. Roach fed it immediately. For some days it took food and seemed to be doing quite well but died after ten days. It was found on examination that the food had not been assimilated. It was a young female. The light-mantled sooty albatross breeds at the Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes and Macquarie Islands, and frequents New Zealand seas to some extent, but has only been found ashore when storm-wrecked or exhausted.—H. L. Morgan, Paeroa.