

GRID SYSTEM.—To make all recording of data easier and more reliable, a grid system has been applied to the best map at present generally available of Takahe Valley. Thus within the limitations of accuracy of the map itself, each observation can be placed in relation to others and the extent of movements or of territory can be more precisely defined. The scale and nature of the grid is such that when aerial maps of the Murchison Range become available it should be possible to transfer the grid and the observations connected with it to the aerial photographs with satisfactory accuracy.

SOUND RECORDINGS.—During the February visit, a tape recorder was taken into the Valley and some recordings of takahe adults and a chick (as well as some other native birds) were obtained. The original tapes are now with the N.Z. Broadcasting Service, and of two copies of an abridged version with commentary one is in the N.Z.B.S. record library and the other is in the possession of the Wildlife Division.

SOIL SURVEY.—Mr. E. Cutler, pedologist, D.S.I.R., made a preliminary soil and vegetation survey of Takahe Valley during the stay of Party No. 2 and a report and map have been received.

GENERAL BIRD OBSERVATIONS.—Mr. Westerskov and Mr. Bull specialised in these and their findings will no doubt appear separately in the near future. All expedition members made casual observations which are on file at the Wildlife Division, Department of Internal Affairs.

NOTE ON VOICE OF LESSER REDPOLL.—This bird's calls were investigated at Makara and Karori, Wellington, chiefly between 1947 and 1951, and the following records made. One note which sounds like "tzwee" appeared to be a contact note. This has been heard from birds of both sexes. It has been heard from a bird alighting, from a hen when the cock it was with was chasing another redpoll, from another hen with a cock nearby which had just finished posturing at another cock redpoll, and from birds when completely by themselves. Apart from the common flight calls, which need not be described, and some weak twittering calls, there is in addition a low-pitched trilling note, sounding like "tzur" to my ear, sometimes repeated several times with the common flight call. This trill is heard commonly in summer but rarely in winter. Birds were heard sometimes making this call while flying round in circles and quivering their wings, but while in normal flight at other times. Once, in early January, when a cock and a hen had finished intimidation of another redpoll they perched together on a bush repeating this note. This note is heard mostly between October and January and appears to have the function of expressing threat judged by the circumstances under which it is heard. Throughout the flocking period the redpoll makes a highly pitched rattling note "garr." The note is mostly heard in the months October to December. This is possibly the note syllabised as "geez" in the "Handbook of British Birds." This call has been heard from birds in flight over built-up areas in May and December. It was heard when I approached a cock and hen in October. Courting cocks mobbing a hen have used it and it has been recorded from two birds fighting in conjunction with the low-pitched trilling note "tzur" which has been referred to. There is a shrill call in addition syllabised as "tzlee-tzlee-tzlee-tzlee. . ." This again is often heard in conjunction with the low-pitched trilling note "tzur." This call, which sounds a little like the common flight call, has been recorded from what were evidently paired birds when strange birds were about. A hen believed to be making this call was seen finally to adopt the posture for courtship feeding. Harsh metallic sounding notes often repeated are also heard. These sound like "tzeu-tzeu-tzeu-tzeu. . ." The writer observed a cock making this call while it was on the wing in front of a perching hen.—H. L. Secker, Wellington, February 15, 1955.