

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

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AN OBSERVATION ON SILVEREYES.—On October 31, 1954, I found a silvereye nest which was in an ideal position for observation. This nest, situated nine feet from the ground in a young miro tree, was almost entirely built of moss, horse-hair and spider webs. The nest contained three pale blue eggs. The first two eggs hatched about the same time before 4 p.m. on November 1 and the third egg hatched 24 hours later. A silvereye remained sitting for about a day after the third egg had hatched and on leaving the nest both adults made several trips to remove eggshells and excreta. On the tenth day in the nest the young were being fed about 263 times a day over a period of 14 hours. Visits were paid by both adults on an average every three minutes. Sometimes the chicks were fed twice in five seconds and on one occasion they were not fed for over 20 minutes. The adults, which remained at the nest for only ten seconds on each visit, fed the chicks on flies and caterpillars which were already broken into small pieces. The chicks were first fed at about 5 a.m. and last fed when the adults retired at 7 p.m. Some time before noon on November 13, the young left the nest, and supposing that the first egg hatched at noon on November 1st, the nestling period would not be less than 11 days 12 hours or more than 12 days. However, it is certain that the nestling period was almost exactly 12 days. At 5 p.m. on November 14, the three chicks were flying well, when observations ceased.—David Medway, New Plymouth.

INFORMATION WANTED ABOUT THE KAKAPO.—The kakapo is now a very rare species. Before active steps can be taken for its conservation as much information as possible must be obtained about its past and present distribution. A paper is being prepared on this subject and the author would be grateful for data which may be in the possession of members. Most of the readily-accessible literature has already been searched; what is particularly wanted now is first-hand information of birds seen or heard, references to anyone known to have seen them of recent years or in the past, and references to any accounts of distribution of the kakapo in out-of-the-way literature or diaries that members may know about. Please get in touch with G. R. Williams, Wildlife Division, Dept. of Internal Affairs. All assistance will be acknowledged.

BLACK-BACKED GULLS DISPOSE OF ENEMIES BY DROWNING.—Mr. A. L. Nugent witnessed, at Whangaroa, a savage encounter between a mated pair of black-backed gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) and a harrier (*Circus approximans*). The harrier accidentally dropped a partly consumed young rabbit into the sea near the shore. It seemed unable or unwilling to pick it up from the water. The two gulls took charge of the rabbit, gradually got it ashore and fed from it, each giving the other a turn as is usual with mated birds of this species. The harrier circled for some time, then made a sudden descent, frightened the gulls, seized the rabbit and rose with it. The gulls quickly rallied and made diving attacks in such a manner as to purposely force the harrier away from the land and over the sea, where it again dropped its prey. This time the gulls took the carcass into shallow water and fed on it, not allowing it to strand in case the harrier should be able to pick it up as before. After much waiting on the cliff-top, almost invisible, anger apparently overcame the harrier's hope of the gulls forgetting its presence and it plunged sharply downward to the attack, fastening its talons into the wings or shoulders of one of the gulls