

and a determination to make use of them for the night and until the weather cleared next morning.

W. M. BURROWS

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*) COLLECTING NESTING MATERIAL

On the fine afternoon of 21/1/55 a goldfinch was seen gathering nesting material from under the eave of a shed. Along the wall of this building was trained an apricot tree. Flying to a small branch, the bird reached forward to seize a mouthful of brown, silky spider's nest which was firmly attached to the rough surface of the wall. Tugging with all its might, it gradually pulled the silk away till its head was back to the normal starting position. But still the silk held firmly to the wall. Wits its head raised high, it continued to pull, throwing its weight outward till it was lying horizontal to the branch — back down and belly up. The silk still held. It then swung downward till it could pull no further. Then, fluttering its wings, it gave a jump outward so that its whole weight plus the wing beats jerked most of the silk clear. It flew away trailing some six inches of the gossamer to its nest in a tree nearby. All this took about a minute, during which the cock bird (presumably) sat on a nearby branch watching and calling. When the hen flew, he followed her to the nest. The observer, looking out from a netting window unseen in the darkened interior of the shed, was within two feet of the hen bird and thus had a very good view. The process was repeated till the supply of material was exhausted.

W. M. BURROWS

BEHAVIOUR OF BUSH HAWK (*F. novaeseelandiae*) IN WELLINGTON

On 18/5/55 my sister, Miss Z. A. Wilkin, placed a cage containing one yellow and one blue budgerigar on a chair near a closed upstairs window overlooking a gully, which has a little creek at the bottom and many trees along the sides, and is situated between Kelburn Park and The Terrace, near the centre of Wellington City. The weather was fine and warm. Suddenly at 4 p.m. a dark brown, very graceful hawk with fine white eyebrows and with the under-tail and thighs flecked with cream-beige, appeared fluttering at the window trying to get at the budgerigars through the glass. Miss Wilkin opened the window and the hawk then tried to get at the budgerigars by attempting to settle on her arm and shoulder, and she had to push it outside again. The hawk was very gentle and quite noiseless, even the wing beats being inaudible. The budgerigars fluttered around in their cage and one was so terrified that it fainted on the bottom of the cage, but came round again later. When the window was shut again the hawk settled on a tree close outside and returned nine times, fluttering about the window as if trying to gain entrance. It remained close by for about twenty minutes, during which time Miss Wilkin obtained a camera and attempted to photograph it. When Dr R. A. Falla, Director of the Dominion Museum, was consulted about the hawk, he said that the above was a good description of a young Bush Hawk.

FRANCIS E. WILKIN, Wellington

SHARP-TAILED (Siberian Pectoral) SANDPIPER NEAR INVERCARGILL IN MAY

On 17/5/55 we noticed a small wader feeding beside one of the small pools which were dotted about the floor of what was once L. Hawkins, near Invercargill. As it tended to stay by itself and showed no desire to consort with a scattered flock of Banded Dotterels (*C. bicinctus*), we had little difficulty in watching it for as long as we liked at about the distance of a chain; and as soon as it was seen in a favourable light we were able to identify it as a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*C. acuminata*) in breeding dress. So richly