

We are especially pleased to see such an accurate record come from a junior member (14 years), and this record should bring again to the attention of members of the Society the great value in encouraging in every way the keeping of careful records by even its most junior members.

R. A. FALLA, T. RINEY

SPUR-WINGED PLOVERS IN SOUTHERN NEW ZEALAND

Spur-winged Plovers (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) are now well established in Southland. Frequently, when one is motoring and spies a swampy area, a searching look will reveal some. For instance, on the much used road (18 miles) from Invercargill to Bluff, in each of four areas, Clifton, Awarua (two wet areas) and at Ocean Beach, a pair may usually be seen (30/10/57).

I have notes on the following breeding areas:

1. Colac Bay — at least three pairs nested July 1956; two pairs 1957 (30/10/57).
2. East end Lake Waituna — one pair nested 1957.
3. Invercargill aerodrome — one nest 1957 (three nests 1956).
4. Scott's Gap — 2; one nest 1957, 8/10/57 chicks seen; one nest on farm adjoining school.
5. Nicol's farm, Dunearn, on Aparima River flat — many birds in area, three nests.
6. Naylor's farm, Cromel River, Lumsden — one nest: four eggs 14/9/57.
7. Riverton — one nest.
8. Gummies Bush — one nest.
9. Fosbender's farm, New River Ferry — at least three pairs nesting, 17 counted on 30/4/57.
10. Lower Maitara, Erin Park Farm — one pair nested 1956; 15 birds seen on one day; two regularly in one paddock.
11. Bainfield Road, Invercargill — one pair nested, chicks on 13/10/57.
12. One Tree Point — one pair 'obviously nesting'.

Other reports of the presence of Spur-winged Plovers have come to me from: Waiwera, Otago, 2; South of Te Anau, 2; New River Ferry, 2; Lake Hayes, 2; Prison Farm, Otago, 5; Dipton, 2; Otatara, 2; Lake Wanaka (head of lake), 1; Greenhills, 2; Lake Manapouri, 5; Awarua (Jamieson's farm), 3; Tisbury, 3; Lumsden, 2; Wallacetown (Price's farm), 7.

OLGA SANSOM

CRESTED GREBES ON THE LOWER MATAURA

The unexpected sight of two Crested Grebes (*Podiceps cristatus*) on the Maitara River near Erin Park in late September 1957 caused Mr S. Lobb to put a toll-call through to the Southland Museum. Many local residents saw them, and Mr Lobb visited the museum to confirm the identification with the aid of a stuffed specimen. This is what Mr Lobb says about them: 'One bird has a darker mark under the throat and a lighter body colour than the other. They are similar in size. In flight they have a fast wing-beat, low on the water, and show white on the upper wing. I saw one bird flatten its crest before diving. The time they were under the water varied from twenty to thirty-five seconds, and when they were feeding they surfaced for only short periods. The Black-billed Gulls (*L. bulleri*) which breed locally often harried the grebes, but when harried, a grebe would dive and often come up with something in its bill. They were still on the river in early October.'

OLGA SANSOM

[European Great Crested Grebes habitually resort to estuaries and tidal waters in winter. It may well be that New Zealand Crested Grebes desert their mountain lakes for the coast more often than is realised. One was recorded in Blueskin Bay on 29/1/53. — Ed.]