

may become a factor seriously affecting the gannet population at Cape Kidnappers and has obtained permission to shoot four gulls. It remains to be seen whether this measure will have any effect in checking this new behaviour in the gull population.

These observations suggest that a single bird first adopted this behaviour in 1956/57 season and as other gulls learned the habit, it became more prevalent and widespread in the following year.

Finally, it may be relevant to mention that a number of Red-billed Gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) at the gannetries of White Island (Wodzicki and Robertson, 1958) and at Mohuki gannetry, Great Barrier Island (P. A. S. Stein *in lit.*), seem to subsist during the gannets' nesting season on the regurgitations of the birds. However, although Red-billed Gulls are present, this behaviour does not occur at either Horuhoru or Cape Kidnappers.

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#### STATUS OF RIFLEMAN IN HILLSIDE SCRUB LAND OF WELLINGTON DISTRICT

The late W. R. B. Oliver's work (*N.Z. Birds*, Second Edition, 1955, p. 448) has left the impression that the Rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*) may be seen occasionally in the gorse and broom wastes on hillsides of the Wellington Peninsula. The statement refers, however, to an observation of two Rifleman in gorse and broom thickets on the roadside of the Mangaroa hill, near Upper Hutt, by R. H. D. Stidolph on 10/6/33. The same observer has recorded Rifleman, in addition, not so long ago in the small domain which overlooks the railways yards at Petone. For myself, I have recorded the species likewise from scrub land on an Upper Hutt hillside. The date of observation was 27/10/57, and the spot a point covered with much gorse and cassinia scrub and a few small bush relics, not far from the confluence of the Wakatikei and Hutt Rivers.

However, the Rifleman does not appear to frequent the many small bush relics and extensive gorse and broom wastes of the Wellington Peninsula proper. I did not record it there between 1938-56, though I spent much spare time during this period exploring the district.

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