

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*) — Clevedon, 6/9/57, first song (A.J.G.). Minginui, a few throughout year; some died of cold in June (R.St.P.).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — Clevedon, '57, nest made in one season filling 6 feet of a four-inch downpipe, composed almost entirely of dry kowhai seed pods (R.P.S.). Minginui, March, up to 200 feeding on the rimu crop (R.St.P.). Waimapu estuary, Tauranga, huge roost in clump of pussy willows used nightly most of the year (M.H.).

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*) — Clevedon, 9/11/57, one rummaging in occupied sparrow's nest (H.M.McK.). Otumoetai mudflats, Tauranga, 5/5/58, c. 50 feeding (M.H.). Volcanic plateau, rapidly increasing; winter flocks up to 200 (M.R.R., M.S.B.). Seatoun, 1 seen on 17/8/58 and 18/10/58 (C.J.L.).

MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina* sp?) — Arthur's Pass township, 26/7/58 (R.J.). Craigieburn Ski Club hut, March '58 (R.G.). Five Rivers, 2 reported by T. Catherill; Queen's Park, Invercargill, Dec. '57-Jan. '58, one (O.S.).

KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) — Moumoukai, Clevedon '57-'58, usual numbers (J.W.St.P.). Above Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel Pen., c. 1700-1800ft., reported by C. McCall (H.R.McK.). Upper Tutaenui, Marton, reliably reported June '57 (M.B.).



ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

FIRTH OF THAMES

WHITE-FACED HERON — Apparently now resident near Miranda, but breeding not yet proved. 6 the biggest number seen together, 8/6/58. ---

SHOVELLER — 3 on pools, 26/10/57; 3 pairs offshore, 3/7/58.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — By 31/8/57 numbers were reduced to c. 100; more birds moved away in Sept., c. 44 summered. The numbers had begun to increase again before the end of the year, e.g., 66 on 30/12/57; hundreds arrived in January; c. 630 on 9/2/58, some of these evidently being birds heading further north; c. 700 on 10/5/58; 550+ on 26/7/58.

N.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 2 on 31/8/57 and 29/9/57; 1 on 15/12/57, 25/1/58 and 9/3/58.

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER — 4 at Kaiaua late Aug. and throughout Sept., 1957; up to 3 during winter 1958; occasionally one at Miranda.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER — 1 on 28/10/57 at Kairito Ck., showing much broken black; 1 on 25/1/58 at Miranda. A capricious and unpredictable migrant in the Firth of Thames.

BANDED DOTTEREL — 21 birds were scattered over breeding grounds on 29/9/57, when two nests with eggs (3 & 2) were found; but half the birds present did not seem interested in breeding. 15/12/57, 3 pairs still on territory, 1 tiny chick found; flock of 20+ on Miranda lagoon. 30/12/57, c. 50, predominantly adults in flock; 25/1/58,

105+ (70% adults); 9/2/58, 80+; 9/3/58, 60+. Few in winter; 3 on 10/5/58; c. 20 on 5/7/58; c. 30 in very wet paddock on 3/8/58; 31/8/58, none noted.

N.Z. DOTTEREL — 29/9/57, 1 pair in shelly marsh, 300yds. inland from beach. Wandering juveniles come and go.

WRYBILL — The pattern of migration was similar to that of other recent years. c. 85 on 28/10/57 were probably summering, though only 10 were found on 15/12/57 and 40 on 30/12/57. c. 800 on 9/2/58; 2500+ on 10/3/58 and 7/4/58. c. 2000 on 3/8/58.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW — 1 on 29/9/57; 2 from 26/10-15/12/57. In December and up to the end of January, 12, the biggest flock yet recorded in N.Z., stayed on the southwest mudflats between Thames and Parawai (M.P.D.), after which they seem to have gradually come across to the Miranda-Waitakaruru side; 4 on 9/2/58; 7 on 10/3/58; 10 on several dates between 7/4/58 and 8/6/58 near the mouth of Pukorokoro Ck.; 3 on 16/7/58.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Only one, Kaiaua-Miranda, 31/8/57; c. 1500 on 29/9/57; c. 5000 on 9/2/58; and probably more on 9/3/58; c. 50 only on 25/4/58 and c. 80 on 10/5/58; if a larger number wintered, they must have favoured the Piako-Waitakaruru stretch. None seen on the 'normal beat' 3/8/58 and 26/8/58.

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT — One was present over the summer at least from 24/10/57 to 9/3/58. From October to February it was usually to be found on the 'Sandpiper Pools,' feeding or resting among Pied Stilts. When first seen in October its plumage was showing much nuptial red. This faded away during November. The very white underwing and the distinct white altar bar were easily discernible when this godwit was in flight.

TEREK SANDPIPER — One was found among Wrybills on 9/2/58, when it called frequently as it ran about among them. The call was usually a rippling triple whistle, not to be confused with the call of any other wader in N.Z. It was seen again on 9/3/58. The last record of a Terek at Miranda was on 27/12/54.

TURNSTONE — More were recorded than ever before. 26 on 29/9/57; 35-36 from 28/10/57-9/2/58; 7 on 10/3/58; 14 on 7/4/58.

KNOT — 1500+ on 29/9/57; 3000+ on 25/1/58; 5000+ on 9/3/58; c. 50 on 8/6/58.

SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER — 9 on 26/10/57; 8+ over summer; apparent influx of northbound migrants in early autumn, viz 21 on 9/3/58 and 28 on 7/4/58, this last being the largest flock so far recorded on this coast or indeed in N.Z.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — 5+ on 26/10/57 and 28/11/57; 9 on 15/12/57; 1 on 25/1/58; 2 on 9/3/58.

RED-NECKED STINT — More were recorded than ever before and most of them remained over the winter of 1958; probably an indication of immaturity. 12 on 26/10/57; 19 on 15/12/57; 12+ on 10/3/58; 20 on 5/7/58 with Wrybills (A. Todd, B. D. Bell).

PIED STILT — Nesting was in full progress on 31/8/57; on 29/9/57, non-breeders in flocks numbered some hundreds, certainly 500+, A dusky stilt, but not wholly black, was seen on 9/5/58 and 26/7/58.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — Most stretches of beach now have one or two breeding pairs. They are strongly suspected of drastically reducing the numbers of breeding pairs of Banded Dotterels. At the Kairito Ck. colony of c. 40 pairs, only two nests had clutches of three eggs on 28/10/57; a few had two eggs and several one egg. 28/11/57 was the peak of hatching.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — c. 90 on 29/9/57; 34 on 28/10/57; none noted summering; 60+ including several juv. back on 4/7/58; c. 215 on 8/6/58; 600+ on 26/7/58, some being in a sodden marsh with Red-billed; and later 150+ flew down from inland. This is the first time that Black-billed Gulls have been seen away from the shore on this stretch of coast where hundreds normally winter.

CASPIAN TERN — Only a few summered; no evidence of breeding. 120+ on 25/4/58.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 28/10/57, some hundreds up and down the Firth. None known to have bred successfully. c. 40 birds present at Kairito shellbank on 28/11/57; and six nests each with one egg. On 30/12/57 this colony was quite abandoned. On 7/4/58 these terns were thinly scattered all along the coast; 220+ on 10/5/58; 8/6/58, c. 175 at Kaiaua.

TERN (*Sp?* *albifrons/nereis*) — Small dark-billed terns as described in *Notornis VII* 174-182 were again recorded on several occasions, viz. 1 on 6/7/57 (N.M.) and 28/10/57 off Kairito Ck.; 2 on 28/11/57; 9 on 30/12/57; 4 on 25/4/58, one showing some yellow in the bill; 4 on 19/10/58 at Waitakaruru. These small terns clearly prefer the muddy Kairito-Waitakaruru reach to the more easily watched Kaiaua-Miranda coast.

— R.B.S., H.R.McK.

MANUKAU — (a) UPPER MANUKAU

BLUE HERON — Puhea Ck. is a regular haunt. 3 on 4/5/58 near the bridge.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 23 at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Normal numbers during the summer, e.g., 2000+ at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57; 1500+ at Harania Ck. on 2/1/58.

KNOT — 7 at Harania Ck. on 26/9/57; c. 200 on 16/11/57 was the biggest flock noted during the summer.

TURNSTONE — 1 at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57.

STILT — Many non-breeders as usual, were present during the breeding season. The winter population numbered thousands.

CASPIAN TERN — At dusk on 13/11/57, six passed low over Middlemore, having flown up the Tamaki and heading for Harania Ck. into a strong westerly. Caspian Terns also cross the isthmus by a route which takes them from Orakei and Hobson Bay over Remuera to Upper Manukau.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — One, conspicuous in breeding dress, was found at Harania Ck. on 13/2/58; where it was subsequently watched again on 26/2/58; 5/3/58 and 25/3/58. This is the fourth successive summer that a White-winged Black Tern has assumed nuptial plumage in Upper Manukau. It is presumably the same individual.

— R.B.S.