

GREY-TAILED TATTLER — A single bird was recorded on numerous occasions between 29/10/57 and 20/4/58. At full tide, if it was not on a fence post, it often resorted to a piece of driftwood which formed an arch, on which it would run up and down.

TURNSTONE — 196+ on 3/2/58; c. 300 on 11/3/58; 200+ on 23/3/58; c. 300 on 6/4/58; 40 on 6/7/58, 7 of which were away from the shore in a waterlogged paddock at Seagrove with Banded and Red-breasted Dotterels; c. 60 on 17/8/58; c. 100 on 28/9/58.

KNOT — Scarce at Karaka in the spring, viz., 2 on 28/9/57, none on 24/11/57 or 8/12/57; c. 6500 on 22/2/58; c. 6000 on 11/3/58; 500+ on 6/4/58. Many wintered, viz., 1000+ at Karaka on 22/6/58, many being fully red and most showing some red; and at Seagrove on 6/7/58, 1200+. 500+ on 17/8/58.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — One on 29/10/57, and 3/2/58.

RED-NECKED STINT — 5 on 29/10/57; 8 on 8/12/57; 9 on 27/1/58; 10 on 22/3/58; 11 on 5 & 6/4/58; the largest flock so far recorded in Manukau, one very red on head and neck, another showing some colour, but nine looking like gray yearlings. 9 on 20/4/58; 4 on 6/7/58 and 17/8/58; 10 on 28/9/58.

PIED STILT — Oaklands Rd., 2 nests with eggs 28/10/57 and 7/11/57. Usually some non-breeders linger up the creeks, e.g., c. 50 at Whangau maire on 14/9/57; but the open Karaka coast is virtually deserted in spring and early summer, viz., 2 on 28/9/57, none on 24/11/57; but 200+ on 6/4/58; 800+ on 1/6/58 between Seagrove and Papakura; hundreds on 17/8/58; 4 on 28/9/58.

CASPIAN TERN — Very few on 24/11/57; plentiful from January to August, e.g., 150 on 3/2/58.

WHITEFRONTED TERN — c. 40 on the old jetty on 5/4/58; c. 80 on 10/4/58.

TERN (Sp.?) — 2 small terns (*albifrons/nereis*) were present from February to April, sometimes resting on the old jetty, sometimes among waders, especially Wrybills.

HARRIER — Nest with 4 eggs at Puhinui on 11/10/58.

— R.B.S., H.R.McK.



SHORT NOTES

NESTING OF NEW ZEALAND PIGEON

"On 10/1/58 I was able to find a nest of the N.Z. Pigeon. This nest was roughly 9 feet from the ground in a well shaded position, in low bush and about 300 yards from the caretaker's house on Kapiti Island. It was approximately 100 yards from the edge of the bush.

I observed the nest every day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the 16th January and during these periods a pigeon was continually on the nest. I could not tell whether it was always the same pigeon. The bird or birds were very tame and I had to approach within touching distance on the 10th before the sitting bird raised itself sufficiently for me to see the egg.

I returned to Kapiti on 5th February and immediately went to the nest. A bird was sitting and I again had to approach within touching distance before the bird lifted sufficiently for me to see that the egg had hatched. From the appearance of the chick I assumed that the hatching had been very recent.

Resuming my morning observations I again did not see the parent bird off the nest until 10th February. During these four days my only sight of the young bird was a fleeting glimpse when the parent occasionally shifted its position.

On the 10th I went to the nest at 8.30 a.m. to find the chick unattended. I noticed that its eyes were still closed. At 9 a.m., when the parent bird returned to the nest and re-commenced brooding, the chick gave no sign of requiring food. Until noon I saw the chick only occasionally as it moved under the parent bird, which was sitting perfectly still except for an adjustment when the chick moved and occasional convulsive movements in its throat. A few minutes before noon the parent bird picked up and swallowed several small objects from the nest. At a few minutes after twelve it stood up and commenced to feed the chick. It reached down and took the young bird's bill in the side of its own and by convulsive movements of its throat and crop appeared to be forcing food into the chick. This feeding went on for about five minutes at intervals of roughly half a minute. The chick eventually appeared satisfied — although at no stage was actually demanding — and refused further feeding although the parent attempted to give it more. The young bird then crept under the parent and was still there when I left at 1 p.m.

I continued observing the nest until the 16th for shorter periods but did not see the parent bird at the nest again. The young bird was obviously being fed at some time and spent most of the day sleeping, literally "flat out." On the 12th, I noticed that its eyes were open.

At various times I tied foliage back to allow sunlight to reach the nest for photographic purposes and this made the young bird very restless, it struggled around the nest looking for shade and I was forced to curtail these periods. When the nest was shaded again the chick settled down quite happily."

P. MORRISON



KIWI NEAR WHAKATANE

A Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) was found walking among the sheep at 4 p.m. on 14/8/58 in a farm paddock five miles south of Taneatua in the Whakatane River Valley, the weather being overcast at the time. It had apparently come from the bush about half a mile away, and was picked up without difficulty. The fact that it was in open country in daylight suggested that it was unwell and, despite all efforts, it died early on the morning of 16th August, when it was collected by the Ranger for the Department of Internal Affairs, Rotorua.

The bird was an excellent specimen, unmarked and with brown plumage quite free of bare patches. From the measurements (length 64, bill 13.5, tarsus 8 cm., weight 1.39 kg.) it would appear to be a nearly full grown female. The legs were swollen, and the ranger thought this probably indicated disease.

W. T. PARHAM



[Photograph by P. Morrison

X. NATIVE PIGEON ON NEST, Kapiti Island.
(v. p. 87).