

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.

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