

bird in the manuka scrub. As I retraced my steps I heard more of these little birds, until I was well away from the swamp.

The swamp, consisting of nigger-head interspersed with patches of manuka scrub and raupo, is quite extensive, being approximately half a mile long with an average width of 150-200 yards. It lies between the scrub-covered foreshore of the lake and the pasture-land and as it is below lake-level, the possibility of its ever being drained is remote. It is probably the last remaining stronghold of the Fernbird in the Rotorua area. The original population of the species has doubtless been augmented by refugees from the marshy areas nearer to Rotorua which have been drained in past years. Perhaps this habitat, or at least part of it, could be set aside as a refuge for these birds, thus ensuring their survival.

MARK R. ROBERTS



SUPPRESSION OF THE SPECIFIC NAME *NECTRIS MUNDA*  
KÜHL, 1820

In Opinion 497, published on 17th December, 1957, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has ruled that the specific name *munda* Kuhl, 1820, as published in the combinations *Proc [ellaria] munda* and *Nectris munda*, is suppressed under the Plenary Powers for purposes of the Law of Priority, but not for those of the Law of Homonymy; and has placed these names on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*.

This decision, made in response to an application lodged in 1952 by W. B. Alexander, R. A. Falla, C. A. Fleming, R. C. Murphy and D. L. Serventy, removes from consideration in nomenclature a name first given by Banks on Cook's first voyage to a small southern petrel. Kuhl's description was considered indeterminable by most reviewers, but Fleming and Serventy (*Emu* 43, p. 122-123; *Emu* 52, p. 17-23) maintained that it applied to a race of the Allied Shearwater, generally known as *Puffinus assimilis* Gould, 1838.

C. A. FLEMING



TUIS IN AN AUCKLAND GARDEN

The so-called 'climbing aloe' (*Aloe ciliaris*) provides nectar for Tuis; and I have also seen them obtaining nectar from lachenalias, standing on the ground to do so. They also visit bomaria, swinging on the thin stems to feed. On October 3rd I watched a Tui looking intently on the ground while perched on a tree tomato. Hopping slowly down the branches, it landed on the ground three times to pick something up, raising its beak with a jerk or two each time. On examining the ground afterwards, I found wood planings nearly rotted, but could not see any insects among them.

One season an unused Tui's nest was blown out of our basket-willow. The fronds of asparagus fern had been used to form a base and were effective in holding the manuka twigs in place. These were at least two inches deep and the nest was ten inches wide, being lined with brown scales from the stems of black punga fronds. The local Tuis build each year high up in the macrocarpa trees, collecting twigs from a nearby manuka. Often when feeding their young, they search

the lower side of the pine branches; and they also seem successfully to collect food from eucalyptus leaves. The Australian bottlebrush (*Callistemon*) provides nectar and waratahs are often visited by them; but I have never seen them in our abutilons, perhaps because when they are in flower, other more attractive sources of food are available. The yellow kowhais are of course a favourite food tree. This spring, two Eastern Rosellas (*P. eximius*) joined the Tuis in the kowhais at nectar time.

A. PRICKETT

[Silvereyes (*Z. lateralis*) have also been observed on the ground, systematically visiting winter-flowering lachenalias beside a garden path in search of nectar. Ed.]



## NOTICES

### NEW MEMBERS UP TO 11/2/'59

- Andrew, Miss G. M., c/o St. Mary's Homes, Otahuhu, Auc. S.E.7  
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