

SPARROW'S FISHY END

On 30/7/58 a large kahawai was caught off the wharf at Orua Bay. When it was opened for cleaning, several crabs were found inside, and also a whole sparrow (*P. domesticus*) recently swallowed, feathers, claws and all.

S. C. RUTHERFURD



SEDENTARY BEHAVIOUR OF AN ALBINO STARLING

An albino Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) has been consistently seen at Tikokino, Hawkes Bay, since August, 1956, that is for two and a half years. It is without doubt the same bird, as I have seen no other albino among the many flocks of Starlings that visit the farm. The strange thing is that during all that time I have never known the bird to frequent more than three paddocks, in all an area of about 100 acres. During January and February, 1959, I could guarantee to see this bird by day at any time that I cared to look. Of course, it was impossible to say whether it was the flock numbering about a thousand birds that kept to these strict territorial limits or the bird itself which might have joined any flock that had been visiting the area. Unfortunately, I had not the time to spend on a lengthy watch on this bird, to study its movements at dawn and dusk or to find out where it roosted.

R. W. STEVENS



LETTER

Sir,

May I correct an error which I made inadvertently over the date when I photographed the Kiwi in Stewart Island? It was not in August but in September, 20-23 inclusive.

I would like also to make one comment on the sex of the bird in the burrow. If, as I understand, it is the male that has the high-pitched screaming call (the female's call being hoarser), then it was definitely the male that called from outside the burrow each night and the female which came out of the burrow and answered with the hoarser note.

M. F. SOPER

Queenstown.