

- GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*) — Minginui, none in spring and summer; May, up to 100; June, c. 70; July, up to 12. Winter food: dried thistle, ragwort, groundsel (R.St.P.). Gisborne, 15/8/59, c. 800 in flock (A.B.). Karamea Bluff, bush road, 5/5/59, small lots along road away in heavy bush. Similar occurrences in Lewis Pass (H.M.McK., E.H.S., H.R.McK.).
- LESSER REDPOLL** (*Carduelis flammea*) — Paua, Parengarenga, 10/9/58, 30 in roosting flock (R.B.S.). Minginui, usually some; one flock of c. 200 in Feb. (R.St.P.). Hanmer, 1000+ in turnip field feeding on fathen, some partly pink on breast (H.M.McK., E.H.S., H.R.McK.).
- CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*) — Moumoukai, scattered throughout, including heavy bush; other finches rather scarce owing to regeneration in water reserve (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, plentiful; flocks of 120 in March and May on riverbed; 5/9/58, first song (R.St.P.). Temple Basin, 27/8/58, six cocks (P.G.).
- YELLOW HAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*) — Auckland, 27/9/58, 1 in flock warbling softly (R.B.S.). Tauranga and Whakatane, flocks in winter about streets and newly sown grass plots (E.V.McL., W.T.P.).
- CIRL BUNTING** (*Emberiza cirius*) — Lower Awatere, Marlborough, 30/10/59, 1, possibly a pair (B.D.B.). Hoon Hay Valley, 2/6/59, 1 male closely studied and another less coloured in a party of Yellowhammers (H.R.McK.).
- STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — Tauranga, 29/6/59, several thousands flying to roost at old site on Rabbit I. (Motu-o-tau) (M.H.). Westport-Karamea, 5/5/59, particularly numerous (H.M.McK., E.H.S., H.R.McK.). Palmerston North, 4/1/58, 5 anting on lawn (I.G.A.).
- MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*) — Bay of Plenty, increasing everywhere (R.V.McL., W.T.P.). Minginui, a few resident; many at Kaiangaroa and Rotorua (R.St.P.). Utiku, 21/2/58, 3 (J.S.W.). Palmerston North, a few pairs present in 1959; numbers not noticeably altered over last six years (I.G.A.).
- ROOK** (*Corvus frugilegus*) — Tolaga Bay, 22/7/59, 1 (A.B.).
- KOKAKO** (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) — Moumoukai, Clevedon, usual numbers but much less song. Only two songs heard this winter (J.W.St.P., G.M.M.). Mt. Colenso, Oct. '58, several present; identity confirmed from feathers collected (R.T.A., R.A.F.).

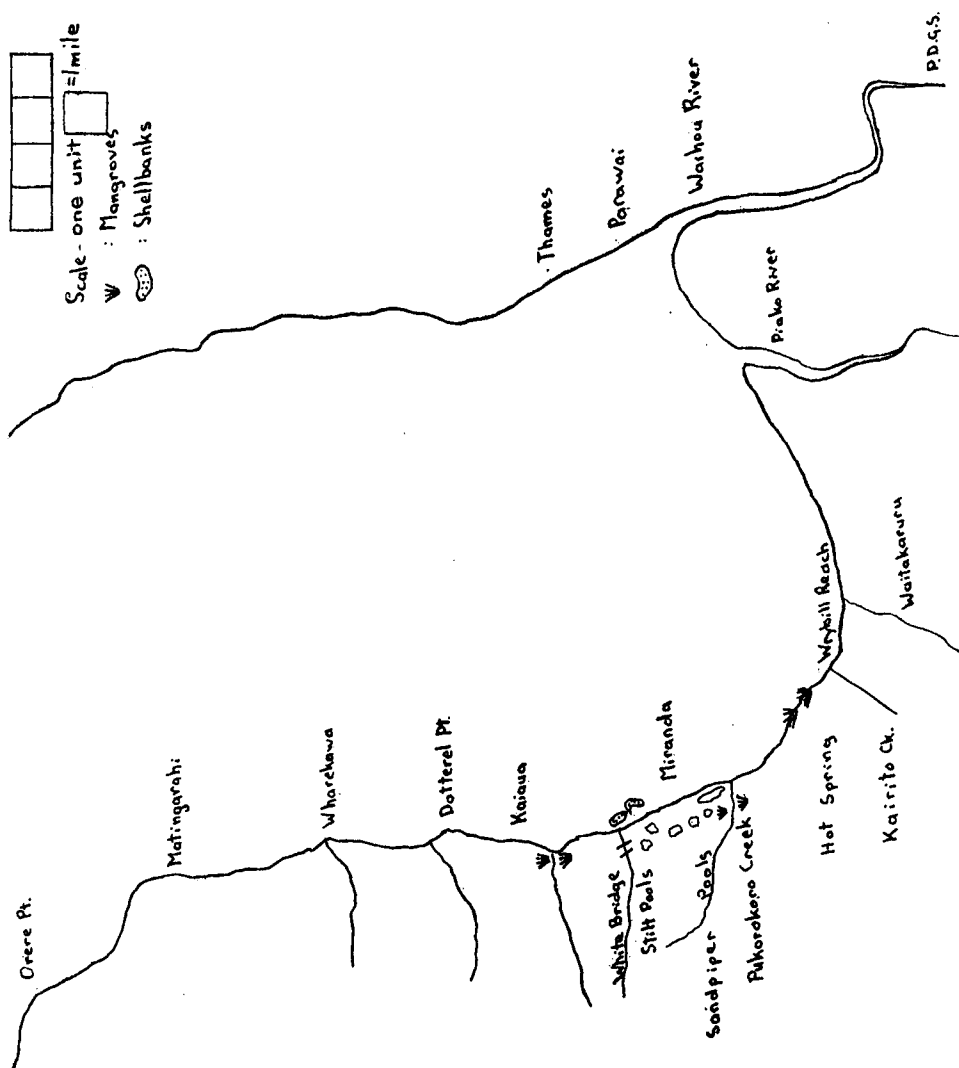


## ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

At the request of several visiting ornithologists, two sketch maps are inserted. Where possible, Maori place-names have been used, but some features, both natural and man-made, have had to have names invented for them. These names are not intended to be official, but they have served local naturalists well for many years. Thus Leschenaulti Rock was an obvious landmark just off the original Puketutu causeway, and the name commemorates the fact that the first example of *Charadrius leschenaulti* to be recorded in New Zealand used it as a high-tide roosting place. For the most part the 'invented' names speak for themselves and have become common parlance among local naturalists.

## FIRTH OF THAMES

- SOOTY SHEARWATER — 1 dry corpse at White Bridge on 2/1/59.
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER — Corpses on 30/1/59 and 26/4/59.
- DIVING PETREL — 1 freshly dead near White Bridge on 13/12/58.
- LARGE BLACK SHAG — An autumn influx is indicated by 120+ on 25/4/58 and 200+ on 26/4/59.
- SPOTTED SHAG — With the increase of Spotted Shags around Waiheke and Ponui, some are now penetrating the Firth and resting with other shags on the rocks off Matingarahi and Wharekawa, e.g., c. 40 on 13/7/59 in breeding plumage (T.G.L.). 9 on 22/8/58, 57 on 21/9/59.
- WHITE-FACED HERON — Single birds or small groups — up to 5 — are always to be found now along the Miranda coast. It is a safe inference that a few pairs are breeding. 3 at Kaiaua on 26/9/59.
- BITTERN — A few survive despite the decrease of suitable breeding swamps.
- GREY DUCK — 5/7/59, in a flock of c. 700 ducks, c. 25% were Grey, 75% Mallard and hybrids.
- SHOVELER — A few pairs breed locally. 7 brown birds, probably a family party, on Miranda pools on 30/12/58. 6 at the creek mouth on 16/6/59. Pair on pools 26/9/59.
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — c. 98 still present on 21/9/58. 82 on 5/11/58 were probably summering. 80+ on 30/12/58. Rapid build-up of numbers after the New Year to c. 735 on 15/2/59. Some of these may have moved on, but most wintered, 650+ on 16/6/59. At Piako, J.C.D. reported 125 on 26/7/59. There were usually 30-40 at Thames. c. 300 still at Kaiaua on 22/8/59 and 150 on 21/9/59.
- N.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — Odd birds are often present but in recent years none has ever looked like breeding. 2 on 26/4/59.
- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER — 2 on Kairito shellbank on 5/11/58 among S.I. Pied Oystercatchers. Otherwise several reports of a single bird, still present on 22/8/59. One at Thames on 26/7/59.
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER — 20+ on 13/12/58. c. 166 on 15/2/59 is the biggest count so far made. They were standing in a long scattered line on the mud, well back from the tide-line in the manner characteristic of this plover in N.Z. Only one was showing firm blackening on the belly. c. 30 on 28/3/59, in flight with Turnstones. The leading Golden Plover was a superb specimen in almost full breeding dress.
- BANDED DOTTEREL — The breeding population continues to decline. 21/9/58, 2 pairs on territory, one nest with 3 eggs found; 19/10/58, 2 pairs, acting as if with young lost; 13/12/58, c. 14 + 2 flying young; 30/12/58, 1 pair still on territory, agitated, perhaps with small young, and on Miranda lagoon a flock of c. 25, indicating an influx; 15/2/59, four small flocks totalling 54 birds; 28/3/59, c. 80 at White Bridge — the Miranda lagoon is now overgrown with glasswort and orache and does not now attract them. None seen on 26/4/59; 16/6/59 and 22/8/59.



**RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL** — There are usually one or two birds somewhere between Kaiaua and Miranda. 3 on 26/4/59; 2 splendidly red, on 26/9/59.

**WRYBILL** — c. 300 still present on 21/9/58; 46 on 19/10/58; 16+ 13/12/58; 200+ on 30/12/58; almost certainly indicating that the post-nuptial influx was well under way; c. 620 on 15/2/59; no satisfactory mid-winter count; but 1,500-2,000 on 13/8/59 and c. 800 on 22/8/59 point to a wintering population of 2000+. 21/9/59, 400+.

**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** — Evidently more arrived in the spring to join the 10 which spent part of the 1958 winter at Pukorokoro Creek. Here 16, the biggest flock so far recorded in N.Z. were closely watched on 30/12/58. 8 on 28/3/59; 2 on 26/4/59; 3 at Piako on 26/7/59 (J.C.D.).

**WHIMBREL** — The only record is of 2 at Piako on 26/7/59. (J.C.D.).

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT** — 6000+ mostly near Waitakaruru on 19/10/58; c. 3,500 on 13/12/58 at Miranda but even at big tides large flocks now stay on the Waitakaruru-Piako stretch. On 15/2/59 a few males were already very red and many were reddening. 500+ had flown into the sodden Hot-spring Marsh with Pied Stilts on 14/7/59. 690 in field by Kairito Stream on 13/8/59, all wintering birds.

**ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** — 2 visiting the pools at Miranda on 19/10/58, and perhaps a third seen in flight; 2 on 13/12/58; 4 on 28/3/59 and 3 on 26/4/59 when they were photographed in colour by J.P. One was reddening, but this was a late date for birds which were intending to migrate still to be here, and the four evidently wintered, one being seen in Hot-spring Marsh on 13/8/59 and four again on the Miranda pools on 21/9/59 all in winter plumage. The white underwing with narrow dark border was clearly seen at close quarters on each of the last four by D.H.B. and H.R.McK.

**TURNSTONE** — 5 on 21/9/58; 32 on 15/2/59; 18 on 28/3/59; 3 on 26/4/59; 4 on 16/6/59; 9 on 13/7/59; 21 on 22/8/59.

**KNOT** — 450+ on 21/9/58 6,000+ on 19/10/58; c. 5,000 at Miranda lagoon only on 13/12/58; none could be found on 26/4/59; 4 on 16/6/59; c. 20 on 13/8/59.

**SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** — 2 on Miranda pools on 21/9/58, one being in worn breeding dress; 8 on the pools and 9 south of Pukorokoro Creek on 30/12/58; 14 on 2/1/59; 17 on 28/3/59, two being in breeding dress; 2 on 26/4/59; 3 on 21/9/59; 7 on 26/9/59.

**RED-NECKED STINT** — 20 which wintered were still together on 21/9/58; after which more arrived till in December and January at least 26 were present. Only 3 remained on 26/4/59, two having very red necks and richly mottled mantles; and one being pale. This may have been the single bird recorded in winter, e.g. with Wrybills on 13/8/59 and 22/8/59.

**CURLEW SANDPIPER** — 6 on 21/9/58; 2 on 19/10/58; curiously, none seen in summer and autumn; 21/9/59, an early migrant showing red at Wrybill Reach.

**PIED STILT** — The breeding population is difficult to assess. As usual, flocks of non-breeders were present throughout the nesting season.

ARCTIC SKUA — A few seen during the summer. 2 on 26/4/59, one light-breasted, one dark-breasted.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — The Kairito colony increases. In 38 nests, 19/10/59, only one egg had been laid. Of 48 nests on 5/11/59, 18 had three eggs, 13 had two, 6 one, and 11 were empty. A few pairs are now nesting between White Bridge and Miranda.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — 200+ on 3/8/58; c. 180 on 21/9/58; 3 on 13/12/58; 18+ on 15/2/59; c. 200 on 28/3/59; c. 375 on 16/6/59. These gulls now occur from Kaiaua to Waitakaruru, usually near the tide-line. Small groups may easily be overlooked.

CASPIAN TERN — No evidence of breeding. 37 on 21/9/58; 28 on 15/2/59; 50 on 26/4/59; 28+ on 22/8/59 scattered along several miles of coast.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — A few between Kaiaua and Miranda on 3/8/58 and 18/10/58. The Kairito shellbank was not used for nesting; but on 13/12/58 there were c. 400 nests, about half with eggs and half with small chicks, on the shellbanks north of Miranda lagoon. On 2/1/59, 66 chicks were ringed in the third section of this colony, after the first and second sections had been flooded out. One of these ringed birds was subsequently reported from Australia. On 15/2/59, 79 well feathered chicks were ringed from the south and last section of this colony, where c. 150 flying young were present. These terns were numerous in the Firth on 26/4/59. 300+ on old nesting ground on 22/8/59, playing at breeding, courting and making scrapes.

TERN (*Sp?* *albifrons/nereis*) — A few were again present during the summer, viz, 2 off Kairito Creek on 5/11/58 and 5+ at Miranda lagoon on 13/12/58.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — Early in February one was found by N.M. on the Miranda pools, where it spent the winter, during which it was seen by many observers. It was evidently a first-year bird. It did not moult into breeding plumage and on 26/9/59 looked much the same as when it first appeared. It often settled and rested quite happily among Pied Stilts.

#### MANUKAU — (a) UPPER MANUKAU

BLUE HERON — 1 on 28/3/59 near the bridge.

WHITE-FACED HERON — 2 on 2/3/59 at Harania Creek.

BITTERN — 1 in Westfield swamp on 9/5/59.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — c. 120 on 23/12/58 near the bridge; c. 50 on 8/11/58 at Tararata Creek.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — This remains a favoured feeding ground in summer. 2000+ on 29/10/58; c. 3000 on 13/11/58.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT — One of two known to be wintering in Manukau was reported three times near Tararata Creek and may have fed there regularly.

KNOT — c. 500 on 12/3/59 at Harania Creek. c.80 on 8/10/59.

PIED STILT — Fewer non-breeders than usual during spring, many having been lured away to the new Puketutu pools. c. 1500 on 17/4/59 at Harania Creek. Mid-winter census, 4020 between Onehunga Bridge and Westfield.