

RIFLEMEN IN EXOTIC PINE-FORESTS

On 30/6/60, Mr. O. Secombe and I saw a Rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*) in Matea Forest, east of Kaingaroa Forest. It was in a mature stand of *Pinus radiata* at least half a mile into the pines and one and a half miles from the nearest podocarp forest of the western Ureweras. Riflemen occur to my knowledge in beech, podocarp, scrub-hardwood and hardwood forest from sea level to over 4,000 feet and are reported from patches of scrub (Oliver, "New Zealand Birds," 1955), but as far as I can ascertain they have not been reported previously from pine forest. The species can therefore be tentatively added to the list of endemic birds that can adapt to this new habitat.

For those who are not familiar with the bird-life of the Central North Island pine forests, the native birds in Kaingaroa during the winter together with the approximate number of times an observer can expect to contact the species in a ten-hour day are listed below:

Whitehead (40), Tomtit (25), Grey Warbler (25), White-eye (20), Fantail (18), Robin (15), Bellbird (<1), Morepork (<1). In addition, Fernbirds, Pipits, Kingfishers and Harriers occur within the forest perimeter but not in the pines; and Tuis, Kakas and Yellow-crowned Parakeets can be found up to the forest boundary but have not penetrated inside.

It is significant that most of the successful colonizers of the pine forests are the insect-eaters; and that one of these, the Whitehead, attains a degree of abundance seldom reached in indigenous forest.

GRAEME CAUGHLEY

Riflemen were observed by me, on several occasions, in Karioi State Forest, during November, 1959, but only in stands of unthinned, mature *Pinus radiata* (planted 1927). These stands are confined to the lower block of the forest, adjacent to the Waiouru-Ohakune main highway at c. 2150 feet a.s.l. No more than two Riflemen were seen at any one time; and, more often than not, they occurred singly. This would appear to be an isolated group, as no birds of this species were observed, between August and November, 1959, in other compartments of exotics within this forest.

C. N. CHALLIES

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERNS IN THE AUCKLAND PROVINCE
AUTUMN 1960

During the autumn of 1960 four distinct White-winged Black Terns (*C. leucopterus*) are known to have been present in the Auckland province, viz:— one in the Manukau Harbour, two in the Firth of Thames and one in the Bay of Plenty.

(a) An adult in breeding dress was seen by numerous observers during March and April over one or other of the Puketutu pools. If the same individual has now frequented upper Manukau, especially Harania Creek and the vicinity of the Favona Causeway for some years — and there are good grounds for believing that only one bird is concerned — it has now assumed breeding plumage for six successive years, possibly seven, without migrating (v. *Notornis*, Annual Locality Reports). It is,