

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL AND SMALL PASSERINES AT THE BROTHERS LIGHTHOUSE

The night of 17/5/61 was very still and calm. At 2000 hours I was called to the lighthouse tower to examine a bird which had been caught while fluttering at the light. It was obviously a storm-petrel and was identified as belonging to the gray-backed species (*Garrodia nereis*). Before it was released measurements and sketches were made and forwarded to the Dominion Museum. The identification was confirmed. Mid-May would be an unusually late date for the much commoner White-faced Storm Petrel (*P. marina*) still to be in local waters.

At the same time two small birds were seen eating moths on the outside of the tower. They proved to be Silvereyes (*Z. lateralis*). Goldfinches (*C. carduelis*) were also heard and seen flying around.

— A. WRIGHT

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UNUSUAL DEATH OF MOREPORK

On 3/1/61, while walking under pohutukawas on the seaward side, beyond the small pa at Kauri Point, Bay of Plenty, which was being excavated by the Auckland University Archaeological Society, I found the dessicated skeleton, with some flesh and wing and tail feathers still adhering, of a Morepork (*N. novaeseelandiae*). It was gripping a wire on a barbed-wire fence, and its neck was caught in a half-loop, where the wire went round a post, the end then twisted back around the main wire; the loop was on the free end of the wire. The bird had apparently flown into the fence in the dark, and had caught its neck in the half-loop. The feet had an "agonised" appearance in their grip on the wire, and were difficult to free without breaking.

Moreporks were plentiful in the vicinity.

R. J. SCARLETT

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KIWIS IN BAY OF PLENTY

Four specimens of the North Island Kiwi (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) were reported in eastern Bay of Plenty between June and September, 1959.

A pair were injured by dogs near Oponae in June, and were placed in the care of the late Mr. J. D. Clark at Opotiki. On his death these were taken over by Mr. P. F. Farnworth at Whakatane, where I twice had the opportunity of examining the birds. Both made good progress, and one was remarkable for its very dark colouring, almost black. The birds were later sent to the Auckland Zoo.

In September a third kiwi was found suffering injuries caused either by a dog or through being struck by a car. It was attended for several weeks by the veterinary surgeons at the Rangitaiki Plains Dairy Co. Ltd., at Edgecumbe, but finally died. The ranger, Mr. D. S. Mackay, collected the dead bird.

At the end of September a kiwi chick, believed to be only about a week old, was killed by a fox terrier on the farm of Mr. F. Mansell at Awakeri. Mr. Mansell previously found two kiwis on his property a few years ago, and says he has noted signs of the birds having scratched under logs for food.

W. T. PARHAM