

members are prompt in the payment of their subscriptions, notifications of any changes of address, and set endeavour to enlist new members. With some members already on active service and all affected by the present conditions of war and the uncertain future we cannot hope to do much more than keep the newly-formed Society alive. It is the only organisation in New Zealand dealing with the study of birds in the field. Many of its members are already members of the more comprehensive Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union and although it is not practicable to bring about an affiliation it is felt that the active stimulus to bird study by a local organisation in New Zealand should result in increased New Zealand membership, and interest, in the R.A.O.U.

SUMMARISED REPORTS.

In the following there have been listed only the species of birds mentioned in members' reports. The list is therefore in no way a complete distributional picture of any of them. Enough reports have been received however, to show the possibility of a more complete account being obtained in future years.

Vernacular and scientific names for the most part follow those used in Oliver's "New Zealand Birds" (1930).

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*).—Waipu watershed, Mangatoroto and Kara districts, N. Auckland, still in moderate numbers. Also on Kawau Island. Eggs found near Whangarei, 1938-39. (C.A.F.) Little Barrier Island, common.—(R.H.)

STEWART ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx lawryi*).—has been at Pegasus and Mason Bay, January, 1937. Marks indicated that they were fairly common though these marks stay a long time in the peaty soil and so would probably lead to an over-estimation of the number of birds present.—(L.E.R.)

LITTLE GREY KIWI (*Apteryx owenii*).—Wakapuwa, nr. Nelson. One reported leaving the mud flats during a spell of dry weather in the summer.—(P.M.) Dead male found near Takaka, May, 1940.—(E.F.S.)

LARGE SPOTTED KIWI (*Apteryx haasti*).—Seen and heard, Goulard Downs—(E.F.S.) Male killed near Greymouth, winter, 1940.—(R.A.F.)

KIWI (sp.?).—Heard on the Canterbury side of the main divide in beech forest and river beds up the Poulter, Hawdon and Mingha rivers.—(E.P.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Otago Peninsula. 70 breeding birds, 30 non-breeding birds and a number of visitors. Otago birds have been caught at various points as far north as the Ashburton River mouth. Breeds at points further south and in many places round Stewart Island.—(L.E.R.)

BIG CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes sclateri*).—Otago Peninsula, April, 1937, 39 and 40. Moulting. The usual numerous stragglers and moulters reported on eastern beaches from Otago to Cook Strait, April-July.—(R.A.F.)

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CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*).—Palliser Bay, a rare straggler.—(R.H.D.S.) Seen at Pegasus and Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, January, 1937, Catlins Coast, January, 1939. Kaka Point, August, 1937. Shag Point, February, 1939, Dunedin coastline, January and February, 1937-40. Karitane, Hampden, Moeraki, Waikouaiti, February, 1939.—(L.E.R.) Nesting, Jackson's Bay, Westland.—(H. Lowcay, per R.A.F.)

"VICTORIA" PENGUIN (Rockhopper) (*Eudyptes chrysocome*).—Seen each autumn on the Dunedin coast, 1937-40. Also at Karitane, Shag Point, Waikouaiti, February, 1939. Otago Peninsula, 26/11/37, adult came ashore in good health.—(L.E.R.)

ROYAL PENGUIN (*Eudyptes schlegeli*).—Waikouaiti, February, 1939, moulting.—(L.E.R.)

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).—Common on Otago Peninsula and at Stewart Island. Found one dead at the mouth of Pelorus Sound, January, 1932.—(L.E.R.) Hen and Chicken Is., Nov. 25th to Dec. 8th, 1939, many large young and two nests with birds incubating eggs.—(C.A.F.) Doubtless Bay, 1937, nests abundantly. Waikawau, Coromandel Pen., Dec. 1936, chick found. N. Hokianga Head, nests common.—(S.D.P.) 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, two corpses. Spirits Bay, May, 1940, three pairs in a cave, no eggs. Maoris hunting them for food at Hooper's Point. (R.B.S.) Appear to be becoming fewer in the bays between Nelson and Separation Point. Many burrows formerly occupied now empty and no indication of fresh ones being made. Possibly due to increasing number of stoats.—(P.M.) Mahina Bay.—(E.W.H.) Coromandel, quite common, nesting.—(P.H.W.) Palliser Bay, scarce.—(R.H.D.S.)

WHITE-FLIPPED PENGUIN (*Eudyptula albosignata*).—Breeding plentifully on Banks Peninsula.—(R.A.F.) Otago Peninsula, January, 1940, a live bird caught.—(L.E.R.)

CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*).—Westland, January, 1940. Lake Windmere, probably three pairs. L. Wakapo and L. Ianthe, one pair each. L. Kanieri, one pair reported (R.B.S.) Lakes Lyndon, Te Anau and Fergus.—(B.J.M.)

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*).—Lake Rotoiti, 14/4/39, twelve pairs, three with one young each.—(C.A.F.) Lake Rotoiti, summer, 1937-38, about fifty pairs, L. Okaro, three pairs.—(G.A.B.) In lagoon behind Spirits Bay.—(A.H.W.) Westland, L. Kanieri, Jan., 1940, one pair with two young. Three other birds, perhaps full grown young (R.B.S.) Wairarapa Lake, rare, decreasing.—(R.H.D.S.) Otago Harbour, 8/6/40, one picked up dead, covered with oil.—(F.G.G.P.)

DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).—N.-W. Chicken I., 9/12/39, of many burrows only three occupied by well-grown chicks.—(C.A.F.) Wairarapa district, rare; at least one killed at Castlepoint Light-house.—(R.H.D.S.) Common on islands in Foveaux Strait.—(L.E.R.)

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*).—Wairarapa district, rare.—(R.H.D.S.) Common on islands in Foveaux Strait and off the Otago Peninsula.—(L.E.R.)

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*).—Fairly plentiful round Stewart Island. Come at night to feed on the fish flats from the cleaning shed at Pegasus, but gone by daylight.—(N.J.J.) Off the mouth of Otago Harbour 14/5/38 and 4/6/38.—(B.J.M.) Off Lyttelton Heads, 25/5/40.—(R.A.F.) Seen following the fishing boats into the mouth of Otago Harbour. A lady passenger on the Penang, which reached Dunedin in June, 1938, told me that she saw more off the Otago coast than anywhere in the southern seas. Four seen at Halfmoon Bay wharf, Jan., 1939. Not seen at Pegasus, Jan., 1937, but two seen on the trip down.—(L.E.R.)

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).—Monaco, near Nelson, May, 1940. Sick bird came ashore. After being kept for a week it recovered and flew off.—(P.M.) Otago Peninsula, often seen off shore.—(B.J.M.) Have seen as many as six follow a steamer into the mouth of the Otago

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Harbour, 22/9/39. One found dead at the Spit, Otago Harbour, February, 1939. Many blackfish stranded at the mouth of Paterson's Inlet, Stewart Island, Dec., 1938, and large number of Giant Petrels had assembled to feed upon them.—(L.E.R.)

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*).—Wairarapa district, one or two have been picked up dead inland.—(R.H.D.S.) Immature birds are picked up near Christchurch late in December.—(R.A.F.) Common on islands in Foveaux Strait.—(L.E.R.)

DOVE PRION (*Pachyptila desolata*).—Wairarapa district, often found on beaches and inland. One in Masterton.—(R.H.D.S.)

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*).—90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, one corpse.—(R.B.S.) Dunedin, 18/2/40 and 21/4/40, two corpses.—(B.J.M.) Common on islands in Foveaux Strait.—(L.E.R.)

PRION sp.—Mouth of Otago Harbour, 16/10/38 and 30/10/38. None seen 23/10/38.—(L.E.R.) Mouth of Otago Harbour, 30/10/38. Large numbers of Prion flying low over the water and often plunging below the surface for two or three seconds.—(B.J.M.)

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*). — A fresh specimen found on Lyall Bay beach, 12/5/40 after some days of stormy weather. This is the second specimen recorded in this area, the other being the type specimen found in 1884.—(W.R.B.O.)

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).—Hen and Chickens Is. 6-9/12/39. Found on the Large, N.W., and S.W. Chickens but not on the Hen, though they were there in January, 1937. Burrows empty or with a single bird or with a fresh egg and a bird. They came in from the sea about 7.30-8.15 p.m. Noisy at night.—(C.A.F.)

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*).—Hen I., 25/11/39-4/12/39. Small colony with clean fresh eggs, some laid during the period. Birds silent at night.—(C.A.F.) 90 Mile Beach, 10-11/5/40, hundreds passing northward in unbroken line. 15/5/40, only one seen. Many seen dead or dying. The wings of nine were measured, average 290 m.m., range 247 to 315 mm Okarito, Jan., 1940, considerable colony nesting on a mainland bluff. (R.B.S.) Between S. cape and S.W. cape of Stewart Island 22/9/39, one bird. Three days later a dozen were seen in the same locality. (N.J.J.) Winton, May, 1940, one seen flying. Several found at Lumsden and liberated on a lagoon (D.M.) Glenary, Waikaia, a dead one reported a few years ago (G.S.G.) Wairarapa district seen at times off the coast. (R.H.D.S.) Nests on the coast near Dunedin. Near Shag Point, 1/4/38, huge numbers resting on the water and flying south (B.J.M.) Arrive off Otago Heads at the end of September each year. Stoats or ferrets interfere with the local nesting birds. (L.E.R.)

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*).—Hen. I., 25/11/39-3/12/39. Very noisy at night, many adults seen but no young. Large and W. Chicken Is., 9/12/39, a few of the burrows had large downy chicks. (C.A.F.)

ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*).—Hen. I., 25/11/39-3/12/39. Several adults in worn plumage, not plentiful. No young found. (C.A.F.)

BLACK PETREL (*Procellaria parkinsoni*).—Masterton, April, 1938. One picked up alive. (R.H.D.S.)

PYCROFT'S PETREL (*Pterodroma pycrofti*).—Large Hen and Chickens Islands, 24/11/39 to 9/12/39. Birds mating and about to lay. Scattered burrows, some with one or two birds in by day. Eight single birds with incubated eggs. One washed up on Mangowai beach in the last week in November, 1939. (C.A.F.)

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*). — Hen and Chickens Islands, 25/11/39—9/12/39. Some burrows vacated but most with chicks losing their down. They were out of the burrow at night but visited by the parents. Motu Harakia, Noises I., 6/8/38, eggs up to ten days incubated. (C.A.F.)

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WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*).—90 Mile Beach, May, 1939, one corpse. (R.B.S.)

PETREL sp.—90 Mile Beach, May, 1940. Petrel flashing white underneath noted off shore. (R.B.S.) Dark coloured petrel, white underneath, seen in Foveaux Strait, Jan., 1939. (B.J.M.)

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*).—Wairarapa Lake, Jan., 1933. One found alive. A few others have been recorded inland.

(R.H.D.S.) Immature bird found inland at Hororata, January, 1939.
(R.A.F.) Occasionally seen off Otago Heads. (L.E.R.)

ROYAL ALBATROSS (*Diomedea epomophora*).—Have nested since 1919 on Taiaroa Head, Otago Peninsula. Four chicks have been reared and 19 birds have been ringed. Probably 30 birds visit the place. A Royal Albatross of another race died on the beach near Taiaroa Head. Wing spread 9ft. 2ins. Too decomposed when I saw it to be sure of the species but the markings on the wings were quite different from the local birds. probably a Campbell Island bird. (L.E.R.)

BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche bulleri*).—Pirinoa, Oct., 1934. One found alive. (R.H.D.S.) Seen at Otago Head and at Stewart Island where they follow the fishing boats. (L.E.R.)

WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche cauta*).—Seen off Otago Head and at Stewart Island, where they follow the fishing boats. (L.E.R.)

MOLLYMAWK sp ?.—Stewart Island. Becoming more plentiful and now follow the fishing boats into the mouth of Halfmoon Bay. About two years ago they would not come within two or three miles of it. (N.J.J.)

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Colony on Lake Waikare, Lower Waikato, a few with the Little Black Shags. (C.A.F.) S. Hokianga Heads, 1937, three nests. (S.D.P.) Skull Creek, Whangarei Harbour, roost. (W.S.) 90 Mile Beach, May 1940, only three on the beach. Spirits Bay, May 1940, two seen. Westland, January 1940, common. Manukau and Tamaki, common (R.B.S.) Nelson, 16/8/39, flight of at least 90 over the harbour (P.M.) Clevedon, Auckland, not many (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, rare (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Common near Otautau and on Aparima, Oreti, Waiau and Waikaia Rivers. Rookery at Belmont (D.M.). Wairarapa district. Fairly common, much persecuted but numbers unchanged (R.H.D.S.). Common round the coast of the Otago Peninsula (L.E.R.).

PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius*).—Awanui Harbour, Oct., 1938, a few in a colony of Little Pied Shags (G.A.B.) Waimamaku, 1936, colony of Black and Pied Shags. Torere, Bay of Plenty, 1939, sixteen (S.D.P.). Skull Creek, Whangarei Harbour, roost (W.S.). "Northern Block," North Auckland Peninsula, fairly plentiful, breeds near Te Paki, Waikuku Beach and Tom Bowling Bay. (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May 1940, eighteen seen including parties of five and eleven. Manukau, infrequent. Coast beyond Whitford and Clevedon, common (R.B.S.). Clevedon, fair numbers on coast and river (H.R.McK.). Waihou R., November, 1939, four nests with young. (J.R.). Opuia, a number of nesting colonies. In the last few years they have taken to nesting throughout the year. Most young in July. A nesting pair takes over a nest as soon as the previous one has finished (A.B.D.). Wairarapa Lake, rare (R.H.D.S.). One seen at Broad Bay, Otago Harbour, for several weeks in the autumn of 1939 (L.E.R.).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*).—Lake Waikare, Lower Waikato, 22/3/36. Colony on an island in willows overhanging the water. About 200 nests, half occupied. Few with eggs, clutch 2-4. Young in all stages. Downy chicks like the White-throated chicks but with less extensive wing margins. Abundant remains of carp and eels. In January, 1937, the colony was about the same size but moved to a new place. Most nests with eggs, clutch 2-5. Adults seen away from the breeding ground, in Waikato River at most seasons, 12 at Whangarei Harbour, 39 at Orakei, Auckland, and odd birds at Bethel's Lake, West Coast, and Lake Takapuna. The adult has a brilliant

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emerald green eye and the gular region and the warts on the face violet. Filoplumes possibly present at all seasons and in all ages. (C.A.F.) Skull Creek, Whangarei Harbour, roost (W.S.). Clevedon, Auckland, not many (H.R.McK.).

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*).—Lake Waikare, Lower Waikato, 22/3/36. Two in the Little Black Shag Colony (C.A.F.). Awanui Harbour, Oct., 1938. About 150 of both types. About 50 occupied nests in mangroves (G.A.B.). Skull Creek, Whangarei Harbour, roost (W.S.). 90 Mile Beach, May 1940, one at Ahipara and one by a pool among the dunes. Westland, Jan., 1940, common. All very uniform on the white-throated type, none of the little pied type or intermediates. Papatōetoe and Puhinui, very common. Birds of either type, very few intermediates seen. Puhinui, 12/12/39, attempting to nest (R.B.S.). Nelson; increased during the past year. Some stayed about the Port all winter. (P.M.) Wairarapa Lake area, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Otago Harbour, about 80, Papanui Inlet, about 20. Common in the inlets of Stewart Island. (L.E.R.).

STEWART ISLAND AND BRONZE SHAGS (*Phalacrocorax chalconotus*).—Off Otago coast and round the northern coast of Stewart Island from Mason's Bay to Patterson's Inlet (L.E.R.). Centre Island, Foveaux Strait, 1934 (R.A.F.).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*).—Bethel's Beach, West Coast, 11/6/39, incubating. Nest material carried. No young seen. Noises I., 6/8/38. Nest building in progress, 4 well grown young and three clutches of fresh-looking eggs. October, 1939, all stages of young and eggs. Oaia I., off Muriwai, 23/10/39, twenty birds seen. 17/6/39, downy chick washed up. (C.A.F.). Westport, January 1940, two flying off-shore (R.B.S.). Nelson Bay, hundreds (P.M.) About three thousand on Otago Peninsula. Some always seen at Moeraki, Kaka Point, Curio Bay, Karitane and Purakanui (L.E.R.).

BLUE SHAG (*Stictocarbo steadi*).—Stewart Island, seen at Mason Bay, Pegasus and Patersons Inlet, January, 1937. Probably two hundred altogether (L.E.R.).

GANNET (*Morus serrator*).—Oaia I., off Muriwai. Adults fishing off-shore all winter. 29/7/37, a few on the island; 16/9/39, more; 23/10/39, 168 counted, mostly sitting. 10/3/40, dark young seen. 23/3/40, two immature washed ashore. The number of adults ashore decreased during April, minimum counted 24, but counted 120 on 4/5/40 in stormy conditions. 21/1/40, immature washed up at Milford, East Coast, perhaps too young to fly. (C.A.F.) Cape Kidnappers. The caretaker estimates the colony to consist of about 3,500 adults. (S.D.P.). 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, regularly seen off shore. Spirits Bay, five or more seen. (R.B.S.) Clevedon, Auckland, plentiful. (H.R.McK.) Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Coromandel, numerous. Nests on islands about four miles from the mainland. The main colony is on two adjacent points of Green Island, there being two smaller ones on outlying rocks about a mile away. At least 1000 or 1200 birds. The area of the main colony is about half an acre with the nests very close together. Birds are at the nesting grounds all the year round, many in June. Nesting begins about September and most of the eggs are hatched before the end of November. The chick is hatched naked, soon grows wisps of dark down and when about as big as one's fist white down appears. The nests are low conical heaps of white guano, and debris with sometimes a little seaweed. (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, seen in small numbers off the coast. (R.H.D.S.) Several seen almost weekly for a mile or two inside Otago Harbour and a little less frequently in Wickliffe Bay. 8/12/36, about 30 birds apparently building nests on the far islet at The Nuggets, Otago. On the flat islet to the left were three pairs, evidently an overflow. (L.E.R.) Dunedin, 8/5/38. Immature birds seen fishing offshore. 21/4/40, two dead immature washed ashore, Nuggets, Otago, 17/1/40. About a dozen sitting on top of the conical rock, apparently the nesting site. (B.J.M.)

BLACK TEAL (*Fuligula novaeseelandiae*).—Increasing in the Rotorua-Rotoiti area. Flocks of 300-400 counted in April and May, 1939.

In May about 15 females had well developed white frontal patches, many had none. Numbers on Cambridge Lake in the non-breeding season decreased. May, 1933, over 100; May, 1937, 20; May, 1939, about 20. (C.A.F.). Lake Rotoiti, 1937-38. About 400 birds in the breeding season. (G.A.B.) Incubation 30 days. Clutch 5-6 laid alternate days. Yearlings lay in December, older birds begin in October. Nest in colonies very close to the water. (M.E.F.). Fairburn, near Doubtless Bay, November, 1937, two pairs. (S.D.P.) Seen near Spirits Bay but not recently. (A.H.W.). Westland, January, 1940, a few seen. 22 at Okarito (R.B.S.) Small parties (7-15) on Avon and Victoria Lake, Christchurch, in spring and summer (R.A.F.)

PARADISE DUCK (*Casarca variegata*).—Waitangi R., Westland, January, 1940. Two broods seen, five and three young. (R.B.S.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Castlerock and Atholl districts, a few. Mossburn district, common. Prospect, near Mararoa, very common. Monowai and Wairaki R., a few. (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common. (G.S.G.) Wairarapa Lake area, two or three hundred, rare elsewhere in the district. (R.H.D.S.)

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*). Spirits Bay, May, 1940, ten on pool behind beach. Okarito, January, 1940, fairly abundant (R.B.S.) Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.). Nelson, seems to be getting scarcer (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon. (H.R.McK.) Glenary, Waikaia, common. (G.S.G.) Fairburn, near Doubtless Bay, November, 1937, 50 seen. (S.D.P.) Whangapoua, Coromandel, 11/5/40, flock of 11. Manukau Harbour, 17/5/40, counted 30. (P.C.B.) Kimbell, Fairlie, common. (K.S.G.) Southland, plentiful where there are sanctuaries. Thornbury, Winton, Sunnyside, Nokomai Valley and the Oreti, Orawia and Aparima rivers. One paced in a car flew at 40 m.p.h. for three miles. (D.M.) Wairarapa district, common, slight decrease. (R.H.D.S.)

GREY-TEAL (*Querquedula gibberifrons*).—Wairarapa district. Rare. Seen at Masterton for three successive years. Formerly only a pair, now six or eight. (R.H.D.S.). Lake Ellesmere, May 1940. (R.A.F.)

BROWN DUCK (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*).—Fairburn, near Doubtless Bay, November, 1937. Mob of 30 on stream. Kirikopuni, N. Auckland, 1937, several seen (S.D.P.). Stewart Island, seen several seasons. (L.E.R.)

SHOVELLER (*Spatula rhynchotis*).—Fairburn, near Doubtless Bay, November, 1937, two pairs. (S.D.P.) Wairarapa Lake area, common. (R.H.D.S.)

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*).—Toaroha R., Westland, January, 1940. One pair with a well-grown young one. (R.B.S.). Regularly seen on Walker Pass between Hawdon R. and Otehaki R. (E.P.). Tararua Ranges: Occurs in small numbers in the headwaters of streams. (R.H.D.S.) Brockenburn, Manapouri, seen in headwaters of torrents, 1930. (L.E.R.)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—Wairarapa district, constantly being liberated. (R.H.D.S.) Lake Ellesmere, appear equally common with grey duck. Washdyke Lagoon, more plentiful than greys. (R.A.F.)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).—Plentiful on the Oreti River above Lumsden. (D.M.) In Otago Lake District. (L.E.R.) Canterbury foothills. (R.A.F.)

BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*).—Kimbell, Fairlie, rare. (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay. (E.W.H.). Wairarapa Lake, fairly common, rare elsewhere in the district. (R.H.D.S.) Lake Waiholo, sometimes in large numbers; also on small lagoons in the Dunedin district. Very large numbers on Washdyke Lagoon, Timaru. (B.J.M.)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*).—Muriwai, 10/3/40, five non-breeding in immature plumage, the most northerly winter record. Small numbers said to reach Waikanae River mouth each winter. (C.A.F.) Common throughout Southland. Nest on the river bed above

Lumsden (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, 11/6/39, two return; 21/6/39, large numbers return (G.S.G.). Palliser Bay, non-breeding visitor in winter in small numbers (R.H.D.S.). Otago and Southland river beds and a few at the head

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of Pattersons Inlet, Stewart Island (L.E.R.). In breeding plumage again on Canterbury rivers by 12th June (R.A.F.).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Seen on three occasions in Otago Harbour and once on Waikouaiti River alongside the main road. Also at Clifden on the Waiau River, January 1938. (L.E.R.) Mangowai, 24/11/39, three groups each with about 60 nests, all stages from eggs to running young. Dec., 1936, estimated at 100 pairs all in one colony; 20/12/39, the colonies had been swamped and most of the nests destroyed; 375 adult breeding birds in one colony. (C.A.F.) Awanui Harbour, October, 1938, about 50 birds nesting. Whangapoua Harbour, odd nests. Increasing inland at Rotorua. Present all the year. One nest in November, 1936. (G.A.B.) Washdyke, Timaru, 1/11/38, 18 nests on shingle bank. Just hatching, 11 young and 24 eggs. Clutches: 2 with 1, 15 with 2, 1 with 3. Washed off soon after by storm. Dunedin district, near Waitati, 22/4/38, immature; Karitane, 19/8/39, one. Occasionally along the coast. (B.J.M.) Coromandel, often seen in pairs (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, breeds on Spit, increasing. (R.H.D.S.). Clevedon, Auckland (H.R.McK.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Otautau, one seen. Aparima and Oreti rivers, occasionally (D.M.). Waimamauku, near Hokianga, Jan., 1937, 50 on beach, appeared to have bred but one pair mating (S.D.P.). Mata, near Whangarei, about 360 birds nest regularly; lay in September. A large proportion of the eggs and young are lost by flooding (W.S.). Parengarenga Heads, about 30 pairs breeding, one mile south (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, 26 on the whole beach. January, 1940, odd birds seen at Hokitika and Okarito. Colony of about 30 birds at Waitangi only 5 nests with eggs and young. Preyed on by Black-backed Gulls. Odd birds often up the Tamaki R. Regularly seen at Manukau. Usually 10-12, even in the breeding season at Puhinui; Clevedon, 16/12/39, counted 20 with breeding *S. striata*. (R.B.S.)

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisea*).—Waikanae, 23/1/39. Single bird believed to be this species (C.A.F.).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*).—Apparently bred in the following localities in the last three years: Pakiri; Ruakaka; Kaipara; Raglan; Porangahau; Waipu Cove; Ocean Beach, Whangarei; Nguruguru; Mangowai. One pair at each place. (C.A.F.) Mata, near Whangarei, occasionally seen but not known to breed anywhere near (W.S.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, never seen (A.H.W.).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).—Large colony on a small island off Whangapoua Harbour (G.A.B.). Coopers Beach, Doubtless Bay, 12 pairs nesting. N. Hokianga Heads, colony of about 250 pairs. Cape Kidnappers, many thousands on Black Reef, overflowing on to the gannet colony. (S.D.P.). Mata, near Whangarei, about 20 nest with Caspian Tern; lay in November. Another nesting place near Onerahi. (W.S.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula: No colonies known, but the bird is quite frequent (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, odd parties all along the beach, about 575 in all. Westland, January, 1940, common at Westport. Flock of over 200 regularly at Hokitika, but no sign of nesting. About 120 at the mouth of the Arahura R. At least 500 pairs nesting on the beach at Okarito. Mataitai, 16/12/39, colony of about 20, three nests with one egg each. (R.B.S.). Manukau Harbour, 7/5/40, large numbers wintering, about 300 near Onehunga. Large nesting colonies on the Ninepins off Manukau Heads. 15/5/40, 70 in three flocks along the coast between Tapu and Thames. None seen there 24/12/38, 3/1/39, 26 and 28/3/40 and 10/5/40. Several hundred seen there September, 1935. (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, on coast, not regular (H.R.McK.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Glenary, Waikaia, arrive in July (G.S.G.). Wairarapa

district, rare off the coast, not known to breed (R.H.D.S.). Waitaki Mouth, very large nesting colony on the shingle. Nuggets Point, Otago and Otago Peninsula, nests on rocks, also on the mole at the mouth of the harbour. 28/3/39, huge numbers on the mole. Pipikarite Beach, 7/4/39, large flock on shore. Otago Harbour, 28/6/40, one seen. (B.J.M.) Common in places from Otago to Stewart Island (L.E.R.).

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BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).—Three flocks counted March 23rd to April 7, 123 and 37 immature, 315 and 34, 82 and 19 (C.A.F.). Dunedin, 8/5/38, out of a flock of 123 three were immature. 15/5/38, out of 83, 7 were first year birds, 8 second, 7 third and 61 adult. Oamaru, 22/5/38, out of 38, 33 were first year, 4 second, 1 third, and none adult. Adults were about in the harbour close by. Karitane, 4/9/38, out of 107, 17 were first year, 3 second, 6 (?) third, and 81 adult. Extremely common in the Dunedin district, nests along the coast. (B.J.M.) Stewart Island, seen sparsely scattered along the coast to Pegasus. (L.E.R.). Isolated pairs nest round Lake Rotorua. (G.A.B.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, breeding (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, seen all along the beach. Spirits Bay, May, 1940, only four seen. Westland, January, 1940, common. Nesting among Caspian Tern at Waitangi River. (R.B.S.). Clevedon district, Auckland, plentiful, breeding (H.R.McK.). Opotiki, one or two occasionally (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Coast near Levin, several nesting colonies of 40 or 50 birds (H.T.W.). Otautau, many years ago they nested at a peat bog. (D.M.). Coromandel, odd pairs nest (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common inland and on the coast, breeds in various places, increasing (R.H.D.S.). Increasing in Canterbury (R.A.F.).

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*).—Takapuna, 28/1/40, 120 adults and 10 young of the year, other counts similar (C.A.F.). Mangere area, November to January, about 100, the winter population about 1500. Does not nest within 50 miles. First seen in fully mounted plumage and bright red bills in early April. (P.C.B.). "Northern Block," North Auckland Peninsula, vast numbers present but no nesting colonies known. Probably come from large colonies on the Three Kings. (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May 1940, seen all along the beach (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, plentiful (H.R.McK.). Opotiki, huge flocks feeding grass fields by day and fly seaward at sunset (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). River-ton (D.M.). Coromandel, does not nest (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, scarce (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. Nuggets Point, Otago, 17/1/40. All stages from eggs to flying young. (B.J.M.). Common at Stewart Island (L.E.R.). Plentiful on whole coastline of Banks Peninsula from Taylor's Mistake to Birdlings Flat (R.A.F.).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*).—Rocky islands off the mouth of Whaka Stream, Lake Rotorua, 75-100 pairs with some Redbills (G.A.B.). Westland, January 1940, all the small gulls seen were Blackbills. No nests found. (R.B.S.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common in winter and spring (K.S.G.). Lumsden district, plentiful and breeding. About May, 1939, thousands flew up the Oreti R. every night. They were coming from farms lower down where they were feeding on the larvae of the Porina moth. (D.M.).

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Nelson, a small number frequent the Bay and harass the terns. Not so numerous last summer as the one before. (P.M.)

***SEA HAWK (*Catharacta lonnbergi*).**—A pair on most islands and rocks and headlands of Stewart Island. (L.E.R.)

McCORMICK SKUA (*Catharacta maccormicki*).—Stragglers picked up dead at Foxton by Major Wilson, and Muriwai by Mr. C. A. Fleming in autumn of 1940. (R.A.F.)

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Manukau Harbour, 17/3/40, 40 with a few assuming the breeding plumage, 20/3/40, 60. None seen later. (P.C.B.). Manukau Harbour, 28/3/40, counted 60, some in breeding plumage. (R.B.S.). Nelson district (P.M.).

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominicus*).—Manukau Harbour, 13/3/40, counted 8; 20/3/40, 130; 6/4/40, 30; none seen later (P.C.B.). Manukau Harbour, 16/12/39, 11; 25/2/40, counted 15; 17/3/40, 22, some black below (R.B.S.).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).—Breeds at Pakiri, Muriwai, Mangowai, formerly at Waikato Heads and Ngunguru. Eggs seen

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19/10/37, 25/11/38, 24/11/39, 20/12/38, 21/12/39 (C.A.F.). 90 Mile Beach, October 1939, four pairs. Doubtless Bay, October 1938, four pairs. Mangowai, December 1939, three pairs. Pakiri, October 1939, eight pairs. Ngunguru, January 1937, 2 pairs (G.A.B.) N. Hokianga Heads, and three miles north, 1937, a good number breeding. S. Hokianga Heads and three miles south, three pairs. Waimamaku, large numbers had bred. Wai-kawau, Coromandel, one pair only (S.D.P.). Wairarapa district, very rare. Only seen once, on Onoke Spit (R.H.D.S.). Stewart Island, seen at Pegasus, Mason Bay and Patersons Inlet, January, 1937 (L.E.R.).

GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*).—Waitati, near Dunedin, 4/9/38. Over 100 (B.J.M.) Patersons Inlet, Stewart Island (L.E.R.)

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—Manakau Harbour, 25/2/40, counted 24; 28/3/40, many, some in full breeding plumage (R.B.S.).

AUSTRALIAN CURLEW (*Numenius cyanops*).—One mile north of Muriwai Stream, 16/9/39. Sight identification supported by measurement of footprints (C.A.F.).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).—Pakiri, 10-12 pairs nested from 1936 onwards, perhaps not in 1939. Nests round Rotorua Lake and on island. Awanui Harbour, October 1938, 40-50 birds but nests not seen (G.A.B.). Pakiri, October, 1937, 12 nests. S. Hokianga Heads, but not north, 12 pairs nesting. Waimamaku, 12 pairs nesting (S.D.P.). Mata, near Whangarei, up to 6 pairs nesting. Partially black ones have been seen. (W.S.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, perhaps a dozen pairs breed, some near Spirits Bay. Many more present in winter (A.H.W.). 90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, 8 at Ahipara and 12 near Te Pahi. Westland, 27/12/39—11/1/40, only 4 seen. Manukau Harbour, Favona-Westland region, November, February and April, hundreds. Heard flying over Mangere at night in late February only (R.B.S.). Aparima and Oreti Rivers, near Lumsden, common. Takitimu Mts., near Mossburn, January and February, 1940, reported to be common and one black one seen (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, 8/8/39, returned to breed (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, fairly common, breeds on shingle river beds (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district: Green Island Lagoon, 26/6/38, 193; Waitati, 19/8/39, a dozen. (B.J.M.). Karitane Lagoon, round Lake Waihola, large numbers round Lake Kaitangata, a few round Tomahawk Lagoon. A nest at Port Molyneaux, Lake Waihola and inland from the Otago coast in dry areas. (L.E.R.).

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor*).—A pair seen at Shag Point, December, 1938. One seen on two occasions on Otago Peninsula, 1938. Three near Owaka, 1938. On Stewart Island seen at several points from Pegasus to Halfmoon Bay and Mason Bay. Mob of 40 at the Neck, near Halfmoon Bay, January, 1939 (L.E.R.).

PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*).—Mobs seen in the off-season at Karitane, Owaka and Otago Harbour on several occasions (L.E.R.). Waitata, near Dunedin, 25/8/38, counted 150; 4/9/38, counted 100. (B.J.M.)

NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER.—(For further notes on Oystercatchers, please see report of special study.)

NORTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus greyi*).—Waipu, Ruakaka, Mangapai, Whangarei Heads, Ngunguru, Kara, 1936 and 1937. Heard abundantly, rarely seen. Waipu, August 1939, heard but not so frequently. Kara, August, 1939, reported that they suddenly vanished some 18 months

previously and have not been seen since. Not seen in two shooting seasons in Whangarei and Heads districts where they were abundant in 1937. Pahi, Kaipara, present about 5 years previously, not seen in May, 1938. (C.A.F.). Dargaville, 1937, Ngunguru Rd., Kamo, Kara Rd., November, 1937, Titoki, 1937, heard every night. Mangatapere, Manganui, Matapouri and Doubtless Bay, 1937, many records, nests

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without eggs, 17/11/37. (S.D.P.). Mata district, near Whangarei, abundant and increased to 1935; disappeared in 1936, small numbers 1938; 1940 scarce; nesting season August to January. (W.S.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland peninsula, not seen in 25 years. (A.H.W.).

SOUTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*).—A number used to live between Nelson and Separation Point. They decreased within the last few years and were replaced by much smaller birds having the characteristics of the N. Island Weka. These also disappeared from the coastal region though calls are still heard at high levels. They are very common at Totaranui, but gone from Torrents Bay and Astrolabe. A possible reason is pig-dogs left in the bush. Stoats have been known to take their young. (P.M.). Very common on Bench Island, off Stewart Island; seldom seen at Halfmoon Bay; fairly common at Patersons Inlet and common at Pegasus. Pupu Springs, Nelson Province, January, 1929, one seen. (L.E.R.)

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*).—Mata district, near Whangarei, abundant and appears to be increasing. Most records of chicks in November. (W.S.) "Northern Block," North Auckland peninsula, plentiful in suitable places. (A.H.W.) Middlemore golf course, 25/10/39, one. Westfield, 7/11/39, one (R.B.S.) Wairarapa district, very rare, formerly common. (R.H.D.S.).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana plumbea*).—Aorangi I., Poor Knights, 7/12/38, four nests with chipping eggs and one chick. Probably 12 pairs. (C.A.F.) Kawakawa, North Auckland, 1937, one seen. (S.D.P.) "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, seen several times. (A.H.W.)

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*).—Masterton, seen nearly twenty years ago, but not seen since. (R.H.D.S.). One caught Greymouth, winter, 1940. (R.A.F.)

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*).—Nesting dates and clutches: 24/8/38, 5 eggs; 18/12/38, 5 eggs; 18/12/38, 2 eggs; 21/12/38, 1 egg; 24/12/38, 4 eggs; 15/2/40, 9 eggs. (P.C.B.). Mata district, near Whangarei, not seen till 1937, when they arrived in numbers from the south along the flats. Increased since arrival and are abundant. (W.S.) Te Pake Stream, May 1940, several seen. Westland, January 1940, common in suitable country. (R.B.S.) Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.) Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.) Opotiki, plentiful near town (N.P.) Southland, Five Rivers, Otatau, Dipton, plentiful. Castlerock, Gore, Waikoura, Waikaia, a few. (D.M.) Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.) Coromandel, decreasing owing to draining, very few now (P.H.W.) Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, a few on the Taieri Plain (B.J.M.). A few on Otago Peninsula, round Lake Waihola, round Lake Kaitangata and Otanomomo (L.E.R.).

WHITE EGRET (*Egretta alba*).—Whangapoua Harbour, Coromandel, June 1940, one has been there several months (G.A.B.). Parengarenga, single bird several winters (A.H.W.). Okarito, Jan. 1940, several seen near breeding site (R.B.S.). Nelson, one or two on the mudflats during the winter for some years past. Two this winter, a large and a small bird. One seen to catch a sparrow (P.M.). Waikaia, one about five years ago, stayed a few days (D.M.). Wairarapa district, rare visitor (R.H.D.S.). Methven, 6/5/40, one seen (newspaper report). One or two have frequented the Christchurch Botanical Gardens every winter since 1933. (R.A.F.)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*).—Okarito, January, 1940, at least three seen. Mentioned by resident as if quite normal there. (R.B.S.).

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).—North of Whangapoua Harbour, January, 1939, several pairs nest in caves. Goat I., off Kāwau, October, 1937, three pairs nesting (G.A.B.). Doubless Bay, Onerahi, Whangarei Harbour, Motuihi I., Mangonui Inlet, nesting (S.D.P.). "Northern Block,"

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N. Auckland Peninsula, frequent. Scattered nests. (A.H.W.). Puhinui, 19/11/39, one; Mātaitai, 16/12/39, six; Kawakawa, near Clevedon, 16/12/39, three (R.B.S.). Nelson, a pair nearly always nest at Fifeshire Rock in the harbour (P.M.). Clevedon, Auckland, plentiful on the coast; nests in pohutukawa on a small island (H.R.McK.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Castlerock, May 1939, one for a few days (D.M.). Coromandel, rather rare (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, on the east coast breeds at Castlepoint (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, commonly seen round the coast and in the harbour and inlets (B.J.M.).

BROWN BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).—Pakiri, October 1937, 4 seen (S.D.P.). Te Paki Stream, May 1940, one; Spirits Bay, May 1940, 3 seen; Papatoetoe crater pool, 30/12/39, 12 flushed, 3 nests found; Puhinui, probably two or three pairs breed (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.). Clevedon Auckland, one seen by river at wharf (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Lumsden, common; also seen at Kauana, Otautau, Sunnyside (D.M.). Glenary, Waikāia, rare (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, not uncommon (R.H.D.S.). Glenavy, near Waitaki R., 2/11/38, three; Toko Mouth, 21/1/40, one (B.J.M.). Seen at Taieri Mouth, Lake Waihola, near Palmerston South, near Balclutha, and near Mason Bay, Stewart Island (L.E.R.). Breeding at Brooklands, on Waimakariri and Lake Ellesmere (R.A.F.).

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus* X *p. torquatus*).—Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon (H.R.McK.). Wairarapa district, always being liberated but does not increase (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, being liberated; one seen on Taieri Plain (B.J.M.). Flag Swamp, 1939, one seen (L.E.R.).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus australis*).—Doubtless Bay, May, 1940, typical of scrub country (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding but not common (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not common (H.R.McK.).

SWAMP QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*).—Wairarapa Lake area, scarce (R.H.D.S.).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*).—Mangere, breeding but not common (P.C.B.). Nelson district (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon (H.R.McK.). Fairlight, Caroline and Ophir, Central Otago (D.M.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Lee Stream, near Dunedin, one seen (B.J.M.). Harrington Point, near Dunedin (L.E.R.).

PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).—Common in Waipori Gorge, near Dunedin, Catlins Bush, Otago Lakes district, and at Stewart Island (L.E.R.). Hen Island, 25/11/39—5/12/39, 5 nests with eggs, 1 building, several with young flown. Common also on Chickens Islands (C.A.F.). Westland, January, 1940, common (R.B.S.). Nelson, not so plentiful this year, probably owing to a fire which destroyed the broom, whose flowers are an important food for the pigeon. A pigeon can easily outfly a harrier (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon. Mostly in Otāu and Orere bush hills (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Bush country, ten miles from Opotiki, scarce (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Sunnyside, Belmont, Glenburn, Blue Cliff, Tuatapere, plentiful; Lumsden, June, 1940, 2, usually 1, there from August to October; Kawarau Gorge, December, 1939, about a dozen seen in a few minutes; one seen eating young shoots of willow at Lumsden (D.M.). Glenary, Waikāia, common (G.S.G.). Coromandel, formerly very rare but is definitely increasing (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, fairly common in bush, not infrequent in the city (B.J.M.).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*).—Masterton, a few about the buildings (R.H.D.S.). On sea cliffs near Dunedin (B.J.M.). In the dry inland belt from Dunedin to Oamaru (L.E.R.). Breeding abundantly in cliffs of Banks Peninsula and Weka Pass (R.A.F.).

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BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—Waiotapu, 1937, nest in firebreak in pine plantation (G.A.B.). Nelson, plentiful in wooded areas (P.M.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Takitimu Mts., Sunnyside, Belmont, Te Mara, Waikaia, Waikoura, Pukemaori, reported to be plentiful on the Milford Track and to be killing tuis there. One seen to carry up a stoat, drop it and follow it down (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, not uncommon in the bush; occasionally in open country in winter (R.H.D.S.). Breeding in Canterbury foothills from Waimakariri Gorge to Hurunui, Oct.-Dec., 1939 (R.A.F.).

NANKEEN KESTREL (*Falco cenchroides*).—Castlepoint, May, 1936, one individual (R.H.D.S.).

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—90 Mile Beach, May, 1940, seen all along the beach over the dunes; common all over the scrub country; Westland, January, 1940, common in open country; Manukau Harbour district, well distributed; 19/11/39, nest with four recently hatched young; they left the nest about 16/12/39 (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.). Nelson, plentiful; as many as 20 seen together close to domestic ducks which did not fear them in the least. They will wade into shallow water to fish; though they have been seen hovering low over the water as though about to take something they have not been seen actually to catch a fish this way (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Waihou River, November, 1939, nest with four fresh eggs (J.R.). Common all over Southland (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Coromandel, decreasing steadily for the last four or five years (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).—Hen and Chickens Is., Dec., 1939, very abundant. Eggs and young, clutch 2 and 1. Nests in holes of broken-off branches. Two on the ground under buttress roots (C.A.F.). Mata, near Whangarei, abundant (W.S.). Spirits Bay, May, 1940, evidently well distributed. Westland, January, 1940, common in bush. (R.B.S.). Whangapoua, Coromandel, 26/3/40, numerous; much calling at night; 10/5/40, very silent (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon (H.R.McK.). Opotiki, several; seen to chase blackbirds and thrushes (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Cass district, Canterbury, not more than two heard at one time, usually one (E.P.). Otautau, Orepuki, Lilburn Valley, Sunnyside (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, rare (G.S.G.). Coromandel, decreasing (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, scarce, decreasing (R.H.D.S.). Canterbury, decreasing (R.A.F.). One in Dunedin suburb 2/5/40 (B.J.M.).

BROWN KAKA (*Nestor occidentalis*).—Poor Knights, twice seen; Hen, Chickens, Great and Little Barrier and Mayor Islands, plentiful; N. Auckland, no records; Waitakereis, rare; in bush south of Auckland but only abundant at Lake Waikaremoana; East Cape district, 1935, very rare (C.A.F.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland peninsula, unknown, but three recently seen in Mangamuka Bush (A.H.W.). Clevedon district, Auckland, rare, only seen flying high (H.R.McK.). Tararua Ranges, scarce (R.H.D.S.).

GREEN KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Nelson, 11/1/40; seen feeding on rata (P.M.). Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, 18/3/39, dozens about, but nearly all gone by March 1st (E.W.H.). Lilburn Valley, one seen; Puke-maori, reported to have been common six years ago but now gone (D.M.). Manapouri, one seen above Hope Arm, Easter, 1932; Stewart Island, common; very numerous at Halfmoon Bay, January, 1939 (L.E.R.). Remains of one which had been eaten by a sea hawk (*C. antarctica*) found on an island off Stewart Island, January, 1939 (B.J.M.). Dunedin district,

a newspaper report of one at East Taieri eating fruit in an orchard, 4/5/40.

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).—Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Near Homer Tunnel (B.J.M.). Head of Franz Joseph Glacier, 1928, and ranges above Makarora, Dec., 1934 (L.E.R.). Mt. Cook Region, March, 1940, (R.A.F.).

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RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*).—Hen Is., Dec., 1939, several nests, one with 5 eggs (C.A.F.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, not present, but reported years ago on second-hand evidence (A.H.W.). Tararua Ranges, scarce (R.H.D.S.). Bench Island, off Stewart Island, Jan., 1939, and various places on Stewart Island (L.E.R.). Ten Mile Bush, Lake Te Anau, Nov., 1939 (B.J.M.).

YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*).—Hen. I., Dec., 1939, only one pair seen. Nest still empty 4/12/39 (C.A.F.). Reported as common in certain districts of Nelson Province; pair seen pursued by a bush hawk (P.M.). Piano Flat, 23/11/39, Glenary, Waikaia, common in bush a few miles away (G.S.G.). Tararua Ranges, scarce (R.H.D.S.). Bench Island, off Stewart Island, Jan., 1939 (L.E.R.).

ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*).—Dunedin, flocks inhabit the slopes of Mt. Cargill (B.J.M.).

BUDGERIGAR (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—Mangere, flock of 8 lived wild but apparently could not stand the winter; last seen March 29 (P.C.B.). Rotorua, Christmas, 1938, nest with three eggs (J.R.). Dunedin district, one or two seen (B.J.M.).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Lamprolaima lucida*).—Hen I., 25/11/39, abundant; warbler's nest with one egg and one cuckoo (C.A.F.). Mangere, breeding, but not common; Puketutu Is., 28/2/40, young one killed on telegraph wire (P.C.B.). Tawanui, Catlins, Otago, 27/9/36, first call of year; Papatowai, Catlins, 28/9/38, first heard but may have been earlier; Slope-down, near Clinton, 22/9/38; Waipati, Catlins, first heard but reported earlier. Very common in the forests of Otago and Southland during the summer. In N. Auckland seem to be heard in the spring but not later. (J.J.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Matamata, 12/3/39, bird seen eating insects from summer beans in the garden; 22/3/39, bird seen about a mile away (J.R.). Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, plentiful in summer; 24/9/39, one heard, and after that they gradually became more plentiful (N.J.J.). Sunnyside, one seen; Glenburn, near Otautau, often heard (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin, 29/10/38, first heard; between 10/12/38 and 5/1/39, heard almost daily; only heard once or twice in the city last summer (B.J.M.). Female with egg ready to lay, killed near Christchurch, 8/12/38 (R.A.F.).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Urodynamis taitensis*).—Halfmoon Bay and Pegasus, Stewart Island, Jan., 1937 (L.E.R.). Only abundant where whitehead is common (C.A.F.). Toaroha Valley, Westland, Jan., 1940, several seen (R.B.S.). Clevedon, Auckland, heard at night. Ness Valley, 2/10/39, 8.20 p.m., called three times; 2/3/40, 11.00 p.m., called once (H.R.McK.). Mahina Bay, Stewart Island, March, 1939 (E.W.H.). Stewart Island, abundant at Mason Bay and on the islands but of late years scarcely seen at Halfmoon Bay; seen to arrive earliest at Mason Bay (N.J.J.). Clifden and Sunnyside, one seen; Lumsden, 1/8/39, one heard; Castlerock, Aug. and Sept., 1939, one seen several times (D.M.). Piano Flat, 23/11/39, 2 seen (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, scarce (R.H.D.S.).

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR BIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*).—Early spring, 1923, one record, body seen (A.H.W.).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*).—Hen I., 25/11/39, commoner than in 1935 or 1937. Two nests with eggs in natural holes in trees (C.A.F.). Spirits Bay, May, 1940, common near the shore; Doubtless Bay, May, 1940, exceedingly common in all northern mangrove swamps; Westland, Jan., 1940, rather scarce (R.B.S.). Mangere (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auck-

land, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Tuatapere, common; Otautau and Dipton, a few (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, rare (G.S.G.). Coromandel, nests in fair numbers round the coast, not much in evidence till autumn (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, not common but generally distributed (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, often seen round coast; near Bluff, several were seen on

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telegraph posts dropping down at intervals to catch crabs from the mud at low tide (B.J.M.).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—Little Barrier, Volcanic Plateau and East Cape districts (C.A.F.). Hokitika, January, 1940, common (R.B.S.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Little Barrier I., a pair seen, apparently the first record (E.H.). Manapouri, Dec., 1939, very common; Sunnyside and Belmont, common; Glenburn, a few (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, fairly common in bush areas (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common in bush; seen nesting in the city (B.J.M.). Nests common in small patches of bush on the Otago Peninsula (L.E.R.).

BUSH WREN (*Xenicus longipes*).—Stewart Is., (E.W.H.). Thought to have been identified at Glenary, Waikaia (G.S.G.).

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeselandiae*).—90 Mile Beach and Spirits Bay, May, 1940, common; Westland, January, 1940, common along dunes (R.B.S.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Wairarapa district, generally distributed (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common along shore (B.J.M.).

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).—Swamps in northern Waitakerei Ranges, near Huia, Muriwai, upper reaches of Maungatawhiri R., Papatootoe, Milford, Pakiri, and many localities in the Gumlands; 26/10/37, nest with two eggs; 1/11/37, two young just flying; 6/11/37, three callow young and one clear egg; 14/12/39, three young beginning to be feathered (C.A.F.). Awanui Harbour, plentiful, Oct., 1939; Waiotapu, Nov., 1938, nest with young (G.A.B.). Records near Mangowai and Taumararua (S.D.P.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, very general throughout (A.M.W.). Puhinui, 14/12/39, heard and seen (R.B.S.). Stewart Island, March, 1939 (E.W.H.). Wairarapa Lake, seen nearly twenty years ago but not since (R.H.D.S.).

GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*).—Spirits Bay, May, 1940, common; Westland, Jan., 1940, abundant (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.). Mt. Te Moeau, Coromandel, one heard singing at 2800 feet near the summit; old nest at 2400 feet (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Opotiki, plentiful (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Hen I. (E.H.). Levin, 17/7/3, nest nearly completed; one egg laid but deserted (H.T.W.). Otautau, Tuatapere, Sunnyside, plentiful (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, rare (G.S.G.). Coromandel, seldom seen except in bush (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common; 2/10/38, nest apparently full size; another begun 10 yards away; old nest pulled to pieces to build the new one; 18/10/38, all trace of old nest gone; the second nest was built but apparently deserted (B.J.M.). Bench I., off Stewart Island, nesting Dec., 1938 (L.E.R.).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica m. macrocephala*).—Hokitika, Jan., 1940, very common (R.B.S.). Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, 8/10/39, started to build, took 4 days; October 19th, started sitting; Nov. 3rd, hatched; Dec. 22nd, young flew; four eggs, all hatched; nest made of moss, hair and feathers; female did most of the sitting, fed by the male; male only sat for $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour or so; young fed first on what looked like crane-flies, later on small grubs. The birds disappeared when the young had flown, but returned later (N.J.J.). Southland, well distributed though not very numerous (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.).

Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.). Common in Catlins and on Stewart Island; on Bench Island, off Stewart Island (L.E.R.).

WHITE-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica toitoi*).—Hen and Chickens Is., increased since 1935. Poor Knights, absent. Motuihi I., and Waitakerei Ranges, rare. No other records for N. Auckland. Found in Hunua and Coromandel Ranges and southwards. Hen I., 25/11/39 to 10/12/39, two nests building, 1 with four eggs, 1 with two young; many young flying (C.A.F.). National Park common. State Forest Plantations, Waiotapu, fairly plentiful. Rangataua, a few. A nest with eggs and one with young, Oct., 1939 (G.A.B.). Otaia Hills, very rare (H.R.McK.). Wairarapa district, not uncommon in bush areas (R.H.D.S.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.).

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NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro longipes*).—Rotorua district, fairly plentiful in certain large areas of bush, but absent in some likely places. East Coast district, absent. Huiarau-Waikaremoana-Urewera area, rare. Reported in the Kaimanawa Ranges and plentiful in parts of the Tongariro bush. Not known north of Rotorua area except on Little Barrier Island (C.A.F.). National Park, Oct., 1939, three or four pairs (G.A.B.).

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro australis*).—Eglinton and Lilburn valleys, several seen; Piano Flat, many reported (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Dunedin district, one seen above Whare Flat in 1938 (B.J.M.). Hope Arm area, Manapouri, Easter, 1930 and 1931 (L.E.R.). Karamea (E.F.S.).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) (includes *flabellifera*).—Spirits Bay, May, 1940, common (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding (P.C.B.). Westland, Jan., 1940, generally distributed, hardly as common as in the North Island; one black one seen near Hokitika (R.B.S.). Nelson, increasing in plantations but disappearing in the city; black individuals with various degrees of white and one completely black observed (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, both pied and black common in winter (K.S.G.). Opotiki, pied plentiful (N.P.). Mahina Bay, pied (E.W.H.). Hen I., (E.H.). Otautau, June, one black and one pied: Sunnyside, Belmont, Glenburn, Piano Flat, common; Castlerock, Five-rivers, Takitimu Mts., Lilburn Valley, Tuatapere, Orepuki, Blue Cliffs, a few (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, pied common, black rare (G.S.G.). Coromandel, goes to bush to nest, comes out in the autumn; more common than grey warbler (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, scarce though generally distributed. Black ones rare (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common, though may be absent in winter; have seen several near Temuka when they had not been seen in Dunedin for a long time; they seem to be seen more often in the bush in winter than in the city where they are common in summer; more than twice as many pied as black (B.J.M.). Common in Catlins and Stewart Island (L.E.R.).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*).—N. Auckland, only on Little Barrier I.; present on Te Aroha and Pirongia Mts., and abundant in the bush on the volcanic plateau and E. Cape districts (C.A.F.). Rangataua and Okataina Lake, fairly plentiful; nests found October and November, 1939 (G.A.B.). Bush country 10 miles from Opotiki, small flock seen at 1700 feet (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Tararua Ranges and east coast bush areas, fairly common (R.H.D.S.).

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops halmaturina*).—Spirits Bay, May, 1940, very common in flocks. Westland, Jan., 1940, abundant (R.B.S.). Mangere, not breeding in large numbers (P.C.B.). Nelson, decreasing each year; a number seen feeding on the flower of the koi, which flowers in winter (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Opotiki, plentiful and nest; noticed that they left when some moreporks arrived (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Orepuki, Otautau, Sunnyside, Piano Flat, Ermedale, Takitimu Mts., common; Castlerock, May, flocks of hundreds in turnip fields (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, only in winter when snow is about; returned 31/7/39

(G.S.G.). Coromandel, common (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin, common (B.J.M.).

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*).—Hen and Chickens Is., Nov. and Dec., 1939, two nests with eggs (C.A.F.). Mata, near Whangarei, very abundant. Has increased in the last few years (W.S.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, not present (A.H.W.). Westland, abundant in suitable country (R.B.S.). Nelson, increasing (P.M.). Clevedon district, Auckland, not uncommon (H.R.McK.). Bush country, 10 miles from Orepuki, plentiful at low elevation (N.P.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Sunny-side, common. Orepuki, several seen. Glenburn, one seen chasing a pigeon (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, rare (G.S.G.). Coromandel, decreasing (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, fairly common, increasing in settled areas; breed in *Pinus radiata* (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, a few in the bush areas, often in the city in winter. Common in Catlins and Stewart Island (B.J.M.).

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BELL-BIRD (*Anthornis malanura*).—On all important islands but not the N. Auckland mainland. Small numbers seen at Peach Cove, Whangarei Heads. South of Auckland, abundant on the volcanic plateau. November to December, 1939, nests with young flown and one with three eggs on Hen and Chicken Is. (C.A.F.). "Northern Block," N. Auckland Peninsula, not present (A.H.W.). Westland, Jan., 1940, abundant (R.B.S.). Nelson, increasing and now enters the city in winter. At Astrolabe where there is one on the average to each small bay, they had a new song nearly every year while retaining the bell notes (P.M.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Sunny-side, Glenburn and Piano Flat, a few. One reported seen with greenfinches near Lumsden. No native bush for miles (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, rare (G.S.G.). Tararua and Rimutaka Ranges, scarce, but generally distributed (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. In one part of Dunedin they have two very well marked songs as well as the descending bell-like notes. There are usually four of these notes but sometimes three or five. Two or three miles away birds have been noted singing songs recognisably of the same type as these two but different in detail. During a visit to Stewart Island, Dec. 1939, and Jan. 1940, the bellbirds were rather silent and the only familiar song heard was the four descending notes, on one occasion only. On Bench Island during the same period only one well-marked song was noted and it was quite unlike the Dunedin songs. In a Dunedin garden between 1/5/38 and 20/5/39 bellbird song was listened for on 293 days. The three songs were heard on the following numbers of days: 176, 61 and 62, the last being the four descending notes. On 5 days during August a quite different song was heard but never before or since. Both sexes sing. (B.J.M.)

SADDLEBACK (*Creadion carunculatus*).—Hen I., Dec. 1939. Appeared to be somewhat less plentiful than in 1935 and 1937; 3 nests, one with fresh eggs, one with deserted eggs and one with half-grown chicks. Feb. 1935, pair seen up Kopuapounamu R. beneath Raukumara Peak, the most recent record on the mainland (C.A.F.).

ORANGE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas cinerea*).—Pegasus, Stewart Island, one seen, Jan. 1937 (L.E.R.).

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas wilsoni*).—Kopuapounamu headwaters, E. Cape district, February 1935. In moderate numbers. Also present in Mamaku bush, and its continuation towards Coromandel. No recent records north of Auckland except near Mangopai, where the bush has since been felled (C.A.F.).

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).—Mangere, breeding. Common (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, rare (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 100yds. into the bush (E.W.H.). Wairarapa district, not uncommon (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Mangere, breeding. Common. Spring song heard from July 5th onwards (P.C.B.). Clevedon district,

Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 100 yards into the bush (E.W.H.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.).

LESSER REDPOLL (*Acanthis cabaret*).—May 1940, well distributed over the extreme north of the N. Auckland Peninsula (R.B.S.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Waiau R., at Sunnyside, early May, 1940, a few reported (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, not uncommon (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. Bench Island, off Stewart Island, December, 1938. (B.J.M.).

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Mangere, breeding, common (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Little Barrier I., several near homestead (E.H.). Coromandel, seems to be increasing (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.). On islands off Stewart Island, January, 1939 (L.E.R.).

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HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). — Mangere, breeding, common (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.).

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Mangere, breeding. Common (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Paraparaumu Beach, entirely absent this winter (W.K.). Mahina Bay (E.W.H.). Glenary, Waikaia, common (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common (B.J.M.).

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirrus*).—Wairarapa district, rare (R.H.D.S.).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelus*). — Mangere, breeding. Common. 17/4/40, first real song. Early nest record: 30/6/34, four eggs; 3/7/34, three eggs and four eggs; 15/7/39, five eggs; 25/7/35, three young (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 200 yards into the bush (E.W.H.). Little Barrier I., about a dozen near homestead (E.H.). Christchurch, normally begins to sing about the end of the third week in May, this noted during the past four years (E.P.). Glenary, Waikaia, common. 2/9/39, nests found (G.S.G.). Coromandel, fairly plentiful, the same as blackbird (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. While counting blackbirds (see under blackbird) 80 thrushes were recorded. This number is probably too low as they are less conspicuous. First song 18/5/38 and 11/5/40 (B.J.M.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).—Mangere, breeding. Common (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 200 yards into the bush (E.W.H.). Waikaia, Jan., 1939, white blackbird, chased by sparrows (D.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, common; 2/9/39, nests found (G.S.G.). Coromandel, fairly plentiful, same as thrush (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. Counts made from a car, Aug 13, 19, and 20, 1938—95 males and 39 females (B.J.M.).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).—E. Tamaki, late, 1937, nest with eggs. First record for Auckland for the present observer (S.D.P.). Spirits Bay, May, 1940, seen twice (R.B.S.). Mangere, breeding, but not common (P.C.B.). Clevedon district, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 150 yards into bush (E.W.H.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. Bench I., off Stewart Island, nesting, Dec., 1938 (B.J.M.).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*).—Mangere, 14/4/40, first heard singing (P.C.B.). Clevedon, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, rare (K.S.G.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, common. Singing dates: 7/5/38, 17/5/38, 3/7/38, 6/8/38 (B.J.M.).

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STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Mangere, breeding, common (P.C.B.). Nelson, increasing. Bird with one leg seen for about six years (P.M.). Clevedon, Auckland, common (H.R.McK.). Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Paraparaumu Beach, large numbers of starlings fly in flocks to roost on islands 3 or 4 miles out to sea. This habit begins about March. This year there seem to be two or three times as many as usual. During heavy westerly winds many failed to cross and returned to roost in mainland plantations (W.K.). Mahina Bay, only goes about 50 yards into the bush (E.W.H.). Hen I., three families of young seen (E.H.). Glenary, Waikaia, they go away for a few weeks in winter and returned 30/6/39 (G.S.G.). Coromandel, more common in winter. Roosts on islands 4 miles out (P.H.W.). Wairarapa district, common (R.H.D.S.). Dunedin district, small parties roost in bushes on coastal cliffs. Not very numerous. Oamaru, fair-sized roost in large trees in the Gardens (B.J.M.).

MYNA (*Acrodothis tristis*).—Papakura, near Clevedon, reported (H.R.McK.). Wairarapa district, scarce. A few in most towns (R.H.D.S.).

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WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Kimbell, Fairlie, common (K.S.G.). Cass district, first noticed about 1932. Present population not more than two pairs (E.P.). Glenary, Waikaia, one seen (G.S.G.). Wairarapa district, fairly common (R.H.D.S.). Travelling north from Dunedin they are usually seen first at Otaia. Glenary, 2/11/38, one. Hampden, 22/11/38, a pair. Several between Oamaru and Ngapara and in the hills behind Duntroon, 20/11/38. Common behind Timaru and up as far as the top of Burke's Pass, but none seen beyond, 23/8/39 (B.J.M.).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).—Neighbourhood of Cheviot (R.A.F.).

* **SEA HAWK (*Catharacta antarctica*).**—A small islet off Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, inhabited by a pair of skuas. The remains of the birds on which they had fed were collected and they occurred in the following numbers: Diving petrel (*P. urinatrix*), 109; Storm petrel (*P. marina*), 87; Fairy prion (*P. turtur*), 44; Broad-billed prion (*P. vittata*) 16; Kaka (*N. meridionalis*), 1. All except the kaka nested in considerable numbers on the islet. (B.J.M.).

** **STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).**—Small islet a few miles off Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, Jan., 1939, small starling roost in bushes. Also nests in cracks in the rocks (B.J.M.).

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SUMMARY OF SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

In addition to short notes and species lists supplied by many members there are a number of special studies which deserve more extended notice. It is hoped that members will all eventually undertake some such intensive local investigation as are here suggested. Comment on, or extension of, those recorded in the following pages would be welcomed for next year's report.

1. BANDING OF WHITE-EYES (*Zosterops lateralis*).

Professor Marples in Dunedin and Mr. C. A. Fleming in Auckland carried out banding experiments. In the former case all captures and returns are recorded between 21st April and 10th October and relate therefore to winter flocks; in the latter the banding is carried into the nesting season and includes some fledglings.