



Upper.—Graph of numbers of Dotterel at Mangere, 1940 (P.C.B.) showing fluctuations in population wintering in Manukau Harbour. Until the peak of numbers in April, the figures probably represent birds passing through the harbour. Thereafter there appears to be a steady wintering population, the numbers fluctuating according to tidal conditions.

Lower.—Graph of Dotterel numbers at Muriwai showing the 2 periods of abundance probably due to the passage of migrant birds. A small number remain to breed.

THE TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*).

Details of Nesting at The Cliffs, Nelson (Mrs. P. Moncrieff).

Tuis at Astrolabe are not common like Bellbirds and have not increased. Nested in October in *Pinus radiata* at 40ft. (inaccessible). Duck feathers collected from ground in farmyard. After breeding, a rat removed lining leaving outer structure of fir needles.

The birds fed on sugared water all winter and spring. On November 12, 2 young birds near sugar cups were found, one perching precariously, the other with a stiff wing unable to fly. Adult tuis visiting sugar ignored these young short of giving brief inspection. Strongest nestling able to reach honey water and feed; later fed by adult who eyed other but did not approach. Later, injured young tried to approach parents but fell to ground, ignored by parents. Other nestling returned to nestle next to it until almost dusk when stiff-winged bird was put in warm basket but was dead next morning. The writer suspects the effect of refined sugar and this year will give nesting birds diluted honey.

Surviving young continued about syrup cups when parents took less trouble over him and on Nov. 16 abandoned squealing nestling note for broken attempts at adult sounds. After nesting tuis leave The Cliffs, but cock returns to honey pots in cold weather. 8/6/41, squealing notes like nestling indicated presence of mate. Daily since then present with 2 others, one, a young cock, attacked by old cock. 14/7/41, female systematically hunting blight off oleander trees and landed on window after flies.

During nesting (21/10/40) between 1.8 p.m. and 3.24 p.m. a detailed account of the pair's activities was kept. Trips to the nest alternated with feeding at sugar-pots, song from the male, flights hawking for insects and feeding of hen by cock, 11 trips to nest by cock occurred at 1 to 23 minute intervals, averaging 19 minutes. (P.M.).

THE WHITE THROATED SHAG

(*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*.)

The attention of members is drawn to the problem of the proportions of black-bellied (white-throated) to white-bellied (little pied) shags in different parts of New Zealand. Both forms, with intermediate, occur in most parts of the country, but the relative numbers of each vary from place to place, and the few counts available suggest that there may be a fairly regular change from north to south, in the proportions of the types. The problem resembles that of the two forms of Guillemot in the Atlantic (see Fisher's "Watching Birds," reviewed elsewhere). All flocks or breeding aggregations of these shags seen should be counted and the numbers of the various forms recorded, together with the locality. (C.A.F.)

THE REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).

The common "Blue Heron" which occurs in New Zealand is widespread in the tropical Pacific and northern Australia, and interest attaches to its southernmost breeding places in New Zealand. Reports to hand indicate that the greatest numbers breed in Northern New Zealand and Cook Strait, but that smaller numbers breed along the east coast of the South Island as far south as Taieri, while birds usually are present as far south as Port Pegasus, Stewart Island. Any information from members relating to the presence or breeding of this bird in Southern New Zealand would be welcome. (C.A.F.).