

Date	W-f. Tern.	Stilt.	Red-b Gull.	Black- back Gull.	Caspian Tern.	Black Shag.	Pied Shag.	White- thr. Shag.	Gan- net.
30/12/38	0	—	70	30	—	2	—	—	—
3/1/39	32	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
26/3/40	—	5	—	—	3	11	—	—	—
27/3/40	—	43	192	147	12	6	—	1	—
11/5/40	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15/5/40	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20-30
17/8/40	30	15	—	—	—	15	—	3	few
21/8/40	—	—	—	—	1	12	—	3	many
29/12/40	28	0	8	10	—	10	1	—	—
3/1/41	5	—	25	30	4	4	1	—	7

NOTES ON FANTAILS AT NELSON.

Fantails have increased during the last year. The difference in the marking of individual Black Fantails continues to be of interest. Some have regular markings on both sides of the head, others have none at all and are coal black. A leaden-coloured bird is reported from Mapua, 19/7/41 (a freak?). The fantails at Astrolabe were moulting their inner tail feathers 28/1/41. At this stage it is hard to tell a Pied Fantail at a glance as the inner white tail feathers are absent. At The Cliffs in July, 1941, three were seen going to roost together, two pied and one black, but they separated during the day. Of these two pied individuals one has learnt to come into the verandah and ask for flies. The method is as follows: Arrived on an adjacent tree it chirps to catch the writer's attention. The latter then catches a blowfly or other insect and holding it in hand waves it to and fro to show the fantail that it is about to be released. As soon as the fly leaves the hand the fantail swoops down and in most cases secures it. If not very hungry it will allow the fly to es-

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cape. It has also learnt that at the dinner hour blowflies are attracted by the smell of cooking. At 12.30 on most days it will arrive at the back door and sitting on a convenient tree overlooking the position, swoop down on blowflies as they come and go outside the gauze door.

It is noticeable that fantails have difficulty in dealing with blowflies, which are rather too big for them. On first securing them they beat them against a branch with their beaks. They may then hold them in their claws and pick viciously at them. But this is not enough and they will frequently let the fly go, to swoop at it again. After many such batterings and releases to secure in a more favourable position, the fantail eventually reduces the fly to a stage when it can be swallowed.

. MRS. P. MONCRIEFF.

NOTES ON THE FIELD CHARACTERS OF THE HUDSONIAN GODWIT.

The Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica*, was recorded for the first time in the North Island by N. Ridland and myself near the mouth of the Waikato River, 2/11/40. This record appears on p.13 of the Second Annual Report of the Society. As we were able to watch the bird at a range of 20 yards or less the following notes were made: It is about the size of a male Bar-tailed Godwit, *L. lapponica baueri*, and beside Stilts, as we saw it, looked quite a dumpy short-legged bird. Even when resting its black tail is its most conspicuous feature, and when it flies this shows still more clearly in contrast to the white rump. There is a whitish alar bar moderately conspicuous in flight.

General colouring a brownish grey, with light mottling on the wings and some of the coverts tipped with light gray or white. Neck and throat brownish grey, underparts whitish, with a fairly distinct line of demarcation between the grey and white at the chest. Head: dark line through eye with a pale streak above and below, crown, medium brown. Legs dark;

Bill slightly upturned, dark towards tip, lighter on lower mandible with a pinkish tinge at the base. R. B. SIBSON.

SOME NESTING BIOGRAPHIES.

Pied Fantail.

29/9/40 Nest discovered, 4 eggs, birds sitting.
26/9/40 4 eggs hatched (a.m.)
9/10/40 2 chicks leave.
10/10/40 2 remaining chicks leave.

Remarks: Locality in Lemonwood, 4 feet, edge of stream, town garden. One parent had only one leg. During gale, both birds sat on nest together.

Summary: Eggs 4, hatched 4, left nest 4, survived first week 3. Time of young in nest—14 and 15 days.

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Grey Warbler.

21/9/40 Building.
23/9/40 Rim made of Toi-toi fluff.
27/9/40 Building has ceased.
3/10/40 Since building ceased song also stopped and birds were not seen—nest believed deserted. However, 3 eggs found today.
4/10/40 4 eggs.
5/10/40 Sitting.
21/10/40 2 chicks, 2 eggs.
22/10/40 3 chicks, 1 egg.
23/10/40 4 chicks.
9/11/40 Chicks left a.m.

Remarks: Locality, at top of young Matipo, 6 feet. Vicinity of old nest, town garden.

Summary: Eggs 4, hatched 4, left nest 4. Survived 12 days, certainly 4; 24 days certainly 2. Parents alone after 4 weeks. Incubation 17, 18, 19 days. Time of young in nest, 17, 18, 19 days. Length of feeding after leaving nest up to 3 weeks.

Hedge Sparrow.

20/10/40 Nest discovered, 4 eggs and 1 chick.
(1) 21/10/40 3 eggs and 2 chicks.
31/10/40 2 chicks left nest.
Summary: Eggs 5, hatched 2, left nest 2.

29/12/40 Nest discovered, 6 inches above last, 3 eggs.
(2) 13/1/41 2 chicks, probably hatched yesterday.
20/1/41 2 chicks gone; may have left 2 or 3 days ago.
Summary: Eggs 3, hatched 2, left nest 2.

Remarks: Both nests by same pair apparently. Locality 3ft. 6in. in bushy shrub resembling Cypress.

Blackbird.

20/8/40 First song.
(1) 21/9/40 Found nest, 5 feet, in Cryptomeria, female sitting.
22/9/40 4 eggs, cold, deserted. Incubated probably a week.
Summary: Eggs, 4.

21/9/40 Nest in flowering currant, 5ft. 6in.
24/9/40 1st egg laid between 10 and 12 a.m.
25/9/40 2nd egg laid between 10 and 11.30.