

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.

9

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.

- (2a) 26/9/40 3rd egg laid between 12 and 12.30.
27/9/40 Bird sitting.
10/10/40 2 hatched, 1 egg left.
18/10/40 2 chicks left. Possibly yesterday afternoon.
Summary: Eggs 3, hatched 2, chicks leave nest 2. Incubation 14 days.
Time in nest 7-8 days.
-

10

- 23/10/40 Old egg thrown out and nest repaired today.
29/10/40 1 egg.
(2b) 4/12/40 4 eggs, bird sitting. A week ago nest was empty again.
Egg laid 29/10/40 evidently deserted.
14/12/40 3 hatched, several days old.
Summary: Used nest second time. Laid one egg (deserted?). Eggs 4,
hatched 3.
-

- (3) 28/9/40-1/10/40 4 eggs laid in this period, deserted, nest in Photinia, 20 feet.
-

Song Thrush.

- 28/9/40 Discovered nest in Photinia, 10 feet, 4 eggs.
9/10/40 2 hatched, 2 eggs.
(1) 10/10/40 4 hatched.
21/10/40 Left nest early.
Summary: Eggs 4, hatched 4, chicks leave nest 4, time in nest 11
and 12 days.
-

- (2) 9/11/40 Nest in oak, over stream, height 12 feet.
-

- 7/2/41 Nest in matipo, 2' 6", decayed willow stump and newspaper used in lining.
(3) 11/2/41 1 egg.
12/2/41 2 eggs; deserted.
-

Starling.

- 9/9/40 Commenced building, in box erected for purpose in open situation.
26/9/40 1 egg, yesterday's ?
27/9/40 2 eggs.
28/9/40 3 eggs.
(1) 29/9/40 5 eggs, (2 in one day), bird sitting.
11/10/40 2 chicks hatched a.m., 3rd hatching p.m.
13/10/40 4 chicks dead. The 5th egg was discarded a week ago, and laid at side of nest.
15/10/40 Discarded egg removed.
17/10/40 I cleared box.
19/10/40 rebuilding; deserted.
29/10/40 Cleared box.
31/10/40 More straw in box.
Summary: Eggs 5, 2 laid in one day, hatched 4, deserted. Incubation time 13 and 14 days.

J. M. CUNNINGHAM.