

summaries the full value of which has not yet been exploited, but when combined consecutively with the next year's should indicate visually any important differences. Vertically there are a varying number, depending on the number of birds under observation. Most birds require more than one line. In the case of J.M.C., the blackbird has 4: one for "sub," one for "part," one for "full" song, and one for additional (and variable) notes. If, for example, a full song is heard, a cross is made in the full song line under the date in question. In the 4th line, information such as fighting, moulting, etc., is entered by means of letters—"f.m.f." for "fight, male versus female," etc. The presence of blackbird is not entered in this locality as it is constant, but if it varied a line would be required for "presence," as the thrush and most others. Distinction is usually made between part and full song, "part" being generally a short or incomplete "full" song. This is noticeable in the case, e.g., of the chaffinch; in the case of the blackbird a sub song line is also necessary.

J.M.C. uses two coloured pencils: a blue one to denote "regular," a red one for "occasional" events, and the two in conjunction for "several." "Occasional" is taken to mean one or two odd songs or perhaps the bird was seen to be present once or twice a day, and several and regular explain themselves. In this form it is easy to read the results—to take a perfect but imaginary case. For the first week the "presence" line was blank. Next week there are several red crosses in this line. Third week sees blue crosses in this line and also there are red crosses in the "part song" line. These become more frequent, changing to blue, and moving into the "full song" line. The explanation is that the bird, which was at first absent, is coming round more frequently, becoming a resident, and that it gradually sings more as time goes on. Perhaps it may also be found that moulting is ending as the song commences. In any case, the sequence is clearly portrayed. If you want the date of the first real regular song, look for the first blue cross in the full song line and similarly with last song, first fight, etc.

N.B.—A second method, carried out by R.H.D.S. and S.B.Y., is to put letters instead of crosses in the squares and then one or two lines is enough for each bird, e.g., P for present, F.S. for full song, P.S. for part song, etc.

Once the information is all there it is possible to make a summary of it. Here in Masterton, a period is about to end and a summary has been made for the preceding three months, the results of which are given below. The next period will commence in July and is expected to include the first songs of the blackbird and others.

One or two lines are reserved for weather notes—in a rough form. R for rain; D, dull; S, sunny; C, changeable (includes rain and sun); H, hot; W, warm; T, temperate; C, cold, and this is sufficient to give a general picture, i.e., there may be a warm week which causes certain birds to sing out of season, or perhaps to fight.

The table is not intended to supersede other notes, but to have a space to note each event instead of writing in full and perhaps missing it. J.M.C.'s chart concerns only birds in his garden and the other notes are made on the way to work and school, thus covering a fair area. Anyone interested is invited to write to J.M.C. for any additional information and a sample completed chart will be sent on request. Suit—(Owing to lack of space in this Bulletin, it has been necessary to hold over the report mentioned above, and it will appear in the next issue.—Eds.)

able paper can be obtained here at a small cost.

SUMMARIZED CLASSIFIED REPORTS.

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*).—Heard 18 miles north of Waipu, in the Takahewai hills; also in the Kukumui hills nearby, where residents frequently see them. (W.S.) Moumoukai, Clevedon: Last one

seen 1914. Call heard up to 1916. Influx of stoats through temporary plague of rabbits probably to blame for extinction in this area. (J.W.St.P.)

LARGE GREY KIWI (*A. haastii*).—Several caught in opossum traps at Ikamatua, Westland, Sept.-Oct., 1941 (R.A.F.)

LITTLE GREY KIWI (*A. owenii*). Specimen with injured leg found at Camerons, Westland, and photographed by Mr. Mitchell, Sept., 1941. (R.A.F.)

KIWI (*A. sp.*)—Reported heard during the past year at Waihoa, Westland. (R.A.F.)

VICTORIA PENGUIN (*Eudyptes chrysocome*).—Adult ashore Birdling's Flat, ready to moult, 7/4/42. (R.A.F.)

CRESTED PENGUIN (*E. pachrhynchus*).—Messrs. Welman and Willett, of the Geological Survey, report (presumably this species) abundant between Paringa R. and Big Bay, Westland, Sept., 1941. In fresh plumage, singly or in small parties, encountered about 4 per mile, from the coast to 50 feet altitude, some at old nest sites with broken egg shell. Nesting observed as far north as Paringa in other seasons. Nest sites open in the bush. (C.A.F.)

BIG CRESTED PENGUIN (*E. sclateri*).—One adult moulted in sandhills, South Brighton, April 14—May 12, 1942. (R.A.F.)

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).—Kapiti Island, 31/1/42. Several pairs have already completed the moult, as seen from many moulting places. Two well grown chicks. (K.A.W.) 13/2/42. One found at New Brighton Beach. (R.A.F.)

WHITE-FLIPPED PENGUIN (*E. albosignata*).—Normal breeding season on Banks Peninsula. (R.A.F.)

CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*).—Kanieri Lake, pair reported. Hans Bay, L. Wahapo, about 10 birds mostly in pairs on the lake. L. Ianthe, 1 pair. L. Mapourika, reported abundant. Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley, early Jan., 1942, pair with 2 young. (I.T.)

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*).—L. Brunner, reported rare. Kanieri, 1 pair seen. L. Wahapo, 2 pairs. L. Mapourika and L. Wombat, reported. Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.)

WILSONS STORM PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*).—Mata, Whangarei. Bird seen, apparently this species. (W.S.)

SILVER GREY PETREL (*Priocella antarctica*).—Fresh plumaged immature bird picked up dead on New Brighton Beach, 5/6/42. (R.A.F.)

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).—The following number of birds was observed at Ngauhaunga, Wellington Harbour; 1, 2, 1 and 3 on 21/9/41, 28/9/41, 19/10/41 and 18/4/42 respectively. (K.A.W.).

9.

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*).—Two corpses on the beach near Waikanae Estuary, 21/9/41. (K.A.W.)

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).—Ponui Islands, east, 15/3/42, about 12 flying about and resting on water. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*).—Ponui Islands, east, 15/3/42, one plainly seen, probably others in the distance. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.)

SHEARWATER (*P. sp.*).—Many about the lower reaches and entrance of Whangarei harbour, where they rob Caspian and white-fronted terns and red-billed gulls. I have seen black-backed gulls rob the shearwaters. In rough easterly weather many come into the harbour, especially if it is misty. This was noted during several summers but I do not know if they are in the harbour in the winter also. The smell of shark liver attracts them from half a mile away. They fight frantically for it, even grasping the feeder's fingers if they are near the water. Hence they are easily

caught, but bite strongly and savagely if they are. They dive as deep as five feet for shark flesh but rarely eat it. They use both wings and feet in diving, the wings being in a half-closed position. They are frequently seen at night, but are then shy. (W.S.)

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*). — Clevedon, between Pahiki I. and mainland, 18/5/42, at night. Several hundreds, scattered singly and in loose groups up to 15 or so. One dazzled with the torch and caught by hand from boat. (H.R.McK.). Not seen in Hauraki Gulf this year till 3/7/41. (P.H.W.) 30/1/42, 5 birds in flight between Kapiti I. and mainland. (K.A.W.) 26/5/42, odd birds off Motunau I., N. Canterbury. One specimen from N. Brighton, 5/6/42. (R.A.F.)

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*P. tenuirostris*).—Since the mutton bird of the Bass Strait does not seem to be often recorded, the following may be of interest. On May 6, 1941, at North Kiapara Heads, I watched one come ashore but exhausted. Its measurements were: Wing 245, tarsus 43 and culmen 33mm. There were other mutton birds over the surf some of which may also have been *P. tenuirostris*. On the next day a second specimen was found dead: Wing 365, culmen 32 mm. On May 20, 1942, the remains of 7 of these birds were found along less than a mile of the beach at Te Henga; and on May 21, three more were picked up on the southernmost mile of Muriwai Beach. Of the ten found, two were comparatively fresh. The death roll along the west coast of N.Z. of migrating *P. tenuirostris* had evidently been heavy. It has, therefore, been possible to obtain measurements altogether from 12 birds. Wing, average of ten, 260 mm, limits 245–275. Culmen, average of eight, 33 mm, limits 32–34. Tarsus, average of nine, 47 mm., limits 45–51.

MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpecta*).—Ponui I. east, 15/3/42, about 15 grey coloured birds, larger than red-billed gull, short hooked beak. Feeding by fluttering along the water for 200 yards or so, then flying back and repeating. Falling into the water to secure food. Feeding against the wind, working singly. Museum specimens examined to confirm identification. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.) 4/4/42, four off Ponui I., feeding. (T.M.R.)

10.

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*).—Three juveniles in fresh plumage, one with slight down still adhering, found alive at Springston, Coalgate and Woolston respectively, 14/2/42. (R.A.F.)

CHATHAM ISLAND MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche cremita*).—Body of adult picked up at Rakaia Mouth, 16/2/42. (R.A.F.)

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Mata, fairly common, often seen catching flat fish in the tidal creek at low water. Several small roosting places about on pines and macrocarpas near Whangarei Harbour. About 40–60 on the western side of the harbour. Nesting place on the eastern side, no large colonies. (W.S.). Castlepoint: 5/4/42, two or three. (J.M.C.) Still numerous on Lake Ellesmere. (R.A.F.) 4/10/41, one seen circling over Waiouru Swamp. Seen at Tokaanu, 24/10/41. (H.L.S.). In Wellington Harbour and up the west coast to Waikanae River Estuary, rather scarce. Thus in Port Nicholson, the total number seems hardly to exceed 10–12 birds. On Porirua Harbour numbers not exceeding 8–10 observed several times roosting; finally the Waikanae Estuary, visited nearly every month, shows different numbers, probably including some of the visitors from Kapiti and other estuaries, but not exceeding 30 birds. Small flocks were observed during visits to the following estuaries: Otaki Mouth, 22/3/42, 10 birds; Ohau Estuary, 19/3/42, 21 birds; Buller's Bush Lake, 8/11/41, 7 birds. Seems to be scarce in the Tararua Range valleys. One adult bird, Otaki Forks. Pretty common on the Waikato R. below Taupo, 4–7 shags a day, March, 1942. (K.A.W.). Small numbers generally distributed in Taramakau-Hokitika district, Oct.–Nov., 1941. Bird with flank patches above Springfield, 21/10/41. (C.A.F.) 20/5/42, Taieri Mouth. One with thigh patches and two without. (B.J.M.) Occasionally fly up Kaiwarra Stream, Karori. Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41, and 9/8/42, 6–8.

21/9/42, 17 (A.K. and C.A.F.) Masterton, 5/5/42, 3 seen flying over. (R.H.D.S.)

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*).—Mata, Whangarei, 8% of Swanee River colony, approx. 12 birds. (W.S.) Ponui I., 4/4/42, young birds at the colony on N.E. corner scattered and learning to feed themselves. 100 approx. including a few young at a colony at Waiheke I., near Thumb Pt. (T.M.R.) Colony on N.E. corner of Ponui I., 15/3/42. About 130 young birds, well grown, taking practice flights in groups. No adults. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.)

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*).—Mata, Whangarei, rare; 6–8 at Swanee River Colony, none elsewhere. Nesting place unknown. (W.S.).

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*P. melanoleucus*).—From mouth of Clevedon R. to Kawakawa Bay (about 4 miles) and out to Pahiki I., single birds and parties frequently seen. Largest parties 17 and 20, usually 5–10. Certainly over 20 birds in this area, very probably 30. All pure white-throated type, no odd colours seen. Never more than three little pied type seen at once, possibly the total here of this type. All pure type. (H.R.McK.) White-throated type generally distributed in Westland, Oct.-Nov., 1941. No white-breasted birds seen. (C.A.F.) Tokaanu, 24/10/41. Several seen. (H.L.S.). Mata, Whangarei. Swanee R. colony about 36 little pied (24%) and 50–60 white-throated (35%) in dense mangroves. Many white-throated with very undefined markings. Crayfish nippers left on the bank. (W.S.) L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley, Jan., 1942. (I.T.) Single white-throated bird on Waikato R., below Taupo, 8/3/42. (K.A.W.).

11.

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*).—Oamaru, 29/5/42. At least 1000, probably more, roosting on the breakwater. About 50 there at 15.00 and parties of up to about 20 arriving all afternoon. Between 16.40 and 16.45, 127 birds were counted alighting, and there were about 1000 there already. When disturbed they entered the water in a dense mass, and then flew away gradually in flocks round the headland. (B.J.M.) Adult female in nuptial plumage found at New Brighton 20/8/41. Number of immature birds noticed on the beaches near Christchurch 28/2/42. (R.A.F.) Colony on N.E. corner of Ponui I., 15/3/42, 10–12 among 130 young large pied, from three-quarters to full grown, about 2 of them possibly adult. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.)

GANNET (*Morus serrator*).—Islands off Colville, Coromandel, 27/8/40 about one nest in three occupied; eggs but no chicks. Adorning nests with seaweed, etc. 25/11/40, One egg unhatched to every 20 or 30 nests. Oldest young losing the last of the white down, approx. full grown. 5/1/41, Very few unhatched eggs. Older chicks showing white on the breast and neck. 27/4/41. Only 2 young left, almost ready to fly. 24/5/41. Rocks deserted, no birds seen flying. 2/7/41. Returning to gulf. Patrolling the coast in small numbers. (P.H.W.). Castlepoint, 5/4/42, several seen. (J.M.C.) Feeding off shore, Port Nicholson, 20/9/41 single odd bird, and 19/10/41, two birds. Nine birds fishing off Otaki Estuary, 14/2/42. (K.A.W.)

PARADISE DUCK (*Casarca variegata*).—Oct., 1941, 10 near Waitaki R. Few seen at Ahuriri Valley, Luggate, Wanaka and L. Johnson. (I.T.) Okarito, not plentiful. (N.F.) Waikato R., Kaingaroa Plains, 7/3/42, one pair. Waikanae Estuary, one female ashore with gulls, 22/3/42. Pair associated with domestic geese, 6 in flight, 14/6/42. (K.A.W.) Milford, Jan., 1942. Numbers seen. (I.T.) Several pairs on Waiouru Plains. Pair seen feeding on scoria country, Waiouru Desert, 23/10/41. Seen at Utiku, 31/10/41. (H.L.S.) Common everywhere in South Westland, Aug.-Sept., 1941 (Messrs. Wellman and Willett, per C.A.F.)

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*).—Hokitika-Taramakau district, Oct.-Nov., 1941, moderately plentiful. (C.A.F.) Waikanae R. mouth, 5/7/41, small flock; 9/8/41, several pairs; 23/11/41, only 1 pair seen.

(A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Fairly common in the whole Horowhenua district, Levin. (H.T.W.) Large numbers seen L. Ellesmere 15/11/41, but outnumbered by mallard in same area. (R.A.F.). Not very abundant in small watersheds and ponds near Waikanae R. and up north. 200 in flight, Waikanae Estuary, 22/3/42. Several hundreds Ohau Estuary, 19/4/42. Common, Horowhenua L., but scarce on Buller's Bush L., 10 only seen 8/11/42. Odd bird in Tararua Range, Otaki Forks, 31/12/41. Waikato R., Kaingaroa Plains, common, and 100 moulting on Rotokaua Sulphur Lake 8/3/42. (K.A.W.) Mata. At least 6 pairs on freshwater creeks, average of 6 ducklings a pair. Skull Creek, Feb., 1942, about 23; 18/4/42, 65-70; 19/4/42, 94-100; 26/4/42, 21 after very heavy rain; 3/5/42, 43; 2/5/42, 70. (W.S.)

BROWN DUCK (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*).—Okarito, formerly hundreds now none. (N.F.) Waipu-Whangarei district, Aug., 1941. None seen where hundreds were a few years ago. Probably away nesting. None on Skull Creek or in the surrounding gullies. None seen at sanctuary north of Waipu, Dec., 1941, or April, 1942. One heard at sanctuary, Dec., 1941. Many footmarks and one drake seen at Ruakaka. These birds have disappeared rapidly at Mata owing to fires and cattle and probably stoats. They are still scattered over the Ruakaka and Waipu creeks, but not in any numbers. (W.S.)

12.

SHOVELER (*Spatula rhynchotis*).—Several seen at Tokaanu swamps, 24/10/41. (H.L.S.) Okarito (N.F.) Scattered pairs on Lake Ellesmere, 15/11/41. (R.A.F.) Rare in Taramakau-Hokitika district, but reported from L. Ianthe. Waikanae R. mouth 23/11/41, 3 pairs, one drake attempting to tread duck. Recent flocks had possibly destroyed first nests. On isolated pond 3 drakes alone, 2 later joined on disturbance by ducks from cover of banks, presumably had nests. (C.A.F.)

BLACK TEAL (*Fuligula novaeseelandiae*). — L. Brunner, 3; L. Wahapo, 20 or more; L. Ianthe, reported abundant, Nov., 1941 (C.A.F.). L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley, Jan., 1942. (I.T.) Okarito, decreasing. (N.F.) Oct., 1941, Kawarau Falls, 4 young; Queenstown and L. Hayes. (I.T.).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*).—Two seen in Fox R. just below glacier, Aug., 1941, by Messrs. Wellman and Willett. Reported pair below Franz Josef Glacier, winter, 1942. (C.A.F.)

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—Thousands in sight from W. shore of L. Ellesmere, 15/11/41, majority males in eclipse. (R.A.F.)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).—Matukituki district. Reported common, attacking the crops. (I.T.)

BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*).—Hilderthorpe, N. Otago, 30/7/41, first heard this spring, flying south, 7.30 p.m. (C.W.McL.). Swans, presumably from the Wairarapa, make periodic visits to the waters of Wellington Harbour, and often choose a day when there is a hard south wind blowing. They come in flocks, varying from 6 to 18, and settle a mile or more from the eastern shore of the harbour then begin to swim south for several miles against the waves. Unfortunately, I have never watched long enough to see how far they go, nor have I seen them leave the water on their return. I can understand them coming down to the mud flats at the mouth of the Hutt R. to feed, where they are occasionally seen, but I cannot think of any reason, unless to cleanse their bodies of insects, for their long swim in rough water. Has this feature of swan's life been previously noted? On the Swan R. in W. Australia I have seen hundreds of these birds but can recall no instance of having seen any at the mouth of the river where it meets the open sea. The Swan R. is practically fresh for about three months of the winter, otherwise is salt. (E.W.H.) Odd birds observed in flight several times between Kapiti I. and the mainland. Scarce on lakes in the Kaingaroa Plains, 8 on Rotokaua Sulphur Lake, 8/3/42, (K.A.W.) L. Ellesmere, 15/11/41, appeared to be the most abundant bird in sight, 2000-3000. Cygnets in down numerous, average family three, occasionally four. Reported by Mr. D. F. Hobbs to be nesting

on some sections in the S.W. area on the lake on 13/5/42. Two nests with 6 eggs, one with 3 newly-hatched young. (R.A.F.) 1940, about 5 cygnets at Ruakaka. Jan, 1942, about 6 on Whangarei Harbour. 12/4/42, about 30 on Whangarei Harbour. (W.S.) Okarito. (N.F.) Dunedin, Tomahawk Lagoon, 16/8/41, sitting on 3 eggs; 26/8/41, on 4 eggs; another pair with 6 young. 1/9/41, pair now with 3 young. Flock of 13-17 on the lagoon in August. (L.G.) 6/5/42. Two heard flying over Masterton at night. (R.H.D.S.)

13.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*).—Visitor in varying numbers to the estuaries on the E. [W] coast of the N. Island. Waikanae, Otaki, Waikawa, usually a few odd birds. Once only, 1/6/42, at Waikanae, about 180 birds. (K.A.W.) 17/11/40, 1 on Muriwai Stream, 8/9/40 not in breeding plumage at mouth of Rangitaiki R., B. of P., seen to fly about half a mile up the river and back. 6/5/41, 1 juvenile over a pool at Fouto, N. Kaipara, 30 miles further north than the Muriwai Stream where five were seen. 10/3/40 (see Report 1939-40). The plumage of this bird when it settled seemed to me so striking that perhaps it is worth while mentioning a few of the salient points. Forehead whitish, crown greyish, a patch of black on the nape and reaching to the eyes; below this, round the neck, a white ring. At the base of the neck a dark line. Dark edging to the wings. Underparts white. General colour of upper parts greyish brown. A note like "swit-week," or "kit-week" was heard. One seen from road by bridge over R. Parnassus, 31/12/40. S. of L. Wakitipu and beginning at Kingston they were common along the rivers to Manapouri. Newly ploughed land had a special attraction for them. Up the Eglinton Valley about 12 were seen over newly ploughed land at Dunton Creek and 1 a little N. of Eglinton Flat, 10-13/1/41. Oamaru, 29/1/41, a few in the harbour where none were seen on Jan. 4th. (R.B.S.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41. At least 18, all but one in full plumage, the exception in winter or immature plumage, accompanying a full feathered bird. 9/8/41, one in full feather. 21/9/41, none. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Mangawai colony of about 170 pairs in two groups, one with eggs 22/10/40, the other with eggs 24/11/40. (S.D.P.) Hokitika, odd pairs, Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.). Waikanae R. mouth, 5/7/41, 8, some in winter plumage, 9/8/41. 11 on 21/9/41. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.). Mata: First eggs about 7/9/41; 15/9/41, only about 60 birds and 4 nests with eggs. (W.S.) Visitor in varying but small numbers, never more than 20 birds at a time, at Waikanae, Waikawa and Ohau estuaries, Dec.-June, 1942. Mostly associated with black-fronted or white-fronted terns and red-billed gulls. (K.A.W.) 15/2/42. Flock of 20 on the beach at Colville. Unusual to see except in pairs or single. (P.H.W.) 6 near mouth of Hutt R., 16/4/42. Two resting, one each side of a black-backed gull. One attacked half-heartedly their relentless persecutors, the red-billed gull. (H.L.S.) Mata, 16/12/41, 170 at colony, about 85 pairs nesting. All eggs destroyed Dec. 17th. 6/1/42, 2 pairs nesting, no eggs. Colony deserted after next high tides. No chicks hatched on this colony, yet several immature birds seen. 15/3/42, all lost black heads, some with mottled ones but many with only a band of dark running through the eye and not quite meeting at the back of the head, about half to three-quarters inches wide. (W.S.).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*).—One pair at Mangawai, 24/11/40; one pair at Pakiri, 25/11/40; sitting on egg, Pakiri, 21/1/41. (S.D.P.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*).—Colony of approx. 50 pairs near Pakiri, 2/1/41. (S.D.P.) Waitaki Mouth, 20/10/41, colony moved from the shingle bank to an island owing to change in the river mouth. 2-3000 birds courting and feeding in river mouth when whitebait were running. (C.W.McL.). Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41, 2; 9/8/41, 6; 21/9/41, none. 23/11/41, 80-100 including some birds with "receding" white foreheads and dark primaries ? previous year's young. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.)

150 at mouth of Waikukupa R., Westland, Sept., 1941 (Messrs. Wellman and Willett). Hokitika R. mouth, numbers varied from 1 pair to 300 in Oct.-Nov., 1941, no sign of breeding. (C.A.F.) Clevedon district, fairly plentiful. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.). Same observations as made with Caspian and black-fronted terns, although, especially at Waikanae Estuary, sometimes in very large numbers, about 300 adults and young birds 21/3/42 and 18/4/42. (K.A.W.) Taieri Mouth, 21/5/42, 50-100 on sand bank in river mouth, together with about 15 black-fronted tern. (B.J.M.) Nov., 1941, 2 colonies with 50 and 25 nests, 4 miles up the Lindis from its junction with the Clutha. (I.T.) 3/2/41. Considerable flock, including young, living on a stony beach, Coromandel. (P.H.W.) Oct., 1941, Waitaki Valley, 2 in lower Lindis Flats, 1 at Shotover. (I.T.) Castlepoint, 5/4/42, several counts at different times gave a number about 130. Others seen about a mile off shore, but they rarely came in. (J.M.C.). Mata, 16/1/42, 24 pairs, each sitting on 1 egg at the Caspian tern colony. No chicks hatched and the colony deserted after the tide had washed away the eggs. Several hundred nested at Ruakaka on sand dunes. Some chicks reared, but at Christmas the colony was destroyed by holidaymakers. (W.S.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).—Hororata, Feb., 1942, present in large numbers feeding on refuse. (U.G.) The most abundant bird off shore and also inland in the Wellington district and in the estuaries between Porirua and Levin, seems to be increasing in numbers lately. (K.A.W.) Levin: The most common sea bird along the coast. A few nesting colonies between the mouth of the Manawatu and Otaki Rs. among the sandhills. (H.T.W.). Castlepoint, 5/4/42, several dozen but not in flocks. (J.M.C.) Waikanae Mouth, July-Sept., 1941, 50-100 present. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Hokitika, Oct.-Nov., 1941, abundant. (C.A.F.) Masterton, April-June, 1942, several seen. (R.H.D.S.)

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*).—Colville; began to return to the beaches from the breeding grounds about the end of Dec. More numerous than usual on islands off Colville during autumn and winter. (P.H.W.) Second in abundance to black-backed gull, but mostly keeping close to estuaries in large flocks, sometimes 100-200 birds. (K.A.W.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41, few; 9/8/41, c. 50; 21/9/41, a dozen. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) A rough graph was kept of the numbers visiting the playing fields at King's Coll., Auck. during the time when the influx into Manukau takes place. Between the end of Jan. and Feb. 10th they increased from an odd bird or two to c. 240, at which figure they stayed more or less stationary till the end of the month. There was then a slight increase to c. 300 and this remained remarkably steady till mid-March. Coinciding with a wet spell, however, the figure rose to 650, two days later it was c. 1200, and on March 22nd, when the ground was sodden, over 2000 were present. On Feb. 17th, an estimate of the number on the Penrose-Westfield-Otahuhu part of Manukau Harbour was 5000-6000. May 11th, over Hokianga Bar at dead low water 1000 or more, with only very few black-backed gulls and 1 Arctic skua, were fishing. At dusk the birds gathered on the shore where they were joined by many flights coming down Hokianga from inland. (R.B.S.) Single bird among blackbills at Hokitika R. mouth, Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Castlepoint, 5/4/42, 2 or 3 dozen with white-fronted tern. (J.M.C.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*L. bulleri*). Hororata, Feb., 1942. Only occasionally seen. (L.G.) Waikanae estuary seems to be the only place off the S.E. [S.W.] coast of the N. Island where odd birds appear. 4-6 birds,

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1/2/42. 2 birds 18/4/42. 3 birds 1/6/42 and 1 bird 14/6/42. (K.A.W.) Still plentiful in Canterbury, and large proportion of young following 1941 nesting season. (R.A.F.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41, 8 or more, several young. Adults dropping feathers 9/8/41, 4-5, 21/9/41 none. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Hokitika R. Mouth, Oct.-Nov., 1941. Most were in immature plumage, out of about 30. (C.A.F.)

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Catharacta antarctica*).—One noticed off Banks Peninsula, 6/2/42. (R.A.F.)

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Odd ones seen between Dec., 1940 and April, 1941, in Hauraki Gulf. (P.H.W.) Clevedon R. Estuary, 14/2/42, 1, light variety. Others seen further out throughout the season. 15/3/42. Several of both light and dark forms, chasing terns, flying about or resting on the water. (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.) Waikanae estuary, 2/2/42 and 22/3/42, 2 birds. Days on which white-fronted tern were abundant. (K.A.W.)

NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus reischeki*).—Ohau R. estuary between dunes and tussock country, 19/4/42, 1 pair with young, pied though less than *H. finschi*. The larger of the adult birds, ? female, had some mottled white plumage, while the smaller bird was entirely black. (K.A.W.) A pair of pied birds nested at Ruakaka, 1 nest destroyed, the other successful, 2 eggs, 2 chicks. A pair have nested here for many years. (W.S.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41 and 9/8/41, a white-breasted pair, a black pair and an odd black bird associating with a *H. finschi*. 21/9/41, 1 black pair remaining, closely associated and restricted to a spit where they have nested in past years. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Pakiri, 28/10/40. On breeding grounds but not nesting. 2/1/41, with newly hatched chicks. 24/11/40, 2 pairs not yet breeding at Mangawai. (S.D.P.) There is no doubt that this species sometimes has a white rump, with the white running up the back like an inverted V, as it does in *H. finschi*. For instance, at Muriwai, on March 9th, a group of four birds was seen which at first were thought to be *H. finschi*, but on closer examination were evidently a pair of *H. reischeki* with two full-winged young. One parent was clearly not *H. finschi* as it had a dark rump and lacked the white patch running back on the shoulder from the lower neck, which was conspicuous in the other parent. The young resembled the *finschi*-like parent till they flew, when it was seen that their rumps were not white. Again, at Waipu, on May 20th, a very representative group of *H. reischeki* was seen. One was black with a few brownish feathers, one superficially black but showing some smudgy white underneath, two more or less typical pied but dark rumped *H. reischeki* and lastly one very pied bird, with white inverted V on the rump, and a white shoulder patch and wing bars, but far browner than any of the other four, in fact its brownness was very striking. 1/3/42, 4 at mouth of Ohau R. 10/3/42 1 pair near Waipoua R. 22/3/42, 1 pair at usual place at Pakiri. (R.B.S.)

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*H. finschi*).—Waikanae estuary, 22/3/42, odd bird. (K.A.W.) Okarito: Oystercatchers feeding on pipis. (N.F.) 4 seen at mouth of Waikukupa R., Westland by Messrs. Wellman and Willett, Sept., 1941. (C.A.F.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41 and 9/8/41, single bird associating with a black one (*H. reischeki*). Absent Sept. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) 13/1/42, 23 in field at Lumsden, evidently on way to the coast. 1, probably this species, was with godwits in Manukau, 20/10/40. c70 near Miranda, Firth of Thames, 13/7/42.

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BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*).—Waikanae Estuary, 21/9/41, pair of adult birds. 4/1/42, an odd bird only which later disappeared. (K.A.W.) 1 at mouth of Rangitaiki R., B. of P., 8/9/41 probably this species. Stewart Island, 17/1/42, c. 30 on Ringaringa Beach, 26/1/42 37. Nest with 3 eggs found on Ocean Beach 17/1/42. These had not hatched on Jan. 23rd. Fairly common at Port Pegasus. (R.B.S.)

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Manukau, near Puketutu Island 4/3/42 two. 9/3/42, c. 65. 23/3/42, c. 6. 7/4/42, 7. At full tide they gathered at the same spot. (R.B.S.)

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominicus*).—Manukau, near Puketutu Island. Usually associating with Turnstones, 4/3/42, 8 one rather black. 9/3/42, 22. 23/3/42, 28. 7/4/42 c. 18 of which 6 were in full black breeding plumage. (R.B.S.)

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*). — Taieri Mouth, 20/5/42, two. (B.J.M.) Okarito. (N.F.) Still unaccountably rare on suitable nesting areas in Canterbury. (R.A.F.) Ohiwa, 5/10/41. Nest with 3 eggs in slight depression in the sand on flat above high tide mark. Actually no nest at all. Eggs apparently fresh. (N.P.) Waikanae Estuary, like others were probably destroyed owing to high tide and changes in the river mouth. Ohau Estuary, 18/4/42, about 30 birds in scattered groups, including 5-6 in white winter plumage. Hokio Estuary, 18/4/42, 6-7 birds in groups of 2-3. None 14/2/42 at Otaki and Waikawa estuaries or Waikanae River from railway bridge to the estuary 20/12/41, although in all these places conditions seem to be very favourable. (K.A.W.) Jan., 1942. Many nesting on ploughed land and paddocks about Skull Creek, Mata. Very few on tidal flats. 7/4/42 saw only 1 on paddocks and c. 70 on tidal flats. 20/4/42, about 20 feeding with starlings on grass land. 20/5/42 at least 200 on tidal flats. Strong wind from south. 21/5/42, hardly any on flats. 22/5/42, saw large flock flying about over grass land. (W.S.) Matakaitai, Clevedon, 19/12/41 and 28/12/41, 12 in flock. None seen on two later trips. 30/5/42, 9 flying to fields from mudflat. Some seen lately on fields by farmer, perhaps a small resident colony. (H.R.McK.) Muriwai. Incubating 29/9/40. (S.D.P.) Glenary, Waikaia. 4 pairs on river bank. 1 nest without nest material with 2 eggs only. 1 egg missing, the other incubated. (E.W.C.) Odd birds at Hokitika R. mouth. Several pairs breeding in Taramakau R. bed, near Westbrook, and in the Greenstone R. below Blackwater Creek. Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Waikanae Mouth. 5/7/41, 4. 9/8/41, 30-40, some in flocks. 21/9/41, 6 pairs on territory. 1 clutch of 3 slightly incubated eggs and 1 fresh scrape. Much bickering between pairs. 23/11/41. Flooding had apparently destroyed the nests and no pairs had relaid. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Distributed along the beaches of the B. of P. in late August, e.g., 1 pair, Ohiwa Beach. 3 Torere Beach. 10 at least Motu Estuary. 7 at least Cape Runaway. 12 or 13 pairs Hick's Bay, which on Aug. 24 showed all the signs of being in possession of territory. 1 pair at mouth of Rangitaiki R. 1 at mouth of Tarawera, south of East Cape, 1 pair near Tatapouri. Some likely beaches not examined. 1/9/40 and 2/11/40, 3 or 4 Waikaio Heads. 4/3/41, c. 150 Manukau, near Puketutu causeway. I was unable to make detailed observations through the winter. P.C.B. reports c. 350 in mid July. During a trip in N. Auckland, May 5-23, they were noted as follows: N. Kaipara Hds. to Maunganui Bluff, 3 only; near Waipoua R. mouth, 12 in a flock;

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Rawene, 7 on reclaimed mud flats; mouth of Waitangi R., c. 12; Ruakaka 4, of which 2 had distinct bands; Waipu, 18, many with full bands; Mangawai, c. 64, quite 50% with full bands. Here at full tide they were found on pasture land. None are known to breed at Mangawai. March 1st, W. Ridland saw 50-100 at mouth of Ohau R. July 13th, hundreds in full plumage on flats S. of Firth of Thames. L. Waipori, near Lawrence, a very interesting flock seen on Jan. 8th. Over 350 birds in all varieties of plumage, a very few being still in breeding dress. Jan. 9th. Several at Alexandra Reservoir. Jan. 10th., 1 pair at Wye Creek, L. Wakatipu. (R.B.S.)

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).—Okarito, (N.F.) One chick with feathers caught at Ruakaka, 18/1/42. Two pairs apparently with young hiding, also seen. 1/4/42, 2 seen on Whangarei mudflats. (W.S.) Matakaitai, Clevedon, 19/4/42. One on mudflat, not seen before or since. Probably passing visitor. (P.H.W. and H.R.McK.) Stewart Island. 21/1/42 flock of c. 14 at head of Patterson Inlet. N. Auckland, winter counts on beaches, May 7-8, Poutu, N. Kaipara to Maunganui Bluff, 7. May 10th, Waipoua R. to Waimamuka R., 15. May 18th, Ngunguru, 3. May 19th, Ruakaka, c. 7. May 20th, Waipu, c. 12. May 21st, Mangawai, c. 36. May 22nd, Pakiri, c. 8. July 20th, Muriwai, 21. March 1st, Mouth of Ohau R., 4 reported by W. Ridland. (R.B.S.) 28/10/40, Pakiri, two fresh scratchings. 8 pairs present and two young on the wing and a nest with 1 egg. Mangawai, 24/11/40. 25/11/40. Pakiri, most pairs with young. (S.D.P.)

WRYBILL (*Anrhynchus frontalis*).—Ohau Estuary, 19/4/42, 4 birds in winter plumage with black bands visible. (K.A.W.) Muriwai, 27/3/41, 213 and on 20/7/41, 21 were counted by P.C.B., W. Ridland and myself. A few miles N. of Kaipara Heads, scattered along the beach, 25. 7/5/42, Maunganui Bluff, 3. Ruakaka Estuary, Hauraki Gulf, 19/5/42, 1. Miranda, Firth of Thames, 8. Manukau Heads, near Puketutu, Feb. 17th, 4. March 7th, 11. April 28th, 15. May 12th, 28. June 1st, 36. June 15th, 33. June 29th, 32. July 14th, 33. July 27th, over 30. (R.B.S.)

JAPANESE SNIPE (*Capella hardwicki*).—Taieri Beach, Jan., 1942. Snipe seen once near the marsh. Probably this species. See last year's report. (B.J.M.)

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—Mataitai, Clevedon, 16/11/41, 4 with godwits. 28/12/41, 2 with godwits. (H.R.McK.) Many hundreds near Puketutu, Manukau, on March 16th. Very few seem to have stayed for the winter. Hundreds, possibly over 1000 wintering on the Firth of Thames. (R.B.S.)

GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*).—Mataitai, Clevedon, on south side of the Clevedon Estuary, numbers approximate, 27/10/42, 60. 9/11/41, 200. 16/11/41, 1400. 29/11/41, 1000. 28/12/41, 1000. From 28/12/41 to 19/4/42 scattered groups seen but no estimate made. 19/4/42, flock of 15 only with no colour apparent. Not seen since. (H.R.McK.) Ohau Estuary 19/4/42, 2 birds in non-breeding plumage. (K.A.W.) Mr. E. F. Dodson tells me that after the cold spell of southerly in mid-Jan., the flats by the Nelson Boulder Bank filled up with 2000-3000 godwits. Oct. 20th, over 1200 at Puhinui, Manukau, probably recent arrivals. A considerable flock has been present all winter, e.g., June 1st over 300, June 29th 400, July 14th and 27th, over 600. Very few seen in N. Auckland in May, e.g., N. Kaipara Heads-Maunganui Bluff, 26. Ruakaka

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8, one red. Mangawai, c. 15. Matakana, a few. Hundreds, probably up to over 2000, Firth of Thames Flats, July 13th.

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).—Levin. A few birds seen on the shore of L. Horowhenua sanctuary. Group of 7 counted 7/6/42. (H.T.W.) 6 or 7 pairs nesting on marsh near Heathcote R. at Woolston, 12/9/41. (R.A.F.) Oct., 1941, Queenstown. Small flock at Arrowtown, 3 at Shotover, 4 at Moke Lake. (I.T.) Waikanae Estuary and neighbouring ponds. Nesting and common throughout the year. Otaki Estuary, 14/2/42, 9 including 3-4 juveniles. Waikawa Estuary. 14/2/42, large flocks of 25-100 birds each, approx. 180 altogether. In one flock of 25, 5 were juveniles. Hokio and Ohau estuaries had a smaller population, not exceeding 20. A few on L. Horowhenua, but not known on Buller's Bush Lake. (K.A.W.) Hororata, 5 present during Jan., but left by second week in Feb., 1942. (L.G.) 4/6/42. Large party heard flying over Carterton, 5 a.m. Not heard since 26/3/42 when single bird passed N. at 7.30 p.m. (H.L.S.) Mata. Very few birds with distinct markings. Some almost entirely black, March, 1942. The number of clearly marked birds seems to increase as winter draws closer. 21/5/42. Saw two flocks of 30 almost all clearly marked birds. (W.S.) Waikouaiti, 4/10/41, flocks of 20-30. 31/1/42, 3 flocks heard at night flying N. over Dunedin. 2-6/4/42. Pura-kanui. Heard each evening. (I.T.) Clevedon, approx. 50 known to have wintered for the first time in such numbers in the estuary of the Wairoa R. 10 remained on the Mataitai side of the estuary and nested. These have now scattered inland, perhaps making for the Manukau. Their breeding met with little success. None seen after mid-December. Mouth of Clevedon R. 14/2/42, 70 counted. 14/3/42, c. 85. 15/3/42, 80-100. Mataitai Beach and flats, 26/4/42, 28 scattered.

General note: After migration from south this party stayed in a tight flock in the mouth of the river from 14/2/42 or earlier to 26/4/42 when they spread out to nearby beaches up to 3 or 4 miles. None appeared at Mataitai, only half-mile from river mouth, from 14/2/42 to 26/4/42, but were at Mataitai in small numbers at every visit since. The increase over

last year is nearly 100%. (H.R.McK.) Pakiri, 5 pairs with eggs, 22/10/40. Westfield, 10/11/40, 30 non-breeders on mudflats. (S.D.P.) Waikanae Mouth, 5/7/41, 9 mostly in pairs. 9/8/41, 20 in pairs. 21/9/41, 22 mostly in pairs on presumptive territories, some tending to flock. 23/11/41, recent flooding had interrupted breedings, 6 pairs present. (A.A.K. and C.A.F.) Manukau Harbour, c. 100 non-breeders summered in the Westfield-Favona area, e.g. Sept. 12th over 96. Oct. 6th, over 100. Dec. 20th, over 100. The population then started to increase for the winter, e.g., March 2nd, c. 240. June 1st, c. 520. July 27th, c. 350. Near Puketutu Island, Aug. 11th, c. 130, but none stayed for the winter according to P.C.B. The following counts were made: Feb. 17th, c. 120; March 2nd, c. 200; April 7th, c. 200; June 14th, c. 200; July 14th, c. 300; July 27th, c. 400. It would seem, therefore, that the winter population at the head of Manukau Harbour-Ihunatoa-Onehunga N. Westfield is c. 800, e.g. over 720 on March 2nd and over 750 on July 27th. Bay of Plenty, 13 Kutarere, Aug. 29th. 1 pair flooded pasture, Opotiki, Sept. 7th. 2 pairs R. Waioituni. 7 Matata Lagoon, Sept. 9th. South of East Cape, 4 pairs Te Puia. 2 pairs Gisborne, Sept. 4th. N. Auckland, May. The following winter counts were made: Chaser's Gorge to Maunganui Bluff, 69. Curiously enough none were seen along the west coast south

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of Chaser's Gorge. They are also very unusual on Muriwai Beach. R. Waipoua—R. Waimamaku, 18. Here they were feeding in rock pools. S. Hokianga Hds. 7 again among rock pools. Rawene, May 12th, over 120 at full tide. Kohukohu and Hoeke, over 20. Bay of Islands, 3 in Orongo Bay were the only ones seen. Ngunguru, 2. Ruakaka, over 15. Waipu over 44. Mangawai, over 80; none are known to breed here. Pakiri, c. 10. Matakana, over 20. July 12th. Maitaitai near Clevedon, over 60. July 13th, Firth of Thames, Kaiaua-Waitakaruru, over 500. Among these were two almost black specimens, but with smudgy white faces and stomachs. (R.B.S.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Seen in paddocks with lagoons in summer. (C.W.McL.)

NORTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus greyi*)—Few birds about Mata, Ruakaka and Waipu districts. 4 pairs known. (W.S.)

WEKA (*G. sp.*)—Western end of Homer Tunnel, Jan., 1942 (I.T.) Stewart Island, Dec., 1941. Plentiful south of Paterson's Inlet; very scarce or absent north of it. A few years ago they were plentiful north of it and absent elsewhere. (R.H.T.) Messrs. Wellman and Willett saw none in Westland in Aug.-Sept., 1941, but heard reported as a rarity near Fox River Bridge and in Upper Kangaroo.* Mr. Graham (Franz Josef) reports rare in South Westland except in Copeland Valley where in moderate numbers. Absent in Hokitika-Brunner area. (C.A.F.)

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*)—Seen once in Maitaitai and several times at Kawakawa Bay. (H.R.McK.)

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana plumbea*)—Adult caught by cat at Koiterangi, Westland, 12/11/41. (R.A.F.)

MARSH CRAKE (*P. pusilla*)—Adult caught by cat, Koiterangi, Westland, 12/11/41.* (R.A.F.) Sunday Creek, N. of Goldsborough, Westland, 28/10/41. Rail footprints in silt agree in size with this species. (C.A.F.)

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*)—Locally abundant in Taramakau-Hokitika region in S. Westland, Oct.-Nov. 1941. (C.A.F.) Clevedon, 4 small colonies known. Perhaps spreading. (H.R.McK.) Opotiki, 6/10/41, 6 walking along a principal street at 10.00 a.m. almost as tame as fowls. (N.P.) Oct., 1941. 2 in Lower Lindis. Numerous at L. Hayes. (I.T.) Levin. Common breeding bird in swampy areas throughout the whole of the Horowhenua district. (H.T.W.) Local in the coastal districts from Paekakariki to Levin, mostly in small parties. Waikanae, on swamp close to coast, 1/6/42, 17 birds. (K.A.W.) Aug., 1941. Very rare, 2 seen at Paekakariki and 7 near Marton. (H.L.S.)

[* Karangarua]

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*).—Single bird wintering Panmure Basin, Auckland, still present with neck plumes, 17/10/41. (C.A.F.) Parua Bay, Whangarei Harbour, 22/5/42. (W.S.) Family groups returned to the lagoon at Okarito, 19/5/42. (N.F.)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*).—Okarito. 14 seen on or about 19/5/42. (N.F.) One doubtfully seen in Arnold R. below L. Brunner. (C.A.F.). Oct., 1941.

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).—Castlepoint, 5/4/42. Appeared to be 5 or 6, though only 1 seen at a time. (J.M.C.) Port Nicholson,

* This bird and the Spotless Crake mentioned above were caught at the same time by the same cat.

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19/10/41, 6. Porirua Harbour, 1-2 several times seen. Waikanae Estuary, casual visitor. About 4 pairs nesting on Kapiti Island. (K.A.W.) Dunedin, Portobello, report of 3-4 noted during the year. (I.T.).

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).—One seen near Stafforstown, and reported from Arahura Valley, Westland, Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Four reported on a small swamp near Woodend, Canterbury, June, 1942. (R.A.F.) Waikawa Estuary, 14/2/42 odd bird in moult. Puete Mouth, Waikato R., 7/3/42, odd bird. (K.A.W.) 18/1/42, one at Ruakaka L. and 1 immature at Waipu. March, 1942, 1 at Skull Creek, Mata. (W.S.) Hororata, 19/1/41, 2 seen in swamp. (L.G.).

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Found remains of 6 young birds killed by hawks during Jan., 1942. Also one young cock, perhaps killed by a stoat and an adult cock lying dead. Some seen without ringed necks. (W.S.) Hunterville, 7/8/41. Male seen. (H.L.S.)

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus australis*).—Several large broods, mostly on flat land, Whangarei district. (W.S.)

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*).—Numerous in Takahewa Hills. (W.S.). Oct. 1941. Small flocks 9-10 seen from Luggate, through Wanaka, Queenstown and Kawarau Gorge. (I.T.) Karori. Rare, breeding. Whistle note heard 5/10/41 for first time since 18/1/41. 18/4/42, four flushed from burnt gorse in gully. No notes heard except "popping" call. (H.L.S.) Kaingaroa Plains, S.E. of Taupo, fairly plentiful. Kapiti Island, 1/2/42, 1 pair with chick (K.A.W.) Manganui, 15/9/40. Paired up. Young chicks about 11/12/40. (S.D.P.)

PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).—Scarce at Butterfly Creek, near Wellington. Buller's Bush, Levin, disappeared. Otaki Gorge and Forks, scarce, only one pair observed during tramping there. Waikanae Estuary, 4/1/42, a single bird seen flying from Kapiti Island to the ranges inland. (K.A.W.) Dunedin, 14/9/41. One seen eating kowhai flowers and tender green leaves and setting fruit buds of wild plum. 9/11/41. One eating flower buds of broom. Reported that they eat young blue gum shoots. (I.T.) Mt. Egmont. 15/11/41, 3000-4000 ft., 2; 3000-2500, 1. (R.H.D.S.). Mata. Not common in any bush areas though present in all. Saw one flock of 5 in the Takahewai Hills. (W.S.) Fairly common in Westland Aug.-Sept., 1941. Not abundant in the region between Taramakau and Hokitika. More so in S. Westland, Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.)

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 8/4/42. One seen on post at 50yds. about 300yds from the edge of the bush, 1600ft. Mr. Manning, living at the edge of the bush, reports having seen such birds up to 3 at once on dull misty days about the open paddocks at the same place. One was shot some years ago near there chasing a pigeon. (H.R.McK.) Young female shot near L. Sumner 4/5/42. Contained remains of bellbird and blackbird. (R.A.F.) Up Brown Owl, near Upper Hutt, 26/6/42, single adult in flight. (K.A.W.) L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley. Jan., 1942. (I.T.)

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Numerous. Killed two full-grown pullets. (C.W.McL.) Moderately plentiful in Hokitika district Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41, 2000-3000ft. One. (R.H.D.S.) Mata. Fairly common. Often seen

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attacking pukeko, but without success. (W.S.) Abundant on coast and about 50 miles inland from Paekakariki to Levin throughout the whole year. On main road near Paraparaumu, 22/6/42, adult eating a dead hare. Otaki Forks, close to the bush on Hector Track, 31/12/41. Single birds observed. (K.A.W.) Luggate to Wanaka, 4; Cardrona Valley to Summit, 9; Crown Terrace, 6. (I.T.) 16/4/42. Seen over Days Bay, Wellington, coming from the harbour and passing over the ranges in a northerly direction. (H.L.S.)

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).—Wellington town, single birds in the Botanical Gardens. Otaki Forks, 30/12/41, fairly common. (K.A.W.) Reported heard Cranmer Square, Christchurch, 11/5/42. One flew into Canterbury Museum, 4/6/42. (R.A.F.) Kaiwarra reserve, Wellington. After silence became more vocal in Aug.-Sept., 1941 and continued irregularly Nov.-Dec. (C.A.F.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).—Seen and heard more frequently than usual in Christchurch city area, May-June, 1942. (R.A.F.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago, numerous. One seen to kill a hedge sparrow on the wing in broad daylight, Kyebrun R., 31/3/41. (C.W.McL.)

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Messrs. Wellman & Willett report seeing one on the Gillespie-Weheka track, Westland, Aug., 1941. Pair seen below Franz Josef Glacier, Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Moumoukai, Clevedon. 5 in one lot seen, 24/10/41. One or two seen flying very frequently. Plentiful up to 1937, then scarce up to 1939, but increasing from 1939 up to date. Several heard lately, 15/6/42. (H.R.McK.) L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley, Jan., 1942. (I.T.) 30/8/41. Kukumui Hills, Ruakaka district, several. (W.S.) Hector Track, Tararua, 31/12/41, single bird observed; also records from trappers of a flock of 3-4 birds observed N. of Otaki Forks. (K.A.W.) Aug., 1941. One with injured leg in bush gully adjoining Clevedon Reserve, for three weeks only. (H.R.McK.)

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).—Mr R. Morris reports a nest under tree roots below the bush line at L. Sumner, Feb., 1942 (R.A.F.). Homer Tunnel, Jan., 1942. Heard any hour of the day or night. (I.T.)

RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanorhamphus novaezelandiae*).—Feb., 1941. Paradise district. Reported. (I.T.) Early March, 1942. One seen flying and calling in the Takahewai Hills. (W.S.)

YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*C. auriceps*).—Feb., 1942, Paradise District. Reported. (I.T.)

SHINING CUCKOO (*Lamprolaima lucida*).—22/9/41. Clevedon, heard by Mr. Cook, 23/9/41, heard and seen by Mr Cook, 24-25/9/41, heard by myself. (H.R.McK.) Buller's Bush, Levin. 8/11/41, heard singing abundantly. (K.A.W.) Dunedin, 17/9/41. Seen and heard at Portobello, report in press. Dunedin, 30/9/41, first heard. 12/10/41, next heard. 13/1/42, last heard (I.T.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41, 3000-4000 ft., one; 3000-2500 ft., one. (R.H.D.S.) Colville. Not numerous this year, first heard 3/10/40 (P.H.W.) Burnham, heard 27/11/41. (L.G.)

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Urodynamis taitensis*).—22/11/41, Paraparaumu Beach, two seen climbing about in some pine trees, apparently looking for a nest, while being attacked by a pair of goldfinches. (W.K.) Paradise. Reported Feb., 1942. Dunedin. 30/9/41. (I.T.) Kapiti Island, 30/1/42. Heard singing very abundantly. (K.A.W.) Adult

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caught by cat. Kaikoura, 1/11/41. (R.A.F.) Heard sporadically in Nov., 1941, in Goldsboro district, Westland. (C.A.F.)

SHINING CUCKOO. —Piano Flat, Waikaia. Nov., 1939. 20 birds reported seen feeding on black caterpillars. (E.W.C.) Brunner-Taramakau-Hokitika area. Abundant and in song. Pairs (?) chasing on 2 and 3/11/41 (C.A.F.) First heard Karori, 22/9/41, song increased in vigour during next three weeks.

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*).—Present in a bush clearing at 2000 ft. on Mt. London. Dec., 1941. (R.B.S.) With young in nest 24/11/40 at Mangawai, and 20/12/40 at Whangateau. (S.D.P.) Glenary, Waikaia, June, 1940, above stream. (E.W.C.) Brunner-Taramakau-Hokitika area, Oct.-Nov., 1941. Local and not abundant. (C.A.F.) Dunedin. Report of one catching, killing and eating a white-eye. Sparrows, chaffinches, goldfinches, white-eyes, fantails and grey warblers all noted as taking a great interest in kingfishers, and grey warblers and especially fantails will fly close to them and tease them. (I.T.) Fairly common round Levin, breeding. (H.T.W.) Rather scarce and local from Porirua Harbour to Levin. Otaki Forks, 31/12/41, 1 pair probably nesting. Kapiti Island, 31/1/42, 1 bird only observed. (K.A.W.) Seen robbing blackbirds and thrushes of worms in the winter at Epsom. The autumn of 1942 saw a sharp decrease in numbers about Skull Creek, Mata. In 1940 and 1941 they were exceedingly numerous. The cause of the decrease is not known. 12/4/42 with its cold weather saw several kingfishers in the sheltered house enclosure where they abide till warmer weather. Saw one catch a praying mantis on the top of an orange tree. (W.S.)

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—Pair feeding well grown young in nest in broadleaf tree, Barrys Bay, Banks Peninsula, 15/11/41. Food consisted of moths, crane flies and unidentified larvae; both parents feeding. (R.A.F.) Lower part of Hector Track, Otaki Forks, 31/12/41. Two parties, one including 5 adults and juvenile birds. Possibly present in bush of Butterfly Creek, Wellington. (K.A.W.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41, 3000-2500ft., one. (R.H.D.S.)

RIFLEMAN.—Te Waimate. Plenty for a short while in early winter, none in summer (E.C.S.). Taramakau-Hokitika area. Oct.-Nov., 1941, not abundant but generally distributed. Kanieri, 26/10/41, pair building. (C.A.F.)

BUSH WREN (*Xenicus longipes*).—Kanieri, reported near lake by man who knew both rock wren and rifleman. (C.A.F.)

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*).—Aug., 1941. Paradise district. Report of 3 seen. (I.T.)

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).—Castlepoint, 5/4/42. Tussock land teeming with pipits. (J.M.C.) Mt. Egmont, 14/11/41, 3000ft., one. (R.H.D.S.) Very abundant everywhere from the coast and river beds high up to the hill country in the whole Wellington district up to Levin; at Otaki Forks, following the clear or destroyed bush up to the edge of the primeval forest; Kaingaroa Plains, S.E. of Taupo, beginning of March, plentiful and in flocks of 5-10 birds. (K.A.W.)

PIPIT.—Swanson. 20/9/40, with young in nest. (S.D.P.) Local in Hokitika district, Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.)

PIPIT.—Masterton, 1942. Seen flying overhead twice in April and once in May. (R.H.D.S.)

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FERN BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).—Mata. Numerous. One nest in paddock in gorse bush, nestlings fledged. Widely distributed in gum fields (W.S.)

GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*).—Males fighting 15/9/40. Carrying nesting material, 15/9/40, nest with eggs 15/9/40; all at Mangawai. Auckland, singing well 12/12/40. Whangateau, 25/12/40, feeding young shining cuckoo. Omaha, 26/12/40. Feeding young. (S.D.P.) Abundant in the Hokitika district, Oct.-Nov., 1941. Distinctive song. Karori. Building 10/9/41, laid approx. 2/10/41, clutch 3. (C.A.F.)

Halkett. Perhaps only one pair. Heard and seen most times of the year. (H.S.G.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000-4000ft., 10, 3000-2500 ft., 5, and 16/11/41, 6. (R.H.D.S.) Abundant and widespread all over the Wellington district up to Levin; also present in town and on lupins along the coast. (K.A.W.) Levin. Fairly common in the Horowhenua district. Seen around settled areas in autumn and early winter, otherwise confined to bush. (H.T.W.)

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala*).—Oct., 1941. Wye Creek, Wakatipu-Kingston Rd. Male with white breast like the North Island bird. (I.T.)

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT.—Very plentiful in low country from Brunner to Ross, Westland; also further south, not only in bush but in second growth scrub. Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.)

WHITE-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica toitoi*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon. Plentiful round bush edge. Attracted to timber workings because of grubs exposed. One pair nested in puna near house a few years ago. Hatched 4 chicks. (J.W.St.P.) Mt. Holdsworth, 4/6/42. Male seen on snag protruding from muddy glade. Twice seen to land in the mud. (H.L.S.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41, 3000-4000ft. 6. 3000-2500ft. 7, and 16/11/41, 8. (R.H.D.S.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, 8/4/42, 2 males seen, many heard. (H.R.McK.) Common Mt. London, Dec., 1941. (R.B.S.) Two on edge of bush, Otau, 3 miles from Clevedon. (C.R.)

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro longipes*).—4 seen in Takakewai Hills. (W.S.)

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*M. australis*).—Dart Valley. 15/1/37. Well marked trilling song heard. The bird has been said to have no song. (I.T.)

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Karori. Spring, 1941. A black and a pied mated. Very rare in low country between Taramakau and Hokitika Rivers, Westland. Only 6 seen in a month in the field, of which 4 were black. Oct.-Nov., 1941. Further south more abundant, a dozen seen in a day, of which only one was black. (C.A.F.) Several winter at Te Waimate, including a black one at times. (E.C.S.) Auckland. Incubating, 15/9/40. (S.D.P.) Annually a black fantail appears at Wilton's Bush, a small reserve on the west side of Wellington. The dates of its appearance are 7/4/40, 20/4/41, and 19/4/42. During 1939 it was seen in March but was seen from Dec., 1938. (H.L.S.) Halkett. Several in summer. (H.S.G.) Common in bush regions about Levin and the Tararua Range. Spread over settled areas during autumn and early winter. (H.T.W.) Not uncommon in the Botanical Gardens and gardens of Wellington city and in the bush patches behind Eastbourne. Fairly common in all the gullies along the coast from Porirua Harbour to Buller's Bush, Levin. More plentiful inland, 30/12/41 at least 10 birds observed in four miles between Otaki and Otaki Forks during a tramp. (K.A.W.)

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WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*).—Mt. Egmont, 16/11/41. 3000-2500ft., 5. (R.H.D.S.) Butterfly Creek Bush, 12/10/41, 3. Hector Track, Tararuas, 31/12/41, 2 pairs also reported by trampers. (K.A.W.) Opotiki. 12/11/42. Flock of 6 seen in the bush at 1800ft. (N.P.)

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*).—Abundant in bush of the Brunner-Hokitika region, Oct.-Nov., 1941. Occasionally also in second growth. Kanieri, pair building, 26/10/41. (C.A.F.) Dunedin. Small flocks seen several times between July, 1941 and June, 1942. (I.T.)

WHITE EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*).—Auckland. Building 15/10/40. Incubating 15/10/40. Young on wing, 1/12/40. (S.D.P.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago, 3 arrived 6/4/41. Over 50 by 19/6/41, still here 10/8/41. (C.W.McL.). General but not very abundant in the Hokitika district, Oct.-Nov., 1941. Karori. Pair laid approx. 25/9/41, other pairs building 11/10/41. 2 nests lost by storm before laying, 1st week Oct. (C.A.F.) Mata. While cutting 7-year-old manuka in latter half of Jan., 1 nest of

fully fledged young found, 1 with newly-hatched chicks, 4 nests with eggs, 3 eggs in three, 4 in the other. About 20 nests in about 20 acres of manuka. Nests placed about 9 feet above the ground in the densest part of the shrub. April 15th, flocks forming and searching everywhere for food. Appear in the morning and retire to the coverts during the day, appearing in lesser numbers in the evening. (W.S.) Halkett. End of Aug., 1941. Disappeared after being about during the winter. (H.S.G.) Mt. Egmont. 15/11/41. 3000-4000ft., 5. 3000-2500ft., 1, and 16/11/41, 8. (R.H.D.S.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago, first for the season, about a dozen, seen 20/4/42. By 20/5/42 increased to about 100. By 1/7/42, 500 or more, an unusually large number. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin. Birds scared away from food cups by bees and Red Admiral butterflies. One seen to catch a moth on the wing, alight and pull off its wings before eating it. (I.T.) Very common inland and on the W. coast from Wellington to Levin; also abundant in towns. Between Otaki and Otaki Forks, nearly as numerous as any of the introduced birds. Seen on a distance of less than 5 miles at least 50 birds, some still singing, all in pairs, none in flocks. Observed flocks honey-eating on flax flowers. (K.A.W.) Karori. 22/3/42, singing at 8.00 a.m. and another at 4.00 p.m. Cold and cloudy. 15/4/42 heard singing in snatches from scrub in morning, overcast and warm. 17/4/42. Mid-day, warbling softly; strong wind and warm. 19/4/42. Coming out of scrub on the Otaki hills I heard one singing in vociferous bursts from a scrubby collection of karamu. After the notes ceased and frequently while they lasted there would be subdued excited twittering from more white eyes. (H.L.S.)

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeselandiae*)—Dunedin. Report of tui chasing an owl. (I.T.) It may not have been observed that the tui will eat the mantis and how it does so, so perhaps I am fortunate in twice watching this process. I was not aware that any bird would tackle this large insect. The first occasion was in mid May, 1940, when I watched a tui searching along the branches and trunk of a large manuka tree on which there were many mantids, none less than 3 inches long and of the colour of the manuka bark. Each mantis was grabbed about the middle of the body and then was passed through the beak quite quickly from end to end and then swallowed whole, head first. Three appeared to be a meal. On another occasion I saw the same procedure which I watched for half an hour. After the meal of three the tui this time spent about 20 minutes preening feathers and making many

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droppings. (E.W.H.) Mata. One almost killed and eye taken out by 5 magpies. One seen catching bees from a hive in a hollow puriri. (W.S.) Bush patches N. of Eastbourne, Wellington, fairly well distributed. Not very plentiful at Buller's Bush, Levin. Numerous at Otaki Forks and on the Hector Track, Tararuas, but much less plentiful in Mangatukatuka Bush, east of Paraparaumu. (K.A.W.) Abundant in Brunner-Hokitika district Oct.-Nov., 1941. Kaiwarra Reservoir reserve, Wellington. Present since June, 1941. Pair with mating flight, 22/9/41. Absent in Nov. and Dec. (C.A.F.)

BELL BIRD (*Anthornis melanura*).—Very abundant in Brunner-Hokitika district and further south. (C.A.F.) Wintering at Te Waimate. (E.C.S.) Moumoukai, Clevedon. on own farm, one seen 10/6/42. The presence of the bell bird in the Mt. London-Moumoukai-Hunua Bush area has been suspected for some time but nothing sufficiently reliable to justify a report had so far come to hand. There is no doubt of the matter now. (J.W.St.P.) Dunedin. 26/7/42. Seven males close together with ruffled feathers, all singing the same song, one which is frequently sung in chorus. (I.T.) Mt. Egmont. 15/11/41. 3000-4000ft., one. 3000-2500ft., three; 16/11/41, five. (R.H.D.S.). One in the Takahewai Hills, Whangarei, during Nov., 1940. (W.S.) Female feeding three young in nest, Akaroa, 29/10/41. (R.A.F.) Possibly still present in Buller's Bush, Levin. Not very abundant at Otaki Forks and on the Hector Track, Tararuas. Scarce in the Mangatukatuka Bush, E. of Paraparaumu. Not uncommon in Taupo district. (K.A.W.)

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas wilsoni*).—Seen very frequently for nearly 40 years. When working near bush lately have seen single birds or pairs every week. Heard almost any time. I consider the crow to be plentiful here in relation to its population habits, and do not think the number has varied much in 40 years except that there seems to be an increase in the last two or three years. The area in which I know the crow is from Orere across Mt. London and Moumoukai nearly to Pararimu and Hunua. The full song of bell-like notes is rare and is confined mostly to frosty weather. The ordinary call is heard frequently. At times a sound is made something like the mewling of a cat. Full call noted in Sept. I have not yet seen a nest. 31/10/41. Moumoukai, Otau, Clevedon, 11, 12, 13/6/42 at least 4 heard so as to be separated. Probably twice as many really there. This is a new crow area. (J.W.St.P.) In mid-December, H.R.McK. and I visited the high bush about Mt. London, 2300ft., where the crow had frequently been seen by J.W.St.P. On the evening of Dec. 20th, as we were pitching camp the unmistakable notes of the crows were heard not far distant, and a little later we were watching a pair of them. They were moving about, now running, now by leaps and bounds, in a clump of trees, mainly tawa, whose leaf tips they were eating. Their organ-like notes were no longer used, but one bird was heard to utter a soft ku-ku-kuk, and with an attempted imitation of this I succeeded in arousing the bird's curiosity and luring it down within a few yards of me. On the following day a rather high wind hampered the locating of the birds. During a four-mile walk through heavy bush several calls were heard but only one pair was seen. There is clearly a good population of crows in this area of bush, which extends for many miles. (R.B.S.)

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GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).—Waiouru. Aug. to Oct., common. Nest found 18/10/41. Young seen following old birds and uttering juvenile clanging chirp 13/1/42; when fed one flew off but the other mounted the adult's back. Ceased song Carterton about Feb. 12th. Fledgling with ear tufts seen Karori, 22/2/42. Several seen Carterton, 21/5/42, but not observed since early April. Every year in May, for four or five years, a single one has appeared in our Karori garden. (H.L.S.) Levin. Fairly rare. Only an occasional bird seen in the town area. Breeding in country districts. (H.T.W.) Oct., 1941, flocks 12-30 in the Waitaki and Cadrona Valleys. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.)

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Levin and district. Fairly rare but numbers appear increasing. Breeding. During winter and autumn an occasional bird seen in town gardens, otherwise confined to country districts. (H.T.W.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000-4000ft., 7. 3000-2500ft., 1. (R.H.D.S.) 11/1/42. Cock pursuing a hen or young bird cock uttering chirping. (H.L.S.) Dunedin. Song first heard 1/8/41, last heard 23/4/42. Begins to cease in Jan. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.) Auckland, in full song, 10/8/40. (S.D.P.) Karori. Exceedingly abundant, spring, 1941. Building 11/10/41.

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*).—Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000-4000 ft., 2. (R.H.D.S.) Queenstown, Oct., 1941. 3 flocks near Moke Lake. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.) Karori. Spring, 1941, quite plentiful. Occasionally noticed in Westland between Taramakau R. and Waihoa. Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.)

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Mata. 11/4/42. 80 feeding on thistle seeds. (W.S.) Plentiful inland along the west coast from Porirua to Levin, but mostly east of the Main Trunk railway. (K.A.W.) Common in whole of the Horowhenua district, Levin. After the breeding season they roam the countryside in flocks. (H.T.W.) Dunedin. 27/9/41. One seen in a flock without the yellow or black in the wings. Head and tail normal. (I.T.) Two seen flying swiftly and singing, another bird following. 8/3/42. Young following adults seen 18/4/42. (H.L.S.) Glenary, Waikaia. Feeding and flying in a paddock, 20/9/40. First seen since summer. (E.W.C.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Flock of 50, 19/6/41, feeding on seeds of Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*). (C.W.McL.)

SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—Levin. Very common in whole district. (H.T.W.) Dunedin, 4/3/42, last seen feeding young. 23/4/42. One seen carrying a feather. (I.Y.) Masterton, 14/2/42. Hen heard uttering whining cheep, seen to copulate with a male which mounted her rump sideways. (H.L.S.) Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Very numerous. (C.W.McL.)

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Levin. Not common. Seldom seen in town area, usually met with in farming areas. (H.T.W.) Halkett. Seen at all times of the year. (H.S.G.) Oct., 1941. Several in Wanaka district, Arrowtown, L. Johnson, Moke Lake and Kawarau Gorge. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.) Carterton, small flock seen 7/3/42, also flock at Waingawa, 9/3/42, 29/5/42 heard flying over Carterton at 1.00 a.m., weather cool and cloudy. (H.L.S.)

CIRL BUNTING (*E. cirrus*).—Halkett. Seen at all times of the year. (H.S.G.) Still well distributed in small numbers throughout Canterbury. (R.A.F.) Dunedin, 7/7/42, flock of 8-10 near harbour. (I.T.)

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THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Plentiful. First song heard 13/7/41. (C.W.McL.) Karori. First notes 29/3/41, again, low and throaty 7/4/41 (frosty). 30/4/41 low dull notes (all in scrub). First real song 6/5/41 in pines. First notes uttered from cover difficult to tell from white-eye's. Carterton, 21/3/42, singing, weather overcast. Kokotau, 23/3/42, singing, weather overcast. 24/3/42, near Carterton, also overcast. Times 6.00 and 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. Karori, 23/3/42, singing a few notes in plantation, weather cold and cloudy. Two birds seen on pine tops 5 feet distant, one singing, the other silent. Another bird arrived and the three flew away, 10/5/42. Karori at dusk 21/4/42, thrushes noisy, uttering soft "dip" note and many more noticed in pursuit of one another. One observed to capture a white butterfly. They have been seen formerly to take an interest in dead butterflies. (H.L.S.) Mata. Common. Saw one eating a leech off pear tree. April, 1942. (W.S.) Levin. Common and breeding in the whole district. Single thrush seen singing a few bars of song while resting on the ground under a small bush. Sang for about a minute, then remained silent for a similar period and then continued, song very low. 2/5/42. First real song 6/5/42. Day before no birds seen or heard singing, this day 12 different birds counted in one hour. (H.T.W.) Dunedin, 6/12/41, 4th egg laid. 26/4/42. One singing clearly and loudly. 29/4/42. Songs heard morning, noon and evening. 23/5/42. Song heard continuously. Oct., 1941, Wanaka district. Common. Seems to outnumber the blackbird. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.)

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*).—Commencing to sing, Auckland, 20/3/41. (S.D.P.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000-4000ft., 12. 3000-2500 ft., 4. 16/11/41, 2. (R.H.D.S.) Dunedin district. Reports on birds with white feathers, over a period of years. 1 with white feathers on the neck and shoulders, 2 with white feathers in the wing, 2 with more white feathers than black and 1 pure white. Upper Eglinton Valley, a few. (I.T.) Waiouru, rare. Heard singing softly in pines about 3.00 p.m. 11/8/41, weather cloudy and cold. Cock observed fighting with stoat, Karori, 18/11/41, the blackbird was diving on the stoat which looked up. More blackbirds present in nearby veronicas. Parties of male and female birds together, Carterton, 23/5/42. (H.L.S.)

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).—Kaiwarra Reserve, Wellington, exceedingly abundant, spring, 1941. Ubiquitous in Hokitika district, Oct.-Nov., 1941. (C.A.F.) Auckland, singing 10/8/40 and 27/5/41. Nest and eggs 26/10/40. (S.D.P.) Halkett, 25/6/42. Flying and calling in pairs. (H.S.G.) Opotiki, 16/10/41. Garden. Nest in rimu tree 3ft. from ground. Very inconspicuous and well hidden. 3 eggs, bird sitting. (N.P.) Ohau Estuary, near Levin. 19/4/42. Numerous in lupin on the coast. (K.A.W.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000-4000 ft., 7. (R.H.D.S.) 3/11/41, two birds seen, one behind the other, the first with vertically vibrating tail. The rear bird made several pecking movements

at the other's tail and then both birds swiftly turned about cloaca to cloaca and moved off. (H.L.S.)

LARK (*Alauda arvensis*).—Carterton, 29/6/42, heard singing 11.00 a.m., breezy sunny weather, song last heard in early May. 6/7/42.

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Heard one utter a burst of song, showery and sunny. Three birds were fighting generally twittering in flight. Two birds landed, one starting to sing raising the tail and shortly afterwards the wings, the other bird was quiet. (H.L.S.) Waikanae Estuary, 14/6/42. Flock of about 50 birds. (K.A.W.) Carterton, 10/2/42. Nest found with young. Ceased song about 12/2/42. On 28/1/41 larks did not sing at dawn but started at 6.00 a.m. and by 6/2/42 short bursts only were heard. (H.L.S.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Castlepoint, 5/4/42, 400-600 roosting on Castle Rock. (J.M.C.) Mt. Egmont, 15/11/41. 3000ft. around N. Egmont Hostel. (R.H.D.S.) Mata. Huge flocks roost in autumn up Swanee R. with shags. (W.S.) Levin. Very common, breeding in the whole district. (H.T.W.) Very plentiful in the Wellington district, both in town and country. Three roosting places near Wellington, Port Nicholson Heads 28/9/41 observed about 200 birds including all birds of Day's Bay and Eastbourne. A second north of Petone, and the third a pine tree near Government Buildings with several hundreds roosting every night. Waikanae Estuary, 18/4/42 observed with R.A.F. and A.A.K. between 4.30 and 5.30 p.m., very large number of birds in flocks of a few hundreds to several thousands, all moving from north to south, taking shelter owing to strong wind, behind the first coastal sand dunes. Approximate number 20-30,000 birds, but roosting place unknown. (K.A.W.) Dunedin. First young brought to the table, 17/11/41. Upper Eglington Valley, a few. (I.T.) Heard to give a good imitation of a blackbird's opening notes. Big flock seen Carterton, 27/2/42. Heard making "dipping" notes and saw a chase in progress 11/2/42, this is frequently seen in spring. Seen on sheep backs. Seen flying about aimlessly shortly after midday in numbers, 7/3/42, seen leaving eucalypts as if to hawk for insects, 28/2/42 both hot days. About mid Feb., starlings' notes appear to change to musical whistles. Heard imitating a pipit. Bird with straw seen flying into rotten willow stump. 23/5/42. Carterton, 31/6/42 three flying near a magpie as if escaping, but they suddenly attacked it. Heard to imitate a redpoll. (H.L.S.)

MYNAH (*Acrodothis tristis*).—Masterton. Constantly present in restricted localities. Occasionally seen flying over our districts. (R.H.D.S.)

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Very common in the western part of the Wellington district up to Levin, also on the outskirts of townships, absent only inside the bush edge. Waikanae, 20/12/41, group of 7 birds, including 2 adult and 5 juveniles. Ohau R., 19/4/42, another flock of 5 birds. (K.A.W.) Burnham, Dec., 1941. Two seen fighting a harrier in mid-air and successfully driving it away from the nesting area. Hororata, numerous. (L.G.) Halkett. Every homestead at least 2 pairs. One nestling seen in the second week of June. They chase harriers and even larks. 24 seen feeding together. (H.S.G.) Extending range and numbers in the suburban districts about Christchurch. A large nest constructed of ends of wire was collected at Wigram Aerodrome, 22/10/41. (R.A.F.) Oct., 1941. 2 near Kartigi, 4 in Waitaki Valley and 3 or 4 in Lower Lindis Flats. (I.T.) Levin. Common. Breeding in the whole district. 10 counted from a car during a 9-mile trip, 26/4/42. (H.T.W.) Whangarei, common on farm land and edge of forest. They go in flocks of 7 and 8 (W.S.) May, 1942. Magpies seen around Oamaru and a little way south of Maheno but none further south. On trips north in previous years they were not noticed regularly south of the Waitaki R. (B.J.M.)