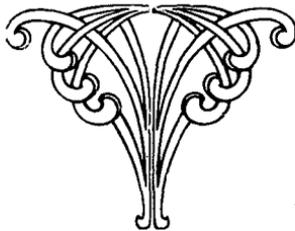


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January, 1949

# New Zealand Bird Notes



*Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.*  
*Published Quarterly.*

# New Zealand Bird Notes

Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

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## REDISCOVERY OF NOTORNIS.

The news that on November 20, 1948, Dr. G. B. Orbell, of Invercargill and party had succeeded in rediscovering the notornis (*Notornis hochstetteri*) in the Lake Te Anau region created world-wide interest, as it was 50 years ago since the last specimen of this bird had been recorded and by many it was regarded as being extinct. Three birds were seen by Dr. Orbell's party and two captured were released after being photographed.

Prompt action was taken by the Government to safeguard the birds and an area of 400,000 acres has been set aside as a sanctuary, in which area no dogs or guns are allowed and a permit is required to enter it. Severe penalties are provided in the event of anyone found unlawfully molesting the bird or trespassing in the area. In addition, special steps have been taken to ensure the protection of the birds.

## NEW ARCTIC WADER FOR NEW ZEALAND LIST.

By R. B. Sibson, Auckland.

On 29/8/48 between Miranda and Waitakaruru in the Firth of Thames I had distinct views at about 120 yards of a grey plover (*Squatarola squatarola*) both in flight and on the ground. With me were Messrs. F. M. Brookfield, S. Hills and F. Murray. At the full tide which was so poor that a strip of about 200 yards of mudflat was left still uncovered, we were hoping to find three whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) which had been seen on this reach on 27/6/48, and we were closely scanning the hundreds of waders, mainly godwits, knots and stilts, which were spread out along the tideline.

A party of knots, headed by a single godwit, was flying past; when a greyish wader showing a white rump, separated itself from them and alighted in front of us, but not before I had clearly seen the diagnostic black axillaries. My attention to the flying birds had first been drawn by a plaintive and unfamiliar call, which I have no doubt was uttered by the grey plover, and which the British Handbook syllabizes as "Hee-oo-ee," and Mayr ("Birds of the South-West Pacific") as "whee-er-ee." My companions saw the bird well, as it stood on the tideline, but the increasing softness of the mud precluded our nearer approach, and we had to leave without seeing it on the wing again.

The grey plover is a holarctic species, whose winter range has been described as almost cosmopolitan. Sooner or later it was bound to be discovered in New Zealand, even though, according to Mayr, it is rather rare in the South-west Pacific, a statement which has recently been confirmed for the Solomons by P. C. Bull (v. Emu, Vol. 47, p. 168).

Nine years and more ago, I knew the grey plover well in England, where I could always find them in some numbers in winter on certain parts of the Kentish coast. In New Zealand I have been keenly on the look-out for this species, ever since at Karaka, in Manukau Harbour, I twice had unsatisfactory views of a solitary, white-rumped, plaintive-voiced wader of the right size, flying directly away so that it was not possible to see the black axillaries without a glimpse of which no identification of this plover can be accepted. The dates were 10/2/46 and 10/1/47. Subsequently, at Karaka, in the latter end of summer, 1947, Mr. D. A. Urquhart noted more than once with Pacific golden plovers a grey-looking stranger.

The date, August 29th, on which the Firth of Thames grey plover was seen indicates that yet another arctic-breeding wader may occasionally winter in New Zealand. It may be assumed that the bird was immature.

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AN INLAND RECORD OF THE WHITE-FRONTED TERN.—As R. B. Sibson has pointed out (N.Z.B.N., Vol. 3, No. 1, p. 10) proved inland records of the white-fronted tern (*Sterna striata*) are extremely rare, and it is therefore of interest that I recorded one on November 21, 1947, at Lake Rotorua. The bird was resting amongst the nesting red and black-billed gulls on one of the small islets behind the Ward Baths. I was counting the two species of gulls at the time it was noticed, and had ample opportunity of observing it through binoculars at short range. All its features were thus plainly visible, and the white on the forehead was noted as being rather large for a breeding bird, suggesting an early commencement of moult. The bird was an adult, and I should add that I am familiar with the black-fronted species which is a more usual inland visitor. As the number of gulls was increasing daily, I assume that they were coming in from the coast, and possibly this bird may have arrived with a flock of gulls.—J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

## BIRD POPULATION OF EXOTIC FORESTS, 1940-1948.

By M. F. Weeks, Iwitahi, H.B.

The following brief notes and inventory of the birds populating our exotic forests have been compiled from observations during the past eight years of tree assessment and general forest operations in the Whakarewarewa and Kaingaroa forests, approximately 300,000 acres in extent.

It is gratifying to note that there has been a marked increase in practically all species, both native and introduced, which gives reason to assume that the former are becoming acclimatised to their change of environment in our dense pine forests. In the case of the insectivorous species, the increase is of particular interest to the Forest Service where the check to, or complete eradication of injurious insect pests, is of paramount importance. As these exotic forests are bird sanctuaries, it may also be possible to build up colonies of berry and nectar feeders, and so in turn render inestimable service to our indigenous forests by increasing the pollination and seed distribution which so many native tree species are dependent upon for perpetuation.

**Grey Warbler (*Pseudogerygone igata*).**—Very common and increasing. Found throughout all types of tree stands but especially in the vicinity of manuka or other native shrubs. Nests preferably in manuka thickets but a number found in larch up to 20 feet.

**Whitehead (*Mohoua ochrocephala albicilla*).**—Very common and increasing. Found throughout all types of tree stands. Flocks 6 to 30 seen almost every day. Nests in manuka thickets or dense shrubs.

**Fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata*).**—Not common, but appears to be on the increase as a greater number were observed in 1946 and more widespread. A nest was found containing 3 eggs in a clump of cutty grass on the bank of a small swampy creek at an elevation of 1650 feet.

**Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).**—Not common. Seen from time to time frequenting roads and clearings, especially round camps. Observed feeding on lizards and mice.

**Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).**—Not common, only one or two observed in internal swamps, but fairly common in swamps adjacent to Kaingaroa.

**Pukeko (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*).**—Common in swamp areas adjoining the forests but none observed in internal swamps.

**Busk Hawk or Falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).**—Not common, but appears to be on the increase. Frequenting forest clearings or precipitous open valleys although a number have been seen in dense tree stands.

**Harrier (*Circus approximans*).**—Very common throughout. Frequenting all open areas.

**Morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).**—Fairly common. Frequenting the denser stands.

**White-eye (*Zosterops lateralis*).**—Very common throughout, congregating in large flocks around camps and gardens during winter months.

**Banded Dotterel (*Charadrius bicinctus*).**—Four pairs observed this year at the southern end of Kaingaroa.

**Robin (*Miro australis*).**—Not common, but showing a marked increase in 1946. Two or three pairs were observed in widely separated compartments in Kaingaroa Forest. Generally frequenting areas approaching that of their natural habitat, i.e., older tree stands of lighter stocking with a few scattered native shrubs, but a number were seen in dense pine stands devoid of shrubs.

**Pipit (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).**—Very common and increasing, especially in Kaingaroa Forest. Frequenting all forest roads, firebreaks and clearings.

Pied Tit (*Petroica macrocephala toitoti*).—Very common and increasing throughout all types of stands. Nests found in holes in banks and in pig-rootings. Young on wing, November 15.

Pied Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Very common and increasing in all types of stands, especially where stocking of trees is lighter, with scattered undergrowth of native shrubs or manuka thickets. Nests found mainly in manuka. A few black fantails were seen in Whakarewarewa Forest in 1941 but none in Kaingaroa.

Bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*).—Fairly common and increasing but mainly in proximity of native shrubs, especially in margins of forest clearings.

Tui (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*).—Not common but appears to be on the increase in Kaingaroa. Until 1946 only isolated birds were seen from time to time, but since that date there has been a marked increase in the number observed, even in well-stocked compartments of *pinus radiata*. The attraction was obviously due to the isolated fuchsia and wineberry shrubs in flower.

Shining Cuckoo (*Chalcites lucidus*).—Fairly common and numbers constant. Found throughout. Earliest arrival noted on September 26, departing end of February to beginning of October.

Long-tailed Cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*).—Fairly common throughout and appears to be increasing slightly.

Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Very common throughout. Frequenting all types of stands. Flocks of up to 500 observed in the autumn. This is the predominant species.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*).—Fairly common and increasing. Flocks up to 20 observed in winter.

Redpoll (*Carduelis cabaret*).—Very common throughout and increasing. Observed mainly in vicinity of forest clearings and margins. Flocks up to 50 seen in autumn.

Goldfinch (*C. carduelis*).—Common on forest margins and clearings especially where there is a heavy weed growth. Flocks 20-30 observed.

Yellowhammer (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Fairly common and increasing. Frequenting firebreaks and forest clearings. Flocks 10-20 observed.

Hedgesparrow (*Prunella modularis*).—Common throughout and increasing.

Blackbird (*Turdus merula*).—Common throughout and increasing.

Thrush (*T. ericetorum*).—Common throughout, especially in vicinity of clearings and settlements.

Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*).—Fairly common and appear to be increasing. Frequenting firebreaks and clearings.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Common and increasing. Frequenting settlements and forest margins.

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—Common and increasing in settlements.

Pheasant (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Fairly common and increasing.

Californian Quail (*Lophortyx californicus*).—Common throughout and increasing.

Brown Quail (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*).—Fairly common in extreme north of Kaingaroa in 1946—only a few observed prior to that date.

Grey Duck (*Anas poicilorhyncha*).—A few observed on internal swamps, lagoons and river.

Mallard (*A. platyrhynchos*).—Three pairs observed on small creek in northern portion of Kaingaroa.

Pied Shag (*Phalacrocorax varius*).—Five or six seen regularly on Rangitaiki River running through forest.

Black Shag (*P. carbo*).—One to four seen regularly on Waitahanui River.

# BIRD LIFE IN COLLIN'S VALLEY, WAKATIPU.

By Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club.

In January, 1948, a party of members from the Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club was kindly granted permission by Mr. Burnett, of the Cecil Peaks Station, to camp in his bunkhouse at Collin's Bay on the western shore of Lake Wakatipu to study the natural history of the locality. Twenty-one people availed themselves of this opportunity. The party left Dunedin by special bus at 8 a.m. on the morning of January 17, and from Kingston the trip was made on the "Earnslaw" to Collin's Bay, where we arrived in the early evening. The return trip was made on January 27.

Naturally, on excursions such as this, we look forward hopefully to seeing something of native bird life which is not to be found in our Dunedin gardens, nor seen on our fortnightly excursions, but, compared with our previous year's trip to the Dart and the Routeburn Valleys, bird life in the Collin's Valley was disappointing. This disappointment was attributed to two main causes. In the first instance, the areas of beech within three miles of our camp at Collin's Bay were confined to a few very narrow strips in gorges cut in the mountain sides by mountain streams, and consequently difficult to explore; and, in the second instance, to the presence of vermin in the nature of stoats, etc., the stoats being seen in considerable numbers.

## NATIVE BIRDS.

A few notes on native birds were made from the bus as we travelled from Dunedin to Kingston. At Otokia two harriers (*Circus approximans*) were noted together in flight, and, before we were borne out of sight of them, one alighted on a high hawthorn hedge. Nearing Lovell's Flat another harrier was seen, and one between Lovell's Flat and Balclutha. From Balclutha to Clinton three were counted, and from Waipahi to Pukerau two. From Gore to Balfour the count was eight. Between Lumsden and Kingston, not more than six were seen. On January 20, during a walk of four miles from Kawarau Falls through Strath Gyle to Drift Bay, five harriers were counted. On January 25, in a stretch of about three miles up Collin's Valley, the count was four. While a party was in a strip of beech forest in Collin's River Gorge, a harrier was seen flying among the trees.

It was on the same day that some members of our party climbed one of the Cecil Peaks, and, about 2000 feet up near the edge of a strip of beech forest, saw two bush hawks (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). The birds were much excited by the presence of the climbers, and kept up a continual calling. One circled around, keeping well away, but the other approached to within 20 feet of the climbers. When a dislodged rock commenced to roll down the mountain side, it was chased by one of the birds. The rock broke into two pieces; the bird hesitated a moment, then continued its chase after one of the pieces.

On the way to Kingston three pukeko (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*) were in a swamp near Balfour. On January 20, we looked in vain for these birds at a large raupo-filled lagoon near Drift Bay between Peninsula Hill and the Remarkables, and decided that the dead one lying near the lagoon suggested that they were not encouraged to live in that locality. Another record made near Balfour was of a very large flock, estimated to be at least 600, of black-billed gulls (*Larus bulleri*). A few were seen about Collin's Bay and one or two in Collin's Valley. The usual flock was present about Queenstown wharf.

Black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias albigularis*) were with the large flock of gulls near Balfour. Among the birds nearest to the road at least fourteen were counted. One or two pairs haunted Collin's River. On January 20, four were seen in Frankton Arm, and on January 23 a pair at Twelve Mile Creek, near Bob's Cove, on the eastern side of the lake.

We had almost passed the large flock of gulls, when a pied oyster-catcher (*Haematopus finschi*) on the edge of the flock caught our atten-

tion. It was then too late to make a special observation to see if others were present. Beside the lagoon near Drift Bay, and not far from where the dead pukeko was seen, were eight pied stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) two of which were young birds. Near Kawarau Falls, black teal (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) swam and dived in pairs or small parties, one of which consisted of five birds and one of seven. About a dozen grey ducks (*Anas poicilorhyncha*) were in the same locality, some with families of young.

On January 18 a flight of ten paradise ducks (*Tadorna variegata*) was recorded in Collin's Valley. On January 21, calls were heard from the Locky River where small numbers were seen on the water. One flock of seven and another of eight were noted in flight over the river. In the flock of eight were two adult females, but there were no white-headed birds in the flock of seven nor in the flock of ten in Collin's Valley. On three occasions shags were seen in flight over the lake in numbers one, two and five. All appeared to be black shags (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).

On January 23, as we lunched on the shingle flat at the mouth of the Twelve Mile Creek near Bob's Cove, three banded dotterels (*Charadrius bicinctus*) were very agitated by our presence in what was probably their nesting territory. Nests and young were searched for but without success. A few pipits (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) were noted in Collin's Valley, four being frequently seen on the terrace just above the bunkhouses.

The first of the forest birds to be recorded was the little rifleman (*Acanthisitta chloris*). On the evening of our arrival, a rifleman was among the trees beside the lake, and, during our stay, one serenely entered the occupied bunkrooms and was almost a daily visitor in the office occupied by two men of the party. It made a very businesslike search of all crevices and spider-webs around the doorways and windows. When beech forest was visited in the Collin's Valley, at the Locky River, at Bob's Cove and the Waterworks Reserve, Queenstown, this little wren was seen in numbers from one or two to seven or eight at a time. The largest numbers were seen in the forest at the Locky River.

In forest areas and among low-growing shrubs, the yellow-breasted tit (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*) was also present in numbers. The birds seen were principally males, once four being counted close together among low growing shrubs. At Bob's Cove, where over a dozen were counted along a bush track, only one was a female, and though tits were seen daily, only two others were females. Grey warblers (*Pseudogerygone igata*) were also present in fair numbers but were not so frequently noted as the tit and the wren. Fantails (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) were not much in evidence. All observed, probably not more than half-a-dozen, were of the pied variety. Along the lakeside where flax was freely blooming, silver-eyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) were about in numbers.

The number of bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*) seen or heard in Collin's Valley was disappointing, but we were told they were plentiful in the more extensive beech forest in the neighbouring Locky Valley. They were also plentiful in the beech forest at Bob's Cove. At the latter place the song of the tui (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*) was also repeatedly heard and at least three seen. Those members who visited Queenstown reported seeing one in the Queenstown Domain. It was not recorded by our party either in the Collin's Valley or at the Locky River. Unfortunately, the Locky River was at least five miles from Collin's Bay, and the time and energy taken in the trip to and fro left us able to enter only the edge of the forest that stretched extensively up the Locky Valley and its tributary the Longburn, at the junction of which we had our lunch and gazed with longing eyes on the forest we had not time to explore.

It was in this locality that the calls of a kea (*Nestor notabilis*) were heard, and Mr. Burnett told us he had seen one here the previous week. He reported that, so far, the keas were not attacking his sheep, and only once had there been any suspicion of their having done so.

Kakas (*Nestor meridionalis*), he said, were rare, but two had occasionally been seen in the Locky Valley.

We searched in vain for robins and parrakeets and later were told they were not present. A search also was made for yellowheads (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*). At the entrance to the beech forest in Collin's Gorge, one member thought she heard the song of a yellowhead, but, during a wait of about ten minutes, it was not repeated. However, as the party in the gorge returned, some members in the same locality saw three yellow-headed birds in flight among the beeches.

Almost daily two or three pigeons (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) were seen. They were also present at Bob's Cove where one was watched feeding on fuchsia berries which were prolific. It was reported that about a dozen were seen at Halfway Bay (at which place the Locky River enters the lake), feeding on cherries which all disappeared from the trees in a few days. At Bob's Cove the calls of a long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) were heard, and one was seen perched in its characteristic way along a branch.

#### INTRODUCED BIRDS.

During our stay at Collin's Bay the lower three miles of the Collin's Valley were traversed a number of times, and one could not help being impressed by the small numbers of blackbirds (*Turdus merula*), thrushes (*Turdus ericetorum*) and skylarks (*Alauda arvensis*) which might have been expected to be common in such an apparently favourable locality. Among the trees near our camp beside the lake, the songs of a few thrushes were heard morning and evening, and, at the commencement of our stay, odd songs of the blackbird were heard intermingling with them, but later these were missing. On January 26 a thrush's nest was found in a matagouri just too high to ascertain how many young the nest contained, but low enough to see by one or two upward thrust heads that the nestlings were only a few days old. Just across Lake Wakatipu at Drift Bay were acres of ripe gooseberries which suggested the possibility that towards the end of their nesting activities, there might be a seasonal exodus of thrushes and blackbirds from Collin's Valley to this paradise for fruit-loving birds.

The finch family was well represented, the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) being only too plentiful in a field of ripening grain. One favoured nesting and roosting place was between the ceiling and roof of one of the bunkrooms as those of us who slept beneath were made well aware. Redpolls (*Carduelis cabaret*) and goldfinches (*carduelis carduelis*) were fairly numerous, a redpoll being found sitting on a nest containing two eggs. Greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*), chaffinches (*Fringilla coelebs*) and yellow-hammers (*Emberiza citrinella*) were noted in small numbers, the nest of a yellowhammer being found near the camp in a matagouri close to where a male sang daily, but in such a position that it defied investigation. A few hedge sparrows (*Prunella modularis*) were observed and an occasional song recorded. In the late afternoon of January 25, a flock of about 100 starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were seen in a field among sheep, numbers of them being perched on the backs of the animals.

We were told that both quail and pheasant had been liberated in the valley, but that the pheasants had fallen victims to the vermin. Californian quail (*Lophortyx californicus*) were still to be found in the higher areas and some members thought they heard their calls. On January 20 when we visited Kawarau Falls and Drift Bay, on Peninsular Hill above Drift Bay a Californian quail and two young were seen. On the same day a little owl (*Athene noctua*) was perched on a rock on the hillside near the Falls. As we neared the Falls by launch, we passed a tiny islet overgrown with willows. The owner of the launch drew our attention to two eggs on stumps among the willows. These, he told us, were the eggs of a Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*). Six young, he said, had been hatched and taken away by the parents about six weeks previously, and these two addled eggs were all that now remained to be pointed out to interested visitors such as members of the Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club.

# CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES.

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Notable records include those of a grey heron in the South Island, three recent reports of the occurrence of the native thrush, though these require further confirmation, and additional North Island reports on the black-backed magpie.

**KIWI (*Apteryx australis*).**—Cape Brett, three found dead, c March, 1947; Deep Water Cove, Russell, Sept., 1948, one heard, reported as common. (J.S.) Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, one or two often heard. (M.H.) Male found dead in paddock on hills to south of Waihi beach, and sent to Auckland Museum by R. E. Mathers, 20/12/47. (E.G.T.)

**LARGE SPOTTED KIWI (*A. haasti*).**—Inangahua, reported present, 3/9/48. (E.W.D.)

**KIWI (? spp.).**—Milford Sound, calls heard 25-26/12/47. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.)

**YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).**—Otago Pen., 26/11/47; two young in nest; two eggs in another nest and both chipped open while we watched; adults remained in hiding while we were in vicinity of nests; another adult seen with chick standing by. (L.E.W.) Otago Pen., few pairs nesting in bay, 22/11/47. (D.N.F.C.) Purakanui Inlet, Otago, one, 13/3/48. (I.T.)

**LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).**—Cape Brett, flock with great fuss and noise on approach of bad weather. (J.S.) Often found inside coastal coal mines, Westland, 7/9/48. (E.W.D.) Waijanakara River mouth, Otago, 25/1/48, one dazzled by car lights, caught and released. (S.I.A.)

**DABCHICK (*Polioccephalus rufopectus*).**—Muriwai Beach, two near lagoon, 22/1/48. (E.W.D.) Lake Rotorua, 7/7/48, flock of 11 off Ngapuna. (E.G.T.) L. Rotomahana, 11/2/48, 27 plus mostly about Banded Island. One not full-grown (P.C.B. & H.R.McK.) Lake Waikaremoana, 21/11/47, four. (A.A.S.) Lagoon near Levin, 23/10/47, six in pairs, one pair with two half-grown young. (R.H.D.S., A.S.W.)

**CRESTED GREBE (*Colymbus cristatus*).**—Lake Manapouri, one reported on nest, 29/11/47. (I.T.) Lake Pearson, 19/1/48, two. (G.G.)

**DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).**—Well-grown youngster in burrow on Horahora, 11/11/47. (R.B.S., E.G.T.) Many washed ashore dead in Dec., Jan., e.g., one on 5/12/47, one on 10/1/48, at Clevedon. (M.J.McC.); one on 7/12/47 alive at Miranda, found by Mr. Whittlestone (H.R.McK.); one at Orewa, 27/12/48, seven at Pakiri, 28/12/48 (R.B.S.); 17 at Hot Water Beach, Coromandel, mid-Jan., 1948 (M.C.H.).

**WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*).**—Small colony at Noises had eggs on 11/11/47. (R.B.S.)

**CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*).**—Palliser Spit, 3/7/48, corpse, first I have seen here. (J.M.C.)

**GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).**—Piha, 25/10/48, one ashore. (E.F.D.) Muriwai Beach, 25/7/48, Mr. Trevor Nugent (of Auckland) reported finding exhausted bird on beach. As it took off into strong wind fox terrier dashed round in front of it, barking excitedly; bird reached down and picked up terrier by hind leg. Loud shouting, or weight of dog caused it to drop its burden, when it again landed on beach. (H.R.McK.) 11/11/47, eight together off Auckland wharves. (R.B.S.) 16/5/48, one dead, Muriwai. (B.D.H.) 18/7/48, two dead at Muriwai. (H.R.McK.)

**LESSER BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila salvini*).**—There was evidently a big "disaster" in the second week of June. At Muriwai, 42 in about 2 miles on 13/6/48. (D.A.U.) Five on 18/7/48. (H.R.McK.) Bethells, two on 10/7/48. (R.B.S.)

**THIN-BILLED PRION (*P. belcheri*).**—Muriwai, three on 13/6/48. (D.A.U.)

**FAIRY PRION (*P. turtur*).**—Muriwai, two corpses on 16/5/48. (B.D.H.) Four on 13/6/48. (D.A.U.) Two on 18/7/48. (H.R.McK.) Three on 19/9/48. (J.V.A.) Bethells, 2 on 16/7/48. (R.B.S.) Kaipara, two on 24/8/48. (J.V.A., M.H.C., B.D.H.) Palliser spit, 16/5/48, two corpses. (J.M.C.)

**DOVE PRION (*P. desolata*).**—Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, immat. male. (R.A.F.)

**FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).**—11/11/47, few near Motuihi; hundreds off n. coast of Waiheke, 13/11/47, c. 250 on water scarcely half a mile from Motuihi jetty. (R.B.S.) Off Tarakihi, c. 30 on 7/12/47; one on 16/5/48. (G.K.McK., D.J.S., H.R.McK.) Corpses: One at Orewa, 1 at Leigh, 1 at Pakiri, 1 at Karekare on 22/2/48. (R.B.S.)

**BULLER SHEARWATER (*P. bulleri*).**—11/11/47, few off the north coast of Waiheke. (R.B.S.) 5/10/47, 2 off Tarakihi and five on 16/5/48. (T.M.R., H.R.McK.) Corpses: 1 at Takatu, 18/4/48. (R.B.S.) Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, corpse. (R.A.F.); one at Makara, Wellington, 2/6/48, ashore week or two. (R.B.S.)

**MUTTON BIRD (*P. griseus*).**—Corpses: 27/12/47, 1 at Leigh; Muriwai, 0 on 1/5/48 (R.B.S.), 3 on 16/5/48 (B.D.H.), 3 on 13/6/48 (D.A.U.), one recently ashore, 23/10/48 (O.C., R.B.S.); one of two corpses, Palliser Spit, 16/5/48, had last half-inch of upper mandible turned to right, not fitting over lower. (J.M.C.) Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, 19 corpses, adult and juv. (R.A.F.) Akaroa Harbour, 29/12/47, 35-40 seen, reported to nest. (E.W.D.)

**SHORT-TAILED MUTTON BIRD (*P. tenuirostris*).**—One at Anawhata, 21/2/48. (R.B.S.)

**FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*).**—Near Ponui, 1000 plus on 2/5/48, and 200-300 in Waiheke-Ponui Channel. (G.K.McK.). Odd corpses found ashore on Auckland west coast, 21/2/48, 1/5/48, 16/5/48, 10/7/48, 26/8/48. (R.B.S., B.D.H.) Firth of Thames, east coast, near Tapu, 13/7/48, c. 200 close inshore. (R.McK.). Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, corpse. (R.A.F.)

**HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*P. huttoni*).**—Muriwai, 1 ashore on 1/5/48, first record for this well-known petrel beach. (R.B.S.)

**GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*).**—Ponui-Rotoroa passage, Hauraki Gulf, 16/5/48; on largest islet 12 burrows in early use or being cleaned out. Tarakihi Island (Shag Rock), off Waiheke, several dozen burrows in early stages of use. (H.R.McK., G.K.McK., F.M., D.A.U.)

**WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*P. lessoni*).**—Muriwai, two ashore on 13/6/48. (D.A.U.); fresh corpse, 23/10/48 (O.C., R.B.S.) Pukerua Bay, Wellington, corpse, 20/5/47. (V.I.C.) Houghton Bay, Wellington, one, 1/6/48, few days ashore. (R.B.S.)

**MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpectata*).**—22/2/48, Piha, two, recently ashore. (R.B.S.)

**WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*).**—Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, adult male. (R.A.F.) Ferry Wharf, Wellington, 19/9/48, five birds resting, one seen at close quarters was *exulans*; others either this or royals.—(J.M.M.)

**ROYAL ALBATROSS (*D. epomophora*).**—Ihumatao, Manukau, Oct., '48, one ashore. (K.C.B.C.) Wellington Harb., 26/2/48, 1 came very close to Cobar; two seen some days before. (A.A.B.). 30/11/47, albatross nesting near bus terminus about mile from albatross sanctuary at Taiaroa Heads. People in weekend cottages near the locality tried to keep guard over it at weekend; Dec. 20, still incubating; Jan. 2, albatross found injured and had to be destroyed; large stone lying near by. (Mrs. J. Clark, D.N.F.C.)

**BULLER MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche bulleri*).**—21/2/48, Anawhata, 1 sub-adult just ashore. (R.B.S.)

**GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*T. chrysostoma*).**—Corpses: Muriwai, 1 juv. 13/6/48 (D.A.U.); 2 juv., 18/7/48 (H.R.McK.); 1 juv., 26/8/48. (R.B.S.). Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, two, ad. female and juv. female. (R.A.F.)

**WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*T. cauta*).**—One mid-June, Darville coast. (D.A.U.). Palliser Spit, 30/5/48, 3 old corpses. (R.A.F.)

**LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata huttoni*).**—Male, prob. 6 months, picked up at Halswell, Christchurch,

and taken into Museum; escaped from captivity but was recaptured several days after at Ashburton. Died at Museum, 23/6/48; mounted as specimen; lungs and various mesenteries covered in small tubercles.—(E.W.D.)

**BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).**—Rotomahana, 11/2/48, 12 empty nests on Banded Island. (P.C.B.)

**PIED SHAG (*P. varius*).**—Ponui Is., 9/8/48, many half-grown young. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon Estuary, 12/3/48, best count for year, 55 (A.J.G.)

**LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*).**—Rotomahana, four flying with *melanoleucus*, 1/2/48. (H.R.McK., P.C.B.) L. Rotorua, 5 plus on 14 and 19/2/48. (H.R.McK., M.J., S.B.) Matata Lagoon, 16 plus on 18/2/48. (H.R.McK.)

**WHITE-THROATED SHAG (*P. melanoleucus*).**—L. Rotokare, New Plymouth, 13-14/1/48, one. (E.H.S.)

**STEWART IS. SHAG (*Leucocarbo c. chalconotus*).**—Otago Heads, May, 1947, few. (E.W.D.)

**SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo p. punctatus*).**—Northern ridge of Oaia, 26/8/48, 50 plus. (R.B.S.) Wanganui Est., one on 1/3/48 and 29/3/48 (W.P.M.); immature female on 3/2/48 (J.M.M.). Waikanae, Wellington, three fishing in shallow stream mouth at lower edge of beach, 4/7/48. (R.B.S.) Akaroa Har., Sept., 1946, numerous; Birdlings Flat, March, 1946, very common; Purakanui, Dunedin, May, 1947, numerous; Akaroa, Dec., 1947, common; Scarborough Heads, Sumner, 1946-47, very common; Shag River mouth, 28/5/47, several immature. (E.W.D.) Purakanui, Otago, 27/3/48, at least 200. (I.T.)

**MARLBOROUGH SHAG (*Leucocarbo c. carunculatus*).**—Two pairs observed off Mussel Point, Cape Campbell; one pair roosting on 50ft cliff above Marfell's Beach, 26/8/48. (E.W.D.)

**GANNET (*Morus serrator*).**—Group of 150 or more resting on water off-shore, Napier, flying but not diving, 2 p.m.; later c. 4-4.30 p.m., birds fly singly or in small groups to fishing grounds up coast, returning later following shoals of fish and finally continue to Cape Kidnappers, 24-29/1/48. (E.W.D.) 8/5/48, one near Otago Heads and three in harbour. (D.N.F.C.)

**GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).**—One seen from Ashley River Bridge, 23/12/47; first seen and identified by Dr. R. C. Murphy. (E.W.D.)

**WHITE HERON (*Casmerodius albus*).**—Upper Whangarei Harbour, 16/9/47, one seen. (M.H.) Trypheana, Great Barrier, May, 1948, one. (M.L.J.) Pakuranga Creek, Auckland, early June, three seen by several observers; 28/6/48, three seen closely, flying and also wading, one, apart from others, with paler yellow bill; 4/7/48, one flying and also wading, seen by several members. Turanga Creek, Whitford, from 8/7/48 to 23/9/48, from one to three seen frequently by residents and O.S.N.Z. members; four birds in a party were seen by Mrs. M. A. d'Auvergne on 12/7/48 and several residents also saw four at once on other occasions; on 15/8/48, with T. Ingham, I noted that the three birds present had yellow bills. Seen again by several members on 23 and 26/9/48; bills still yellow. (H.R.McK.) Matata Lagoon, one seen in May (C.A.F.).

**WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophox novaehollandiae*).**—Kaiaua, Firth of Thames, one on 27/6/48; not present on subsequent visits (H.R.McK., D.A.U., O.C.) Pihama, S. Taranaki, one on a sandhills pool from 29/2/48 to 7/3/48.—(B.D.H.)

**REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, two often seen. (M.H.) Koi Rock, Rocky Bay, Waiheke, 7/12/47, three or four adults seen; six nests, chicks, 3, 3, 2, 1, 1, eggs 2 good in one

nest, 2 adled in nest with chick; we have elsewhere noticed the daytime scarcity of adults in relation to numbers of nests. (G.K.McK., F.M., H.R.McK.) Seven nests with eggs or young on the Sisters (1947-48) these being rocks at the southern entrance to Waiheke-Ponui passage. (M.L.J.) Waitotara Est., one on 5th, 12th and 22/3/48 (W.P.M.). Wanganui Est., 8/2/48, one. (J.G.S., J.M.M.) Waiwakaiho Est. and Paritutu Beach, New Plymouth, pairs on 2, 13 and 15/1/48. (E.H.S.) Purakanui Inlet, Otago, 12-20/8/47, one or two seen daily (Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.); 16/9/47, 8/2/48, 28/3/48, one. (I.T.)

**BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 8/8/48, one in swamp. (M.H.). Clevedon River-mouth, 1/1/48, 2 flying. (A.J.G.). Miranda, booming by day on 26/9/48. (A.C.H.) Waitotara Beach lagoon, 19/12/47, one (W.P.M.); 22/2/48, one, (J.M.M.)

**ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea regia*).**—Manawatu, 25/10/47, one. (R.H.D.S., A.S.W. and J.M.C.)

**PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*).**—Rotomahana, c. 130 in flocks on 11/2/48 (P.C.B., H.R.McK.) Karaka, four during shooting season. (D.A.U.) Poro-o-tarau, 1 pair. (W.F.I.H.). Waitotara Beach lagoon, occ. seen, most being 15 on 5/3/48. (W.P.M.) Lagoon near Te Anau, 29/11/47, pair with six small young; between Mossburn and Te Anau, flocks c. 100 and 30, 28/11/47; between Manapouri and Mossburn, flock c. 100 (30 females). (I.T.)

**GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*).**—Lake Rotomahana, 19/11/47, c. 25, including two flapper young, deserted nest contained apparent double-yolked egg, measuring 63.3 x 43.9 mm, waist of egg was straight, taking 15 m.m. of length; nest on clay bank, c. 4ft. above water; covered by dry sticks, grass and **Blechnum** fern, and site screened by five-finger and coprosma twigs; egg was on bed of bare soil and decaying leaves. (J.M.C.) Lake Okataina, s. end, 1947, five young reported (H.R.McK.) Rotomahana, 11/2/48, 100 plus, inc. many young; a brood of seven about one week old at Waimangu estuary. (P.C.B., H.R.McK.)

**GREY DUCK (*Anas poicilorhyncha*).**—Clevedon, May, 1948, Mr F. Duder reported two with crops full of caterpillars and one from Taupiri containing 12 acorns. (H.R.McK.) New Plymouth, Pukekura Park, 8/1/48, c. 100, many juvenile; Lake Rotokare, 15/1/48, four. (E.H.S.) Leith Valley, Dunedin, fairly common, breeding. (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.) Clinton, one with eight small young, 23/11/47. (I.T.)

**BROWN DUCK (*A. aucklandica chlorotis*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 27/9/47, pair on small lagoon on edge of bush; 10/4/48, two heard flying to beach; 22/6/48, almost every evening for last three weeks heard flying down to tidal creek; 13/8/48, often heard; 21/9/48, nest found in rush which we have passed two or three times a day; all eggs had hatched except one; though so close to daily traffic the duck had kept herself and eggs so well concealed that she had remained undiscovered even by dogs. (M.H.) Takatu, 17 and 18/4/48, 3 pairs. (R.B.S.)

**SHOVELLER (*A. rhynchotis*).**—Takatu, one on 18/4/48. (R.B.S.) Miranda, 1 pair on 1/8/48, and 2 males on 9/10/48. (R.B.S.) Rotomahana, five at Waimangu and others elsewhere, 11/2/48. (P.C.B., H.R.McK.) Hamurana, 91 plus on 15/2/48; Matata lagoon, many on 18/2/48. (H.R.McK.) Kaituna, Canterbury, March, 1946, fairly common. (E.W.D.)

**N.Z. SCAUP or BLACK TEAL (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*).**—Rotomahana, 250 plus on 11/2/48. (P.C.B., H.R.McK.) L. Rotorua, behind Ward Baths, seven appeared on 25/3/48; winter max. of 301 on 17th May; only 7 left on 11/9/48. (M.J.S.B.) Lake Wakatipu, 22/5/47, numerous. (E.W.D.)

**BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*).**—Omanawa Falls, 7/12/47, two. (H.R.McK.) Present in the gorges of the Whirinaki River.

(R.St.P.) National Park, 11/10/47, one seen. (R.H.D.S.) Lynn Creek, Cant., 15/11/47, pair. (G.C.) Milford Sound track, Clinton River, 22/12/47, pair. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.)

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*).—Gough's Bay, Bank's Pen., 9/9/46, pair. (E.W.D.). Hunter Valley, Lake Hawea, Jan. 47, flock c. 15 in flight, considered nuisance as they spoil pasturage. (Miss A. Edmonds, D.N.F.C.).

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*).—Clevedon Est., 117 on, 25/5/48 was biggest count. (A.J.G.) Kaiaua, Firth of Thames, 1 straggler on 9/10/48. (R.B.S.). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 1 pair on pools, 8/10/47. (R.B.S.) Lake Rotokare, New Plymouth, 13/1/48, two. (E.H.S.) Lake Grassmere, Marl., 25-27/8/48, numerous in W. side. (E.W.D.) Kaituna Lagoon, Cant., March, 1946, extremely numerous. (E.W.D.) Anderson Bay Bridge, Dunedin, 8/5/48, nineteen. (Mrs G. Nicholls, D.N.F.C.)

WHITE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*).—Otago Harb., 6/2/48, two; Tomahawk Lag. 9/2/48, two. (Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.)

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—Waipori Gorge, 10/4/48, one. (D.N.F.C.)

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—Cape Brett, seen to knock down red-billed gull in nesting colony and carry it away. (J.S.) Rangitumau, Wairarapa, c. 25 years ago, young one placed in orchard fed by adult with five shining cuckoos within week, reported by L. T. Blatchford, who showed me photograph of another shining cuckoo which had flown into side of house. (R.H.D.S.) Lake Rotokare, New Plymouth, 15/1/48, one flushed from remains of hare; a considerable struggle appeared to have taken place, blood, fur and intestines being spread over a wide area. (E.H.S.)

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Deep Water Cove, Russell, Sept. 1948, four and one golden pheasant. (J.S.) Parua Bay, Whangarei, 30/1/48, hen with two chicks; 19/3/48, six feeding on ink weed; 7/4/48, old nest in short gorse, remains of c. 8 eggs, 1 unhatched. (M.H.) Near Morrinsville, Jan. 1948, hens very common, numbers seen at dusk. (J.S.E.) Murupara dist., 25/11/47, six cocks seen in fern. (A.A.S.)

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*).—Cape Brett, 5/6/48 (J.S.) Parua Bay, Whangarei, 28/9/48, c. 8 in orchard, extremely tame. (M.H.) Between Wairoa and Waikaremoana, 20/11/47, one seen; bet. Waikaremoana and Te Whaiti, 24/11/47, two; walked to Murupara, 25/11/47, two fighting. (A.A.S.) New Plymouth, 10/1/48, two near Paritutu Rock. (E.H.S.)

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*).—Cape Brett, 5/6/48. (J.S.) Parua Bay, Whangarei, 8/12/47, pair with chicks about week old; 14/1/48, nest under gorse bush, 10 eggs. (M.H.) Napier-Taupo Road, 23/1/48, common. (E.W.D.) Near Tongoio, 19/11/47, one; bet. Wairoa and Waikaremoana, 20/11/47, one; between Waikaremoana and Te Whaiti, 24/11/47, six at intervals; walked to Murupara, 25/11/47, three; Wairakei, 25/11/47, numerous. (A.A.S.) Maitai Valley, Nelson, 17/11/47, often seen. (Miss A. Clancy, D.N.F.C.) Christchurch Botanic Gardens, 1944-47, fairly numerous. (E.W.D.) Herbert district, Otago, 1937-47, one seen and one reported. (S.I.A.)

PEA FOWL (*Pavo cristatus*).—Parapara Road, Wanganui, 24/10/48, two, both flew well, several hens reported present. (J.M.C., J.H.S., J.M.M.)

SOUTH IS. WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*).—Lyell, Buller River, 3/9/48. (E.W.D.) Quinton Huts, Milford Sound Track, 24/12/47, one with four young. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.)

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*).—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 17/3/48, 1/4/48, 15/8/48, one seen in tidal creek. (M.H.) Reported at several new places around Clevedon. (H.R.McK.)

**MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*).**—One caught by dog in L. Tongonga, Kaitaia, 8/5/48 and sent to Auckland Museum by R. H. Michie. (E.G.T.). Green Is. Swamp, 16/5/48, one obtained by dog sent to retrieve black swan, taken to museum. (I.T.)

**PUKEKO (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, two or three about. (M.H.). Clevedon, night-flying calls from 9/9 to 24/12/47. Began again July, 1948. (H.R.McK.) Lyell to Westport, 3/9/48, common on roadside swamps; Westport-Mokihinui, 4-6/9/48. (E.W.D.)

**SOUTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*).**—Kaipara, 73 at Sandspit, on 24/8/48. (J.V.A., M.C.H., B.D.H.). Manukau (a) Puketutu Flats, 1 on 4/1/48, c. 100 on 14/2/48, 150 plus on 7/3/48, c. 170 on 13/7/48, 3 on 1/9/48. (P.C.B., B.D.H., R.B.S.); (b) Puhinui, 500 plus on 9/5/48. (B.D.H.), 113 on 17/10/48 (R.B.S.); (c) Karaka, 48 on 28/12/47, 510 on 27/3/48, 2c. 210 on 5/9/48, none on 10/10/48. (D.A.U.). The Puhinui and Karaka district birds are probably the same. Kaiiua and Miranda, Firth of Thames, some summered, 32 on 23/11/47, 45 on 20/12/47, c. 90 on 7/2/48, c. 148 on 11/7/48, 55 on 9/10/48. (R.B.S., H.R.McK.). Tararu, just north of Thames, 81 on 18/7/48 and c. 30 in early October flying off Thames. (R.McK.). Ashley River Est., 3/12/47, twelve; Upper Rangitata River, 15/11/47, occasional bird, one of which drove away harrier; Waimakariri Est., 9/2/48, c. 70; Upper Selwyn Gorge, 23/11/47, three pairs. (E.W.D.) Otago Harb., near entrance, c. 80 in four flocks. (D.N.F.C.) Karatane, 27/9/47, at least 45. (Miss A. Edmond, D.N.F.C.) Taieri Mouth, end Jan., 1948, c. 12 (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Mataura River, near Gore, 2 pairs and 2 others, 24/11/47; Manapouri-Mossburn Road, Gorge Creek, 30/11/47, at least 20. (I.T.). Doctor's Point, Waitati, 10/1/48, 53 feeding. (L.E.W.)

**NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*H. reischeki*).**—One pair at Pakiri (1 being black the other very pied even to having a white rump), but no nest found, 28/12/47. (R.B.S.) Kaipara, 1 black with S.I.P.O. on 24/8/48. (B.D.H.) Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, 2 black and 1 typical *reischeki* wintered. (R.B.S.); (b) Karaka, 1 *reischeki* seen occasionally Dec., 47—Mar., 48. (D.A.U.). Kaiiua and Miranda, Firth of Thames, 1 *reischeki* wintered, 2 black appeared one winter, one in early spring and both were still present on 9/10/48. (R.B.S., H.R.McK.). Orere, Clevedon, 1 black bird reported at Tawhatakinu Beach, first reported in this area since one reported seen about 60 years earlier by late John Luke. (H.R.McK.) Ohau Est., Manawatu, 22/10/47, nest, 3 eggs (R.H.D.S., A.S.W.) Waikanae River Est.: 13/2/48, three, two jet black, one dark grey back, greyish white below; 17/2/48, four, three black with other bird. (B.I.)

**BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. spp?*).**—Waitotara Est., two on 24/10/47 and 14/2/48. (W.P.M.) Waikanae Est., Wellington, 4/7/48, 2 pairs, one of which was behaving as if on territory and set up loud and prolonged piping, when the other pair appeared. (R.B.S.)

**TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).**—Kaipara, 1 on sandspit on 23/8/48, an interesting date whichever way it is regarded. (J.V.A.; M.C.H., B.D.H.) Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, c. 10 appeared in Nov., c. 50 on 21/12/47, then present till April, c. 80 on 3/4/48, last seen 22 on 15/4/48 (P.C.B., R.B.S.); (b) Karaka, 1 on 28/9/47, 65 plus on 23/10/47, then varying numbers till 11/4/48 when c. 126 were seen, none known to winter, 2 back on 3/10/48. (D.A.U.) Firth of Thames, Miranda, 1, a tired migrant, on 26/9/48 (R.B.S., F.M.B.) Waitotara Beach lagoon, 11/10/48, four. (W.P.M.)

**LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*).**—Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, 9 on 21/12/47 (P.C.B.); (b) Karaka, 13 on 2/11/47, then throughout summer, max. 20 on 22/2/48, last seen 6 on 11/4/48; 6 had arrived on 10/10/48. (D.A.U.) Waitotara Estuary, arrived on 3/11/47, last date seen 22/3/48, 6 birds when first seen and again when last seen,

some showed dark patch on breast; fed on mudflats only during falling tide, not seen there at other times; at high tide on 12/3/48, four were put up from grassy hollow between lupin-covered sandhills, about 50 yards from river bank. Later, before mudflats were uncovered, one circled over river and returned over lupin. All came to feed on mudflats as they were uncovered. On 22/3/48 last one to remain feeding till low tide observed to fly over sandhill and appeared to go down into grassy hollow about 100 yards in. (W.P.M.) Waitotara Estuary, 24/10/48, seven resting in grass field. (J.H.S. J.M.C., J.M.M.)

**BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*).**—Kaipara, only two at sandspit, 24/8/48. (B.D.H.) Muriwai Creek, 2 pairs on territory, one with well-made scrapes, 26/8/48; Bethells, 1 pair on territory, 10/7/48; Firth of Thames, pairs on territory, scrapes well made, 1/8/48; 2 nests found with 3 eggs each on 29/8/48. (R.B.S.); a third nest had 2 eggs chipping on 8/9/48. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon, North Road, best count 215 on 2/4/48, 12 still left on 28/8/48, but none apparently stayed to breed. (G.K.McK.) Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, last flock of winter c. 50 on 18/8/47, single birds on 24/8/47 and 15/11/47; after nesting season 16 on 21/12/47, 220 plus on 2/2/48 (P.C.B., R.B.S.); (b) 1 pair attempted to breed at Karaka in Sept., 1948 (D.A.U.). Rotorua, three on silica flats throughout winter, 8 on 16/8/48 and 19 on 9/9/48, of which some were paired and on territory. (M.J.S.B.) 17/11/47, silica flat, near Ward Baths, Rotorua, c. 25 breeding birds, one chick, four odd juv. perhaps late chicks of last season (H.R.M., F.M., J.M.C.) 16/11/47, plentiful, apparently breeding, near stream off Desert Road. (J.M.C.) Near Torere, east of Ōpotiki, plentiful on coastal shingle beach, 27/11/47. (J.M.C.) Waitotara Beach and Lagoon, 1947-48 season, 4 pairs only; in winter up to 60 at lagoon. (W.P.M.) Waimakariri Est., 9/2/48, twelve. (G.G.) Birdling's Flat, March, 1946, 2 pairs; 21/9/47, 2 pairs plus one pair with nest and eggs; Selwyn Gorge, 23/11/47, two pairs; Waipara Riverbed, 23/12/47, pair. (E.W.D.) Otago Harb., near entrance, 8/5/48, 26 feeding. (D.N.F.C.) Mataura River, near Gore. (I.T.)

**GEOFFROY'S SAND PLOVER (*Charadrius leschenaulti*).**—Miranda one on 22-24/10/48. (R.B.S., H.R. McK., B.D.H.). A solitary dotterel, answering the description of this species was seen at Karaka several times between 19/7/47 and 6/9/47, only a mile across the water from where the Puhinui specimen of 1945 was found. (D.A.U.). Correction: In N.Z.B.N., Vol. 3, No. 2, page 51, line 4 of penultimate paragraph, date should be Aug. 20, 1943, not May 20.

**NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).**—Pakiri, no decrease in nesting pairs; 2 nests of 3 eggs each, 2/1/48, no young seen. (H.R.McK.) Muriwai, 17 in small groups, near northern end of beach, all except one in fully red breeding plumage, 18/7/47. (H.R.McK.) Bethells, pair in breeding dress, 10/7/48. (R.B.S.) Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, 1 juv. spent winter with wrybills, from 15/4/48 to 8/8/48. (B.D.H., R.B.S.); (b) Karaka, 1 from 7/3/48 to 11/4/48. (D.A.U.). Firth of Thames, Miranda, 1 juv. with wrybills, 27/6/48 and 1/8/48; odd birds in colour in three places along coast, 29/8/48, and a pair seen on 2/10/48. (R.B.S.) Kaipara, sandspit, 24/8/48, several pairs and some pale juv. (J.V.A., M.C.H., B.D.H.) Waitotara Beach, 24/10/47, one at lagoon. (W.P.M.)

**WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*).**—Kaipara, sandspit, 28 on 23/8/48, doubtless only a fraction of the winter population. (J.V.A., M.C.H., B.D.H.) Muriwai, 1 at the creek on 16/5/48 (B.D.H.); 33 scattered along whole beach on 18/7/48. (H.R.McK.) Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, first arrivals, 1 on 27/12/47, 4 on 30/12/47 and 26 plus on 5/1/48 (P.C.B.); 190 plus on 14/2/48, c. 210 on 25/4/48, the winter population was steady at c. 198 (R.B.S.); 166 on 12/8/48 (B.D.H.); 44 on 1/9/48. (R.B.S.); 7 on 20/9/48 (R.J.F.); (b) Karaka, first arrivals, 2 at least on 25/12/47, winter maximum of 73 from 9/5/48 to 11/7/48, 6 on 8/8/48, 45 plus on 5/9/48, 15 on 10/10/48. Clevedon, 2 at Mataitai on

18/1/48 (R.B.S.). Firth of Thames, Miranda, more than we have ever recorded before, 14 on 24/1/48, 120 plus on 7/2/48, 2000 plus on 29/3/48 and 27/6/48, 1000 plus on 1/8/48, c. 140 on 26/9/48. (R.B.S., H.R.McK., O.C., F.M.B.) Waitotara Beach lagoon, one on 24/10/47 and 3/11/47 (W.P.M.); 24/10/48, two with prominent bands. (J.M.C., P.H.S., J.M.M.). Ohau Est., Manawatu, 22/10/47, four. (R.H.D.S., A.S.W.). Manawatu River mouth, 25/10/47, at least one. (J.M.C., R.H.D.S., A.S.W.). Wairarapa Lake, 8/2/48, two. (R.H.D.S.)

**KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).**—Karaka: Very few wintered. (D.A.U.) Firth of Thames, c. 400 wintered at Miranda of which the majority showed some red. (R.B.S.) Waitotara Beach lagoon, with godwits, 3 on 3/11/47, 3 on 22/9/48, 4 on 11/10/48, colour and behaviour of early arrivals as for godwits. (W.P.M.); 24/10/48, thirteen feeding (J.M.C., J.H.S., J.M.M.). Manawatu River mouth, 25/10/47, 14 (J.M.C., R.H.D.S., A.S.W.).

**AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotus*).**—Miranda, Firth of Thames, one, a very tame bird, was seen many times between 20/12/47 and 29/3/48. (H.R.McK., O.C., R.B.S.). Manukau: A puzzling sandpiper, certainly not a typical *acuminatus*, and possibly a *melanotus*, was seen on Puketutu Flats on 1/1/48, but not again. (P.C.B.)

**SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*).**—Miranda, Firth of Thames, 3 of 8/11/47, 3 on 20/12/47, 1 on 14/3/48 (R.A.F., H.R.McK., O.C., R.B.S.); 2 on 23/10/48 (H.R.McK., B.D.H.). Karaka, 1, freshly arrived, on 10/10/48. (D.A.U.). Waipara River, 23/12/47, four. (E.W.D.)

**RED-NECKED STINT (*Pisobia ruficollis*).**—Miranda, F.O.T., 1 from 7/2/48—29/3/48. (R.B.S., O.C., H.R.McK.); one on 22/10/48 (R.B.S., K.C.B.C.). Manukau, Puketutu Flats, 1 on 16/1/48 (P.C.B.) and on 31/3/48, but none seen in the interval (R.B.S., H.R.McK.).

**CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Erolia testacea*).**—Miranda, Firth of Thames, 1 seen at half-tide on 3/1/48 (R. and J.W.St.P.); 5 on 7/2/48, 12 on 28/2/48 and 14/3/48; the first flock recorded for the North Island. (R.B.S., E.K.T., D.A.U., O.C., H.R.McK., J.W.St.P.)

**BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*).**—On 19/3/48, Messrs. Lovett, Matene and Nilsen, when fishing c. 2 miles S.E. of North Cape light, observed a very large flock of godwits which circled overhead making much noise and finally flew due north, disappearing from sight over the sea on this course; this is the first record I have of godwit having been observed actually leaving the coast in a direction suggesting departure on migration. (A.H.W.) Clevedon, 30/11/47, 1500 plus during spring influx, Dec.-Feb. steady population of 700-800. (H.R.McK.). Many hundreds wintered in Firth of Thames, Manukau and Kaipara. (R.B.S., D.A.U., B.D.H.) Napier, 29/11/47, 41 seen, winter plumage; 28/3/48, 32, including 6 in practically full summer (red) plumage, and 4 less so. (J.M.C.) Waitotara Beach lagoon, 19 on 24/10/47, 11 on 3/11/47, 19 on 22/9/48, 11 on 11/10/48; those that arrived in September and October were light-coloured, restless birds, and did not stay long. It is suggested (by R.H.McK.) that these are birds that wintered in Auckland district and get "southward urge" at time when flocks fly south from Siberia. (W.P.M.). Waitotara Est., 24/10/48, two. (J.M.C., J.H.S., J.M.M.). Waimakariri Est., 9/2/48, 19. (G.G.) Brighton Creek, Otago, 4-8/10/47, eleven. (Miss E. Farquharson, D.N.F.C.). Taieri Mouth, end Jan., 1948, c. 12. (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.). Merton Est., Otago, 27/10/47, fourteen, harassed by black-backed gulls. (L.E.W.).

**WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*).**—Manukau, (a) Puhinui, 1 on 4/12/47, possibly the bird that wintered at Karaka. (R.B.S., B.D.H.); (b), Karaka, probably the same bird seen several times till 21/3/48; one, thin looking, appeared on 3/10/48. (D.A.U.) Firth of Thames, 3 at Miranda were wintering; 27/6/48. (R.B.S., D.A.U.).

**PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, sometimes 2 to 6. (M.H.) North Road, Clevedon, 19/9/47, nest 4 eggs; 21/9/47, destroyed by hawks; 1, perhaps 3, earlier nests also destroyed; 2/12/47, three further nests destroyed. (B.F.Duder). Clevedon, 1947-48, increase again this year in wintering birds, total c. 200, and in birds staying for breeding season total c. 80; 21/9/47, Mr. Alec Smith, North Road, found nest 4 eggs which was robbed by a hawk; (three previous nests had also been robbed); no young stilts were reared in the Clevedon north area this season; Rotorua area, 11-19/2/48, Waimangu Est., c. 80 (c. 12 juv.); Lake Rotorua, 200 plus, some being juv.; Lake Rerewhakaitu, 2 pairs; Hamurana, 7 (1 juv.); Matata Lagoon, 25 plus. (H.R.McK.) A very late nest had two fresh eggs on 24/1/48. (R.B.S.) 8/9/48, 20 nests found of which 5 had complete clutches. (H.R.McK.). Mounmoukai, Clevedon, 30/12/47, 9 p.m., 400ft. height, heard calls of several flying S-E; very dark night; would have to cross range of 1,000ft. to 1,500ft. (J.W.St.P.) 16-21/11/47, Silica Flat, near Ward Baths, Rotorua, up to 80 birds, several breeding. (H.R.M., F.M., J.M.C.) Onehunga, 23/1/48, numerous on inter-tidal flats. (E.H.S.) Pio Pio, 1947 season, breeding on swamp near main road,, very pugnacious, cat intimidated. (D.N.L.) Patea-Waverley district, 20/1/48, few on marshy ground. Westshore, Napier, 28/1/48, 80-90. (E.W.D.) Waitotara Beach, hatching on 24/10/47 and 3/11/47; reported with young chicks in swamps, Wanganui city area, 17/12/47; 40 or 50 during winter on Waitotara Beach lagoon; some also on Wanganui Est.; no nests found during spring, 1948, at Waitotara Beach, but two pairs nesting in swamp by railway station. (W.P.M.). Lake Grassmere, 25/8/48, 6-8 pairs in lagoon. (E.W.D.) Waipara River, 23/12/47, 5 or 6 pairs. (E.W.D.) Ashley River Est., 3/12/47, one (G.G.). Otago Harb., near Ent., 8/5/48, 40 plus on tidal flats. (D.N.F.C.). Merton mudflats, Otago, 24/11/47, adult and 4 young. (L.E.W.). Shag River mouth, Otago, 28/5/47, 6 or 8 pair. (E.W.D.)

**BLACK STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*).**—Clevedon River-mouth, 1 on 10/1/48. (A.J.G.) Karaka, 1 on 25/1/48, evidently on passage, not seen again. (D.A.U.) Miranda, 1 on 29/8/48. (H.R.McK., R.B.S.), Omarama, 27/5/48, four seen, two adults and two young still in juvenile plumage, at homestead ponds on Glenbrook Station. (L.G. and B.J.M.). Blackish stilts recorded as follows: Manukau (a) 1 juv. with black throat and belly, but white head, at Harania Creek, 10/6/48 and 18/10/48 (R.B.S.); (b) 1 almost black bird, 15/10/48 (R.B.S.) Firth of Thames, Miranda, 1 had returned on 28/2/48 (H.R.McK.), and another on 29/3/48 to spend the winter as in the past seven years. (R.B.S.).

**BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*).**—One solitary juvenile tern about one mile off Clevedon coast on 16/5/48 was identified as this species. (D.A.U., F.M., H.R.McK.) Waikanae Est., Wellington, 4/7/48, at least 16, possibly many more. (R.B.S.) Palliser Bay, 11/4/48; 5, 30/5/48 c. 12, 3/7/48 3, 25/9/48 none. (J.M.C.) Selwyn Gorge, Cant., 23/11/47 several pairs; Ashley River, Cant., 23/12/47, several. (E.W.D.) Mataura River, Otamita, 26/11/47, four pairs; between Mossburn and Te Anau, 28/11/47, several pairs; between Manapouri and Lumsden, in small numbers. (I.T.)

**CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).**—Rotorua, Silica Flats, max. of 31 during March, after which they dwindled; two adults and a juv. were consistently seen together; the juv. twice fed within an hour on 8/9/48. (M.J.S.B.). Clevedon River, best count for year, 52 on 19/3/48. (A.J.G.) Waitotara Est., 3 on 24/10/47, 2 on 3/11/47, 1 on 19/12/47, 2 on 9/8/48. (W.P.M.) Palliser Spit, 3/1/48, 40-50 with c. 55 young under fortnight old; 11/4/48, none; 30/5/48, c. 7; 3/7/48, 2; 11/7/48, c. 14, not yet on nesting site; 25/9/48, c. 20 resting on nest site, many scrapes on sand. (J.M.C.) Waikanae Estuary, Wellington, 13/2/48, 16, tide out; 17/2/48, high tide, three. (B.I.). Awatere River, Marl., 27/8/48, one flying up and down river. (E.W.D.)

**WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).**—Cape Brett, breeding. (J.S.) Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, breeding. (M.H.) Pine Island, Wai-

temata, 2/10/48, c. 200. (O.C.) Clevedon, 1947-48, no large nesting colony, but several small ones about Waiheke, Ponui and the coast. (H.R.McK.) Miranda, Firth of Thames, colony of 700-800 pairs (R.B.S.) Pihama, S. Taranaki, numbers appeared in late Jan., e.g., 40 on 20/1/48, 400 plus on 22/1/48, c. 90 on 27/1/48, after which they disappeared. (B.D.H.) Napier waterfront, 24-29/1/48, very common, diving with gannets. (E.W.D.) Palliser Spit, 3/1/48, c. 490 birds with over 220 chicks, 7 nests still in use; 30/5/48, over 100 birds; 3/7/48, 3; 25/9/48, c. 50, showing no interest in nest site yet. (J.M.C.) Castlepoint, 25-29/3/48, over 200 roosting; 24-26/9/48, only one seen. (V.E.D.) Castlecliff moles, summer, 1947-48, up to 200; none during winter except 4 on 6/8/48. (W.P.M.) Waikanae Estuary, Wellington, 13/2/48, tide out, c 1800; 17/2/48, high tide, c 200. (B.I.) Wainui, Akaroa Harb., Dec., 1947, Jan, 1948, only 8-10 seen each day. (E.W.D.) Ashley River Est., 3/12/47, c. 100; Waimakariri Est., 9/2/48, numerous. (G.G.)

**BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 2/11/47, nest on rock almost completed; 23/11/47, 3 eggs; 10/12/47 hatching; 24/12/47, two chicks left and swam out from shore. (M.H.) Hawke's Bay, 1947, one seen with rat, took 10 mins. to kill and half-hour to swallow it. (P.M.B.) Waitotara Beach, mid-Dec., 1947, hatching. (W.P.M.) Muriwai sand dunes, 8/1/48, 20 plus chicks, no eggs; Crusoe Island, Waitemata, 21/1/48, 60 young in water, 12 eggs. (O.C.) Palliser Spit, 11/7/48, c 100 firmly attached to nesting area, no nests commenced; 25/9/48, c a dozen nests nearly complete. (J.M.C.) Upper Rangitata River, 15/11/47, flocks of up to 1000 on nesting sites; Lake Pearson, 19/1/48, several; Bealey River, Arthur's Pass, 20-27/1/48, two. (G.G.) Purakanui Inlet, 3/3/48, pair going through some ceremonial performance at edge of water; bowed alternately, dipping heads in water, sometimes facing each other and sometimes with heads and bodies parallel; at times they changed their actions to squawking and pecking at one another with wings raised over their backs. Then they did a dignified walk from water to sand, came to halt, and re-commenced bowing ceremony which was still proceeding when we had to pass on. (I.T.)

**RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*).**—Cape Brett, 1948, breeding. (J.S.) Rocks off Motuihi, 20 nests among *mesembryanthem*, 6 young and 4 eggs still in nests, 21/1/48. (O.C.) Koi Rock, Rocky Bay, Waiheke, c. 16 birds, 6 nests; chicks, 2, 2, 2, eggs 2 addled 1 addled, 1 good (?); the first we have known in this area, but Mr. P. H. Basley reports that they have nested previously at Putiki Bay, Waiheke. (G.K.McK., H.R.McK., F.M.) Maraetai Beach, 1 juv. among adults, 31/1/47. (A.J.G.) Rotorua, steadily increased from February. (M.J.S.B.) Castlepoint, 14/12/47, c 90 birds nesting on rock beneath lighthouse; 55 nests containing 97 eggs and chicks (under a week old); reported to have nested here in 1946 for the first time, rearing young; Palliser Spit, 3/1/48, c. 212 birds, with over 100 chicks mostly 10-20 days, 9 nests still in use; 11/4/48, 3; 16/5/48, at least 5; 30/5/48, c 7; 3/7/48, c 35; 11/7/48, c 90; 25/9/48, c 140 not yet on nest site. (J.M.C.) Waikanae River Est., Wellington, 13/2/48, c 50; 17/2/48, very few. (B.I.) Ashley River Est., 3/12/47, 2. (G.G.) Lake Grassmere, Marl., 25-27/8/48, very common. (E.W.D.) At Long Beach, 14/3/48, motor cycle races being held and about 300 red-billed gulls remain undisturbed on edge of water while motor cycles roared back and forth on sand only a few yards away; races had been in progress more than an hour before our arrival. (I.T.)

**BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*).**—Miranda, few lingered till 8/11/47. First winter visitors, 14, seen on 14/3/48; winter maximum c 750 was an increase over previous years; c. 33 still present 22/10/48. (H.R.McK., R.B.S.) Rotorua: "An exodus apparently took place during May. Numbers were seen throughout the winter. Influx about Aug., 17th, when 200 plus were counted." (M.J.S.B.) Palliser Spit, 11/4/48, one; 30/5/48, over 16; 3/7/48, 25/9/48, none. (J.M.C.) Lake Lyndon, 19/1/48, several. (G.G.) 1948, slowly spreading from flat ground of

Crookston-Kelso district, Otago, towards higher Moa Flat area, began coming to district four years ago and now appearing more frequently and in larger numbers. (A.J.H.). Mataura River, near Gore, 24/1/47, 25; Mataura R., Otamita, 26/11/47, c 12; between Mossburn and Te Anau 28/11/47, pairs on creeks and rivers; Mararoa River, 30/11/47, c 100; near Mossburn, c 85. (I.T.)

**ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).**—Many seen Auckland Harb. summer of 1947-48; once 6 at one time. (M.L.J.). Several in Waiheke waters, 11/11/47. (R.B.S.). Puketutu, 20/1/48, one, dark phase. (P.C.B.). One or two off Waimarama Beach, H.B., 27/3/48. (J.M.C.).

**PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).**—Cape Brett, 5/6/48, plenty. (J.S.). Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, two seen almost daily, sometimes 6 to 8; number in Owhiwa Bush. (M.H.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, well distributed, feeding on supplejack, 18/1/48; along main streams, feeding on fuchsia berries and leaves of small trees, raureka, mahoe; July, 1948, fairly plentiful, feeding mainly on leaves; 2/8/48 to 22/9/48, always some to be seen. (J.W.St.P.). Minginui: Dec., Jan., feeding on fuchsia berries; increase noted in February, feeding mainly on tawa fruit; common in March, and seen specially on tawa which had an exceptionally heavy crop of berries; April, feeding mainly on kahikatea. (R.St.P.). Lake Waikaremoana, 20-23/11/47, few; near Hunterville, 28/11/47, two. (A.A.S.). Masterton, 26/6/48, one in centre of town. (R.H.D.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, seen frequently. (A.A.B.). Otira, 20-27/1/48, common. (G.G.). Maitai Valley, Nelson, 17/11/47, several. (Miss A. Clancy, D.N.F.C.). Upper Maitai River, Nelson, 31/8/48, eight to ten seen in afternoon. (E.W.D.). Wainui, Akaroa Harb., Dec., 1947, Jan., 1948, common; young chick in nest. (E.W.D.). Maori Hill (garden), Dunedin: Monthly records, Jan, 1947, one (one bird), July 2 (1), Aug. 16 (1-3), Sept. 8 (1-2), Oct. 3 (1-2), Nov. 3 (1-3), Dec. 21 (1-4), Jan. 1948, 10 (1-2), Feb. 8 (1-4), March, no records, April 3 (1-2), May 16 (1-4). In Aug. one fed in lucerne while hedge beneath was trimmed. (I.T.). Between Pompolona and Quinton Huts, Milford Sound Track, 24/11/47, several. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.). Dunedin, 21/3/48, two eating berries beside busy street. (Miss B. Stewart, D.N.F.C.). Wai-pori Gorge, 10/4/48, ten. (D.N.F.C.). Dunedin, 18/4/48, four on berried holly tree in garden four blocks from Exchange. (Miss E. Farquharson, D.N.F.C.). Roslyn garden, 5/5/48, one on bird table, separated by path from living room window. (Miss M. Boyd, D.N.F.C.).

**ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*).**—Herbert, Otago, 4/12/47, c. 100 following cultivation of field; 16/1/48, large flock feeding in field of recently-sown oats. (S.I.A.)

**KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 24/1/48, seen in small patch of bush; Owhiwa Bush, three seen recently. (M.H.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 2/8/48 to 22/9/48, up to four at once seen or heard; a decline in numbers is feared. (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, 2 to 5 fairly often seen. (R.St.P.). Clevedon North, 13/8/48, one heard as it flew over high up; this is unusual now. (G.K.McK.). Lake Waikaremoana, 22/11/47, one digging for grubs. (A.A.S.). National Park, 10/10/47, one heard. (R.H.D.S.). Tangarakau, Wanganui River, 31/12/47, one flying high in twilight. (B.I., J.M.M.). Silverstream, Hutt, early Oct., 1948, two seen in kowhais in several places. (M.O.H.S.). Manapouri, 29/11/47, reported. (I.T.). Between Pompolona and Mackinnon Pass, Milford Sd. track, 24/12/47, seen in flight. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).**—Rough Creek, Arthur's Pass, 19/5/48, three seen. (E.W.D.). Arthur's Pass, 21/8/47 to 2/9/47, ten seen at time above bush line; keas spend nights and early mornings around settlement. (G.G.).

**RED-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*).**—Manapouri, 28-30/11/47, reported. (I.T.)

**YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*C. auriceps*).**—Minginui, small numbers seen daily, 1948. (R.St.P.). Manapouri, 28-30/11/47, reported. (I.T.).

**ORANGE-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*C. malherbei*).**—Manapouri, 28-30/11/47, reported by Mr. Murrell. (I.T.).

**PARRAKEET (*C. spp.*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 19/2/48, one about homestead trees for c. 10 mins.; up to 6 or 7 seen in Owhiwa Bush recently; 22/2/48, one flying over bush; 29/2/48, seen again. (M.H.). Mounoukai Valley, via Hunua, 1939 or 1940, flock of 14 on bush hill to N-E of Maungatawhiri Gorge; c. 1945, 1 seen (reports by A. Milne to J.W. St.P.). Mamaku, Rotorua, 15/11/47, 2 thought to be *auriceps*; 17/2/48, 2 seen fairly well at same place almost certainly *novaezeelandiae*; 22/2/48, calls heard at same place. (F.M., M.J.S.B., H.R.McK.). National Park, 17/10/47. (R.H.D.S.). Tangahoe, Wanganui River, 3/1/48 reported present, fresh feather found. (B.L., J.M.M.). Trotter's Gorge, Horse Range, Palmerston South, 18/11/47, at least two. (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.).

**KAKAPO (*Strigops habroptilus*).**—Manapouri, 28-30/11/47, reported by Mr Murrell as becoming scarce, last seen by him two years ago. (I.T.). Milford Sound Hostel, 24/11/47, reported seen occasionally about sound. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*).**—Reservoir Res., Dunedin, 15/4/48, flocks est. c 50 seen in fields of ripening grain. (I.T.). Waipori Gorge, 2/1/48, three. (L.E.W.). Dunedin, May, 1948, up to five at time visited caged rosella. (Mrs. P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.). Mt. Allen, Central Otago, 2/6/47, reported present during winter, in pairs or up to six. (D.N.F.C.). Mangatua, July, 1948, six to eight seen chasing harrier. (Miss S. Traill, D.N.F.C.).

**SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 2/10/47, first call; 9/10/47, first seen; 12/1/48, last calls about this date. (M.H.). Mounoukai, Clevedon, first heard 22/9/47, fewer this year. (J.W.St.P.). Mounoukai Valley, Clevedon, first heard 21/9/48 (E.St.P.). Clevedon North: (a) Song heard from 30th July to mid-August; no downward notes at end of song but my family and myself know the cuckoo too well to confuse it with the early spring cuckoo-like call of the thrush; perhaps a young bird which had wintered in N.Z.; 27/8/49, one flew into a tree by the river and a tui already in the tree chased it out. (Mrs. G. K. McKenzie, M.E.McK.). (b) 6/12/47, a party of six seen and heard at 7 p.m. in an acmena tree; 7/12/47, party in same tree at 5.30 a.m.; much chatter made with the shorter calls; 6/1/48, picked up bird evidently stunned by striking window; it recovered and flew away; 19/3/98, last song; 9/9/48, first song, not complete; 10/9/48, full song. (A.J.G., R.J.F.). Clevedon, first songs, 18/9/47, 10/9/48. (H.R.McK.). Clevedon south, 2 birds singing 17/9/48. (L.H.M.). Auckland, 17/2/48, one singing repeatedly full song with down notes. (L. W. Seabrook). Minginui, first heard 7/10/47. (J. W. St.P.). Massey College, 13/9/48, one had been present for some time. (W.F.I.H.). Pihama, singing on 11/10/48. (Mrs. B. O. Heather). Waimangu, Rotorua, first recorded 25/10/44, 26/10/45, 17/11/46, 20/10/47, 30/10/48. (H.P.W.). Thames, 22/9/48, first record. (R.McK.). Gisborne, 1/9/48, first record of season, previous earliest Sept. 12. (R.F.G.). New Plymouth, 18/1/48, one in Pukekura Park eating caterpillars, silent. (E.H.S.). Castlecliff, Wanganui, 15/10/48, heard and seen. (P.G.G.). Masterton, reported first week Sept., 1948. (J.M.C.). Lower Hutt, in bush, 21/9/47, one heard. (D.H.G.). Clifton, Sumner, 1/11/47, first bird of season seen. (G.G.). Dunedin, first call, 23/10/47. (I.T.). Records of first calls heard by D.N.F.C. members: 6/10/47, Upper Leith Valley (J. D. McCraw); 6/10/47, Glenham, Southland (Miss O. R. Cartwright); Whare Flat, 12/10/47 (J. V. Dunkley); 15/10/47, Dalmore (Master A. Perry); 16/10/47, Maori Hill (J. V. Dunkley); 19/10/47, Lower Leith Valley (W. H. Davidson); 6/11/47, Puerua, S. Otago (Miss I. Dent).

**LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*).**—Minginui, 24/10/47, first heard during an earthquake. "I have noticed the same thing happen on several occasions. In 1925, down the Wanganui River, when an earthquake was coming, the long-tailed cuckoos, which were very numerous, would set up a terrible noise and warn us." (R.St.P.). 7/12/47, one seen flying with a small bird in its beak. (R.St.P.). Pio Pio, 1947-48 season, one heard. (D.N.L.). Lake Waikaremoana, 21/11/47, one seen, shrieking; on track to Waikare-iti, 22/11/47, four heard; Te Whaiti, 24/11/47, one chased by tui; others calling; waked to Murupara, 25/11/47, saw or heard five; Wairakei, 25/11/47, one heard. (A.A.S.). Waimana, Bay of Plenty, 2/10/47, heard from 3 a.m. till 11 a.m., heard by others before this date. (Miss I. T. Currie, D.N.F.C.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, often heard. (A.A.B.). Arthur's Pass, 20-27/1/48. (G.G.). Dunedin Botanic Gardens, 3/1/48, one seen. (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.).

**MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).**—Lake Waikaremoana, 20-23/11/47, many calling; Te Whaiti, 24/11/47, heard; Taupo, 26/11/47, one heard; Oturere River, 27/11/47, one heard. (A.A.S.). New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, three female blackbirds mobbing owl in Pukekura Park. (E.H.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, common. (A.A.B.). Wainui, Bank's Pen, 29/12/47. (E.W.D.). Mokihinui River, Nelson, 5/9/48, heard. (E.W.D.). Dunedin, first week in July, 1948, heard frequently in the evenings, North East Valley. (L.G.). Maori Hill, Dunedin, heard July, 1947, Aug., Sept., Feb., April, May, 1948. Manapouri, 28/11/47; Otama, 30/11/47; Purakanui Inlet, 17/12/47, 13, 15, 26, 28/3/48; Woodhaugh, 29/4/48. (I.T.) Leith Valley, Dunedin, March and April, 1948, heard frequently, on one occasion three. (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.). Ross Creek, 26-29/3/48, calls. (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.).

**LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).**—Maori Hill, Dunedin, heard July, Aug., Sept., Oct., 1947, Jan., April, 1948; Otama, Southland, 30/11/47; Purakanui, 17/12/47. (I.T.)

**SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (*Hirundatus caudacutus*).**—Westport, 4/9/48, five birds flying over, unable to recognise, thought might be this species; on examining museum specimen feel very sure they were this species but cannot be positive. (E.W.D.)

**KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*).**—Deep Water Cove, Russell, Sept., 1948, very numerous. (J.S.). Parua Bay, Whangarei, 2/10/47, excavating site for nest, old willow; 15/12/47, nest with young; also one, 4 eggs in beach cliff, only 3ft. from high tide; 22/1/48, latter nest has four young. (M.H.). Maraetai, Clevedon, 3/2/48, one swooped at a red-billed gull which was feeding on the shore and put it to flight; 13/2/48, nest with large chicks, c. 20ft. up in a dead tree, in a hole which had been used the previous year. (A.J.G.). Minginui, increasing. (R.St.P.) New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, heard and seen in Pukekura Park. (E.H.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 26/2/48, one in bush. (A.A.B.) Lake Grassmere, Marl., 25/8/48, two. (E.W.D.). Wainui, Akaroa Harb., Dec.-Jan. 1947-8, common along creeks near sea. (E.W.D.). Dunedin, 17/6/47, 19/6/47, 23/8/47, 12, 17, 19, 28, 29, 30/4/48, 19, 31/5/48. (I.T.)

**RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).**—Minginui, plentiful through the high country. (R.St.P.) Rotoma Hill, 18/2/48, heard clearly by Mrs. H. R. McKenzie. Bush between Lakes Rotoehu and Rotoma, 21/11/47. (J.M.C.) Puketitiri Bush, H.B., common, 26/3/48. (J.M.C.) Waiouru Desert Road, beech forest, March, 1948, reported numerous. (G.S.) Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, heard almost daily, often seen. (A.A.B.) Peel Forest, 15/11/47, common. (G.G.) Reservoir Res., Dunedin, 12/9/47, one; Mopanui, 28/3/48, two; Cosy Dell, Dunedin, 4/5/48, one. (I.T.) Dunedin garden, Heriot Row, 19/6/47, one seen. (Mrs. M. Kerr, D.N.F.C.). Cannington Road garden, 19/9/47, pair had nest under roof of tool shed; 23/10/47, several about garden. (Mrs. P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.).

**PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).**—Mangakino, 25/4/48, 8 or 9 to be seen at once near township. (L.T.H.) New Plymouth, 1 and 13/1/48, few behind beaches on outskirts of town. (E.H.S.). Eastbourne, towards Pencarrow, 12/1/48, number seen. (A.A.B.) Selwyn Gorge, Cant., 23/11/47; Cass, 14/12/47; Wainui, Bank's Pen., Dec.-Jan. 1947-48, common. (E.W.D.). Dunedin and district, 1/1/48, many records. (I.T.).

**NEW ZEALAND THRUSH (*Turnagra capensis*).**—Mr. Topp, now living in Castlecliff, gave me an account of last one he had seen in 1923, on edge of forest inland from Patea. (W.P.M.) Mr. L. R. Middleweek reports that on May 7, 1947, between Gisborne and Wairoa he observed a native thrush in a small patch of forest near a school. The bird was in a rama-rama (*Myrtus bullata*) bush. Mr. Middleweek is familiar with all the common birds, and was sure of his identification. (C.J.L.) Nelson district, Jan., 1948, five strange birds, similar in every way to native thrush in Otago Museum, call like that described in books. (E.M.M.). Southland district, 17/12/47, two birds seen appeared to be identical with specimens in Otago Museum. (J.V.D. & C.M.T.).

**FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, heard fairly frequently. (M.H.) Maungatawhiri Swamp, by Thames Road, 1 calling, 8/11/47. (R.B.S.). Pollen L., Avondale, 2 in manuka, very tame, 14/1/48. (O.C., S.H.). Minginui, present in suitable country. (R.St.P.). Waipoua, one heard on formerly burnt heath area, 6/3/48. (E.G.T.). National Park, 9/10/47, two seen, others calling; Wairarapa Lake, 1/2/48, two seen and heard; 19/9/48, heard. (R.H.D.S.). Matatana Swamp, Wanganui, 8/1/48, 2 with nest of 3 young, others heard. (B.L., J.M.M.).

**GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*).**—Mt. London Bush, 4/1/48, nest contained well-feathered shining cuckoo. (O.C., P.C.B.). Minginui, 8/1/48, pair seen feeding young shining cuckoo. (R.St.P.). New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, near town and on Mt. Egmont up to 5,000ft. (E.H.S.). Dunedin, 22/7/48, pursuit; 25, 29/7/48, do. (I.T.). Ravensbourne, 26/10/47, nest in tree fern. (Miss J. Ferguson, D.N.F.C.). Mt. Allen, C. Otago, 2/6/47, common in manuka. (D.N.F.C.).

**YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*).** Arthur's Pass, 20-27/1/48 and 2/9/48; Otira, 20-27/1/48, common. (G.G.) Dunedin, Waipori Gorge, 1/2/48, six adults and four young. (L.E.W.). Dunedin, Reservoir Res., 24/6/47, female; male singing, 15/4/48, two; Maori Hill, 29/12/47, male, 6/1/48, male; 7/1/48, young female; 8/1/48, male and female; 10/1/48, song; 12/1/48, female; 3/2/48, calls; observed more than usual in garden, though 12 years ago was common; Mopani, 28/3/48, 2 males, female; Waimumu, Southland, 24/11/47, male in bush; Manapouri, 29-30/11/47, only one seen and one song. (I.T.). Mt. Allen, C. Otago, 2/6/47, male in scattered manuka; Fraser's Gully, 12/7/47, one; Silverstream, 8/10/47, two males, one feeding two young, songs heard; Mt. Cargill Creek, 24/4/48, two males seen, third heard; Waipori Gorge, 10/4/48, three males seen, two others heard. (D.N.F.C.). Between Pompolona and Quinton huts, Milford Sound Track, 23/11/47, seen frequently. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.). On 15/10/48 a party arriving in the afternoon camped in a hut at the head of Lake Hawea. After the preparation of two meals a tomtit was noticed on a nest, made in a small box, containing four eggs. A hole in the window had given entry. In attempting to screen the bird from the lantern light it was disturbed, flying off but later returned and continued sitting. (F.L.N., reported by B. A. Vercoe, Queenstown).

**PIED TIT (*Petroica m. toitoi*).**—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1947-48, flourishing. (J.W.St.P.). Males seen much more frequently than females in November, December, at Minginui (R.St.P.). Lake Waikaremoana, 21/11/47, pair; 23/11/47, one. (A.A.S.). Pine forest, south of Rotorua, 19/11/47, at least one pair along each mile of road. (F.M., H.R.M., J.M.C.). Puketitiri Bush, H.B., few only, 26/3/48. (J.M.C.). Puakai Ranges, near New Plymouth, 5/1/48, pair feeding young; Mt. Egmont,

7/1/48, twice encountered on lower slopes. (E.H.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 2/1/48, pair on hilltop, first for many years in this area, although seen at Butterfly Creek in interim. (A.A.B.).

**ROBIN (*Miro australis*).**—Minginui, fairly plentiful, 2 to 6 seen daily. (R.St.P.). Rotorua, Paradise Valley Springs, 15/2/48, one at back of gardens; Mt. Ngongotaha, 2/2/48, one; Mamaku Bush, seen and heard throughout. (M.J.S.B., H.R.McK.). Erua, National Park, Ohwango, Kaitieke, 10-19/10/47, sixteen seen or heard singing. (R.H.D.S.). Wanganui River, vicinity of Tangarakau, 31/12/47, one heard; Tangahoe, 4/1/48, one seen, another heard; Kahura, 4/1/48, one heard; Hiruharama, 5/1/48, one seen, another heard. (B.T., J.M.M.). Silverstream, Otago, 6/10/47, song heard; caretaker reported one hunting for food on lawn. (D.N.F.C.). Whare Flat, 26/3/48, one seen. (L.E.W.). Paradise, Lake Wakatipu, May, 1946, five or six, very fearless; two in beech forest. (E.W.D.). Manapouri, 29-30/11/47, Mr. Murrell reported not many east of Waiau River but more on west side, though seldom on west side of mountains which is too wet for them. In 26 years he had seen only one pair on west side of mountains. (I.T.). Between Poppelona and Quinton Huts, Milford Sd. Track, 23/12/47, numbers seen. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, small numbers. (M.H.). North Clevedon, Miss M. Waters reported two black ones to have been about her garden for several weeks about 1940; Mr. H. S. Munro saw one near here in 1892. (H.R.McK.). New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, frequent in many locations in and near town and on Mt. Egmont to 3000ft. (E.H.S.). Masterton, April, '48, one caught on fly paper in kitchen. (G.S.). Carter's Bush, Wairarapa, 29/3/48, six pied and one black seen together. (N.F.S., R.H.D.S.). Lower Hutt, in bush, 21/9/47, seven. (D.H.G.). Akaroa, 23/3/47, on one kowhai 29 counted. (Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.). Wainui, Bank's Pen., Dec., '47, black phase common. (E.W.D.). Dunedin Railway Station, 15/4/48, two black ones hunting for insects among girders unconcerned about trains and people. (J. V. Dunkley, D.N.F.C.). Dunedin, 1/6/47—31/5/48, counts in garden, pied 111, black 31; outside garden, pied 95, black 22. (I.T.); one entered Ohopo tram, 6/4/48, and remained in tram for greater part of section. (Mrs. I. Smith, D.N.F.C.); Octagon, 28/4/48, three in busy period of day (Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.). Paradise, Lake Wakatipu, May, 1946, pied phase common, several black. (E.W.D.).

**WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua o. albicilla*).**—Minginui, abundant, 31/1/48; 3 young birds sitting in a row and being fed by both parents. (R.St.P.). Lake Waikaremoana, 21/11/47, few. (A.A.S.). Ohakune, mt. track, c 4-mile peg, 9/1/48, flock. (W.P.M.). Puakai Ranges, near New Plymouth, 5/1/48, flock of c six in bush. (E.H.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, heard daily, often seen in garden. (A.A.B.).

**YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*).**—Dunedin, report of species seen North-East Valley before big snowstorm of 1939, confirmed; only record between 1934 and 1946. Ptano Flat, Waikaia Valley, Dec., '45-Jan. '46, reported. Manapouri, 29/11/47, reported by Mr Murrell as plentiful; moving from valley to valley from year to year. (I.T.). Mt. Cargill Creek, 24/4/48, small flock seen, first time present members of club recorded this species on excursion near Dunedin. (D.N.F.C.). Between Poppelona and Quinton Huts, Milford Sd. Track, 23/12/47, seen frequently. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*).**—Dunedin, June, '47, to April, '48, many records. Waimumu, Southland, 24/11/47, four to six. Manapouri, 29-30/11/47, calls and songs. (I.T.). Mt. Allen, C. Otago, 2/6/47, small flock in manuka. (D.N.F.C.). Jura Place, Puerua, S. Otago, 6/11/47, flock still present. (Mrs. I. Dent, D.N.F.C.).

**SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 1948, flocks c. 25 during autumn and winter; 15/12/47, nest in coprosma, 2 chicks newly hatched and one egg. (M.H.). Moumoukai, Clevedon,

28/9/47, c. 50 in flock; 13/2/48, first autumn flock of c. 20; July-Sept., 1948, small flocks scattered throughout. (J.W.St.P.). Lake Rotomahana, 19/11/47, flock of over 80 and probably 120, young being fed in locality. (J.M.C.). Mt. Egmont, Jan., '48, up to 4000ft. (E.H.S.). Dunedin, winter of 1947, much smaller numbers than usual; 23/9/47, first record of carrying building material; 26/9/47, first record of carrying food to young; 14/2/48, last record of food carrying. (I.T.)

**TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*).**—Deep Water Cove, Russell, Sept., '48, numerous. (J.S.). Parua Bay, Whangarei, 18/9/47, good spring for tuis, well over 100 in bush within two-mile radius; 10/9/48, only about half as many about this spring, though there is plenty of kowhai. (M.H.). Clevedon, 25/11/47, two fighting on English honeysuckle; one then flew down on the ground and appeared to pick up some shell grit; Wayby, 1/1/48, good dawn chorus, two young just getting throat feathers, still yellow at gape. (H.R.McK.). Moumoukai, 18/1/48, a few young trying to sing; July, 1948, more silent than I have ever known them; Sept., 1948, song resumed strongly. (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, 1/2/48, "Tuis and bellbirds are spending a lot of time chasing cicadas"; 12/4/48, "Tuis and bellbirds seem to be feeding mainly on makomako." (R.St.P.). About 100 in valley of flowering kowhai near Waiwera. (O.C.) Waipapa, 14 miles from Mangakino, 25/4/48, fairly numerous. (L.T.H.). Lake Waikaremoana, 20-23/11/47, plentiful; Te Whaiti, 25/11/47, dawn chorus. (A.A.S.). Lower Hutt, in bush, 21/9/47, one. (D.H.G.). New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, fairly frequent in native and introduced trees in and about town and on Mt. Egmont to 3000ft. (E.H.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, common. (A.A.B.). Buller Gorge, 3/9/48, common at Lyell; Mokiniui River, 5/9/48. (E.W.D.). Aniseed Valley, Nelson, Dec., 1946, common on flax; Pelorus Bridge Reserve, 29/8/48; Maitai Valley, Nelson, 31/8/48. (E.W.D.). Otira, 20-27/1/48, common. (G.G.). Wainui, Akaroa Harb., Dec., 1946, very common in bush. (E.W.D.). Dunedin, June, 1947, to 31/5/48, many records, maximum six birds on 10/7/47; Waimumu, Southland, 24/11/47, one; Manapouri, 29-30/11/47, one singing. (I.T.). Milford Sound, 25/11/47, large numbers. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*).**—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 22/9/47, several on "1000 acres" and few on main ridge to Kohukohunui, 2256ft. 18/1/48, thinly distributed throughout bush area; no dawn chorus this season. July, 1948, none seen or heard on "1000" acres for last three months; 2/8/48, some singing on "1000" acres; 7/9/48, many on "1000" acres, song much varied. (J.W.St.P.). Clevedon, 20/8/48, one seen and heard in grounds of Anglican Church, the first reported within 11 miles of Clevedon; it sang readily, even using the "dawn" song. (F.M.). Heard and seen in Vicarage garden on 30/8/48 and 6/9/48 (Rev. and Mrs. R. J. Fenton). Clevedon North, one in a kowhai tree, singing and feeding on 28/8/48, the first known here. (B. F. Duder.) Clevedon, 17/9/47, Mrs. P. M. Keeney reported two taking nectar in her garden at Moumoukai; 31/8/48, 1 seen by Mrs. E. B. Fawcett, of Clevedon, on flowering almond tree, very noisy; Rotorua, 15-22/11/47, seen and heard at all parts of district, none found nesting, two deserted nests of season one with eggshells as if eggs eaten by rat; no young birds seen. (F.M.). Waimangu, Rotorua, 8-13/2/48, some "bubble" song; definitely no dawn chorus; 11/2/48, with Mr. P. C. Bull heard some apparently imitating the shining cuckoo; Rotorua, 14-22/2/48, plentiful, no young birds seen. (H.R.McK.). Lake Waikaremoana, 20-23/11/47, fairly common; Te Whaiti, 25/11/47, dawn chorus. (A.A.S.). Day's Bay, Wellington, 13/1/48, heard. (A.A.B.). Wanganui, 1948, feeding on tree lucerne planted in garden 3 years ago, from middle of June till first week in Aug. (W.P.M.). Masterton garden, 12/6/48, female in flowering red gum, first record since bush cleared c. 50 years ago. (N.F.S., R.H.D.S.). Hanmer, 1938-45, common. (E.W.D.). Peel Forest, 15/11/47, common (G.G.) Otira, 20-27/1/48, common; Arthur's Pass, 2/9/48, frequently seen. (G.G.) Wainui, Akaroa Harb., Dec., '47-Jan., '48, very numerous in bush (E.W.D.). Maitai Valley, Nelson, 31/8/48; Pelorus Bridge Reserve,

29/8/48; Mokihinui River, 5/9/48; Lyell and Inangahua, 3/9/48. (E.W.D.) Dunedin, Sept. '47—May, '48, many records; Waimumu, Southland, 24/11/47, many singing. (I.T.). Leith Valley, Dunedin, record from old diary, 23/11/1909, nest found; 24th, first egg; 25th, second; 26th, third egg; 27th, bird incubating; Dec. 8, young hatched. (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.). Ravensbourne garden, Dunedin, 26/10/47, nest found in totara tree, 15ft. up, cup lined with white feathers, two eggs; two more were laid and on Nov. 9 three hatched. (Miss J. Ferguson, D.N.F.C.). Between Lake Te Anau, Quinton Hut and Milford Sound, seen and heard frequently. (Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.).

**BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Calleas cinerea wilsoni*).**—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 2/11/47, two together seen making an unusual flight. They soared upwards about 30ft. in about 60 yards after the manner of the tui, planed down gently, then wheeled down sharply into a tree-top. (J.W.St.P., H.R.McK.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, Sept., Oct., Nov., 1947, songs and calls fairly frequent; Dec., 1947, Jan., 1948, only few odd ones heard; Feb., 1948, partial revival of song, seven being heard from Kohukohunui trig at 6 a.m. on 25/2/48; March, April, May, June, July, almost completely silent; I have not known them to be so quiet for so long at this time; from 2/8/48 to 10/9/48, few were seen and heard; 22/9/48, at 8 a.m. six heard singing from different points, 2 others seen, not singing. (J.W.St.P.).

**GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).**—Onehunga, 23/1/48, c 35 feeding together. (E.H.S.). Moumoukai, 27/2/48, flock c. 20. (J.W.St.P.) Clevedon South, 30/8/48, flock of 6 probably returning to breeding grounds after wintering by coast. (L.H.M.) Dunedin, late summer, eating daphne berries. (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.). Gore, 20-27/2/48, common. (I.T.).

**CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 22/3/48, number feeding on dead insects where burning off carried out few days before; 24/7/48, first song of season; 10/9/48, flock of c. 25. (M.H.). Mt. Waitakaruru, Firth of Thames, close flock of 500-600 on saltings, 27/6/48; I have previously known only loose flocks of up to 100. (H.R.McK.) Mt. Egmont, Jan., 1948, one at 3000ft. (E.H.S.). Dunedin, 25/6/47, opening pods of tutsan and eating seed; 23/3/48, number going over cabbages for white butterfly caterpillars. (I.T.)

**GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 6/1/48, fourteen feeding on moon daisy. (M.H.). Dunedin, 25/6/47, feeding on tutsan seeds. (I.T.).

**REDPOLL (*C. cabaret*).**—National Park, 9/10/47, flock of c. 250. (R.H.D.S.). Northland, Wellington, Sept., 1948, seen in garden. (A.A.B.). Dunedin, not seen in garden all year, from Feb. to May, 1948, noted only four times. (I.T.). Aramoa, near entrance Otago Harb., 8/5/48, very numerous, especially on rushes bordering tidal flats, large flocks seen, one estimated to be 200-250 birds. (D.N.F.C.).

**SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).**—Geraldine, 20/1/48, albino. (K.J.McM.). Dunedin, nest contained 20 small antirrhinum plants. (Mrs E. Sutherland, D.N.F.C.).

**YELLOW-HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 10/7/47, feeding on grass seed in garden. (M.H.). Clevedon South, 31/8/48, 20 plus eating hay seed. (L.H.M.). Mataitai, 18/1/48, nest, 2 chicks. (H.R.McK.). Moumoukai, 6/1/48, Mr. F. Gibbons found a nest with 2 eggs and 1 chick, one foot from the ground on the top of a little punga. (J.W.St.P.). New Plymouth, Jan., '48, frequent in and near town, showing some preference for lupin areas. (E.H.S.). Dunedin, seldom seen in garden; Gore-Waikaia-Te Anau-Manapouri, 20-27/11/47, very common. (I.T.)

**SONG THRUSH (*Turdus erictorum*).**—Clevedon South, earliest nests found 2/8/48, 1 egg; 4/8/48, 3 eggs. (L.H.M.). Waimangu, Rotorua, 9-13/2/48, full song by several birds at all times of day. (H.R.McK.).

27/2/48, Mr. J. L. Muir reported song ceased. Masterton, 10/10/47, clutch of 4 included albino, plumage entirely white, legs pale flesh with a yellowish tendency, bill the same with slightly reddish tendencies in parts, gape yellow, reddish in parts, reddish tongue and throat; yellow flush round eye, which was rather deep ruby pink, pupil little darker. (J.M.C.).

**BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*).**—Clevedon, 26/7/47, a new unfinished nest, apparently deserted; 3/9/47, two tiny chicks, long dead in the new finished nest. Waimangu, Rotorua, 8-13/2/48, many in full song at all times of day at Mr. J. L. Muir's. Mr. Muir reported the cessation of song on 25/2/48. It is usual to hear late song in high country like Waimangu, but Mr. Muir had not known such a late season as this one. (H.R.McK.). Tarakihi Is., off Waiheke Is., 16/5/48, an old unfinished nest found in a shallow cave.. This seemed strange as the tiny island is covered with scrub and small trees. (G.K.McK.). Mt. Egmont, Jan., '48, up to 3000ft. (E.H.S.). Bellknoves, Dunedin, 11/8/48, one with partly white tail; albino reported some years ago, later one with white "shawl." (Miss M. S. White, D.N.F.C.). Dunedin, 13/7/48, first full song heard. (L.G.). Dunedin, 22/8/47, lace-edged handkerchief built into nest, draped nicely on one side; 23/8/47, nest apparently finished; 28/8/47, first egg; 29th, second; 30th, third egg; incubation started; 16/9/47, eggs hatched; 23/9/47, young gone. (I.T.).

**HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 9/12/47, feeding young with insects; 15/2/47, adult with two young; 24/7/48, singing, up to six seen during spring. (M.H.). Gannet I. (Horuhoru), off Waiheke, 1 seen on 11/11/47. (R.B.S.). Dunedin, 2/4/48, several short bursts of full-song given by bird while feeding on ground; 8/4/48, singing again, longer bursts. (L.G.).

**STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).**—Waitotara township, 24/10/48, bird seen to catch and eat bees entering hive in roof. (J.M.C., J.M.M., J.H.S.). Dunedin, 5/1/48, heard unusual call by starling; saw bird disappearing into tree in flight with a male sparrow hanging on by bill to starling's tail. (I.T.).

**MYNA (*Acrodothis tristis*).**—Several Ellerslie, 9/10/48. (O.C.). Pairs or small parties quite often seen in Mangere, 1947-48. (R.B.S.). Castlecliff, Wanganui, 1/2/48, one seen. (E.W.D.).

**WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).**—Parua Bay, Whangarei, 9/8/48, one seen. (M.H.). Chateau Tongariro golf links, 15/10/47, two; National Park, two; 16/10/47, Kaitieke, several. (R.H.D.S.). East Cape area, most northerly birds seen just south of Jerusalem, 23/11/47. See also under black-backed magpie. (J.M.C.). New Plymouth, Jan., 1948, reported as rarity, not seen. (E.H.S.).

**BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*G. tibicen*).**—Huntermville, 20/10/47, one seen. (R.H.D.S.) Additional Hawke's Bay localities, 25-29/3/48, Nearly all magpies were of this species inland along Puketitiri and Seafield roads. From Fernhill to Kurapaponga (on the Taihape Road), 47 were seen. Of these, nine were not identified, but the remaining 38 were all this species. No more magpies were seen until the end of the "desert" or tussock country. From there to Taihape they were numerous and all white-backed. Fourteen miles south of Huntermville, 15/11/47, one; black band on back wider on right side. White-backed species common here. South of Waipukurau one mated with a white-backed, 30/11/47. (J.M.C.). Mt. Bruce, Masterton, one here for several months, 3/9/48. (E.O.W.).

**ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).**—Hastings, 16-17/11/47, first seen since leaving England 20 years ago. (A.A.S.). Sockburn and Hornby, Christchurch, 1946-47, still common. (E.W.D.).

# STILTS NESTING AT ARDMORE, 1947-48 SEASON.

By A. F. Stokes, Ardmore, Papakura.

Three pairs of stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*) nested here this season, two on my farm and one on Mr. Brown's farm. Although I can give no satisfactory proof, I am quite sure in my own mind that the original nesting pair of 1944 has returned and nested in the years 1945 and 1946. (See Vol. 2, No. 2, page 26, and Vol. 2, No. 8, page 185), and again now in 1947. The other pairs which have nested have not been so tame and did not have characteristics to mark them as did the first pair.

In my last account (Vol. 2, No. 8, page 185), No. 1 pair left with two flying young on February 2, 1947. The party of four was next seen here on August 17th, 1947. The young were grey about the head and still had their juvenile squeak. Visits were then made by the adult birds each day from August 19, to August 24. On August 25 and 26 the young ones came with them. Then on September 3, these model parents were seen following out the laws of nature by driving away their family and setting to work to build a nest at the old spot by my shed. This nest was built of mud and was finished on September 6. Mr. H. R. McKenzie had suggested that by numbering the eggs as they were laid I should be able to make probably a unique record of the incubation period. This I succeeded in doing. The following table will give the result:—

No.	Laid.	Hour	Hatched	Date
1	Sept. 6	1 p.m.		Oct. 5
2	Sept. 7	9 a.m.		Oct. 5
3	Sept. 8	Added		
4	Sept. 10	9.30 a.m.		Oct. 5

The bird did not commence incubation until Sept. 10, the day No. 4 egg was laid. This explains the hatching of the three eggs on one day. The incubation period was 25 days. One odd point was that No. 2 egg was chipped for at least 26½ hours before the chick emerged, while the others must have chipped and hatched very quickly.

Another odd point to me is that the addled egg should have been No. 3. I should have thought that No. 1 or No. 4 should have had more chance of failure. Confusion of the numbers was impossible as I marked each egg the day it was laid, using indelible pencil, which was perfectly readable at the hatching time.

My duties as a kind of super foster-parent led me into conflict with a "rogue" harrier (*Circus approximans*). This hawk had learned that the stilts could not hurt it and that it could take the eggs if it could see them. It robbed No. 3 nest in Mr. Brown's farm and kept trying to find the other two nests. The two pairs of birds, chasing it for several days, were almost exhausted. I took my gun and hid in a gorse hedge until the hawk came along and I was able to shoot it. Other hawks in the area gave no trouble.

On the evening of Oct. 5 the three chicks were all still in the nest, together with the addled egg, No. 3. The next day they had all left and were under the watchful care of the male, as in previous hatchings. These three chicks made splendid progress, perhaps owing to their hatching early in the season and to the damp weather with its plentiful food supply.

On November 3, 29 days after hatching, the youngsters were making runs of about two yards and then flying about three yards. On Nov. 7 two of them flew quite strongly. H. R. McKenzie and F. Murray came this day to ring them. One made a good flight, but came up against a fence, when F. Murray, following up fast, made a good capture. The two others ran down the creek-bank and were caught in the creek. Red rings were placed on their left legs. When released they played the

usual deception of moving off in a seemingly leisurely manner and pretending to feed as they went.

The whole family flew away on Nov. 14. They all came back on May 20, 1948, and have remained to date, June 25. They are becoming so tame that they now come right up to the wicket gate by the back door of my house. The young, of course, still have the juvenile squeak and are grey about the head.

Another pair, which I shall call No. 2, nested at the swampy gully-mouth across the creek. This nest was nicely lined with rushes. On Sept. 10, 1947, a bird commenced sitting on 4 dark coloured eggs. Three eggs hatched before noon on Oct. 4. The three chicks were lost while trying to cross the creek.

This pair nested again in the wet patch by my shed. Three eggs, dark coloured like the last, were laid, and incubation commenced on Oct. 22. On the 24th I found that a fourth egg had been laid at some time since I saw the nest on the 22nd. On the 27th, one egg was missing. One chicken hatched at 7 a.m. on Nov. 14, a 23-day incubation period. It left the nest at 7.30 a.m. but returned at 5 p.m. Another egg was chipped on the 15th, but did not hatch until 5 p.m. on the 16th, when the chick left the nest. The third egg was added. The two chicks were ringed on Dec. 11 with a red metal ring on the left leg and a yellow bakelite coil on the right leg. They flew on Dec. 22, 38 and 36 days respectively after hatching. The family flew away on Dec. 28, and has not since returned.

No. 3 pair had a short nesting history. They had two eggs on Sept. 6, but a hawk was seen taking them and the pair left altogether.

The only other stilts seen in the period were six adults which came for the day on September 6.

In the previous two articles the times for the periods of incubation and from hatching to flying are not correct, both dates having been included so that the periods are one day too long in each case. The following table gives the corrected periods and also the details of the 1947 season:—

#### SUMMARY OF INCUBATION PERIODS FROM 1945 TO 1947 INCLUSIVE.

##### No. 1 Pair—

1945—Dates not obtained.

1946—First clutch, 26, 26 and 27 days.

Second clutch, 25, 25, 24 and (?) 25 days. Incubation commenced when the second egg was laid.

1947—25, 25 and 25 days. Incubation commenced the day the fourth egg was laid.

##### No. 2 Pair—

1947—First clutch, 24, 24 and 24 days from commencement of incubation.

Second clutch, 23 and (?) 25 days. Incubation commenced the day the third egg was laid. One egg was added, and one disappeared so a definite period cannot be fixed for the second one hatched, especially since an egg was laid either one or two days after incubation commenced.

#### SUMMARY OF PERIODS FROM HATCHING TO FLIGHT, 1945/1947.

##### No. 1 Broods—

1945—32, 34 and 35 days.

1946—31 days (?29 days for the last chick).

1947—29 days.

##### No. 2 Brood—

1947—38 and 36 days.

## NOTES.

**BIRDS OBSERVED IN AVON-HEATHCOTE ESTUARY** (near Sumner) during 1947-48. (See Classified Notes for scientific names).—Pied oystercatchers: Birds were present throughout the year, numbers ranging from 30 up to about 700; 1947, Sept. 6, about 300; Oct. 30, about 100; Nov. 11, 77; Dec. 9, about 500. 1948: Feb. 10, about 700. This number remained fairly constant until September, when the flock dwindled; Oct. 11, about 30; Oct. 18, about 150. Black oystercatchers: Seen with pied; 1947, Sept. 6, 1; Dec. 9, 2; 1948, Oct. 11, 1. Blue herons, one or two seen throughout the year. Crested grebe: One seen from Oct. 30 to Nov. 7, 1947. Spotted shags: Numerous, seen almost daily. Black shag: Seen occasionally. Kingfisher: Numerous around s. side of estuary and clay banks; in autumn and winter they go into gardens higher up the hills. Godwit: 1947, Dec. 9, about 350, fairly constant until Feb., 1948; Feb. 9, about 300, then disappeared. (April 26, three feeding with oystercatchers, information Mr. L. Bassett.). Sandpiper: 1947, Dec. 11, one bird seen with godwits. Canada geese: 1948, March 7, 8 birds. Black swans: 1948, Feb. 10, about 30 birds. Paradise Duck: 1948, May 21, pair seen in estuary (information Mr. L. Bassett). Black-backed gulls, black-billed gulls, red-billed gulls: Throughout the year, but adult birds seldom seen in nesting season. Pied stilt (near Heathcote Bridge): 1947, Sept. 15, pair, nesting later; 1948, Mar. 27, 15; Oct. 1, pair again. Pukeko: Live in swampy area at western end; up to six seen on same day.—G. Guy, Sumner.

**ARRIVAL OF SHINING CUCKOO.**—During the several years I was in the Raglan district, and again at Whangarei, people in the Waitakere district regularly reported hearing the call of the shining cuckoo at least ten days before anyone did in the districts I have mentioned. I do not think we were less observant than the people near the Waitakere ranges. I came, therefore, to the conclusion that the birds annually make their landfall in the region of Manukau, and then spread north and south. In the seven years I have lived here, I have not heard the bird earlier than Oct. 13, but at noon on Sept. 17, our cat brought a half-eaten one to the door. So perhaps the birds do not begin their call as soon as they arrive.—H. Atkins, Cambridge.

**HIGH-FLYING BITTERN.**—Recently I came suddenly on a bittern (*Botaurus poiclotptilus*) which, to my surprise, spiralled up till it had reached a height estimated at 1000 feet. Despite a strong wind it kept a vertical axis to the spiral. At the top of its climb it appeared to glide into the wind in a straight line, but it was too high to see details of wing movements though nearly overhead. I have never seen a bittern more than a few feet off the ground and wonder whether this particular bird's behaviour was unusual.—John Hodgkin, Moa Flat.

**BIRDS AT MOA FLAT, HERIOT, OTAGO.**—My farm is between 900 and 1400 feet high. It is open, ridgy country, with English grasses and cultivation on the ridges; tussock, matagouri, danthonia Raouli and grasses in the gullies. Trees: Plantations near homestead and shelter belts, chiefly *Pinus spp.* Rainfall, 30in. per annum. Temperatures usually cool all the year. Soil: Fairly heavy. Observations made from 1934 to 1947. Common during some or all of the year (for scientific names see those in classified notes):—Starling, sparrow, hedge sparrow, thrush, blackbird, chaffinch, goldfinch, greenfinch, redpoll, yellowhammer, skylark, pipit, grey warbler, white-eye, black-backed gull, harrier, little owl, pukeko (in neighbouring swamp). Seen occasionally (in order of frequency):—Grey duck, rock pigeon, oystercatcher, stilt, black shag, black-fronted tern, paradise duck, banded dotterel (not seen for some years), black-billed gull (seen in last 4 years only, spreading north gradually), fantail (not seen for some years), yellow-breasted tit (a pair once seen in a neighbouring plantation), bush hawk (four or five times in 13 years), bittern (one, more common in swamp), bellbird (once), long-tailed cuckoo (once).—John Hodgkin.

**BITTERN v. HARRIER.**—Last January I saw the end of a fight between a bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) and a harrier (*Circus approximans*). On approaching a lake in the sandhills beyond Muriwai, I heard a rustling in the rushes, and on climbing a cabbage tree saw a hawk flapping in the water with a bittern between the hawk and the bittern's nest. When the bittern saw me it disappeared, but the hawk stayed, evidently too wounded and wet to fly. I swam out to the nest and found four young bitterns. They were so nervous when they saw me that they vomited up frogs and tadpoles. I tried to handle the chicks, which pecked me in self-defence. I then swam ashore and destroyed the hawk.—G. Wightman, Waimauku.

**BIRDS IN FIELD, MANAPOURI-MOSSBURN ROAD.**—On November 30, 1947, between the Mararoa River and Mossburn, in a grassy field, boggy looking and sloping gently about 200 yards from the road to Gorge Stream, a large number of birds was seen. The car was stopped while an attempt to take a count was made. The count resulted in the following:—South Island oystercatchers (*Haematopus finschi*), at least 20; paradise ducks (*Tadorna variegata*), over 100, of which about 30 were adult females; black-backed gull (*Larus dominicanus*), one; black-billed gull (*Larus bulleri*), 80 to 90; pied stilts (*Himantopus himantopus*), three or four; pukeko (*Porphyrio porphyrio*), three. An exact count was impossible as more birds were flying in as the count was being made, and movements of birds upset calculations. A herd of cattle was present in the field.—Mrs. I. Tily, Dunedin.

**BIRD COMRADESHIP.**—The following incident was observed recently at Kaingaroa Forest, exemplifying the assistance rendered by birds to others of their kind in time of distress. A small colony of starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) frequenting the forest settlement at which I am stationed, is in the habit of roosting in a shelter belt surrounding my residence and one late afternoon the incessant shrill cries and commotion of the birds led me to investigate the cause. One of the birds, suspended by a claw which had become wedged in a pine cone, some 20 feet from the ground, was frantically trying to free itself, while another starling, just as greatly distressed, would alight on the captive at intervals of a few seconds and endeavour to dislodge it, either by added weight or additional wing-action. Just as I was on the point of climbing the tree to lend a helping hand, the rescuing bird, spurred on perhaps to a final desperate effort, swooped down, alighted on the captive and with a combined mad fluttering, accomplished that which it had set out to achieve. It is interesting to note that I was observed throughout the incident by both birds but my presence did not in any way deter the rescuer from carrying out its determined and successful effort.—M. F. Weeks.

**LITTLE OWL RAIDING STARLING'S NEST.**—In late October, 1947, for hygienic reasons, 20 young starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were removed from four nests (6, 4, 5, 5) in a clipped macrocarpa close to the house. The parent birds immediately began nesting again. On 26/11/47 a little owl (*Athene noctua*) raided these nests. From 10 till 11 a.m., in dull, calm, mild weather, the owl was seen to make several visits to the nests, emerging with very young birds in its beak. Between the raids it perched on the clothes-line prop, the barn roof and a flax-flower stalk, all within 8 to 10 yards of the nests. The starlings kept up noisy squawks and made swoops at the intruder, which ignored the adult birds.—Miss S. I. Anderson, Herbert.

**STARLINGS WORKING FIELD.**—Early in September I noticed a large flock of starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) estimated to exceed 5000, feeding on the southern end of the airfield at the Hood Aerodrome, Masterton. They systematically worked across the field reaching the north corner by October 1. On October 4 they were not to be seen. A very small flock was noted on October 6, apparently cleaning up a small corner on the extreme northern end, since when no birds have been seen.—G. Selby, Masterton.

**MOREPORK RETURNS TO CAGE.**—When I was a boy in Carterton I kept a morepork (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) in captivity for several weeks. Captured in the bush at Belvedere in the daytime it was taken home and accommodated in a cheese crate with a netted front. It was fed on raw meat and soon became quite tame and would eat freely from the hand. One morning the owl was found to be missing. Over a week later, however, it turned up again, being back in its cheese crate home once more. A few days later it escaped again, but this time it was found dead in the garden.—E. J. Brown, Masterton.

**EARLY MORNING BIRD SONG AT HERBERT, North Otago.**—22/12/39: Fine morning; at 4 o'clock a bellbird chorus began, then a skylark sang on the wing; next a charm of goldfinches flew past; the sparrows and starlings then awakened in that order. 18/12/41: The bellbirds began morning songs before daylight while little owls were calling. At dawn they ceased, a blackbird being the next to sing. 26/10/44: Fine weather; at 4.45 a.m. a blackbird was singing in the garden a few feet from the window. At the same time a great choir of bellbirds was chiming in eight acres of native bush 200 yards away. There was a tremendous background-sound of the twittering of small birds. All song had died away at 5.10 a.m. 3/11/44: I heard the dawn chorus commence at 4.30 with twittering of small birds from the bush, the individual songs being indistinguishable. At 4.40 a.m. the bellbirds began; at 4.47, the blackbird in the garden, and at 5.5 a.m. all song died away.—Miss S. I. Anderson, Herbert. (For scientific names see classified notes.)

**LONG-TAILED CUCKOO RAIDING NESTS.**—Mrs. E. Rowntree, Gore, reported that during a holiday in December, 1945, and January, 1946, at Piano Flat, Waikaia Valley, she saw a long-tailed cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*) in a beech tree at the nest of a yellowhead (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*). The cuckoo ate the contents of the eggs in the nest while the pair of yellowheads flew around in distress. By the time she had recovered from her surprise and fully understood what was happening, the cuckoo had finished its meal and flew away. The yellowheads returned to the nest, picked up the empty shells, and dropped them one by one over the edge of the nest. The inside of the shells was perfectly clean. Another friend reported that when on holiday at Stewart Island a few years ago a long-tailed cuckoo was seen at a nest of a house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) under the verandah of an empty cottage. It was tearing the nest to pieces, but two tuis appeared, attacked the cuckoo and chased it away.—Mrs I. Tily, Dunedin.

## REVIEW.

**The Maori Method of Taking Grey Duck and Black Teal near Taupo; W. J. Philipps, Journal of the Polynesian Society, Vol. 56, No. 4, p.p. 333-335; Dec., 1947.**

After quoting published records of methods of taking wild duck by the Maoris, the author gives an account of snaring technique related to him by a Taupo Maori. The paper is illustrated with a drawing giving an analysis of the snaring knot.—R.H.D.S.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### GREY WARBLER AND CUCKOOS.

(To the Editor..)

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to Mr J. M. Cunningham's regret that in the revised third edition of my handbook on New Zealand birds I have not deleted the grey warbler from amongst those native birds which are parasitized by the long-tailed cuckoo (*Urodynamis taitensis*).

I take it that he would prefer that I accept the opinion of those whose objections are based on the fact that Dr. Buller was not clear upon

the subject; that the bird is too large to be reared by so small a bird as the grey warbler (*Pseudogerygone igata*); and that any evidence in favour of the grey warbler being a foster-parent to the long-tailed cuckoo is the case of mistaken identity. At first sight these views certainly appear sensible. But in order to agree with this point of view one has to explain certain things away. For instance, Dr. Buller himself mentions an egg taken from a grey warbler's nest by Mr. Smith, which he (Buller) compared with one he already had. Next we find that discussing the relationship between grey warblers and cuckoos in Vol. 39 of "The Emu," 1939, you yourself comment: "I cannot understand the statements of Buller and Fulton that there are many well-authenticated cases of the warblers feeding the long-tailed cuckoo. . . it is my belief that these supposed instances are based on cases of mistaken identity." Possibly there are those who will accept this statement entirely, but knowing that the observers of the past were mainly extremely careful, I, personally, would prefer to hold an open mind.

Next I would wish to refer to page 59 of Dr. W. R. B. Oliver's work, "New Zealand Birds." Here he says: "A number of species of birds are parasitized by the long-tailed cuckoo. Eggs supposed to belong to this species have been taken from nests of the grey warbler." (Note the word "eggs," not "one egg" is used. The statement is in the plural.) Dr. Oliver then proceeds to quote the method employed by the long-tailed cuckoo to deposit its egg in the nest of the grey warbler. As he takes it from a statement made by Johannes C. Andersen in "New Zealand Song Birds" (1926) I will proceed to quote what this author has to say on the subject:—"It once seemed doubtful if the egg was ever placed in the nest of the riroriro (warbler) as the young of the shining cuckoo fills it completely when fledged, and the long-tailed cuckoo is a much larger bird, but the insertion of the egg in the nest has actually been observed by Mr. Overton, of Otago. The egg was first laid on the ground, and then carried by the bird in its beak and placed in the nest."

Now to comment upon the impossibility of warblers rearing so large a bird as the long-tailed cuckoo of New Zealand. In Great Britain the size of the famous cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) is 14 inches, just two inches smaller than the long-tailed cuckoo, which is 16 inches. At one time if somebody had suggested to me that this 14-inch bird had as foster-parent the smallest bird in Britain, namely, the tiny gold-crest (*Regulus regulus angolorum*) I would have replied like the person who saw a giraffe for the first time, "I just don't believe it." The fact remains, however, that it is on record that this wee wren is amongst those which have been parasitized by the 14-inch cuckoo. The size of the gold-crest is 3.6 inches in length. For this I have the authority of the "British Bird Book," where F. C. R. Jourdain, after discussing "the cuckoo's foster-parents and eggs," gives a list of authenticated cases of species parasitized by the British cuckoo. The list is a surprisingly long one and contains the names of very small birds such as the chaff-chaff as well as that of the gold-crest.

In the light of the above record of a 14-inch cuckoo parasitizing a 3.6-inch wren, is it so impossible to visualise the same thing happening to a 4.5-inch warbler by the 16-inch long-tailed cuckoo in New Zealand?

Bearing this in mind and having in view the facts that I have quoted previously, I have not felt justified in removing the name of the grey warbler from the list of those birds acting as foster-parents to the long-tailed cuckoo.—I am, etc., PERRINE MONCRIEFF, sometime president of the R.A.O.U., and vice-president of the Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand. Nelson, 4/11/48.

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