

## LITERATURE CITED

- McLENNAN, J. A.; MacMILLAN, B. W. H. 1985. The predators of eggs and chicks of Greenfinches in a mixed farming area in Hawke's Bay, New Zealand. *Notornis*, this issue.  
 MONK, J. F. 1954. The breeding biology of the Greenfinch. *Bird Study* 1: 2-14.  
 NEWTON, I. 1972. Finches. London: Collins. 288 pp.  
 NIETHAMMER, G. 1970. Clutch sizes of introduced European Passeriformes in New Zealand. *Notornis* 17: 214-242.  
 THOMPSON, G. M. 1926. Wildlife in New Zealand. Part 2. Introduced birds and fishes. Wellington: Government Printer. 110 pp.

B. W. H. MacMILLAN, *Ecology Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Goddards Lane, Havelock North*

— \* —

## SHORT NOTES

### Hedge Sparrow feeding Chaffinch chicks

On 27 December 1984, I was photographing the nest of a Chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*) from a hide about 3 metres away. The nest, containing four chicks about 5 days old, was in an elderberry tree on the bank of Harts Creek, Lakeside, Canterbury.

At first, all seemed normal, the chicks being fed first by the cock and then the hen; but the next bird to approach the nest was a Hedge Sparrow (*Prunella modularis*), which fed the chicks and departed quickly.

This was the pattern for several feedings, until the cock Chaffinch arrived sooner than usual. He waited in the tree, and when the Hedge Sparrow arrived, he chased it away. When the cock Chaffinch had left, the Hedge Sparrow returned and fed the chicks.

When I visited the nest again on 31 December, the Hedge Sparrow was still feeding the chicks, which were feathered.

PETER REESE, 2-11 Dilworth Street, Christchurch 1

Colour slides sent with this note clearly show a Hedge Sparrow feeding Chaffinch chicks in the nest. — Ed.