PATAGONIAN SIERRA FINCH Phrygilus patagonicus Common RUFOUS-COLLARED SPARROW Zonotrichia capensis Common BEARDED SISKIN Carduelis barbatus Locally common

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G. S. CLARK, A. P. VON MEYER, J. W. NELSON and J. N. WATT, c/o Totorore Expedition, Homelands Orchards, Kemp Road, Kerikeri, New Zealand

SHORT NOTE

UNUSUAL DISPLAY BY TUI

On 22 June 1984, a pair of Tuis (Prosthemadera novaezeelandiae) flew in to perch on the topmost bare twigs of a tall silver birch on the roadside near my home. Presently the male took off in level flight for 3-4 metres and then, to my surprise, flew vertically upwards in a flycatcher-like flight for about 4 metres and remained almost stationary for 5-6 seconds, with wings beating strongly, and angling acutely above the back to give more power to each downward stroke. He then dropped to the level of the female, circled her in level flight at 3-4 metres several times, and then repeated the vertical flight. This performance continued for some 9 minutes, with the vertical flights always in the quarter which the female was facing. It was obviously mating display, perhaps induced by a succession of clear spring-like days.

A. BLACKBURN, 10 Score Road, Gisborne