

on the night of 17 February, when the egg was being incubated by a Black-winged Petrel bearing a band (D-101292).

The steep faces of the summit are covered in dense *Olearia* scrub, making burrows very hard to find. The party left the island soon after this date, and so the fate of the egg is not known.

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### ORANGE-FRONTED PARAKEETS IN THE HAWDON VALLEY, ARTHUR'S PASS NATIONAL PARK

On 5 February 1984, while studying habitat requirements of Yellowheads (*Mohcua ochracecephala*) in the Hawdon Valley, Arthur's Pass National Park, we came across two Orange-fronted Parakeets (*Cyanoramphus malherbi*) on the eastern slopes of The Pyramid, a peak 1600 m a.s.l. and north of the junction of Sudden Valley and the Hawdon River.

The first Orange-fronted Parakeet was seen 3 m away in good light at 2.00 p.m. while we were following a flock of 10-12 Yellowheads at 860 m a.s.l. in mixed red and mountain beech forest (*Nothofagus fusca* and *N. solandri* var. *cliffortioides*) with a canopy up to 20 m high. Our attention was initially drawn to it because it flew through the understorey and landed very close to us. It was identified by its orange forehead.

We continued to follow the Yellowhead flock for 4½ hours, during which time an Orange-fronted Parakeet was seen several times. At 6.30 p.m. two Orange-fronted Parakeets were seen in the same tree in good light from 3 m away. The parakeets followed the Yellowheads for about 1.5 km, across several guts and slips and through a range of forest types, including 3 m high mountain beech and 25 m high red beech. The altitude varied from 840 m to 920 m a.s.l.

Up to three Yellow-crowned Parakeets (*C. auriceps auriceps*) also followed the Yellowheads. Warblers (*Gerygone igata*), Tomtits (*Petroica macrocephala*), Fantails (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) and Brown Creepers (*Finschia novaezeelandiae*) were also associated with the flock of parakeets and Yellowheads. Mixed species flocks were common in the Hawdon Valley from mid-January until the end of February 1984, although parakeets were seen following and feeding with Yellowheads from November 1983 onwards.

Between mid-November 1983 and early February 1984, 58 man-days were spent in the Hawdon Valley. During that time 149 parakeets were seen or heard, of which 43 were identified as Yellow-crowned Parakeets. PJMcC saw a Red-crowned Parakeet (*C. novaezeelandiae*) on 23 November 1983 on the true left of the Hawdon, and another was seen on the eastern slopes of The Pyramid on 22 December 1983 (P. Pearson, pers. comm.).

On 15 April 1984, AR and Clive Copeman saw two Orange-fronted Parakeets near the junction of the east and west branches of the Hawdon River at 850 m a.s.l., about 2 km from the first sighting. The birds, identified by their orange foreheads, were seen 10 m away, feeding in the upper understorey/lower canopy zone in mountain beech forest. They were not with other parakeets or with Yellowheads.

This century, only eight confirmed sightings of Orange-fronted Parakeets have been made (Harrison 1970, Gray 1982), the most recent being in 1980 by officers of the NZ Wildlife Service in the Hope-Kiwi area of North Canterbury, about 50 km from the Hawdon Valley. Our sighting is only the second this century from outside the midwest Nelson-North Canterbury region, the other being at Manapouri in 1949 (Tiley 1949).

#### LITERATURE CITED

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 HARRISON, M. 1970. The Orange-fronted Parakeet (*Cyanoramphus malherbi*). *Notornis* 17: 115-125.  
 TILEY, I. 1949. Orange-fronted Parakeet. In *Classified Summarised Notes*. *Notornis* 3: 100.  
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### BIRDS ON AITUTAKI, ATIU AND MAUKE, SOUTHERN COOK ISLANDS

Although there have been a number of accounts of the birds of Rarotonga in the past few years, records for other islands are still sparse. Holyoak's (1980) guide summarises the distribution on most of the islands of the group, based mainly on a visit in 1973. Since then Child (1981) has recorded birds on Aitutaki and his map includes the place names mentioned here. All these records are confined to the months July-September.

In November-December 1983 my wife and I visited the Southern Cook Islands, including Aitutaki (26 November to 2 December), Atiu (2-5 December) and Mauke (5-8 December). Aitutaki is an "almost atoll" with a large lagoon, one large volcanic island and 15 smaller motus. Atiu and Mauke are "concentric islands" with a central volcanic core surrounded by a ring of raised coral limestone (the makatea) and a fringing reef. Neither has a lagoon, access from the sea being through small canoe passages in the fringing reef. On both these islands the volcanic regions are cultivated and the makatea, with its very rough limestone surface, is covered with forest. Where the volcanic core meets the makatea there is usually a swampy area, parts of which are cultivated with taro plantations.

#### SYSTEMATIC LIST

Regular surveying of the lagoon at Aitutaki and the sea areas round Atiu and Mauke yielded no petrels, storm petrels or shearwaters. Child saw none from Aitutaki, but Holyoak saw nine species on interisland trips.