

On 2 January the egg was found to be fertile. It measured 118.4 x 76.6 mm and weighed 382 g.

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A CIRL BUNTING IN SOUTH WESTLAND

While surveying forest birds in South Westland on 18 June 1983, we recorded a female Cirle Bunting (*Emberiza cirulus*) on Anderson Glen (stream), a tributary of the Jackson River (Cascade State Forest), about 50 km south of Haast.

Cirle Buntings closely resemble Yellowhammers (*E. citrinella*), a species which we were taking special note of. A previous survey (Coker & Imboden 1979) had found Yellowhammers to be common and widespread throughout South Westland, and yet we had scarcely seen any during three weeks of survey.

The Cirle Bunting was easily approached and was observed on shingle riverbed at an altitude of 30 m a.s.l. in an area dominated by beech forest, riverbed and several areas of semi-developed farmland on river flats. The bird was feeding on bare ground and among introduced grasses and *Raoulia tenuicaulis*. After several minutes of observation it flew to the top of a silver beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*).

Cirle Buntings were originally introduced to Otago, Wellington and Stewart Island (Oliver 1955). Presence of the species in the southern North Island has only recently been confirmed (Bull *et al.* 1978). Falla *et al.* (1979) reported the species as being rather rare and present in the South Island only east of the Southern Alps in North Otago, Canterbury, Marlborough and Nelson. The Cirle Bunting was not introduced to Westland and this appears to be the first record of it on the West Coast of the South Island. Its presence at the most southern limit of road access on the Coast and so close to the forest leads us to speculate that the species may be widespread in the region but has been overlooked. The species is generally considered to be an inhabitant of dry open farmlands. The only other record of the species from forest is from Resolution Island on the western coast of Fiordland (Oliver 1955).

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