

- FALLA, R. A. 1924. Discovery of a breeding place of Buller's Shearwater, Poor Knights Island, New Zealand. *Emu* 24: 37-43.
- FALLA, R. A. 1934. The distribution and breeding habits of petrels in northern New Zealand. *Rec. Auck. Inst. Mus.* 1: 245-60.
- GRAU, C. R. 1976. Ring structure of avian egg yolk. *Poultry Science* 5: 1418-1422.
- HAMILTON, H. 1925. Birds of Poor Knights and Hen Islands. *NZ J. Sci. Tech.* 8: 15-18.
- HARPER, P. C. 1976. Breeding biology of the Fairy Prion (*Pachyptila turtur*) at the Poor Knights Islands, New Zealand. *NZ J. Zool.* 3: 351-371.
- HARPER, P. C.; KINSKY, F. C. 1978. Southern albatrosses and petrels: an identification guide. Wellington: Price Milburn.
- IMBER, M. J. 1976. Breeding biology of the Grey-faced Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera gouldi*). *Ibis* 118: 51-64.
- JENKINS, J. A. F. 1974. Local distribution and feeding habits of Buller's Shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*). *Notornis* 21 (2): 109-120.
- JENKINS, J. A. F. 1980. Seabird records from Tonga — an account based on the literature and recent observations. *Notornis* 27 (3): 205-234.
- KESSEL, B.; GIBSON, D. D. 1976. Status and distribution of Alaska birds. *Studies in Avian Biology* No. 1. Cooper Ornithological Society.
- KING, W. B. 1974. Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*). In *Pelagic studies of seabirds in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean*. Warren B. King (ed.). Smithsonian Contributions to Zoology 158: 53-95.
- KURODA, N. 1960. Analysis of sea bird distribution in the northwest Pacific Ocean. *Pacific Science* 14: 55-67.
- LOOMIS, L. M. 1918. A review of the albatrosses, petrels and diving petrels. *Proc. Calif. Acad. Sci.* 2 (2). No. 12: 1-187.
- MURPHY, R. C. 1936. Oceanic birds of South America. Vol. 2. Macmillan, New York.
- MURPHY, R. C. 1951. The populations of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*). *Am. Mus. Nov.* 1512: 1-21.
- OLIVER, W. R. B. 1925. The vegetation of Poor Knights Islands. *NZ J. Sci. Tech.* 7: 376-84.
- SERVENTY, D. L.; SERVENTY, V.; WARHAM, J. 1971. The handbook of Australian sea-birds. A. H. & A. W. Reed.
- SHALLENBERGER, R. J. 1973. Breeding biology, homing behaviour, and communication patterns of the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus chlororhynchus*). Univ. Cal. Michigan: University Microfilms International.
- SIBSON, R. B. 1949. *NZ Bird Notes* 3: 184.
- VOOREN, C. M. 1972. Seasonal abundance and behaviour of sea birds in the Bay of Plenty, New Zealand. *Notornis* 19 (3): 250-60.
- WARHAM, J.; WILSON, G. J.; KEELEY, B. R. 1982. The annual cycle of the Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) at The Snares Islands, New Zealand. *Notornis* 29: 269-292.
- WAHL, T. R. 1978. Seabirds in the northwestern Pacific Ocean and south central Bering Sea in June 1975. *Western Birds* 9: 45-66.
- WOHL, K. D. 1975. Sightings of New Zealand Shearwaters in the northern Gulf of Alaska. *Canadian Field Naturalist* 89: 320-1.

P. C. HARPER, *Department of Extension Studies, University of Canterbury, Christchurch 1*



SHORT NOTE

PREDATION OF GOLDFINCH BY NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER

The predation of an adult male Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) by a New Zealand Kingfisher (*Halcyon sancta*) was observed on 24 July 1981 at Pukepuke Wildlife Management Reserve.

The Kingfisher was perched on a cabbage tree overlooking a patch of beggar's ticks (*Bidens frondosa*), where a small flock of Goldfinches was feeding. At my approach, the finches took flight, and at the same instant the Kingfisher swooped down and caught a male in flight. Death was almost instantaneous with the Goldfinch struggling and squealing for about two seconds before going limp. The Kingfisher took its prey back to the cabbage tree, where it re-positioned it in its bill and then flew out of sight.

From the position of the Kingfisher's perch over the feeding finches, it was almost certainly watching them, waiting for an opportunity to take one.

ANDREW GRANT, *Wildlife Service, Pukipuki Road, R.D. 11, Foxton*