

BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

One was seen on the edge of the low vegetation in the centre of the island.

Previous counts of birds on Dundas Island are given in R. A. Falla, R. H. Taylor, & Colleen Black, 1979, *Survey of Dundas Island, Auckland Islands, with particular reference to Hookers Sea Lion (Phocartos hookeri)* NZ J. Zoo. 6: 347-355.

There was no sign of burrows in the consolidated sand banks where Falla recorded South Georgian Diving Petrels breeding during 1943. These banks were badly worn by sea lions crossing them, as Falla *et al.* found in 1978.

JOHN JENKINS

**SMALL GREBES IN THE FAR NORTH**

The Australian Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) seems to be spreading in the Far North. On 15 July 1980, I saw two in breeding plumage at Lake Rotokawau, near Waipapakauri. They were associating with a group of duckshooter's decoys and so were much more approachable than usual.

On 24 August 1980, I recorded Australian Little Grebes on two lakes near Ngataki — Lake Half and a small 3-ha lake west of Lake Half. I heard one on Lake Half, and on the small lake I saw two in breeding plumage and may have heard two more; however, it was difficult to keep the two birds in sight while others called, and so I could not be absolutely sure that extra birds were calling.

Three species of small grebe have now been recorded on the lakes near Ngataki — New Zealand Dabchick (*Podiceps rufopectus*), Hoary-headed Grebe (*P. poliocephalus*), and Australian Little Grebe. On the Far North lakes, Dabchicks are much fewer than on the Dargaville and Pouto lakes further south. This may explain why Australian Little Grebes seem to be spreading in the Far North but not in the Dargaville area, where they have been present since August 1972.

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**FOODS OF THE NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER**

(*Halcyon sancta vagans*)

I have collected information on the foods of Kingfishers on three occasions.

1. *Ianthe State Forest, Westland*: In November 1977, I saw a Kingfisher diving into a stream and catching five freshwater crayfish

(*Paranephrops planifrons*). In the same area, it caught a giant dragonfly (Petaluridae: *Urcpetala carovei*) on the wing.

2. *Nelson*: In December 1979, a road-killed Kingfisher was dissected. The proventriculus contained one nursery-web spider (Pisauridae: *Dolomedes minor*), one unidentified mygalomorph spider (carapace length 6 mm), and one unidentified spider (Araneae) with a 5-mm long carapace.

3. *Oruatapu Scenic Reserve, Taumarunui district*: In February 1981, the remains of 14 food pellets (mean size 15 mm x 10 mm) were collected. They had been cast by nestling Kingfishers from a roadside nest hole adjacent to a podocarp-dominant bush remnant. The pellets contained a total of 61 food items, as listed in the table.

Species	Number	Approx Length (mm)
Crustacea		
Freshwater crayfish	6	30-70
Insecta		
Giant dragonfly	1	90
Gray's dragonfly (Corduliidae: <i>Procordulia grayii</i>)	2	55
Spiny stick insect (Phasmatidae: <i>Acanthoxyla prasina</i>)	1	100
Clapping cicada (Cicadidae: <i>Amphipsalta cingulata</i>)	3	40
Carabid beetle sp. (Carabidae)	11	20
Carabid beetle sp. (Carabidae)	3	25
Green cockchafer (Scarabaeidae: <i>Stethaspis longicornis</i>)	17	25
Huhu (Cerambycidae: <i>Prionoplus reticularis</i>)	1	40
Longhorn beetle (Cerambycidae: <i>Hexatricha pulverulenta</i>)	5	20
Longhorn beetle sp. (Cerambycidae)	1	10
Click beetle (Elateridae: <i>Metablax acutipennis</i>)	1	20
Click beetle (Elateridae: <i>Thoramus wakefieldi</i>)	1	30
Click beetle (Elateridae: <i>T. laevithorax</i>)	5	15
Weevil sp. (Curculionidae)	1	8
Weevil sp. (Curculionidae)	1	15
Reptilia		
Skink (<i>Leiopisma</i> sp.)	1	Jaw length 8

I thank Peter Johns (University of Canterbury) for identifying *Hexatricha*.

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