

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 (Phocarctos 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



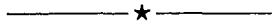
SMALL GREBES IN THE FAR NORTH

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.

PAT MILLER, 25 Third Avenue, Whangarei



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