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New Zealand Bird Notes



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CHUKOR INVESTIGATION.

The chukor (*Alectoris chukor*) a red-legged partridge, was introduced into this country from India some twenty years ago as a sporting bird.

It was introduced at a number of places, and in course of time, especially during the last ten years, has spread widely. It seems important that the details of this spread shall be recorded while they are still easily remembered and that the present distribution shall be determined as precisely as possible. The bird is primarily an inhabitant of high country and suggestions are already being made that it may play some part in erosion. As it spreads and increases in numbers it may change its habits and colonise different districts. There seems to be still time to record the early part of its history in this country, where it is probably the last bird to be introduced and where it may be the last one which ever will be introduced. Members who have any knowledge of the chukor are asked to communicate with the Department of Zoology, The Museum, Dunedin, as soon as possible, when details of the investigation and questionnaires, will be sent to them.—B. J. Marples, L. Gurr.

SILVEREYES' HABITS.—For the past four or five years when the gooseberries are fully in flower, flocks of silvereyes (*Zosterops lateralis*) visit the garden. They hang upside down on the bushes and insert their bills into the flowers for a second or so. They do not damage the flowers and the fruit comes on normally.—W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.

NEST OF HOUSE SPARROW.

By W. A. Williamson, Burkes.

An analysis of a nest of the house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is given below:—

Situation.—At Burkes, a suburban area on the Otago Harbour.

Position.—In a macrocarpa tree about twenty feet above ground, exposed to all winds but quite unnoticeable from the ground.

Size.—Depth, 7 inches; width, 8 inches. Nest would take a small closed fist.

Construction.—From within out: Lined with feathers, white predominating, though black feathers were available in the hen yard below the nest; the white feathers were brought from adjacent yards, 50, 100, 200 yards away. Immediately below the feathers in the bottom was a layer of green fescue (tops only). The number of fescue tops and stalks is so similar that I would suggest that full stalks were taken to the nest and then the heads cut off just below the first offshoot while the stalks were incorporated in the outer construction. The remainder of the nest was of grass at least half of which was complete with roots. Most of the wool, hair, string, etc., was included with the feathers, while the roots and twigs reinforced the outer grass casing. The pieces of insulation were picked off the high tension wires. (I have witnessed this annually for some years.) The piece of string 57½ inches long was a length of cotton twine from a bag seam, the 14½-inch piece was wrapping twine looped in two places and measured without being untied; the piece of cotton cloth, 6 inches long, was a strip from the top of a pillow case, complete with one tie. Most of the string was coir from a mat, the majority of the residue being coir which was completely unravelled.

Material.—

Material.	No.	Length, Max.	Apothecaries' Wg.			
			Oz.	Dr.	Sc.	Gn.
Feathers—White	769					
" Black	178			6	0	3½
Grass—Cocksfoot	90			4	1	10
Couch	170			6	0	18
Straw	16					
Chickweed	7					
Fescue Stalks	76	27½ inches		3	5	
Fescue Heads	74			1	11	
Roots	63	14½ inches		2	16	
Manuka Bark	7					
" Twigs	6					16
Insulation	15					
String, mostly coir	37	57½, 14½, 10½ inches				
Cotton Thread	34					
" Cloth	5	6 inches				
Wool, all kinds	39					
Paper	1			5	0	4½
Human Hair	27					
		Residue		3	0	6
	1,614					
				3	3	2 10

ALBATROSS ASTRAY.—On 20/3/49, after a very high spring tide, an albatross was found in the canal at the back of our farm. It was identified by Mr. H. R. McKenzie as a young wandering albatross. It appeared to be sick and when taken out of the water could only move with great effort. After a while it appeared to recover and was taken to the Thames coast on March 26 where it was hoped it would take off. When it failed to do so it was brought back to Pipiroa. It died on March 28.—Cynthia Dally, Pipiroa, Hauraki Plains.

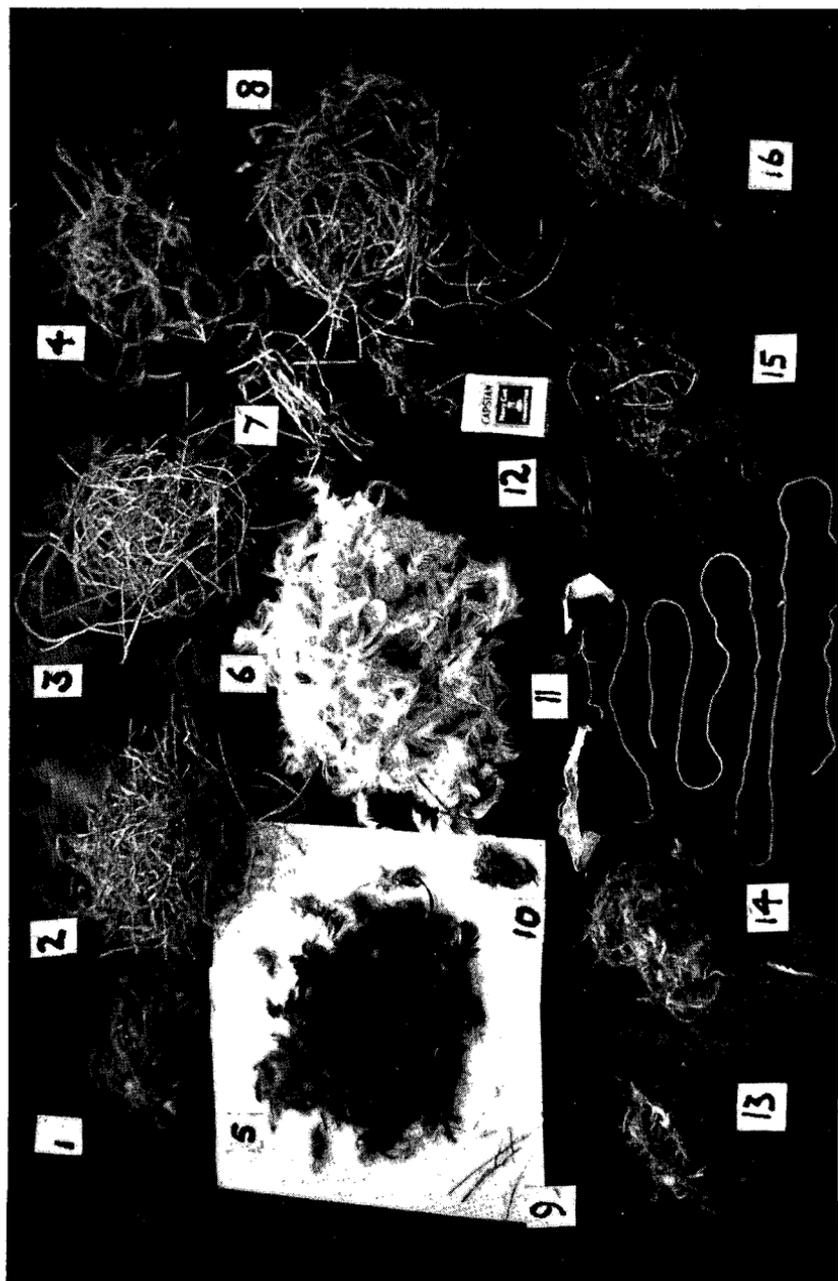


Photo by W. A. Williamson.

MATERIAL IN HOUSE SPARROW'S NEST.—1 Coir, 2 Couch, 3 Fescue Stalks, 4 Fescue Tops, 5 Black Feathers, 6 White Feathers, 7 Straw and (below) Chickweed, 8 Cocksfoot, 9 Manuka Twigs, 10 Insulation, 11 Cloth and String, 12 Manuka Bark, 13 Thread, etc., 14 Wool, 15 Roots, 16 Residue.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT IN MANUKAU.

By R. B. Sibson, Auckland.

Records of the Hudsonian godwit (*Limosa limosa haemastica*) in New Zealand are slowly accumulating, the South Island so far claiming five and the North Island four. I can now add a tenth occurrence, so that the inter-island score stands at five-all.

On 10/4/49 a mixed pack of waders, mainly stilts and bar-tailed godwits with a few knots, had gathered in a quiet bay of Manukau Harbour near Puketutu causeway. As I examined them with a telescope I noticed on the edge of the pack a small well-coloured godwit with a whitish superciliary stripe, unusually clear-cut, and a very pink base to its bill. The angle at which the bird was standing prevented my seeing its tail; and as I was trying to manoeuvre into a better position the flock took wing. I missed the bird as it rose nor could I find it as the flock flew off. As the distinctive pattern of a Hudsonian godwit can only be seen in flight, I was unable to confirm my strong suspicion that this was indeed a black-tailed godwit of the American race.

Early on the morning of 25/4/49 I was able to settle the matter beyond doubt. Visiting the same locality again near full tide, I quickly had under observation a flock of about 200 pale bar-tailed godwits, all bearing the stamp of immaturity. With them a single godwit in breeding dress was most conspicuous. I again noted the white superciliary stripe. Dark bars crossed the rich red colouring of the chest and belly; but towards the vent the red faded and a grey area may have indicated that full breeding plumage had not yet been assumed. When a Hudsonian godwit is on the ground the black tail is not always easily seen. To confirm the identification, I had therefore, to put the flock up. They flew round most conveniently and realighted on the same patch of sand. In a small flock such as this the sharply-contrasting tail pattern of the Hudsonian godwit was easily picked out. On the previous occasion in a much larger flock the stilts, with their black and white plumage had distracted the eye.

There is no doubt, I think, that this bird was a Hudsonian godwit (*Limosa l. haemastica*) and not the eastern black-tailed godwit (*Limosa l. melanuroides*), which, according to all the authorities, has long legs which in flight project well behind the tail. So far the eastern black-tailed godwit has not been recorded from New Zealand; but it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that it should occur here; nor should it be assumed that any black-tailed godwits seen in New Zealand will be of the comparatively short-legged American race.

This is the third Hudsonian godwit that I have been able to watch at close quarters in New Zealand, both in flight and on the ground. The important diagnostic characters in both summer and winter plumage are: Black tail, white rump, whitish alar bar and rather small size. The superciliary stripe is not so conspicuous in winter plumage and some bar-tailed godwits show a suspicion of one. A Hudsonian godwit was recorded from the same locality in the winter of 1946 (N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 2, p. 35); and as this last bird, although in breeding plumage, had lingered some time after the main northward movement of adult bar-tails, it was eagerly but fruitlessly looked for during the ensuing winter.

ROSELLA EATING GOOSEBERRIES.—I grow eight varieties of gooseberries and the rosellas (*Platycercus eximius*) usually ignore all but one particular variety. This is called Whitesmith and the birds can clean up a bush in a very short time. Fortunately the variety they prefer is not one of the best. I have seen them try another variety, but last season, 1948-49, they took only the Whitesmiths.—W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF BIRDS IN N.Z.—II.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN.

The white-fronted tern (*Sterna striata*), the species illustrated in this issue, is one of the birds selected by the society for ringing. The illustrations show a bird sitting on its nest, and, in a particularly beautiful study, one in flight. Both were taken at Lake Ellesmere, Canterbury, by Mr. K. V. Bigwood, of Christchurch.

More than usual interest attaches to the scheme to band young white-fronted tern, as this bird is found, apparently as a migrant, on the east coast of Australia and Tasmania, principally between May and November. Most of the birds reported from the other side of the Tasman are in immature plumage and the numbers so far recorded indicate that only a small proportion of the N.Z. population crosses the Tasman.

In New Zealand the white-fronted tern is a common species around the coast, breeding at many suitable places in both islands. Small rocks surrounded by water, islands, estuaries or shingle river-beds adjacent to the sea are the most favoured breeding localities. In breeding plumage the black cap is separated from the black bill by a band of white, hence the name "white-fronted," the "fronted" referring to the forehead. This marking is clearly shown in the photographs. The black-fronted tern (*Chlidonias albigularis*) is a smaller bird, with a much greyer plumage, and in the breeding season the black cap extends and embraces the forehead reaching right to the bill, which is orange.—(R.H.D.S.)

BIRDS AT SUMNER—HEATHCOTE ESTUARY, 1948-49.—Two unusual (at least as far as five years' observations are concerned) features during the past year were the wintering of both godwits and pied stilts in the estuary. In 1948 godwits first appeared on October 30 when about 200 birds arrived. Numbers increased until about 400 birds were present on January 29, 1949. This appeared to be the maximum number and on February 20 some birds were seen to have signs of breeding plumage and a week later all godwits seemed to have departed. Three reappeared on March 9, and on April 27 there were six, and on July 28 there were 12, but on July 31 about 200 godwits (in winter plumage) were seen. Twenty-seven pied stilts were seen in the estuary on March 2 and later this number had increased to about 150, and reached a maximum of about 300 on March 30, decreasing to about 200 by May 27. These birds remained in the estuary until mid-July, when they disappeared. Four were seen in Washdyke Lagoon, Timaru, on August 6. Pied oystercatchers in the estuary varied from about 300 in December, 1948, to about 1000 in July, 1949. Only one black oystercatcher has been seen in the flocks this year. Other birds of note have been blue herons (one or two throughout the year), up to four Caspian terns at a time, occasional grey duck, black swans, and the usual gulls and white-fronted terns. Large black and spotted shags are usually about the estuary, and eleven of the latter appeared to be mating on September 18, 1949, when they flew about excitedly and even flew between the trees in my garden—most unusual behaviour for spotted shags.—G. Guy, Christchurch.

SOUTH ISLAND RECORD OF ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis elegans*).—An exhausted bird picked up on the bank of the Hokitika River, at Kanieri, on 3/10/49 by Mr. G. Pfahler was sent to the Canterbury Museum where it was preserved in alcohol by Mr. R. R. Forster. As far as can be observed without drying out the specimen, it appears to be a young bird in perfect plumage, showing the facial pattern and dark axillaries of the sub-antarctic race. The extent of pale edging on dorsal feathers is not easily traced on the wet plumage but some is present. This is the first mainland South Island record for any form of *Puffinus assimilis*. The subantarctic form, of which this appears to be a specimen, is known to breed at the Chatham Islands.—R. A. Falla, Wellington.



Photo Copyright, K. V. Bigwood.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN ON NEST, LAKE ELLESMERE.



Photo Copyright, K. V. Bigwood.
WHITE-FRONTED TERN IN FLIGHT, LAKE ELLESMERE

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES.

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Notable records in this year's notes include a greater frigate bird in Masterton, two Auckland occurrences of the white-faced heron, another grey plover record, a wintering curlew sandpiper, believed to be the first in New Zealand, further occurrences of curlew and whimbrel, and a Wellington district record of the fairy tern.

KIWI (*Apteryx australis*).—Parua Bay, N. Auckland, 18/2/49, kiwi burrow under tree-fern, traces of fresh activity, earth scratched out, amongst it a feather; 2/8/49, lately kiwi calls heard frequently at night and this evening heard one at dusk.—(Miss M.H.) Kaiaua, 1948, marks of kiwis in pig rootings reported.—(D.N.L.) Huiarau Range, heard on both sides, two being in the headwaters of the Minginui, March, 1949.—(R.St.P.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Wickliff Bay, Otago, 15/12/47, two adults each with two young.—(I.T. and L.E.W.)

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).—Little Barrier Is., bird sitting on two eggs under box had left nest on the morning of 1/11/47; she did not sit in daylight again until the morning of 3/11/47. It is possible that she returned at night on the 1st and 2nd, but unlikely. One chick hatched on 6/11/47, the other egg being still not hatched on 7/11/47. How could the eggs be left so long at this stage and a healthy chick be hatched?—(C.H.P.)

DABCHICK (*Polyocephalus rufopectus*).—Mid Kaipara, at least 3 pairs breeding on a pool among consolidated sand dunes, Jan., 1949.—(B.D.H., R.B.S., D.A.U.). L. Taupo, pair at Jerusalem Bay, Dec., 1944; 1 at Whanganui Bay, 14/5/49; 1 near Taupo wharf, 6/6/49; 1 pair at Waihaha Bay, date unknown per R. G. Ward.—(K.C.B.C.) Horowhenua district, 6/11/48, 13 seen in one day; one pair with downy young; 9/11/48, nest; three eggs.—(R.H.D.S., A.S.W.)

CRESTED GREBE (*Colymbus cristatus*).—Two seen on Lake Gunn, Otago, 31/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*).—Two, Kai-koura, 30/5/49.—(E.W.D.)

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*).—21/12/48 two between Mission Bay and Rangitoto.—(R.B.S.) 5/1/49 and 29/1/49, 1 between Clevedon and Waiheke.—(A.J.G.) 11/10/49, 11 off channel and Gt. Barrier Is.—(G.K.McK.) Corpses: 17/5/49, 1 Muriwai (J.C.D.); 19/9/49, 1 near Tauranga (M.H.); Piha, 6/11/49, one (J.C.D., B.D.H.)

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*).—One off North Cape, 6/10/48.—(E.G.T.) Corpses: 11/7/49, one Muriwai (R.B.S.); 16/7/49, one Piha (B.D.H.) Sporadic in Cook Strait on 16 and 17/5/49 (J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Near entrance Lyttelton Harb., 10/12/48, five.—(R.H.D.S.)

SILVER-GREY FULMAR (*Prionocella antarctica*).—10/7/49, Muriwai, 1 male just ashore; a perfect specimen now in Auckland Museum.—(J.C.D.)

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).—21/8/49, 2 or more seen from the Auckland ferries.—(R.B.S.) Corpses: 11/7/49, 1 Muriwai (K.C.B.C.); 16/7/49, 2 Piha, (B.D.H.); 9/10/49, 1 off Auckland wharves (R.B.S.); Piha, 6/11/49, one (J.C.D., B.D.H.) Numerous round freezing works outlet in N.-E. Wellington Harbour, Jan, 1949, but none seen May 12-16, 1949.—(E.W.D. and J.C.Y.)

BLUE PETREL (*Halobaena caerulea*).—16/7/49, one Piha, culmen 27mm, wing 225, tarsus 32.—(B.D.H.) 4/9/49, 1 Muriwai, culmen 26mm, wing 216, tarsus 31.—(B.D.H., J.C.D.) These are the sixth and seventh specimens of this rare petrel from the Auckland west coast (v. B.A.N.Z. A.R.E. Reports II, p. 188). The latest specimen had been ashore for some time and was very fragmentary, but the characteristic tail was intact.

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*).—Piha, 6/11/49, one.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.)

DOVE PRION (*Pachyptila desolata*).—11/7/49, corpse, Muriwai.—(R.B.S.)

SALVIN'S PRION (*P. salvini*).—Corpses: 7-11/7/49, 10, Muriwai (J.C.D., R.B.S.); 16/7/49, 5 Piha, 1 Bethells (B.D.H.); early July, one Maxwell at Wanganui (D.A.U.)

SLENDER-BILLED PRION (*P. belcheri*).—Corpses: 7-11/7/49, 6, Muriwai (J.C.D., R.B.S.); 16/7/49, 1, Piha (B.D.H.). Note.—Not a single *P. vittata* was recorded all winter.

FAIRY PRION (*P. turtur*).—Corpses: 23/10/48, 1, Muriwai; 17/5/49, 1, Muriwai; 19/5/49, 1, Kaipara Sandspit; 7-11/7/49, 10 plus, Muriwai; 16/7/49, 6, Piha, 1 Bethells; 4/9/49, 2, Muriwai (B.D.H., K.C.B.C., J.C.D.); 22/5/49, 1 Clevedon (H.R.McK.); Piha, 6/11/48, eight, Muriwai, 9/11/49, 30 (J.C.D., B.D.H.)

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).—Few still in Cook Strait on 16-17/5/49, seen off Island Bay and out from Tory Channel around fishing boats; all dark shearwaters seen at close range were *P. carneipes*; not a single one could be identified as *P. griseus*.—(J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Between mainland and Kapiti Is., flock of shearwaters consisting of *P. carneipes* and *P. gavia*; some white-fronted terns with them.—(D.L.S.)

in Cook Strait on 16/5/49.—(J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Wellington Harbour, 1/9/49.—(R.A.F.)

GRAYHEAD MOLLYMAWK (*T. chrysostoma*).—Corpses: 7-11/7/49, three, Muriwai; 10/7/49, one, Piha; 16/7/49, one, Piha; 17/7/49, two, Bethells; 4/9/49, two, Muriwai; these were nearly all juveniles; the species seems to have suffered heavily.—(J.C.D., B.D.H., K.C.B.C.).

GREATER FRIGATE BIRD (*Fregata minor*).—Mr. H. Byrn, of Masterton, described to me a "huge bird, as large as a black swan," flying in somewhat laboured fashion over his house, 9/8/49. It had black wings, a long V-shaped forked tail, black and white chest, wing spread up to six feet, judged in comparison with weathercock five feet across. It was apparently a female frigate bird of this species. A cyclonic storm was reported the previous night in Taranaki.—(R.H.D.S.)

LARGE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Parua Bay, North Auck., 19/7/49, 38, and on 8/9/49, c 64 fishing at head of bay.—(M.H.)

LARGE PIED SHAG (*P. varius*).—Clevedon River, 15/10/48-10/9/49 max. 24.—(A.J.G.) Mouth of Hutt River, one only, 9/4/49.—(R.A.F.) Wellington Harb., 30/7/49, 6/8/49, one seen.—(A.A.B.) Bay of Many Coves, 8/1/49, c 12 full grown young still being fed occasionally.—(J.M.C.)

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*).—Bay of Plenty, Matata, eight, 9-15/2/49; Rangitaiki Estuary, three, 17-19/2/49; Whakatane, two, 21/2/49; Ohiwa Harbour (west side), March-June, 1949, max. 26.—(P.H.B.)

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*).—Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty, two, 4/6/49.—(P.H.B.) Otago Harb., 2/4/49.—(D.N.F.C.)

WHITE-THROATED SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*).—Bay of Plenty, Matata, 12, 9-15/2/49; Tarawera Estuary, 8; Rangitaiki Estuary, 4; Ohiwa Harbour (west side), c. 30.—(P.H.B.) Clevedon River, 37 on 18/4/49.—(A.J.G.) Lowry Bay, 13/5/49, three showing various stages of white on throat and face, two completely dark.—(J.C.Y., E.W.D.) Bay of Many Coves, 8/1/49, only one or two full grown, young still being fed occasionally.—(J.M.C.) Otago Harb., 2/4/49.—(D.N.F.C.) One, Lake Gunn, Otago, 1/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*).—21/12/48, colony on Otata (Big Noises) seems to be firmly established.—(R.B.S.), Papanui Pt., Clevedon, 17/7/49, 20 plus resting on rocks; some also on 24/7/49 and 26/8/49.—(H.R.McK.) Waikanae, 2 on 12/5/49.—(R.B.S., D.A.U.) Palliser Spit, 19/5/49, seven, not seen here before.—(J.M.C., R.B.S.) Quail Island, Lyttelton, 19/3/49, two.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Near French Farm, Akaroa Harb., three, 24/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Wainui, Akaroa Harb., 24/8/49, two; 14 fishing off Cape Three Points.—(E.W.D.)

GANNET (*Morus serrator*).—Raukura Point, Clevedon, 22/5/49, two juveniles with c. 12 adults. One was typically dark spotted with white just beginning to break through. The other had almost adult colour but still had some dark spotting on the white parts; 200 plus feeding nearby 23rd, 450-500 feeding; 17/7/49 one quite dark juvenile with 50 plus adults.—(H.R.McK.) Little Barrier, 5/10/47, unusually large flock of several hundred feeding.—(C.H.P.) Juvenal picked up dead at Lyall Bay by Mr. Howitt, 27/4/49.—(R.A.F.) Point Howard, two on 5/2/49; one on 7/2/49; one on 15/5/49.—(J.C.Y. and E.W.D.)

WHITE HERON (*Casmerodius albus*).—Miranda, Firth of Thames, 20-25/11/48, one, bill yellow.(A.C.H., R.B.S., et al.) Pakuranga, Auckland, early Sept., 1948. Mr. and Mrs. J. White reported four seen once only; early April, 1949, one seen after long absence. They could have been present more often, but unseen, in the maze of tidal creeks in that area. Whitford, two reported back again in Turanga Creek by Miss Fay

Booker on 10/5/49, and by member Mrs. d'Auvergne on 13/5/49. Seen by many people and watched by T. Ingham up to 5/10/49. Mr. Claude Ray reported seeing one shot in May, 1949, by launch shooting party. It is now reliably reported by Mr. Hastie and others that up to five at once were seen several times in 1948.—(H.R.McK.) Ohau Estuary, 4/11/48, one; Rangitikei, 12/11/48, one.—(R.H.D.S., A.S.W.) Narrows, Wairarapa Lake, 10/7/49, one reported.—(E.H.D.S.)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophox novaehollandiae*)—North Harbour, Ponui Is., 28/8/49, one with well developed plumes.—(P.A.S.S., H.R.McK.). Kawakawa Bay, Clevedon, 9-18/9/49, one, seen by several members O.S.N.Z. Six on Karamea Estuary, 1/9/48; two on farm four miles up Karamea River, 1/9/48; one, Kingsdown, South Canterbury, 19/7/49.—(L.W.McC.)

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*)—Parua Bay, N. Auck., 26/10/48, building on branch of pohutukawa tree overhanging beach; 10/11/48, no sign of birds, nest unfinished. Seven birds hunting in puddles on flat beach, 11/3/49; three on beach.—(Miss M.H.) Koi Rock, Waiheke, 13/11/48, three nests containing 3, 3 and 2 eggs.—(R.B.S.) Whakatane, 21/2/49, two; Ohiwa Harbour, 4/6/49, nine together and c. six others scattered.—(P.H.B.) Eastbourne waterfront, one, 27/1/49.—(E.W.D.) Commonly seen on mudflats near Hutt River, Jan. and May, 1949.—(E.W.D., J.C.Y.) 31/1/49, Purakanui Inlet, one; north of Long Beach, five alighted on beach, but three chased the fifth one away, refusing to allow it to land.—(Miss I. MacArthur, D.N.F.C.) Merton, Otago, 8/5/49, eight on river bank.—(L.E.W.) Waihoaka, Southland, May, 1949, two reported.—(O.S.)

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*)—Woodcocks, Warkworth, one about for some time.—(D.N.L.) R. Puhoi (Rodney county), 3/1/49, one; Christian's Bay, Takatu, two.—(H.R.McK.) Ponui Is., one in early August.—(Peter Chamberlain.) Orari River, Canterbury, one, 13/1/49.—(I.T.) Pomahaka River near Kononi, Otago, 16/9/48, one.—(Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, Nov., 1948, one; Te Moana, South Canterbury, Jan., 1949, one; Pareora, South Cant., 19/5/49, one drinking in riverbed.—(L.E.W.)

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*)—Miranda, Firth of Thames, 1/5/49, five seen; reported to have been in the district for some months.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK.) Karaka, Manukau, 11 on 28/5/49.—(D.A.U.) Clevedon, one male reported 23/7/49.—(H.R.McK.) Ohope, Bay of Plenty, June, 1949, two males and one female.—(P.H.B.) Lake Rotomahana, 11/2/49, 60-80.—(D.L.S.) Three drakes near Te Kuiti, 17/5/49; one pair, Ngatamahine, 29/9/49; one pair, Pio Pio, 20/8/49; five ducks and 7 drakes in one flock, Raetihi, 24/8/49.—(J.B.I.) Manawatu County, 25/7/48, flock c. 75; flocks 3-10 common; large flocks on Rangitikei River; 30 years ago never seen.—(E.D.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, rare.—(G.G.H.) Commonly breeds in small creeks up to about 3000 feet, Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Pair, Edwards River, Arthur Pass, 16/4/49. Pair, Staircase, Waimakariri River, 19/4/49.—(E.W.D.) Te Moana, South Canterbury, 18/1/49, pair with one young on riverbed.—(L.E.W.) 27/12/48, numerous in the Matukituki Valley, Wanaka, families of young with adults.—(Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.)

GREY DUCK (*Anas poicilorhyncha*)—Manawatu County, 1949, getting scarcer every year, occasional pair noticed, 30 years ago large flocks about.—(E.D.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, not numerous.—(G.G.H.)

GREY TEAL (*Anas gibberifrons*)—Lake Rotomahana, 30/8/49, four pairs near Waimangu Stream, others further round the lake.—(J.V.A., M.C.H.) Lake Rotomahana, 11/2/49, 18.—(D.L.S.)

SHOVELLER (*Anas rhynchotis*)—Mid-Kaipara, pool among consolidated sand-dunes, some scores, 6/1/49.—B.D.H., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Miranda, 2 drakes on 21/10/49.—(R.B.S.) Manukau (a) Karaka, 1 pair at Yates' Dam, 17/10/48 (D.A.U.), (b) Puhinui, one shot in May, 1949.—(R.B.S.) Manawatu County, pair seen occ., last recorded 10/6/48.—(E.D.)

N.Z. SCAUP or BLACK TEAL (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*).—Mid-Kaipara, pool among consolidated sand dunes, odd drakes and two ducks with five ducklings each, 6/1/49.—(B.D.H., R.B.S., R.A.U.) Hamurana Springs, Rotorua, 10/2/49, 55; Lake Rotorua, 80.—(D.L.S.) Lake Sarah, Cass, 19/4/49, 20-25.—(E.W.D.) Five on Lake Gunn, 1/1/49; three seen at south end of Lake Te Anau, 3/1/49. Forty counted along Queenstown waterfront from wharf to beginning of peninsula, 23/2/49.—(W.A.W.)

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*).—Headwaters of Waiou Stream, Huiarau Range, eight seen, 5/4/49.—(R.St.P.) Tinline, Marlborough, c 14/3/49, young one found in creek, unable to fly, placed in yard with domestic duck which seized it and dragged it round the yard. Cared for until able to fly away. Blue duck reported Wakamarina Valley.—(I.T.) Lynn Creek, near Aclands, Peel Forest, 7/11/48, two adults with five young. In previous years blue duck have been seen in the following localities in Canterbury when out tramping: Top of Lynn Falls, Orari Gorge, Taylor's Stream between Mts. Winterslow and Alford, and Waihi Gorge.—(Miss D. and Mr. I. Mackie, D.N.F.C.) Arthur River, Milford Track, 7/4/49, two; head of Lake Manapouri, two.—(Miss M. Bayne, D.N.F.C.)

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*).—Matata, 9-15/2/49, c. 100.—(P.H.B.) Clevedon Estuary, 20/12/48-18/4/49, c. 100-143; 24 on 10/9/49. Not known to breed at Clevedon.—(A.J.G.) Manawatu Heads-Turakina, 1949, c 100 among lakes.—(E.D.) Hutt River delta, 13/5/49, two on mudflats.—(J.C.Y., E.W.D.). Lake Sarah, Cass, 16/12/48, two.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.). Lake, near Lake Grassmere, 25/5/49, six; extremely common, Kaituna Lagoon, 24/8/49, 31/8/49.—(E.W.D.). Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, 15/9/49, two adults with two cygnets; Taumutu, Lake Ellesmere, 13/5/49, 73 on lake.—(L.E.W.) Otago Har., Sawyer's Bay, 9/5/49, six, unusual.—(Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.)

WHITE SWAN (*C. olor*).—Apparently thriving on Lake Pupuke, Takapuna, although broods are small.—(R.B.S.) Creek, Waikuku, Christchurch, two, 21/8/49; Kaituna Lagoon, 24/8/49, one; 31/8/49, two.—(E.W.D.) Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, 22/9/48, two; 28/12/48, three.—(L.E.W.)

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—Frequently seen near Minginui, one chased by 14 tuis on 3/2/49.—(R.St.P.) One flying low, Days Bay, 13/7/49, Gollans Valley, 31/7/49.—(R.A.F.) One chasing thrush which managed to evade its pursuer, Tara Hills, Omarama, 20/5/49.—(L.G.) Adult bird chasing rock pigeon, Tara Hills Station, Omarama, N. Otago, 19/5/49.—(K.W.) Cascade Creek, Eglinton Valley, 29/1/49, bush hawk seen chasing a gull. In spite of attempts to frighten the hawk, it kept on with the chase until the gull was so exhausted it was forced to land. Immediately the hawk pounced upon it and carried it into the bush.—(Report received by Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.). A bush hawk watched chasing a rock pigeon at Omakau, 10/4/49.—(Mrs. J. G. Smith, D.N.F.C.)

NANKEEN KESTREL (*Falco cerchneis*).—Adult hunting sparrows and pigeons on and around Memorial Carillon, Wellington, for about a month from 20/4/48.—(R.A.F.)

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—Clevedon, 13/7/49, one bird worked tops of every punga in small patch of bush, in some cases flying into difficult positions in its search. Not seen to make any catch. Probably looking for either bush rats or opossums, either of which could be found in this manner.—(F.M.) Hutt River, Petone, one, 14/5/49.—(J.C.Y. and E.W.D.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, numerous, attracted by dead wild pigs.—(G.G.H.) Frequently seen on lower tussock slopes of Craigieburn Range up to 3000 feet, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D. and I.D.R.C.) Single bird on mudflats, Milford Sound, 5/4/49.—(K.W.)

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Parua Bay, 11/11/48, hen disturbed with five chicks about three days old; 26/1/49, hen with two chicks able to fly short distance.—(Miss M.H.)

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*).—Parua Bay, 18/1/49, nest with 12 eggs; 9/3/49, saw eight on main road; 29/4/49, eight feeding on lawn.—(Miss M.H.)

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*).—Parua Bay, N. Auckland, 8/2/49, hen with chicks, suddenly disturbed, sprang high, hugging one to her body, and when she spread her wings the chick had a flying start over the gorse; 18/2/49, met another family party; 30/4/49, several covies about, numbers 15 to 50 birds.—(Miss M.H.) Motueka Valley, Nelson, 27/12/48, two with six young.—(Miss A. F. Edmond, D.N.F.C.). One recently in a garden, Maori Hill, 27/10/48.—(I.T.)

SOUTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*).—Graham Valley, Nelson, 27/12/48, two noted in afternoon in beech forest, and in the evening at the Flora Hut heard calling from forest.—(Miss A. F. Edmond, D.N.F.C.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, very rare.—(G.G.H.) Reported in recent years, Bay of Many Coves.—(J.M.C.) Male, killed by car, Ahaura, near Greymouth, 17/8/49; a typical Nelson bird.—(E.W.D.) One seen and others heard at Glade House, 25/12/48. At least four seen on track between Glade House and Pompalona Huts, 26/12/48; one seen and others heard at Pompalona; heard in bush below Mackinnon Pass, and one seen with two young on West Coast side of MacKinnon Pass, 27/12/48; heard at Milford Sound Hostel, 28/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*).—Parua Bay, N. Auckland, 30/1/49, often heard and sometimes seen; dogs occasionally get on its trail and chase it to the creek; 22/10/49, again heard after an absence of several months.—(Miss M.H.) Whitianga, 14/1/48, nest with six eggs; 28/1/48, parent left nest at last moment and quickly returned; 2/2/48, no sign of parents or chicks; eggs had hatched.—(M. B. Mackereth, per K.C.B.C.) Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty, 17/4/49, one.—(P.H.B.) Clevedon, sight records frequent; two broods reported.—(H.R.McK.)

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*).—Report by O. Davies of two in a swamp, Taneatua, 3/4/49.—(E.G.T.) "Purring" rails, believed to be this species, reported from Glen Murray by K. M. Sorby.—(R.B.S.)

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*).—One from swamp at Riversdale, Southland, and one from the Waikivi Stream, four miles from Invercargill, were sent in to Southland Museum in June, 1949, for identification. The bird is still present in the latter locality. A dog took one, but was stopped from getting at least one other.—(O.S.)

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio*).—Clevedon, night-flying calls heard in July, Aug., Sept., 1948, and at same season 1949.—(H.R.McK.) Remuera, 18/10/49, one heard at 8.30 p.m. over Mt. Hobson.—(R.B.S.) Manawatu county, now common on most dams and streams; 25 years ago very scarce.—(E.D.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, rare.—(G.G.H.) Broken River, Craigieburn Range, pair, 3/4/49.—(E.W.D.) Towards end of June, 1948, one seen on the Dunedin City Belt.—(M. R. Skipworth, D.N.F.C.) Waitahuna, 29/3/49, plentiful about old mining holes.—(Miss A. Clancy, D.N.F.C.)

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*).—Kaipara sandspit, c. 80 on 6/1/49; c. 570 on 20/5/49. Manukau, (a) Puketutu Flats, none summered; c. 50 on 31/1/49, increasing to 190 plus by 10/4/49; c. 200 on 10/7/49, after which the winter numbers declined, e.g., 30 on 31/7/49, 12 on 26/8/49, none on 5/9/49. (b) Puhinui, 300 plus on 20/3/49; five on 1/10/49. (c) Karaka, c. 325 on 30/1/49. Winter max. c. 400, 29/5/49—31/7/49; c. 150 on 25/9/49. (The same flock alternated between Puhinui and Karaka.)—(J.C.D., B.D.H., R.B.S., D.A.U., K.C.B.C.) Kaiua—Miranda, 50-60 summered; increase noted on 16/1/49, i.e., c. 90, rising to c. 280 on 6/3/49, and a winter max. of c. 300; 82 on 24/9/49; 67 on 15/10/49.—(H.R.McK., F.M., R.B.S.) Ashley Mouth, Canterbury, 21/8/49, five plus.—(E.W.D., R.J.S.) Heathcote-Avon Estuary, 31/7/49, flock of c. 1000.—(G.G.) Flying north over mouth south branch Rangitata River, c. 12, 13/1/49.—(I.T. and L.E.W.) Kartigi Beach, Otago, five, 26/1/49. Mouth Waikouaiti River, Karatane, c. 130, 22/5/49.—(I.T.)

Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 14/8/48, 27 on mudflats; Karitane, Otago, 5/2/49, 12 in estuary; Redcliffs, Christchurch, 14/5/49, 500 in estuary; mouth of Waimakariri River, Canterbury, 17/5/49, 1400-1500 on bank.—(L.E.W.) Two on edge of tide, Michie's Crossing, 25/9/48.—(D.N.F.C.) About eight seen in Matukituki Valley, Wanaka, 27/12/48.—(Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.)

NORTH ISLAND VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*H. reischeki*).—Kaipara sandspit, three on 6/1/49. Puketutu Flats, one on 6/6/49; Miranda, one summered.—(J.C.D., B.D.H., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Waikanae, 12/5/49, 2 pairs each containing one black and one smudgily pied bird.—(R.B.S., D.A.U., H.R.McK.)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*).—Kaipara sandspit, one 20/5/49.—(B.D.H., J.C.D.) Karaka, one wintered, 13/2/49—25/9/49.—(D.A.U.) Kaiawa, Miranda, three on 22/10/48, summered in association with one *Reischeki*; three wintered and still present on 25/9/49.—(R.B.S., K.C.B.C.); two on 21/10/49.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon estuary, two on 6/3/49.—(G.K.McK.) Rangitaiki estuary, Bay of Plenty, one 18/2/49.—(P.H.B.) One flying at Kaka Point, May, 1949, present at Kaka Point only in summer.—(Miss M. P. Finlayson, D.N.F.C.) Karitane, Otago, 5/2/49, one.—(L.E.W.) Milford Sound, pair with nest and two eggs, 2/12/48.—(L.W.McC.) Near Milford Sound Hostel, pair; Harrison Cove, Milford Sound, pair, 29 and 30/12/48.—(W.A.W.) Milford Sound, pair on mudflats, 5/4/49.—(K.W.)

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—10/12/48, one, Tamaki estuary.—(B.D.H.) 16/1/49, one, Miranda.—(R.B.S., D.A.U.); 15/10/49, two.—(H.R.McK.); 8/11/49, one (H.R.McK., R.B.S.) Manukau: (a) Puketutu Flats, 27 on 9/1/49, 35 on 10/4/49, four on 5/5/49; May records are scarce.—(R.B.S.) (b) Karaka: 31 on 12/10/48; max., 61 on 8/1/49; c. 60 on 16/4/49. None known to winter. Two appeared on 2/8/49, three on 28/8/49, six on 11/9/49, 16 on 25/9/49.—(D.A.U.)

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*).—Puketutu Flats, six on 9/1/49.—(R.B.S.) Karaka, 17 on 17/10/48, c. 30 from 23/1/49 to 20/3/49, 7 on 2/10/49.—(D.A.U.) Waiiau Pa, Manukau, 27/3/49, two in breeding plumage with banded dotterels in tilled paddock.—(H.R.McK.) Waitakaruru, Firth of Thames, four on 30/1/49.—(F.M., L.H.M.) Waitotara Estuary, small flock again spent summer there, best count eight on 28/3/49.—(W.P.M.) Waitotara Estuary, 27/12/48, six or seven.—(J.M.M., J.B.I.)

GREY PLOVER (*Squatarola squatarola*).—Excellent views of one, probably the same bird as recorded (N.Z. Bird Notes, III., p. 82) near mouth of Miranda Creek, 16/1/49.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.)

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*).—Kaipara Sandspit, c. 60, mostly in breeding plumage, 20/5/49.—(B.D.H., J.C.D.) Bethells, 2-3 pairs, 17/7/49.—(B.D.H.) Karaka, after losing through floods a nest and 2 eggs on 10/10/48, a pair had a new nest and 3 eggs on 7/11/48; 14 inc. 8 juv. on 31/10/48, definitely not local breeders.—(D.A.U.) Clevedon, Wairoa Flats, 24 plus on 6/3/49; 19/6/49, 150 plus on Walker's farm; 28/9/49, c. 30.—(G.K.McK.) Firth of Thames: (a) Kaiawa-Miranda, breeding population remains steady; eggs may be found between early August and January.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK.) (b) Waitakaruru, 1000 plus on tidal flats, 19/6/49; a high percentage were in breeding plumage and nuptial trillings were frequent.—(R.B.S., F.M.) Bay of Plenty: (a) Maketu, 15 on 7/2/49; (b) Ohiwa, c. 500 in west part of harbour in June. Mr. J. Logan estimates the total this year for the whole harbour to be c. 3000.—(P.H.B.) Lake Rotomahana, 11/2/49, c. 12.—(D.L.S.) Taupo, c. 50 on golf course, 28/1/49.—(W.N.T.) Manawatu county, 10/2/48, two 10 miles inland; occurs on cultivated land.—(E.D.) Waikanae, 12/5/49, c. 20.—(R.B.S., D.A.U.) Nelson, 30/5/49, over 100, some with bands.—(J.M.C.) Ashley River mouth, 21/8/49, ten plus.—(E.W.D., R.J.S.) Mouth of south branch Rangitata River, six adults and two young, 13/1/49.—(I.T., L.E.W.) Entrance to Rangitata Gorge, two pair seen

and calls of another heard, 25/1/49; south end Washdyke Lagoon, one, 26/1/49.—(I.T.) Merton, Otago, 5/2/49, six in riverbed.—(L.E.W.)

N.Z. DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 6/1/49, 1 pair with a chick; 19/5/49, 12.—(J.C.D., B.D.H., D.A.U.) Karaka, a pair appeared about 17/10/48 and by 31/10/48 had a nest with two eggs; both birds and eggs soon disappeared. Winter records: 29/5/49, 2 ad. and 2 juv.; 26/6/49, 5 (2 in colour); 7/8/49, 3 (1 very red).—(D.A.U.) Clevedon: It is suggested that there is some traffic of N.Z. dotterels between Clevedon and Karaka. The dates hint that the pair that failed at Karaka, may be the birds that later succeeded at Mataitai, Clevedon. Waitotara Estuary, two on 4/12/48.—(W.P.M.)

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 45 on 20/5/49. Muriwai, 8 on 4/9/49, attacked by black-backed gull and flew inland in a S-E direction.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Mangawai, one killed by flying into telephone wire during winter.—(D.G.McM.) Manukau: (a) Puketutu Flats, 2 had returned on 23/12/48, 37 on 9/1/49, 191 on 27/2/49, 220 plus on 17/4/49, 225 plus on 5/5/49; mid-winter flock numbered about 200; 178 on 1/8/49, 34 on 5/9/49, 10 on 27/9/49.—(K.C.B.C., R.B.S.) (b) Karaka, five still left on 17/10/48, two on 8/1/49, c. 20 on 30/1/49, c. 60 on 20/3/49; winter max. c. 65 on 26/6/49, 48 on 28/8/49, 26 on 11/9/49, and 25/9/49.—(D.A.U.) Bay of Plenty: A small party (two or three) near Tauranga, mid-winter.—(M.H.) Firth of Thames: Nine on 22/10/48.—(K.C.B.C.); 16 on 27/12/48; c. 550 on 16/1/49; c. 1800 on 31/7/49; 12 on 21/10/49.—(H.R.McK., R.B.S., et al.) Manawatu Heads-Turakina, 4/2/46, seven seen.—(E.D.)

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—Kaipara, c. 6000 on 6/1/49.—(D.A.U., R.B.S., B.D.H.) Manukau: (a) Harania Creek, six on 24/10/48, not previously noted here (R.B.S.) (b) Karaka, 3000 plus on 26/3/49, c. 50 wintered.—(D.A.U.) Miranda, Firth of Thames, 3000 plus on 6/3/49; none found during winter; c. 10,000 25/9/49.—(H.R.McK., R.B.S., F.M.)

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. melanotos*).—Firth of Thames, Waitakaruru, one on 21/11/48 (J.V.A., F.M.B., R.B.S.) Miranda, one on 27/12/48, 2 from 16/1/49—6/3/49, 2 on 15/10/49.—(H.R.McK., R.B.S., D.A.U. et al.)

SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*C. acuminata*).—Manukau, Karaka, three at Yates' dam, 30/1/49—27/2/49.—(D.A.U.) Firth of Thames: From two on 23/10/48 they increased to c. 16 on 7/11/48; 12 plus were present for three or four months; three on 6/3/49; one with wrybills on 31/7/49. (H.R.McK.) believed to be first wintering record for N.Z.; five on 25/9/49.—(F.M., H.R. McK., R.B.S., et al.)

RED-NECKED STINT (*Pisobia ruficollis*).—Firth of Thames, two on 7/11/48, then frequently seen during summer and autumn; presumably the same two birds wintered, being seen with wrybills on 19/6/49. (F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H.), on 28/8/49 (J.V.A., R.B.S.), on 25/9/49 (F.M., H.R.McK.), and on 21/10/49 (K.C.B.C.).

CURLÉW SANDPIPER (*Erolia testacea*).—Firth of Thames, four on 27/12/48, 3 (?6) on 23/1/49, two on 6/2/49.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK.) One wintered, being found with wrybills on 28/8/49, believed to be the first wintering record for N.Z.—(J.V.A., R.B.S.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*).—Wintering records: Kaipara Sandspit, c. 100, 20/5/49 (J.C.D., B.D.H.); Manukau: (a) Puketutu, May, Aug. incl., c. 300 (R.B.S.); (b) Karaka, c. 1000 throughout winter (D.A.U.); Mirana-Waitakaruru, c. 400 on 19/6/49 (R.B.S., F.M.B.); Ohia, Bay of Plenty, 144 on 5/6/49 (P.H.B., H.R.McK.) Spring influx, Harania Creek, Otahuhu, c. 2000 on 15/10/48, 500 plus on 17/10/49 (R.B.S.); Karaka, c. 3500 on 25/9/49 (D.A.U.), Firth of Thames, c. 10,000 on 25/9/49 with an equal number of Knots (H.R.McK., F.M. et al.) Clevedon, 1948-49 summer population 700-900, 1949 winter population to 21/8/49 down to two birds. This is the first time that they have been known to stay here right through the winter. From 6th to 18/9/49, 30

to 80, all pale birds which were most likely moving south after wintering further north in N.Z.; 27/9/49, migrant birds present; 24/10/49, 1450 plus.—(H.R.McK.) Solitary tired bird on Muratai Beach, Wellington, 20/10/49.—(R.A.F.) Heathcote-Avon Estuary, winter, 1949, over 200 in non-breeding plumage, seen in groups of 6, 12 and 21 at various times; on 31/7/49 flock of over 200 alongside flock of c. 1000 S.I. pied oyster-catchers on sandspit at high tide.—(G.G.) Karitane, Otago, 27/10/48, 18 in estuary; Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 5/3/49, sixty feeding on mudflats.—(L.E.W.) 77 resting on sandbanks in the river, Karitane, mid-day, 7/12/48.—(L.G.)

CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*).—Ohiwa Harbour, Bay of Plenty, 1946, approx., Mr. James Logan, fisherman, reports one seen.—(H.R.McK.)

WHIMBREL (*N. phaeopus*).—Karakā, three from 30/1/49—10/4/49, two of which appeared to be a pair, one being rather larger than the other; the third bird remained for the winter and was still present on 25/9/49.—(D.A.U.) Clevedon, at Kawa Kawa Bay, 25/11/48, one associating with a wandering tattler.—(R.B.S.) It was seen frequently up to 20/2/49, when a second bird joined it. Two birds have since been present up to 24/10/49 at this place or Mataitai. Although they failed to migrate in the autumn they both assumed full breeding colour. Seen by many members.—(H.R.McK.)

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*).—Clevedon, 1948-49 breeding season. In river area all nests were robbed by harrier hawks, or, more likely, by a single "rogue" hawk. A few chicks were reared in the Kawa Kawa Bay area. Numbers are still increasing both in the wintering and the breeding parts of the year.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon River, 15/10/48—18/4/49, 20—60.—(A.J.G.) Miranda: A poor season for nesting after many nests with well-incubated eggs were washed out after heavy rain in the first week of October.—(R.B.S.) Maketu, Bay of Plenty, 4-5-7/2/49, 20. One all pure white except for the black upper wings; Matata Lagoon, 9-15/2/49, 25; Tarawera River mouth, 82; Rangitāiki River mouth, 17-19/2/49, 15 local birds, 100 plus keeping further out; Whakatāne, 21/2/49, 20; Ohiwa Harbour (north and west), 100 plus. (P.H.B.) Clevedon, 19/8/49, nest at Mataitai, 4 eggs, hatched on or before 8/9/49, approx. date of laying of first egg is therefore 9/8/49.—(H.R.McK.) Lake Rotomahana, 11/2/49, c. 150.—(D.L.S.) Taupo, 15 on 27/1/49.—(W.N.T.) Near Minginui, eight beside Whirinaki River, 12/2/49.—(R.St.P.) Waitakaruru mudflats, Firth of Thames, c. 10,000 on 19/6/49.—(R.B.S., et al.) Nine breeding stations noted from Pio Pio through Te Kuiti to Cambridge and Matamata and north of Taupiri. Largest colony 30 birds near Morrinsville. No stilts observed from Pio Pio south to Raetihi.—(J.B.I.) Manawatu county, arrives in spring to breed at dams, six seen 20-29/9/49, leaves in December.—(E.D.) Waikanae River mouth, 20/2/49, 30; 21/2/49, 18; 26/2/49, 27.—(B.I.) Waikanae, c. 30 on 12/5/49; channel between lakes Wairarapa and Onoke, c. 100 on 19/5/49.—(J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Heathcote-Avon Estuary, 1949, c. 300 wintered; as far as is known they did not do so in last three winters.—(G.G.) Ashley River mouth, 21/8/49, 12 plus.—(E.W.D., R.J.S.) A few pied seen near Kaituna in swamp, 24/8/49; 28 plus counted with many hundreds estimated, Kaituna Lagoon, 31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, 15/9/48, 2; Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 18/9/48, 10 on mudflats; Tomahawk Lagoon, 22/9/48, 14; Merton, Otago, 25/10/48, 15 on mudflats; Tomahawk Lagoon, 28/12/48, 24; Te Moana, S. Canterbury, 11/1/49, two in riverbed; Waikouaiti, Otago, 5/2/49, 400-500 in lagoon.—(L.E.W.) Two, Merton swamps, 19/11/48.—(D.N.F.C.) Four pairs on edge of a lagoon, Matukituki Valley, Wanaka, 27/12/48.—(Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.) Over 50, Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 15/12/48; river flats near mouth south branch Rangitata River, one in flight, 13/1/49; two, Tomahawk Lagoon, 25/5/49.—(I.T., L.E.W.) Waikouaiti River, 8; Kartigi, 1, 13/10/48; nest containing three eggs found swampy ground, Berwick, 5/12/48; next day fourth egg laid and following day

all eggs gone; Washdyke Lagoon, c. 50, 12/1/48; tidal lagoons, Warrington, Otago, 15; Waikouaiti River, near Karitane, c. 20, 22/5/49.—(I.T.)

BLACK STILT (*H. himantopus*).—Waipipi, near Waiuku, one appeared about 20/1/49 and stayed more than a fortnight, keeping rather to itself apart from a flock of pied stilts.—(G.J. Hill per K.C.B.C.) Kai-aua, Firth of Thames, one seen by several members of Pacific Science Congress, evidently on passage as it could not be found on many subsequent visits.—(H.R.McK., B.J.M.) Blackish stilt, near Waiuku, one on 10-11/7/49, white speck above eyes and a few white specks on the lower breast.—(G.J. Hill, per K.C.B.C.) Harania Creek, Otahuhu, one mid-winter.—(G. J. Bunting, per K.C.B.C.) Miranda, Firth of Thames, one had returned on 6/2/49, another by 6/3/49, both had gone by 28/8/49.—(R.B.S.) A pair of black stilts reported seen at head of Manuherikia (Falls) dam, Central Otago, 6/5/49.—(L.G.)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*).—Kawa Kawa Bay, Clevedon, 3/7/49, four flying and feeding in the bay; identity certain; studied by party of six members of O.S.N.Z.—(H.R.McK.) Lyall Bay, Wellington, 1 battling a raging southerly, 11/5/49; Waikanae, c. 30 on 12/5/49; Palliser Bay, 60 plus on 19/5/49, c. 65% of the birds in these two flocks were in breeding dress; Cook Strait, off C. Terawhiti, several on 16/5/49, flying north.—(J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Palliser Bay, 18/6/49 at least 40.—(J.M.C.) Waimakariri River, 21/8/49, three.—(E.W.D.) Ashley River mouth, 21/8/49, c. 10.—(E.W.D. and R.J.S.) Te Moana, S. Canterbury, 18/1/49, two in riverbed.—(L.E.W.) Over Waitaki River, 3, Studholme 1, 12/1/49; between Geraldine and Orari River, 4; Orari riverbed, 10; south bank Rangitata, at Arundel, 3, north bank 3, 25/1/49.—(I.T.) Four fishing near Manuherikia Bridge on St. Bathans Road, Central Otago, 10/10/48.—(L.G.) Twelve plus at south end of Lake Te Anau, 4/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Frenchman's Cap Islet, Waiheke-Ponui passage. 27/11/48, a pair with chick about two weeks old. The chick was sheltering from the wind in a hole in the sand below high tide mark; two other hollows had been made and may have been used by the parents.—(P.A.S.S.) Clevedon River, best count, c. 40 on 26/12/48.—(A.J.G.) Maketu, Bay of Plenty, 4-5-7/2/49, 50 plus; Tarawera River mouth, 9-15/2/49, 320 plus, a few juveniles soliciting food; Rangitaiki River mouth, 17-19/2/49, 5; Ohope Beach, 19/4/49, c. 140, including some young; Ohiwa Harbour (north and west), 30 plus.—(P.H.B.) Mangawai: On Sept. 5, 1949, Caspian tern colony at Mangawai Heads, two large flocks of about 130 birds each already nesting. One colony seemed to be much ahead of the other as far as egg-laying went although the high tide may have disturbed the area before my visit. The first colony had made several nesting hollows but only one broken and one whole egg were in the area which was about 15 yards in diameter. The other nesting site was about 200 yards away and in a much more sheltered position between two sandhills on the river side of the head. This area was about 40 yards in diameter and contained 63 whole egg (22 of which were paired) and 11 broken eggs. There were numerous balls of dried bones and scales of food fish lying about the site.—(D.G.McM.) Palliser Spit, 4/12/48, at least 30 chicks reared almost to flying stage; c five late nests washed away.—(J.M.C.) Picton, seven resting on the football ground on 17/5/49.—(R.B.S.) Ashley Mouth, 21/8/49, eleven.—(E.W.D., R.J.S.)

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*).—Piako River mouth, Hauraki Plains, 31/1/49, 2 juv. feeding and also resting on mud; bills rather dark, dark patch on shoulder, then lighter, then darker towards wing tip; matched with two juv. skins at Dominion Museum, Wellington.—(H.R.McK.) Kaipara Sandspit, 1 juv. on 6/1/49.—(B.D.H., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Rangitikei, 12/11/48, one in flight.—(R.H.D.S., A.S.W.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*).—Clevedon, night flights to and from Manukau Harbour and Hauraki Gulf; 30/3/48, 9.40 p.m., calls

W. to E. over house; night damp, warm, slight N.E. wind; 25/10/48, 8.30 to 8.45 p.m., two parties flying E. to W. in violent S.W. squalls; 23/8/49, 7.55 p.m., flying over house, direction not proved, dark, cloudy, still night.—(H.R.McK.) Maketu, Bay of Plenty, 4-5-7/2/49, six; Rangitaiki River mouth, 17-19/2/49, 230 plus; Ohiwa, 4-5/6/49, none seen.—(P.H.B.) Palliser Spit, 28/11/48, 393 nests containing 526 eggs and 22 chicks none more than one day old; 4/12/48, only 61 chicks one day old, none older, and some eggs left after the remainder had been washed away, only c. 100 adults about; 19/12/48, all chicks and adults gone.—(J.M.C.) Waikanae River mouth, 21/2/49, four; 26/2/49, c. 340, also 56 Waimeha Creek mouth.—(B.I.) Maungamauna, East Coast, S.I., three, 26/5/49.—(E.W.D.) About five seen each day fishing in harbour, Wainui, Banks Pen., 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Mouth south branch Rangitara River, 13/1/49; 60 young terns in varying stages of development; adults continually flying in with small silvery fish for young; on shingle bar across the river were scores more of young terns.—(I.T., L.E.W.) Kartigi Beach, flocks c. 80 and 26, 22/5/49.—(I.T.) Karitane, Otago, 5/2/49, 70 seen; Waimakariri River mouth, 17/5/49, 1200 at mouth; Ashley River mouth, 18/5/49, 30.—(L.E.W.) Kartigi Beach, 19/11/48, c. 100.—(D.N.F.C.) Nesting colony on rocky islets, Long Beach, 31/12/48.—(Miss I. McArthur, D.N.F.C.) Milford Sound, 29/12/48, four fishing off the mouth of Sound.—(W.A.W.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).—Maketu, Bay of Plenty, 9-15/2/49, 100 plus; Matata Lagoon, 9-15/2/49, 10; Rangitaiki River mouth, 17-19/2/49, 6 and 13 juveniles; Whakatane, 21/2/49, several hundred; Ohope Beach, 19/4/49, 150; Ohiwa Harbour (central), 500 plus.—(P.H.B.) Palliser Spit, 4/12/48, of 137 nests about equal numbers had 1, 2 and 3 egg clutches, about half were then hatched.—(J.M.C.) Nesting at Ward Island, Wellington, 12/1/49; about 20 plus nests; these still contained eggs, two having two eggs each and another with only one. Large number of half-grown young unable to fly on island; many dead young at bottom of cliffs.—(J.C.Y.) Desiccated corpse, Paremata Point, 5/2/49, death apparently due to severe osteo-arthritis in one humerus preventing flight.—(E.W.D., J.C.Y.) Arthur's Pass, two or three seen every day, flying up Bealey River, 4-13/1/49.—(E.W.D.) Very numerous along South Island East Coast Road, especially near Maungamaunu, 26/5/49.—(E.W.D.) A few at Milford Sound, 29-30/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*).—Now colonizing islets off Waiheke, e.g., Koi Rock, 1 pair with one egg on 13/11/48; later several pairs with nests, according to Major Buddle; islets off western end of Motuihi, 2 or 3 pairs in occupation, 9/10/49.—(R.B.S.) Horu Horu, 27/8/49, 13 on north edge of North Stack as if on nesting territory.—(H.R.McK., P.A.S.S.) Maketu, Bay of Plenty, 4-5-7/2/49, 100 plus; Matata Lagoon, 9-15/2/49, 10; Tarawera River mouth, 8; Rangitaiki River mouth, 17-19/2/49, c. 80; Whakatane, 21/2/49, several hundred; Ohope Beach, 19/4/49, 30; Ohiwa, 5/6/49, c. 30.—(P.H.B.) Castlepoint, 11/12/48, c. 30-40 pairs nesting here again, chicks reared; Palliser Spit, 4/12/48, the few nests in use were washed away and the adults deserted the site; 18/6/49, an unusual winter concentration, at least 600. See also black-billed gull.—(J.M.C.) Beach at Kaikoura, 26/5/49, 110; c. 200 fishing near Oaro, 26/5/49; nests around rocky coves, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Milford Sound, about 20, 29-30/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*).—Mataitai, Clevedon, an adult and an immature bird were noted on several occasions between 14/8/49 and 24/10/49, the first recorded for this locality.—(H.R.McK., F.M.) Miranda, seven still left on 25/11/48; two plus evidently summered, being seen on 16/1/49 and 6/3/49. Usual influx in autumn, e.g., 320 plus by 1/5/49; scattered during winter from Waitakaruru to Kairua; c. 400 on 28/8/49.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK.) Taupo, c. 50 on 27/1/49.—(W.N.T.) Waikanae, few, 12/5/49; Palliser Bay, several, 19/5/49; Picton, along waterfront they outnumbered the red-billed species by at

least five to one, they were mainly immature, 17/5/49.—(J.M.C., R.B.S., D.A.U.) Nelson, June, 1949, only three were noted at different times among 200-300 red-billed.—(J.M.C.) Lake Sarah, Cass, 19/4/49, four plus.—(E.W.D.) Ashley River mouth 21/8/49, 35 plus in group.—(E.W.D., I.J.S.) 30 plus, Kaituna Lagoon, 24-31/8/49; 60 plus, Lake Forsyth, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.)

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—21/12/48, numerous between Brown's Island and Rakinu, in which area there were four considerable colonies of white-fronted terns.—(K.C.B.C.)

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).—Skeleton and feathers of a pale phase adult found on Ward Island, Wellington Harbour, remains some months old, 20/10/49.—(R.A.F.)

NATIVE PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).—Owhiwa, North Auckland, reported as the most common native bird in this district; seen eating puriri berries on 30/4/48, 5/7/48, 1/11/48 and taraire berries on 26/7/48; 2/8/48, five sunning themselves on taraire; 7/8/48, six seen flying over house towards busu.—(Owhiwa School). Parua Bay, N. Auckland, 24/1/49, nest in astelia in puriri tree; 12/5/49, three or four in home bush feeding on berries of taraire, kohekohe and putaputaweta.—(Miss M.H.) W. Cookson reports feeding on clover in June and on elm buds in spring near Rotorua.—(E.G.T.) Minginui River, April, mixing their feeding between miro, matai and kalukatea.—(R.St.P.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1949, more plentiful than for many years.—(J.W.St.P.) Newly-fledged young with nesting down still adhering, found dead at Eastbourne by Mrs. Harvey, 25/4/49.—(R.A.F.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, rare.—(G.G.H.) Common in bush, Otira, 4-13/1/49; often heard in bush at Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Fairly plentiful, Puerua, S. Otago, 4/11/48, on a black pine at back door three noted.—(Mrs. I. Dent, D.N.F.C.) Tapanui, 5/1/49, fairly common about Tapanui, where they feed on rowan trees and other exotics.—(H. Taylor, D.N.F.C.) Few in Hollyford Valley, 7-9/3/49.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, seen in garden every month except March and May (only once in April) but seen elsewhere in those months.—(I.T.) One at Nokomai Station homestead, Southland, 22/2/49.—(W.A.W.)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*).—Twenty plus roosting on sea cliffs Cape Three Points, Akaroa Harbour, 24/8/49.—(E.W.D.)

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Owhiwa, N. Auckland, sometimes seen flying over, one to three, about dusk.—(Owhiwa School.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1949, up to six seen once; apparently decreasing.—(J.W.St.P.) Minginui, small numbers, mainly in high country, max. 18 on 6/4/49.—(R.St.P.) Taupo, six miles up Hatepe River, 6/9/49, three seen.—(R. G. Ward). Ohakune Mt. track, one on 30/3/49.—(W.P.M.) Kaimanawa Ranges, 30/3/49, one heard at 3400ft.—(B.D.) Waitaanga, North Taranaki, 11/2/49, three; sometimes seen in small flocks.—(J.B.I.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, very rare.—(G.G.H.) Stray bird in Riccarton Bush for nearly a fortnight, September, 1949.—(L.W.McC.) Near Flora Hut, beside the Flora River, Nelson, 27/12/48, heard in evening.—(Miss A. F. Edmond, D.N.F.C.) Heard in bush above Glade House, 25/12/48; at least two seen, others heard, in Lower Hollyford Valley below Marion, 1/1/49; eight plus seen on numerous occasions near Cascade Creek, Eglington Valley, 1-3/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).—Nest found by R. Morris in North Canterbury mountains on 20/9/48, contained two eggs and two newly-hatched chicks; on 10/10/48, after prolonged snow, there was only one survivor. This bird was then hand-reared in Wellington and was fully-fledged and able to fly perfectly by 25/12/48. Owing to omnivorous feeding during excursions abroad he was several times poisoned (? rat-nip) and finally died, aged 5 months, on 18/2/49.—(R.A.F.) Three or four always around hut at 4,200ft. in morning and at dusk, Mt. Cheeseman, Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Arthur's Pass, often seen near settlement towards evening, 4-13/1/49; Craigieburn Range, 3/4/49, 15

counted; Bealey River, 15/4/49, one; Arthur Pass National Park, 16/4/49, 6 Mt. O'Malley, 9 Edwards River (first fork), 2 lower gorge Edwards River; frequently heard at dusk in Otira Gorge.—(E.W.D.) Six at Pompalona Huts, 27/12/48; six on McKinnon Pass, 27/12/48, others seen in distance; heard in early morning at Milford Sound, 28-30/12/48; heard near Cascade, Eglinton Valley, 1/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezeelandiae*).—Three Kings Islands, 27/2/49, Great King; 1/3/49, South-West King, quite a number seen.—(M.E.J.) Parua Bay, N. Auck., 19/4/49, saw two at close quarters in a puriri, playing about and talking quietly to themselves; 10/5/49 heard one in bush, used my shepherd's whistle to attract its attention and it came quite near and talked excitedly; 13/5/49, two again seen and 9/8/49 again heard.—(Miss M.H.) Flock of four feeding on beech, Miln's Block, S.F. No. 34, near Asaley Clinton, Ruainnes, 22/4/48.—(K.W.)

YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*C. auriceps*).—Minginui, up to eight seen in a day.—(R.St.P.) Tararua Ranges, 17/7/43, at least four, feeding on beech seed, one feeding young out of nest.—(R.H.D.S.) Ohakune Mt. track, 30/3/49, three seen, others heard.—(W.P.M.) Flocks lower Routeburn, 10 to 12 in a flock, 11/3/49.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Flock of four feeding on beech, Lake Gunn, Cascade Creek, Eglinton Valley, Southland, 6/4/49.—(K.W.)

PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus* sp.)—Owhiwa, N. Auck., recorded 25/9/48; 1/10/48, two; 9/10/48, one; 7/11/48, one.—(Owhiwa School.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, 6/2/49, F. Gibbons reported seeing one in high country; one reported also Sept., 1949.—(J.W.St.P.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, very rare.—(G.G.H.) Evansdale Glen, 26/9/48, two in flight.—(Mrs. A. Ancell, D.N.F.C.) Calls heard, Trotter's Gorge, Horse Range, 19/11/48; calls, Mihiwaka, 2/4/49.—(D.N.F.C.) Flocks, Lower Routeburn, 11/3/49.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Heard several times between Glade House and Pompalona Huts, 26/12/48; heard frequently in bush near Lake Gunn and Cascade Creek, 31/12/48-3/1/49; seven plus seen and heard many times in bush between Piano Flat and Whitecomb Creek, 9/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*).—Woodcocks, Warkworth, still numerous; not considered as destructive to fruit as black-birds.—(D.N.L.) Williams Creek, Pigeon Flat, 5, 7/6/48; calls heard "Fernery," Pine Hill, 11/9/49; reported they are about in numbers and attack the gooseberries; present at Waitati, 25/9/48; flock heard in bush, Pigeon Flat, two seen, 14/5/49.—(D.N.F.C.) Feb. and March, 1949, nine fed on hawthorn berries near Power Station, Wakari.—(Miss M. Slemint, D.N.F.C.) First rosellas seen in Leith Valley between 1910 and 1913.—(W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.) Maori Hill, Dunedin: 8/7/48, four on gum-tree, when they flew away were chased by two tuis; 9/8/48, two in kowhais and gum, a tui chased one and another rosella chased the tui; 10/2/48, nine in gum tree.—(I.T.)

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*).—Parua Bay, N. Auckland, first calls heard 11/10/48, last calls heard 12/1/49.—(Miss M.H.) Clevedon, 11/9/48 first song, 2/2/49 last song; 17/12/48, one young being fed by two warblers; 23/1/49, Otahuhu, Auckland, one sustained song with one downward note at end, heard by Miss C. R. McKenzie and others; North Road, Clevedon, one song from gum trees, downward notes added, heard by Misses Joy McKenzie and Win. Fawcett. (I do not accept any report for winter or early spring unless the downward final notes are given; otherwise it is usually a thrush).—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon south, first song 14/10/48; 25/1/49, young cuckoo being fed by two grey warblers.—(L.H.M.) Moumoukai, first song 11/9/49.—(J.W.St.J.) Clevedon north, 3/10/49.—(G.K.McK.) Clevedon, 23/9/49.—(Mr. T. A. Sladden.) 26/9/49 (J. M. Martin).—(H.R.McK.) 24/9/49.—(A.J.G.) Minginui, first song, 29/9/48, 26/9/49.—(R.St.P.) Little Barrier, first songs 1/10/47, 25/9/49.—(C.H.P.) First heard Day's Bay, Wellington, 4/10/48; following year 1/10/49, and by Mrs. M. M. Atkinson at York Bay on same day;

first young bird seen, 30/12/48.—(R.A.F.) One in garden, Point Howard, Wellington, for about three weeks; left garden 31/1/49; photo showed bird to be immature.—(J.C.Y.) Masterton: All the birds I heard calling here (spring 1948) were calling at considerably increased tempo; same was noticed near Wanganui, 25/10/48.—(J.M.C.) Wellington Botanical Gardens, first calls of season, 25/9/49.—(F.E.W.) Northland, Wellington, 1/10/49, first calls.—(A.A.B.) Kapiti Island, 15/2/49, one seen.—(D.L.S.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, first calls: garden 28/9/48; Sullivan Dam, 3/10/48; Woodhaugh, 10/10/48.—(I.T.) Heard, Puerua, S. Otago, 28/9/48, earliest record during six years of recording.—(Mrs I. Dent, D.N.F.C.) First calls: Glenleith, 10/10/48 (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.); Montecillo, 12/10/48 (Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.); Opoho, 16/10/48 (Miss I. McArthur, D.N.F.C.).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*).—Rarotonga, appeared earlier than usual, 2/7/47, and was last seen 30/12/47; arrived 29/4/49, still there 15/5/49, moved to south side and islets of western end.—(J.D.C.) First calls, Little Barrier, 10/10/47.—(C.H.P.) Minginui, 24/10/48, 23/10/49, 10.30 p.m.—(R.St.P.) Clevedon, 16/10/48, 8.20 p.m., two calls of birds flying south; 17/12/48, from 5.30–8 p.m., one called repeatedly from a thick tree: a curious date, as the species does not breed locally; 17/2/49, 4.30 p.m., four calls from bush reserve.—(H.R.MeK.); 11/3/49, one calling.—(L.H.M.) Calls heard, Reporoa, Auckland, 3/9/48, nearest bush three miles distant.—(Miss I. T. Currie, D.N.F.C.) First heard, 1949 season at Taupiri, 5/10/49, flying south two hours after sunset.—(J.B.I.) Pair seen in bush, Otira, 11/1/49.—(E.W.D.) Heard calling several times in bush at Piano Flat, Waitaia River, 9/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).—Manawatu county, 1949, few about, getting scarcer, have heard five calling.—(E.D.) Heard in garden at Point Howard, 15/5/49.—(E.W.D., J.C.Y.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, not numerous.—(G.G.H.) One heard, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 30/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Heard at Black Gully, Blue Mountains, 24/2/49.—(W.A.W.) Heard past week at Leith Valley, 7/6/48.—(W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.) Heard Ross Creek, Woodhaugh, 10-11/6/48.—(Mrs. P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Heard Kaka Point, 13/7/48.—(Miss M. P. Finlayson, D.N.F.C.) Heard calling from forest, Flora Hut, Nelson, 27/12/48.—(Miss A. F. Edmond, D.N.F.C.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, 28/12/48, one catching moths at street light near house; calls heard, 5/2, 14/3, several times in April and May, 1949.—(I.T.) Heard at Glade House, 25/12/48, Milford Sound 28-30/12/48, and Cascade Creek 31/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).—Breeds in Hagley Park, Christchurch; an immature bird picked up on 11/9/49.—(E.W.D.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, calls Sept., Jan., Feb., March, April and May, most frequent March and April.—(I.T.) 3/11/49, seen for first time by caretaker and Mr. Skipworth, Lake Mahinerangi Reserve, Waipori.—(M. P. Skipworth, D.N.F.C.)

KINGFISHER (*Halycon sanctus*).—Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, not numerous.—(G.G.H.) Common between Kekerangu and Oaro, on coast, 25/5/49; occasionally seen round ngaio trees and clay banks near sea, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Reported breeding between Waitati and Michie's Crossing, Otago, nests in old willow and *Pinus insignis*.—(D.N.F.C.)

KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo novaeguineae*).—Waiwera, N. Auck., 3/1/49 four or five, some in juv. plumage; now spread thinly over Rodney county.—(H.R.MeK.) A. H. Hooper reports one between Takapuna and Northcote. It flew down from a prominent branch to a sluggish stream and returned with an eel, c 9in. long; this was beaten on the branch and swallowed, 11/9/49.—(E.G.T.)

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—Taupo, seen on Mt. Tauhara.—(W.N.T.) Minginui, seldom seen at the lower levels, but very common in the high beech country.—(R.St.P.) First flight of young birds from

a nest in a dead beech tree at Day's Bay, Wellington on 9/12/48.—(R.A.F.) Small numbers, Bay of Many Coves, Jan., 1949.—(J.M.C.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, fairly rare.—(G.G.H.) Common in beech forest, Mt. Cheeseman, Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Numerous in Mahoe Groves, Otira, 4-13/1/49; reported common, Craigieburn Range, 3/4/49; very common, Edwards River, Arthur Pass, 16/4/49. (E.W.D.) Heard its distinctive cheep almost continually in bush near Piano Flat, 9/1/49; one seen, others heard, at Black Gully, Blue Mountains, 25/2/49.—(W.A.W.) Cascade Creek, Southland, not uncommon, pair feeding on *Coprosma propinqua*, 6/4/49.—(K.W.)

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*).—Harris Saddle, Routeburn, 1/3/49.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) One seen with nest and five eggs beside track just below summit of MacKinnon Pass, 27/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).—Parua Bay, N. Auck., 19/1/49, nest with three half-grown chicks; 1/2/49, have had a pipit's nest under observation for some time; it is built alongside of slightly overhanging stone on the east side and behind tuft of dantionia. The hen sat very closely and whenever we visited her she just sat staring up at us with large, trusting eyes; now there are two youngsters which are beautifully camouflaged with little speckly feathers coming underneath the long straw-coloured down.—(Miss M.H.) Ohiwa, Bay of Plenty, Feb.-June, 1949, plentiful, especially on beaches.—(P.H.B.) Minginui, numerous on roads and shingle beds by main river.—(E.St.P.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, numerous in unplanted afforestation areas, Golden Downs.—(G.G.H.) Common on Craigieburn Range from tussock slopes up to bush line at 3000ft., 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Common on hillside paddocks, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Six seen at Glade House, 25/12/48; also seen and heard on MacKinnon Pass. 27/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

FERN BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).—Parua Bay, N. Auck., one or two sometimes seen or heard in scrub.—(Miss M.H.) Ohiwa Spit, 17/4/43, c. four in small swamp.—(P.H.B.) Minginui, maintaining its numbers.—(E.St.P.) Heard and seen frequently in swamp, lower end of Lake Waipori, 4/5/49.—(L.G.)

GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*).—Owhiwa, N. Auckland, 2/8/48, nest found in manuka.—(Owhiwa School.) Ohiwa, plentiful, 1/4/49, flock of c. 20; ;17/4/49, flock of c. 16 on lupin and scrub country.—(P.H.B.) Epsom, Auckland, 1/12/48, "My sister was 'attacked' by a pair of scolding parents which had three chicks perched in a lemon tree; they made a noise like angry seagulls!"—(Miss L. R. Rowley). Clevedon, 2/6/49, two together both singing on wing.—(Mrs. H. R. McKenzie). Mangere, two young on wing with parents, 14/9/49.—(R.B.S.) Nest completed in karamu, Day's Bay, 3/9/49.—(R.A.F.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, 25/4/49, first record of bathing in bird bath, kept to edge where shallow. (I.T.) Golden Downs Plantation, Nelson, 1949, numerous, 15-year-old trees.—(G.G.H.) Commonly seen, beech forest, Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Pair, beech forest, Edwards River, Arthur Pass, 16/4/49; almost the commonest land bird, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.)

YELLOW-BREADED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*). Golden Downs Plantation, Nelson, 1949, numerous, 15-year-old trees.—(G.G.H.) Edwards River, Arthur Pass, one, 16/4/49; Otira Gorge, 18/4/49, two.—(E.W.D.) Family of four fledged and ready to leave nest in low matagouri, Hope River, North Canterbury, 11/10/48.—(R.A.F.) Puerua, Otago, female tit at kitchen widow interested in its reflection.—(Mrs. I. Dent, D.N.F.C.) Number present in exotic plantations, Waipori, 11/3/49.—(M. R. Skipworth, D.N.F.C.) Whare Flat, Otago, 12/9/48, eight; Leith Valley, Dunedin, 18/9/48, five near saddle.—(L.E.W.) Feb., March, 1949, other records near Dunedin.—(I.T.) Common bird on the Milford Track, 25-28/12/48.—(W.A.W.)

PIED TIT (*P. m. toitoi*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 25/8/49, female collecting spider webs and moss for building in the hanging dead leaves

of a punga.—(J.W.St.P.) Minginui, flourishing, spend a lot of time on the tractor roads.—(R.St.P.) Murupara, in forest plantations.—(E.G.T.) Cambridge, present on Mt. Maungatautari, 2/9/49.—(J.V.A., M.C.H.)

ROBIN (*Miro australis*).—Minginui, as soon as a tree is felled robins appear to look for grubs in freshly-disturbed ground.—(R.St.P.) Taupo, six miles up Hatepe River, one seen.—(R.G. Ward.) One at Pokaka, much white on belly, 28/12/49; quite common at Waitaanga, Taranaki, 11/2/49.—(J.B.I.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, fairly rare.—(G.G.H.) Scarce in beech forest, Craigieburn Range, only 3 or 4 seen, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Seen occasionally in beech forest, Arthur's Pass, 4-12/1/49; several seen, Craigieburn Range, 3/4/49.—(E.W.D.) One seen at Cascade Creek, 31/12/48; two seen in bush near junction of main and east branches of Eglinton River, 1/1/49; seven seen beside track between Piano Flat and Whitecomb Creek, 9/1/49.—(W.A.W.) Between Michie's Crossing and Waitati, reported present.—(D.N.F.C.) Small number are now established on the west side of Flagstaff apart from those at the Silverstream, 27/9/48; increasing on west side of Flagstaff, now established in at least three different localities, 11/3/49.—(M. R. Skipworth. D.N.F.C.) Robin chased by three fantails at Silverstream, 3/4/49.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Two robins, one darker than the other, seen west side of Flagstaff, 8/5/49.—(G. C. Arras, D.N.F.C.) Cascade Camp, Southland, 6/4/49, 3-4 pairs.—(K.W.)

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Pied phase: Clevedon South, 11/10/48 nest, two chicks; 21/8/49, nest, three eggs. (A. C. Munro); 5/9/49, all hatched; 18/9/49, chicks left nest. When looked at they fluttered from the nest up to the top of the tree. They were so active that it was suspected that they may have been out of the nest before.—(L.H.M.) 11/10/49, two flying chicks being fed by parents.—(D.E.A.) Black phase: Clevedon South, 1/12/48, one seen at my home; no white "ear" spots.—(W. W. Renouf). Clevedon South, 5/7/49, one seen in foothills, spots on both sides of head.—(L.H.M.) Clevedon South, 21-22/7/49, one seen on farm next to that of L. H. Munro; may have been the same bird.—(D.E.A.) Hunua Falls, one, 26/6/49.—(D.A.U.) Pair at Day's Bay completed first nest on 28/8/48, in kawakawa; this being damaged or robbed they completed a second in kamahi on 25/9/48; when it suffered the same fate they built again and bred successfully in beech; each nest higher than previous one.—(R.A.F.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, two phases fairly common.—(G.G.H.) Pied phase common in beech forests on Craigieburn Range; a few black noted, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Pair of pied, Otira Gorge, 18/4/49; one black, Gore Bay, 26/5/49; common (pied phase) in bush, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49; one black seen, 24/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Dunedin, June 1, 1948 to May 31, 1949, counts in garden, Stonelaw Terrace, 128 pied, 51 black, total 179; counts outside garden, Stonelaw Terrace. 97 pied, 27 black, total, 124. 5/12/48, pied fantail chased white butterfly but did not catch it; to my surprise it was much less agile chasing a butterfly than a small insect.—(I.T.)

NEW ZEALAND THRUSH (*Turnagra capensis*).—Reliable account of immature bird seen in 1917 in bush east side of Wanganui River, near Koroniti, adjoining the forest reserve which still remains uncut.—(W.P.M.)

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*).—Reported present in bush on hills at the back of Waitati, 25/9/48.—(D.N.F.C.) Leith Valley, Dunedin, 26/3/49, one seen.—(L.E.W.) Four seen at Cascade Creek, 31/12/48; six plus seen in small flock beside Lake Gunn, 2/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua o. albicilla*).—Cambridge, Mt. Maungatautari, small flock, 2/9/49.—(J.V.A., M.C.H.) Taupo, Mt. Tauhara and Hatepe.—(W.N.T., R. G. Ward).—(K.C.B.C.) Minginui, "just as common and noisy as ever"—(R.St.P.) Murupara, plentiful in exotic forests, 8/4/49.—(E.G.T.) Small flocks, Mahoenui, 20/8/49; several flocks, Waitaanga, 9/1/49; heard at Te Rau-a-Moa, 11/9/49; common

northern slopes of Pirongia Range, 18/9/49.—(J.B.I.) Mount Bruce Forest, 18/9/49, most numerous bush bird.—(B.I., R.H.D.S.)

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*)—Bay of Many Coves, January, 1949, fairly numerous but always solitary; curious habit of perching with one leg on each side of forked twigs.—(J.M.C.) Golden Downs Plantation, Nelson, 1949, numerous in parties 5—7 in 15-year-old trees.—(G.G.H.) Governor's Bay, 1949, bush on hillside.—(G.G.) Songs heard in two or three localities, Michie's Crossing Waitati; one noted 28/9/48; very common in bush, Trotter's Gorge, Horse Range, 19/11/48, noted everywhere in the bush in pairs or small parties; small flock in the bush at Pigeon Flat, 14/5/49.—(D.N.F.C.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, many records past year.—(I.T.) Six plus seen in small flock beside Pomahaka River, Dusky State Forest, 22/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*)—Owhiwa, N. Auck., 29/2/48, nest found, c. 10 feet above ground, three eggs; 14/3/48, about twelve seen eating grapes.—(Owhiwa School.) Tarakihi Is., off Waiheke, nest of chicks seen.—(D.J.S.) Clevedon, winter, 1949, very scarce indeed.—(H.R.McK.); 9/10/49, flock of c. 20 (B.F.D.); 11/10/49, 50 plus travelling fast through trees, reported by L. P. Sladden. Mangere, max. winter flock c. 24.—(R.B.S.) Ohiwa, winter flocks up to 100.—(P.H.B.) Moumoukai, a few small scattered flocks, biggest c. 40; winter numbers down. (J.W.St.P.) Nest completed and first egg laid reported by D. Dawson, Khandallah, 5/9/49.—(R.A.F.) Motupiko, Nelson, 1949, numerous but not in large flocks, max. 18.—(G.G.H.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, 27/2/49, Silvereye pecking at seed pods on lucerne tree. Held pod in its claws (like fingers) when working at pod with bill. Could see it swallowing after putting bill into opened pod, but as some seeds fell to the ground could not be certain if it always swallowed the whole seed or sometimes just nipped off the green end. 18/4/49, large migrating flock—probably hundreds—passed through garden, numbers stopping to bathe and feed before passing on. Next day larger numbers than usual at tables and small parties still heading south. May: Flocks not back to the table in their usual numbers for this time of the year. Similar reports from other gardens. Berries very prolific on native trees and shrubs, *Coprosma* laden.—(I.T.)

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*)—Owhiwa, N. Auck., 14/3/48, several sipping nectar in flowers of puriri trees; 21/7/48, tui visiting flowers of Fuchsia; 20/10/48, five feeding on nectar in flowers of rewera.—(Owhiwa School.) Parua Bay, N. Auck., 10/9/49, poor season for the kowhai flowers and not so many tuis have been seen, though a dozen or so can be heard singing; watched several sipping nectar from the kowhai flowers and in so doing powdering their foreheads with golden pollen.—(Miss M.H.) Clevedon, 5/12/48 and later, one feeding on *Phormium tenax* chased starlings from flax blooms.—(A.J.G.) Lake Arakake, near Minginui, 4/6/49, c. 300 feeding on kahikatea; 13/6/49, 10 feeding in a small hawthorn tree.—(R.St.P.) Auckland Suburbs, increasing.—(R.B.S.) Butterfly Creek, Wellington, common in bush, January, 1949.—(J.C.Y., E.W.D.) Golden Downs Plantation, Nelson, 1949, numerous.—(G.G.H.) Numerous in beech forests in Craigieburn Ranges, but less common than bellbirds, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Common in bush, Otira, 4-13/1/49; occasionally seen in bush, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, much more rarely seen than in 1947; a marked decrease due to human predators, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Te Moana, S. Canterbury, 22/8/49, one spent several hours in bush on farm, first seen for well over 50 years.—(L.E.W.) Dunedin: Only odd birds are seen on club excursions in or near bush. It is much more frequently seen in city gardens where feeds during winter. During the year it has been seen in the gardens of members where not previously seen.—(D.N.F.C.) Reported present by local residents, Cascade Creek, Southland, 6/4/49.—(K.W.)

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*)—Three Kings Islands, 1/3/49, South-West King, "when I stopped for a smoke I counted 12 within a few yards."—(M.E.J.) Wayby, North Auckland, 4/1/49, one seen in

totara; it chased fantails, 20/3/49, one heard; new to this area. Clevedon, 23/1/49 to end of Feb., one heard frequently but not heard again until 23/8/49; heard often in Sept. It is hoped that it will establish here. Kohimarama, Auckland, 23/5/49, Mrs. McKenzie heard one giving "bubble" song.—(H.R.McK.) Moumoukai, still increasing and spreading.—(J.W.St.P.) Motuihi Is., 3/4/49, c. 10 busy in a clump of puriris and pohutukawas; 9/10/49, 5-6 pairs located about the island, some feeding on flowers of rewa-rewa.—(R.B.S.) S. Colville Range, 10/9/49, fairly common.—(R.B.S.) Minginui: Probably outnumbered tuis, c. 300 with tuis on kahikatea at L. Arakake, 4/6/49; also noted with tuis eating hawthorn berries.—(R.St.P.) Murupara, in exotic forests, 8/4/49.—(E.G.T.) Cambridge, Mt. Maungatautari, present on 2/8/49.—(J.V.A., M.C.H.) Castlecliff, feeding in garden, May to August, on winter-flowering gum, tree lucerne and acacia.—(W.P.M.) Butterfly Creek, Eastbourne, numerous, January, 1949.—(J.C.Y., E.W.D.) Golden Downs Plantation, Nelson, 1949, numerous.—(G.G.H.) Frequently seen and heard in beech forest in Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Numerous in beech forest, Arthur's Pass, 4-13/1/49; also common in bush at Otira.—(E.W.D.) Reported very common, Craigieburn Range, 3/4/49; common along Bealey River, 15/4/49, and Edwards River, 16/4/49; common in Otira Gorge, 18/4/49; very common in bush at Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, song heard all day, 24-31/8/49; marked increase since 1947.—(E.W.D.) Dunedin, seen and heard in increasing numbers each year on Club excursions; difference in song in different localities noted.—(D.N.F.C.) Heard at Nokomai Station, 22/2/49; heard commonly along Milford Track, 25-28/12/48; singing almost continually besides Lakes Gunn and Fergus in misty weather, 2/1/49; heard commonly at evening in manuka and bluegum plantations along south shore of Lake Te Anau, 3/1/49.—(W.A.W.)

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Calleas cinerea wilsoni*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 25/11/48; on main ridge to Kohukohunui, two hopped along the ground, one behind the other, for about a chain. They climbed a mahoe and flew into a tawa. These are the first I have seen on the ground for many years. 7/12/48, two chasing each other. 31/8/49, two parties of six and four in low trees; so quiet that I was within eight feet of some of them; others seen fairly frequently but sometimes none seen.—(J.W.St.P.)

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, scarce in 1949.—(J.W.St.P.) Ohiwa, March-May, numerous on lupin sand dunes.—(P.H.B.) Minginui, 2/7/49, "The greenfinch seems to have invaded the valley in force this winter, as each time I go round they seem to be more numerous than before."—(R.St.P.) Dunedin, Dec., 1948, eating daphne berries.—(I.T.) Kononi, S. Otago, 16/9/48, 60 noted on ground and more were perched on fences.—(Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.)

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Dunedin, first song, 15/6/49; in full song end of month.—(I.T.) Dunedin, first full song heard, 4/8/49.—(L.G.) Flock feeding on refuse dump, Cascade Camp, Southland, 6/4/49.—(K.W.)

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, May, 1949, several flocks of 30-50 birds on thistle. Later in small scattered parties.—(J.W.St.P.) Waitakaruru, Firth of Thames, 19/6/49, 1000 plus on saltings.—(R.B.S., F.M.) Ohiwa, March-June, 1948, small flocks.—(P.H.B.) One seen in tussocks, Craigieburn Range, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.) Dunedin, first full song, short burst only, mid-morning, still in small flocks, 3/9/49.—(L.G.)

REDPOLL (*C. cabaret*).—Miranda, small flocks regularly in winter; one male in fine plumage watched closely on 29/8/48, looked remarkably like a mealy redpoll (*C. flammea flammea*).—(R.B.S., H.R.McK.) Ohiwa, April-May, 1949, not uncommon.—(P.H.B.) Minginui, abundant.—(R.St.P.) Kaipara Sandspit, 6/1/49, one pair seen.—(R.B.S.) Prospect Park, Dunedin, 1/10/48, flock c. 100.—(I.T.)

SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—Ohiwa, flocks of hundreds far from any cultivated farm land, March-May, 1949.—(P.H.B.) Appears occasionally in small numbers, Cascade Camp, Southland, 6/4/49.—(K.W.)

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Ohiwa, March-June, 1949, many hundreds in flocks on lupin country.—(P.H.B.) Auckland, first song of season, 28/8/49.—(R.E.S.) Very large flocks, Mirza, Marlborough, 26/4/49; common in open country, Wainui, Akaroa Harbour, 24-31/8/49.—(E.W.D.) Dunedin, Prospect Park, 30/9/48, over 60 males among large flock of finches, females also present; 4/10/48, flock of over 300, both sexes, few redpolls with them.—(I.T.)

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Dunedin, first full song, 9/3/49, from 11th occasional songs daily. (I.T.); first full song heard, evening, in two parts of the town, 3/5/49.—(L.G.)

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*).—Kihi Kihi, a white blackbird in the Manse grounds, nested in 1945 and 1947, producing three chicks of broken colour each time; she disappeared about New Year, 1948. 16/10/49, pied hen sitting on nest seven miles from Kihi Kihi, all white except for patch around neck and near tail; two others, four and five miles away, sex unknown, are white on breast, saddle and wing-tips, elsewhere dirty white to dull black. Reported by Elizabeth and Hemish Warren.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 1/10/48, three eggs in nest in old cowshed; 11/10/48, hatched within the last two days; 22/10/48, young left nest.—(A.J.G.) 16/7/48, first record of blackbird's song in Dunedin; bird seen and heard singing in elm tree in Burwood Avenue.—(Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.) Dunedin, 18/11/48, young of second nest being fed; 27/11/48, nest raided at 11 p.m. by a little owl (*Athene noctua*); 28/11/48, parents seen with worms and one young fledgling in garden, apparently the only survivor.—(L.E.W.) Dunedin, first full-song heard, evening, 24/7/49.—(L.G.)

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).—Clevedon South, 28/9/49, nest, 2 eggs.—(L.H.M.) Dunedin, 17/6/48, first song; heard almost daily from 21/6/48; end of August in full song.—(I.T.) Dunedin, heard singing short bursts of full song 14/4/49; collecting nesting material, 1/9/49. (L.G.)

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*).—Common in open country, lower slopes of Craigieburn Range; probably more numerous than pipit, 16-23/12/48.—(E.W.D., I.D.R.C.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Parua Bay, N. Auck., 28/11/48, pair feeding young on flax nectar; they made regular trips for it every evening, just near the house.—(Miss M.H.) Manawatu County, in spring of 1949 did not feed on kowhai nectar as they did in 1948, when thousands were in kowhais; in 1948 thousands were sipping nectar from flax on my property, Kopane.—(E.D.)

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*).—Mangere, 1949, seen daily. Breeding pairs generally distributed.—(R.B.S.) Bay of Plenty, Matetu-Whakataane, Feb., 1949. 20 seen.—(P.H.B.) Hauraki Plains and Firth of Thames, increasing.—(R.B.S.) Clevedon and Ardmore, 1949, has become plentiful; in autumn flocks of up to 20 seen at various places.—(H.R.McK.) Auckland suburbs, one pair bred Mt. Albert. (A. H. Marshall); seen also Orakei (A.C.H.); in Domain (A. H. Hooper); Remuera (E.G.T.); Ellerslie (O.C.). Volcanic Plateau. W. Cookson reports two appeared Rotokawa, near Rotorua, 23/7/49; also recorded at Fairy Springs, Aug., 1947; Hemo Gorge, Sept., 1948; Atiamuri Road, Oct., 1948.—(E.G.T.) Whataroa Stream, near Te Whaita, four on 21/5/49.—(R.St.P.)

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Little Barrier, 1/9/49, two appeared.—(C.H.P.) Clevedon South, 7/6/49, one, probably the first for this area.—(L.H.M.) Clevedon North, 26/3/49, four, normally resident about a mile away, flew into bush by house.—(A.J.G.) Five seen at 3800ft. on western side of Ruapehu, 20/3/49; eight seen at 3,700ft. on Waihoona Stream, near base of Ngauruhoe on 2/4/49.—(B.D.) Manawatu County, 1949, have seen flocks of 25 and 30

where 15 years ago only odd pairs seen.—(E.D.) Two birds, Arthur's Pass, 29/5/49; one male, Lake Te Anau, 29/11/48.—(L.W.McC.) Amberley, a harrier, an old male, was reported killed by four magpies, being "severely knocked about"; both eyes had been gouged out. Leithfield, near Amberley, a young opossum was attacked in a willow tree by three magpies who tore pieces of fur out of it before it was rescued by two boys.—(L.W.McC.) Christchurch to Dunedin, 19/5/49, number seen from main highway was 316; numbers were noticed on the cross-arms of the power poles and it was noted that the birds were feeding on insects which had collected in the insulators. More birds were seen south of the Waitaki than I had previously recorded, showing this species is spreading south in great numbers. A friend at Te Moana reported that when power poles were first erected in the Mayfield district, Canterbury, large numbers of dead magpies were found at the foot of the poles, these birds having been killed through sitting on the iron crossbars.—(L.E.W.) Near Orari, 13/1/49, one chased a small bird which at first flew in a straight course trying vainly to outstrip its pursuer. When speed proved hopeless the small bird tried dodging, but was soon exhausted and caught.—(I.T.) Heard calling from several different directions; reported breeding for previous three years in this district, Waikouaiti, 13/8/49.—(L.G.) Heard, Pigeon Flat and two seen, 14/5/49. Their presence was viewed with much misgiving; first time seen in this vicinity, but for years has been steadily moving southward from Canterbury, where they are common.—(D.N.F.C.) Farming district of Knapdale, five miles north of Gore, solitary bird seen. From the close view I had of it, there seemed little doubt of its being a male of the white-backed species. From local inquiries I found it had been in the district since about December, 1948, but no one knew exactly how or on what date it arrived. As these birds have apparently not yet penetrated further south than Oamaru, the presence of this one here is interesting and, in a measure, unwelcome.—(W.M.B.)

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*G. tibicen*).—A magpie with a black band across the upper back appeared as a casual at Karaka on 2/5/49.—(D.A.U.) Numerous birds seen in various localities between Waipukurau and Hastings, 25/4/49.—(L.W.McC.) Near Pahiatua, 13/2/49, one seen by Dr. C. Cottam.—(D.L.S.) One seen with two white-backed at Raumatī South, 20/2/49; two old birds, Western Lake, Wairarapa, 18/6/49, the first seen here; one had the black band broken obliquely in the middle.—(J.M.C.)

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Halswell, Canterbury, 13/5/49, flock of approx. 200 seen in a paddock.—(L.E.W.)

BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN TORY CHANNEL.

By Elliot Dawson, Christchurch.

Returning from Wellington after the Society's meeting and interesting field trip to Kapiti Island, I was fortunate to be able to spend some time at the Tory Channel whaling station, near Te Awaīti, in the Sounds district. The journey to the station and the return trip to Picton and the area round the station provided opportunity for bird observations which, while of not much value in themselves at present, give an indication of the relative numbers of species found in the area during this season. Every endeavour was made to avoid duplication in counts and estimates. (For scientific names see classified notes.)

Picton to Tory Channel (May 18, 1949).—

Little Blue Penguin.—Two swimming at Oyster Bay.

Fluttering Shearwater.—Six, Curious Cove; nine off Dieffenbach Point: 48, Te Rua Bay.

Large Black Shag.—One, East Bay; five, Erie Bay; one, Maraetai Bay.

Large Pied Shag.—Two, Te Weka; 13 in group on rocks, Oyster Bay; five observed singly, Oyster Bay; one, Maraetai Bay; one, Te Iro; one, Jackson Bay; one, Hitaua Bay; 12 in channel between Jackson's Bay and Whekenui; three in group on rocks, Whekenui.

Little Pied and White-throated Shag.—Three, Te Pangu; one off Tekatea Point; two off Onapua Bay.

Spotted Shag.—Three, Te Rua Bay.

Gannet.—One off Karaka Point, Whatonga Bay; one at Te Pangu.

Reef Heron.—One on rocks at Whekenui.

White-fronted Tern.—18 plus off Karaka Point, Whatonga Bay; 17, Curious Cove; 3, Te Pangu; 110 plus, in channel off Te Weka; 16 off Tiki-maeroero Point; seven off Ruamoko Point; one, Te Iro Bay; 11, Jackson's Bay; 3, Te Rua; two in channel off Te Awaiti.

Black-backed Gull.—Six, Curious Cove; two, Erie Bay; three, Te Pangu; three, Te Weka; two, Onapua Bay; four, Maraetai Bay; 15, in channel, off Maraetai; seven, Te Iro; eight, Jackson's Bay; two on Tikimaeroero Point; four, Hitaua Bay; three, Te Rua; 170 plus, in channel between Jackson's Bay and Whekenui with estimate of further 300 plus.

Red-billed Gull.—Two, Curious Cove; two off Maraetai; one, Oyster Bay; one, immature, Tekatea Point; 15, Te Rua; 130 plus and c. 100 in channel between Jackson's Bay and Whekenui.

The remaining notes on the trip can be conveniently summarised thus:—

May 19, 1949.—In Whekenui Bay, 1 reef heron, 2 large pied shags, 1 kingfisher corpse, 1 blue penguin corpse, 1 red-billed gull corpse, torn by wild cats. In Okukuri Bay: One kingfisher, 1 harrier, 1 black-backed gull corpse. Puponga Point: One harrier. A clear area of Tory Channel was visible from the northern hill slope above Te Awaiti for a considerable distance, and the number of each species present could be counted, with the aid of glasses, with appreciable accuracy: Black-backed gulls, c. 360; red-billed gulls, c. 10; large pied shags (?), 14; white-fronted terns, 3.

May 20, 1949.—In Okukuri Bay: 26 black-backed gulls, including six brown-plumaged birds, at mouth of creek, south end of beach, a favourite haunt of these gulls; one reef heron on rocks with two large pied shags; a fishing boat came in with 115 plus gulls of both species flying round it with 12 black-backed gulls resting on water and five on shore by creek mouth.

May 21, 1949.—One reef heron at Whekenui. Fishing boat with 70 plus mixed gulls and 14 black-backed gulls from Whekenui.

May 22, 1949.—One gannet off seaward point of Okukuri Bay. Penguins (presumably blue) heard calling from rocky shore in eastern bay north of East Head, Tory Channel.

In bush (approx. 1580ft.) on spur rising between East Head, Tory Channel, and Otanerau Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound: A pair of yellow-breasted tits, male and female. Bellbirds commonly seen and heard. Pied fantails, common. Only one pigeon seen but many feathers and other traces. Pipit, common in open areas.

May 23, 1949.—From whaling look-out hut, 250 feet above sea, on West Head, Tory Channel: 18 fluttering shearwaters, off West Head; 15 white-fronted terns; 2 albatrosses (wandering?) at sea, due east of hut; 3 gannets, flying from Jordy's Rocks to West Head; another gannet, N.E. of look-out hut, at sea; c. 40 gulls (mixed) accompanying Tamahine as she passed through the Heads; 14 shags flying over West Head to sea towards dusk, possibly Marlborough shags. Blackbirds and skylarks seem to be the commonest introduced birds in open country at Whekenui.

May 24, 1949.—Whaling factory, Fishing Bay: 373 black-backed gulls in bay, about 90 of which were immature in plumage; one giant petrel, the first of the season, I think, although a large dark bird seen from a distance on the up-trip may have been this species, possibly the same bird; two wandering albatrosses, presumably those seen at sea on 23/5/49; one large pied shag.

May 25, 1949.—A dull overcast day with rain likely. Okukuri: In early morning, 358 black-backed gulls, 2 red-billed gulls, 1 large pied shag. On rocks between Okukuri and Whekenui, one white-throated shag; three large pied shags. The number of gulls at Okukuri increased by noon to c. 600.

Tory Channel to Picton.—

Little Pied and White-Throated Shags.—One near Te Awaiti; 4 on the islands at Te Awaiti; 1, Deep Bay; 1 in channel west of Tio Point; 1 near Clay Point; 1, Ngaruru Bay; 1 on Puke Point; 1 in cove on Wiriwaka Point; 2 pairs in same place, each pair with a pied shag (!); 1 on The Snout, near Mabel Island; 2 flying off Allport's Island.

Large Pied Shag.—Three near Te Awaiti; 1, Jackson's Bay; 2, Deep Bay; 2 off Clay Point; 3, Ngaruru Point; 2, each with two melanoleucos in cove on Wiriwaka Point; 1 flying near Wiriwaka Point; 1, Te Iro; 1, Dieffenbach Point; 1, East Bay; 1, Karaka Point.

Black-Backed Gull.—In Tory Channel, east of Okukuri and Puponga Point, 600 plus and c. 100. In channel off Te Awaiti and further towards Picton, 78. Three, Ngaruru Bay; 45 in Sound between The Snout and Wedge Point; quite numerous on waterfront at Picton.

Red-Billed Gull.—Three in Tory Channel; 18 in Sound between the Snout and Wedge Point; c. 50-60 on waterfront at Picton.

Large Black Shag.—One, between Mabel Island and Picton.

Spotted Shag.—One, near Te Awaiti.

White-fronted Terns.—22, in Tory Channel; two off The Snout.

Fluttering Shearwaters.—Two in channel out from Curious Cove; 4, Monkey Bay; 8, Whakamonga Bay; 1, off Karaka Point; 3, in Sound, near Allport's Island.

On The Snout, near Picton, a harrier was chasing four small passeriforme birds.

On the return trip to Christchurch, further gulls were seen along the east coast, including the following (There was a very strong wind blowing and the sea was very choppy):—

Black-Backed Gull.—Large groups, very common on beach at Mungamaunu, north of Kaikoura; two mature birds in group of red-billed gulls at Kaikoura. This species is very common all along the coast and of those seen a considerable number were brown-plumaged immature birds.

Red-Billed Gull.—110 in group on Kaikoura Beach; c. 200 fishing off Oaro. This is a common species along the coast also, but not so abundant as the black-backed gull.

The Tory Channel-Queen Charlotte Sound region would no doubt provide an interesting locality for detailed field observations on the *Phalacrocoracidae* with special reference to what might be termed the *P. melanoleucus-brevirostris* complex and the obvious resulting hybridisation. *P. melanoleucus* is a most convenient "lumped" species since many birds seen in this area could not be placed in one or other of the two earlier species, as described in Oliver. There is reason to believe also that a shag frequenting the Cloudy Bay region is a yet unrecognised species closely related to the Marlborough shag (*L. carunculatus carunculatus*.)

The bird life at the Tory Channel Whaling Station, when the season is in full swing, is of special interest with the great abundance of gulls, cape pigeons, giant petrels and occasional albatrosses, etc.

Mr. J. R. Eyles, who has been a regular whaler now for some years, as well as a keen bird watcher, has informed me that this season he saw an all white Cape pigeon (*Daption capensis*), possibly a true albino, at the whaling station. The silver-grey petrel (*Priocella antarctica*) has been recorded from here as an individual straggler for several seasons but I was not fortunate to see it during my stay.

The localities mentioned may be found in any standard map of the area, e.g., Queen Charlotte Sound, S. 16, N.Z., 1.63 360, Provisional.

NOTICES TO MEMBERS.

LIBRARY.—The society's library is now housed at the Auckland Museum. This is possible through the courtesy of the Director, Dr. Gilbert Archey, and of Miss Enid Evans, librarian to the Auckland Institute and Museum, who have kindly agreed, with the approval of the Museum Council, to accept the care of the society's library. Members requiring books on loan should note the address to which all applications should be sent: "The Librarian, Ornithological Society of New Zealand, care Auckland Institute and Museum, P.O. Box 27, Newmarket, Auckland, SE1."

SUBSCRIPTIONS.—Remittances should again be sent to the hon. secretary-treasurer, Mr. J. M. Cunningham. Accounts are sent out to all members whose subscriptions are due. It is requested that the accounts should be returned with the remittance. Cheques, etc., should be made payable to the society, not to the secretary, and have exchange added. If more than the amount due is sent, it will be credited as an advance subscription unless stated to be a donation.

MEMBERSHIP.—A considerable number of members have become endowment members, and the extra funds thus realised will be used to the best advantage. Whatever time of the society's year (April 1 to March 31) new members join they are entitled to the current numbers of the Bulletin for a full year, viz., the July, October, January and April issues.

BACK NUMBERS.—All back numbers are available, the costs being: Volume 1 (numbers 1-11, supplement and index), 15/-; Volume 2 (numbers 1-8 and supplement), 10/-; and Volume 3 (numbers 1-5), 5/-; total 30/-. The balance of the current Volume 3 is received under the 1949-50 subscription.

RINGING SCHEME.—The arrival of rings from overseas has been delayed, and it is now unlikely that they will be available for use this nesting season.

AUCKLAND DISTRICT REGIONAL ORGANISER.—During the absence of Mr. R. B. Sibson in England, the duties of regional organiser for the Auckland district will be undertaken by Mr. J. C. Davenport, 718 Remuera Road, Auckland, SE2.

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