just having a bad period at the time, or whether it did not ever have better seasons. Minginui had a low count for 1946-47, but consistently higher ones regularly from then on to 1960-61, the end of the counting period, so it could have been lower before 1946-47. It is to be noted that the Kingfisher at Minginui did not have the drop suffered by some of the more insectivorous birds in 1952-53 and 1953-54.

## WAIAU

The total of birds seen for the 15 seasons, i.e., 1946-47 to 1960-61 was 136 (204).

Count days per month for parts of 16 months of the 15 seasons averaged 4.44; days seen 1.56; days not seen 2.88.

Daily counts of birds ranged from 0 to 10.

Count days totalled 71 and the total birds seen 136, giving an average of 1.9 (2.85) per count day.

## Notes on Analysis

The low rate of 1.9 seen per count day I consider was due to the beech at Waiau being less suitable for nesting than the trees of the podocarp forest.

## LITERATURE CITED

ST. PAUL, R. 1976. A Bushman's seventeen years of noting Rifleman, Whitehead, Pied Tit and North Island Robin.

STIDOLPH, R. H. D. 1971. The birds around us. Masterton: Hedley's Bookshop.

WILKINSON, AMY K. Kapiti Diary. Edited by R. H. D. Stidolph. Masterton: Masteron Printing Co. Ltd.

## **ABOUT OUR AUTHORS**

<del>\_\_\_\_\_\*</del>

NICK FOX is a graduate from St Andrews University, Scotland, where he studied zoology. After teaching biology in Fife for a few months, he and his wife left Britain and now live on a sheep farm in North Canterbury. For the past three years he has been involved in research for a Ph.D. thesis at Canterbury University on the biology of the New Zealand Falcon and hopes to complete this shortly. He is interested in all aspects of raptors, including captive breeding and management, as well as biology. He also enjoys working with dogs and horses and derives great satisfaction in communicating with animals as individuals.

BARRIE HEATHER, editor of the newly-appearing OSNZ News, has been a member of the OSNZ since his days in the Kings College Bird Club. A biographical note appeared in *Notornis* for March 1974. He is the author of a comprehensive account of what is known of the Silktail (Lamprolia) of Fiji to be published in the June issue.

KERRY POTTS was introduced to readers in the December 1976 issue of Notornis.