

A NEW POLICY

The non-appearance of Classified Summarised Notes will be noted with regret by some readers and contributors. The Council's decision to dispense with these notes in the form in which they have appeared since 1940 is based on several considerations.

(a) In some ways they were a sign of immaturity. Often they were repetitive and the spread was uneven and did little to increase our knowledge of the distribution of certain lesser-known species.

(b) The bulk of the valuable migration records appear in Annual Locality Reports, which are retained and which it is hoped will be extended to cover other districts where migration is a worthwhile study. In this issue we welcome the first A.L.R. for the Waimakariri estuary.

(c) The records of storm-wrecked seabirds now go into Beach Patrol Reports.

(d) With the great increase of material awaiting publication, the space can be better used.

(e) Accounts of rare birds or observations, e.g. on behaviour or change of status, deserve mention in Short Notes, which appear quarterly.

(f) Although C.S.N. will no longer be published as such, there still exists the need for continuous and active collection of field notes. A recording scheme is being inaugurated under which all items of information which are received but not published as Short Notes, will be listed and filed by species, and so preserved for future reference and use by those who are working on studies of individual species.



ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

FIRTH OF THAMES

BLACK SHAG — Always some. 48 on winter census on 24/6/62.

WHITE-FACED HERON — Now likely to be seen anywhere from Kaiaua to Waitakaruru. 24 on 11/1/62. 24 inland on farm (A.T.) on 24/6/62.

BLUE REEF HERON — 1 on 10/1/62; 2 at Kaiaua on 2/46/62.

ROYAL SPOONBILL — 1 seen many times at Miranda between 24/6/62 and 22/9/62.

PARADISE DUCK — 1 male at Miranda pools on 22/9/62.

SHOVELER — 8 on 31/12/61; 13 on 9/5/62; 30 on 24/6/62.

GRAY TEAL — 2 at Miranda pools on 31/3/62, first record for this district.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 134 on 11/1/62; c. 1200 on 11/3/61; 900+ on 31/3/62; 800+ on 24/6/62; 400+ on 19/8/62; c. 250 on 22/9/62.

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER — 1, smudgy, on 22/9/62. 1 black, frequently.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER — c. 90 on 26/11/61 on ploughland at Waitakaruru, one being exceptionally black for the time of the year. c. 60 at Kairito on 31/12/61; 78 on 31/3/62, 20 being in full black and 14 in partial black.