

two such distinct forms meet in an area where natural barriers are absent indicates that their differentiation occurred in isolation and that they have recently come into secondary contact with each other. If such is the case, it may well be that some interbreeding occurs but not enough to prevent the further differentiation of the two forms, in which case they would correctly be regarded as distinct species. . . . This greater ecological tolerance of *tibicen* can be taken to indicate that it is the older form. The plumage sequences, too, favour this view. The white-backed plumage is preceded by dark-backed immature stages and is limited to adult males. . . . Analysis of measurements of *tibicen* and *leuconota* favours the view that they are conspecific. . . . As regards the relationship of *leuconota* and *dorsalis*, the fact that the males can be differentiated only by slight average characters suggests conspecificity. The difference in the females, while quite sharp, is one of degree. Both have the feathers of the back margined with white, but in *leuconota* the centres of the feathers are grey, in *dorsalis* black. . . . It is quite likely that future field work will show that all forms of *Gymnorhina* are conspecific, especially since they are all said to have similar habits. . . . At present it would be premature to unite the white-backed and black-backed magpies.'—J.M.C.

**The British Trust for Ornithology; Seventeenth Annual Report, 1950.**  
Price, 1s. 6d. (Address: 2 King Edward Street, Oxford.)

As a focal point of ornithological investigation and research in Britain, the British Trust for Ornithology performs an increasingly important role and a perusal of this 40-page report gives impressive evidence of the work being accomplished. The contribution of the late B. W. Tucker, one of the founders of the Trust, is acknowledged. The membership of this trust shows an increase, field investigations have been well supported and more birds were ringed in 1950 than in any previous year. Among the inquiries was one on paper-tearing by birds and it is recorded that in 1950 there was no renewal of the "sensational attacks on fabrics of all kinds reported in 1949." Excellent work was accomplished at the various bird observatories. For those who wish to keep themselves informed of what is being done in the ornithological world in Britain, a copy of this report is essential.—(R.H.D.S.)

## NEW MEMBERS.

Asterisk indicates life member.

Annard, A. B., P.O. Box 174, Timaru.	Rutherford, S. C., Waipipi, Waiuku.
Barrow, T., c/o Dom. Mus., Wgtn.	Rutherford, V. M., R.D. Awhitu, Cent.
Blair, R. J., Portrose.	Waiuku.
Cowell, Miss F., Bishop's Court, Wgtn.	Sheffler, F., 9 Maldive St., Khandallah.
Dale, P., Teachers' Training Col., Chch.	Skelton, D., 21 Gamblin's Rd., Chch.
Dick, Mrs. R.G., Wickliffe Bay, Dunedin.	Sorby, K. M., Glen Murray, Tuakau.
Dunn, A.W., 3 Chatham Av., Mt. Albert	Stanford, Miss A., Oaro, Kaikoura.
Fountain, R. G. F., 18 Easther Cres., Dunedin.	Tyndale-Biscoe, C.H., D.S.I.R., Tikokino
Hickman, J.I., 21 Reynolds St., Dunedin	Waitiri, R. A., Waimungu, Rotorua.
Keys, Miss L.G., 27 Macdonald Cres., Wgtn	*White, Miss D. A., Southland Hos- pital, Invercargill.
Krajian, Geo., 454 Main Rd., Eastbourne	
Lineham, Miss P. M., c/o Transport Dept., Wellington.	<b>CORPORATE BODIES.</b>
Martin, J. A., G.P.O. staff, Wgtn.	Lansdowne Scout Troop, Masterton.
Nurse, Miss F.R., Cant. Univ. Coll., Chch.	Mo Kotoa Scout Troop, Masterton.
Parr, Mrs. T. L., 59 Pownall St, Mastn	Nga Totara Scout Troop, Masterton.
Pycroft, A. T., Edmund St., St. Heliers.	Portobello School, Portobello.
Rear, David, High Wycombe, Bucks, Eng.	Stewart Island School, Halfmoon Bay
	St. Matthew's Scout Troop, Masterton.

## SCIENTIFIC NAMES.

Except in the case of those given below, the scientific names of species mentioned in the text will be found in the summarised classified notes:—

Ibis, Glossy ( <i>Plegadis falcinellus</i> ).	Shag, King ( <i>Leucocarbo carunculatus</i> )
Shag, Black ( <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> ).	Swift, Spine-tailed ( <i>Hirundapus</i>
Shag, Pied ( <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i> )	caudatus)

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