

On January 25, a visit was made to the nest at 9.15 a.m. An accidental false movement was made by the observer and two chicks flew from the nest into the black currant bush, leaving one young in the nest. An unsuccessful search was made for the two that had flown. At 10.15 a.m. another visit was made to the nest and all chicks were back in the nest. Both adults arrived with food and there was a little excitement. The young were twittering and one of them climbed up a black currant branch to about 8 inches above the nest while another sat on the edge of the nest. Both parents flew away and the two chicks flew a moment later. One of them flew about 12 feet and one parent darted after it like a shot. The one in the nest was twittering and stretching up its head. Presently it began to wriggle and then it flapped its wings several times. Next it climbed up and sat on the edge of the nest. Later it dropped back into the nest and settled down. When the observer returned to the nest at 11.10 a.m., the last bird had gone.

During the day several visits were made to the nesting site, but no sign was seen of the family until 8 p.m. when they were noticed preparing to settle for the night in a macrocarpa hedge about 25 feet from the deserted nest.

On December 27, 1950, a silveryeyes' nest containing three young was found among raspberry canes. The young appeared to be a day and a half old. On December 31 and January 3, while photographs were being taken of the nest, the adult birds brought the following food to the young: A large brown moth that covered most of the face of the hen bird; small bluish-green caterpillars, brown wrinkled caterpillars about one and one-eighth inch long and about a quarter of an inch in diameter, white butterfly grubs, daddy-long-legs and raspberries. On December 31, 1950, food fed to chicks about $4\frac{1}{2}$ days old, eyes not opened: Dark green grub about an inch and a half long; long-legged insect, daddy-long-legs type but smaller; wire worm; bit of raspberry; two large and one small grub of white butterfly. (This last lot was thrust down one neck and the chick had to raise body and head, stretching its neck and swallowing three times before all was properly down.) January 4, 1951: Again watched young fed: Daddy-long-legs, cabbage butterfly grubs, moth, raspberry grub, dark green grub with lighter greenish-yellow horizontal stripes.

SURVEY OF DABCHICKS.—North Island: Most waters in the North Island have been visited in the last ten years and reports have been received from fourteen observers. South Island: Reports have been received from six observers. There is little information about the high-country lakes. Two North Islanders have reported on Westland. It is clear that dabchicks no longer occupy waters where they were not uncommon last century. There is also evidence that they have recently recolonised waters from which they were for many years absent. It is believed that dabchicks dislike waters in which eels abound. Observers are asked for their comments on this hypothesis.—R. B. Sibson, Auckland.

BREEDING OF GREY WARBLER.—When felling manuka in the Porangahau district, Hawke's Bay, on August 16, 1951, I found a grey warbler's nest, not quite half built. On September 2, the nest was completed but contained no eggs. On September 8 it had two eggs, and on Sept. 13, four. On August 27 a second nest was found in a "mingi" tree, 6ft. up, containing three eggs. A third nest was found on Sept. 1, also in a 'mingi,' half-built. One of the eggs in the first nest appeared to be completely white, with none of the usual pinkish tinge, and the red spots were missing except when very closely examined, an odd, very pale speck was just visible.—R. L. Grant, Hastings.