

Pox has also been recorded by Christiansen from as different birds as: Two lapwings (*Vanellus vanellus*), 1 golden plover (*Pluvialis apricarius*) and common gull (*Larus canus*), and in addition to 8 crows as mentioned above, one raven (*Corvus corax*) and one rook (*Corvus frugilegus*).

Small birds recorded with pox are: One skylark (*Alauda arvensis*); 1 wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*); 1 song thrush (*Turdus cricetorum*), and 1 lesser white-throat (*Sylvia curruca*). The bird or canary pox, to which variety the pox found in the mentioned passerines may belong, is found in canaries, and experiments have shown that this virus is transmissible to, for example, sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) and chaffinch (*Fringilla coelebs*), but not to fowls and pigeons (Christiansen, 1949).

#### Conclusion.

A heavy infestation of bird pox has been recorded from a New Zealand pitpit at Turangi, N.I. The bird's one eye was blind, and it had a hazel-nut large tumor on one leg. Attention is drawn to the case, as pox in wild birds has not been recorded from New Zealand before, but the disease is undoubtedly more common here, and birds with such wart-like tumors should be sent to the Wallaceville Animal Research Station for examination. Overseas, different groups of birds such as e.g., pheasants, partridges, gulls, wild pigeons, crows, rooks, skylarks, thrushes and wrens, have been recorded with pox infestations.

Sportsmen should look out for pox in bagged pheasants and quail; bird ringers who trap passerine birds such as silvereyes, thrushes, etc., should watch for pox tumors on the birds handled; pheasant breeders should look out for pox in their birds; and bird trappers who trap introduced song birds to be kept as cage birds should also watch out for pox in the caught birds.

Overseas experiments have shown that pox found in small passerine birds is not transmissible to fowls, but further investigations are of importance, and it is still not known to what extent the pox occurring in, for example, gulls and shore birds can be communicated to poultry. Further experiments are needed, and any pox-infested wild birds should be sent in for examination and transmission tests.

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#### REVIEWS.

**Stomach Contents of New Zealand Inland Shags, by P. Dickinson.** Aust. J. Marine and Freshwater Res. 2 (2): 245-53, 1951.

A study of 29 stomachs of *Phalacrocorax carbo* and 61 of *P. brevirostris* from Rotorua-Taupo district in which fish otoliths were used to determine the species and number of food fish. Lake-feeding shags in July feed almost entirely on fish (particularly bullies, *Gobiomorphus*) and crayfish. One of the *P. carbo* stomachs contained two salmonid fish, probably trout.—C.A.F.

**A Review of the Frigate Petrels (*Pelagodroma*), by R. C. Murphy and S. Irving.** Am. Mus. Novit. No. 1506, 1951.

A systematic and biogeographic study of the white-faced storm petrel of New Zealand bird books. Five sub-species are recognised, from Tristan