

BELLBIRDS ON KAWAU ISLAND.—A further record of the bellbird (*Anthornis melanura*) in the North Island can now be added to Mr. E. G. Turbott's list (*Notornis*, Vol. 5, No. 6). When the writer and Mr. G. J. H. Moon visited a bush-clad gully at the head of Bon Accord Harbour on Kawau Island (23/1/54) two pairs of bellbirds were seen in old puriri trees there. The birds were singing well and judging by the volume of song there could have been more than the four birds seen in the area.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick.

LINNET IN SOUTH CANTERBURY.—A further sight record of the linnet (*Carduelis cannabina cannabina*) was made at Pleasant Point, Timaru, on the Opihi River, by the writer and Mrs. G. A. Acres, on 10/11/53, when several of these red-breasted finches were observed feeding on a half-dead gorse bush about five feet high. The birds (six in all) were larger than redpoll with longer tail, and at least three had deep crimson breasts and slight chestnut crowns. The others were more drab but all birds lacked the dark patch on the chin which is characteristic of the redpoll. They were busily moving about the gorse bush and feeding, so there was ample time in which to study them. The backs were mottled light and dark brown like a cock sparrow, only not so dark. The white edging on the tail feathers was noticeable. The birds flew with a quick, rather light, wavering flight just above the low scrub. They disappeared into a grove of willow trees and we did not see them again. They did not appear to mix with the other finches. The flight-note was a rather low, slightly metallic series of "tit-tit-tit-tit."—Noelle Macdonald, Howick. (Editorial Note.—The Checklist of New Zealand Birds, page 65, does not admit the linnet to the New Zealand list. It states that its status is uncertain and that it "is left on the suspense list until its presence in New Zealand is substantiated." to their eligibility for re-election.

BIRDS SINGING AT NIGHT.—Mr. C. W. Trim, Fitzherbert West R.D., Palmerston North, wrote to me (26/8/53) as follows:—"We live in the country and on this night we had been out, arriving home at 11 o'clock. Upon stopping the car we were amazed to hear a full chorus of blackbirds. They were still singing 20 minutes later when we went to bed. It was most eerie—seemed as if the time was about 6 in the morning." In reply to my inquiry, he added that the night was calm; brilliant moonlight with a scattering of light clouds. There were no other birds singing with the blackbirds. "It would be most difficult to estimate the number of birds singing as they were near at hand in numbers. When a lull came in their singing we could hear others in large numbers in the far distance. We live in a rural district with a large area of open country dotted with pine and macrocarpa plantations and hedges. In the early morning dozens of blackbirds and thrushes sit in the trees far and near all singing with all their might. They were exactly like that on the night in question except we heard no thrushes." Mr. E. Dear, the society's regional organiser for Manawatu, who kindly discussed the episode with Mr. Trim, was able to gather no further details, but is satisfied of the accuracy of Mr. Trim's interesting report. The Handbook of British Birds and other books accessible to me make no mention of such night singing. I am indebted to Mr. Trim for the information.—J. M. Cunningham.

BIRDS IN LOWER WAINUI-O-MATA.—According to information supplied to Mr. W. J. Philipps, of the Dominion Museum, Wellington, by Mr. J. W. Burdan, Wainui-o-mata, the huia was last seen in that district on the Cattle ridges in 1895; it was formerly recorded in Catchpole's Bush. The weka disappeared about 1905. In 1898 Mr. Burdan witnessed a flight of tuis, going north along the hills between Gollan's Valley and Wainui-o-mata. He estimated the number as about 200 as they passed overhead. The tuis from nearby gullies joined in the flight. He had known of only one North Island kokako, in 1890.