

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Parengarenga, not a common breeding birds in the far north. (R.B.S.) Rotorua, in autumn fairly large flocks appeared, usually contemporary with Chaffinch movements. Also seen feeding with Sparrows in the streets. (M.S.B.) Minginui, '54-'55, only odd birds, no flocks; numbers increase as Rotorua is approached. (R.StP.) Stewart I., a few. (R.J.S., K.J.W-M.)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Opoho, Dunedin, 24/2/54-21/5/54. An albino was off-white in February and almost yellow in May. (W.A.W.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Minginui. Aug.-Dec., up to 150 in a day; Jan.-Feb., fewer; March-June, mostly in two big flocks of c. 500 and c. 2000 feeding on a heavy crop of kahikatea fruit; July, up to 300, the main lot having left; Aug., looking at nest sites; Nov., removing hatched egg shells. (R.StP.) Glink's Gully. 17/7/55. Nest with young. (R.B.S.)

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*). Bay of Islands, odd birds reported. (K.C.B.C.) Wellsford, 3/11/54, first seen, now steadily increasing. (A.G.G.) South Kaipara Heads, first seen Oct. '55. (M.A.W.) Parakai, Jan. '55. (R.B.S.) Remuera, heard and seen with increasing frequency at all seasons. (J.C.D.) Tauranga, a rapid increase all over the district. (B.S.) Ngongotaha, 7/7/55, c. 35 near railway yards; some now seen daily. (R.E.W.F.) Now widely distributed over volcanic plateau; but not yet at Taupo. (A.A., M.S.B.)

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*). Gisborne. 10/5/55. 1. (A.B.)

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). Piraka, Taumarunui, May '55, 2; Erua, 2 pairs. (A.McG.P.)

KOKAKO (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*). Moutoukai, Clevedon. Plentiful in some parts, but seems to have left some outer pieces of bush. (J.W.StP.) Kawhia, head of Kawaroa stream. Odd ones seen by R. H. Meredith. (W.S.S.) Reports based upon two specimens which reached the Auckland Museum (through Department of Internal Affairs) have established the presence of Kokakos in two areas: (1) heavily forested ranges about 6 miles to the west of Ngaruawahia, 3/7/53 (more were seen); (2) the large forest area of the Tutamoe Range, Waimatenui district, North Auckland, 29/8/53, 'on top of the range in dense scrubby bush'. (E.G.T.)

ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

Following a suggestion made at the Annual General Meeting and reported in *Notornis*, Vol. 6, No. 6, localities which are of especial interest because of the large numbers of migratory birds which visit them, have separate reports for themselves. It is hoped that this system of annual locality reports may be extended.

Records for the Firth of Thames were collated by H. R. McKenzie and R. B. Sibson. Manukau Harbour has been divided into three areas: (a) Upper Manukau, extending from Puhea Creek, and the Onehunga-Mangere Bridge to Otahuhu and Westfield; (b) Puketutu flats - Ihumatao; (c) Karaka-Weymouth-Puhinui (H.R.McK., D.A.U., R.B.S.).

REPORT FOR MIRANDA COAST, FIRTH OF THAMES

PIED SHAG. A few penetrate the Firth as far as Waitakaruru and Thames.

WHITE-FACED HERON. One near Waitakaruru on 3/4/55.

PARADISE DUCK. 1 female on Miranda pools 12/6/55.

SHOVELER. 1 female on pools 30/1/55. 1 male on Miranda creek 12/6/55.

BANDED RAIL. 1 pair seen with young just hatched, 10/9/55.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. c. 19 summered. By the end of January numbers were up to 300 and on 11/4/55 there were c. 640. 600 plus wintered.

- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER.** 12/12/54, 2 at Miranda; 1 at Kaiaua between 11/4/55 and 10/7/55.
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER.** 12 on 27/12/54. 39 on 27/2/55, of which 7 were in well advanced breeding dress.
- BANDED DOTTEREL.** The number of pairs breeding on this stretch of coast appears to be decreasing.
- NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL.** Kaiaua, 1954-55, present all year, up to 8. Nests found, 2/10/54, 3 eggs, later washed out; 14/11/54, 3 eggs, robbed later in day; 15/1/55, 3 eggs, chicks hatched and were ringed on 12/2/55. These three nests almost certainly belonged to the one pair. 14/11/54, beach to south, 1 egg, later disappeared. (H.R.McK. *et al.*)
- LARGE SAND DOTTEREL.** 1 was seen by many observers on a number of occasions between 9/11/54 and 27/2/55.
- WRYBILL.** c. 70 on 17/10/54 but only 20 are known to have summered. Migrants were already returning in December. Numbers on 1/1/55 were 180; and on 27/2/55, 2000 to 2500 were estimated to be present in two flocks. Most of these are likely to have wintered. c. 680 on 10/9/55.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW.** 1 on 12/6/55. 2 on 10/7/55; 1 seen eating crabs; later both flew and with much calling made passes at a harrier.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT.** Many thousands as usual through the summer. c. 1600 wintered.
- TEREK SANDPIPER.** 1 seen on a number of dates between 9 Nov. and 27 Dec. was probably the bird which wintered in 1954.
- TURNSTONE.** 5 on 2/10/54, 7 on 17/10/54 and 27/2/55, 2 on 11/4/55.
- KNOT.** The summer of 1954-55 was a very good one. The numbers ran into some thousands, perhaps 7000 at the peak. c. 1400 wintered.
- SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER.** 2 on 2/10/54. At least 3, perhaps 6, had returned to the pools by mid-October. 17 on 1/1/55 and 27/2/55. 8 on 3/4/55. 6 on 11/4/55. These lingered later than usual.
- AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER.** 1 was recorded on the usual pools several times between 9/11/54 and 12/2/55.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER.** 2 on 17/10/54 and 27/2/55, 1 pale, 1 reddening.
- RED-NECKED STINT.** 6 on 27/12/54, 4 on 11/4/55, 1 on 26/6/55 and 10/9/55.
- PIED STILT.** Several nests had full clutches of 4 by mid-September. There were the usual gatherings of non-breeders. In late summer there was the usual influx, but the numbers of wintering Stilts appeared to be considerably smaller than in previous years.
- ARCTIC SKUA.** 3 chasing White-fronted Terns off Miranda on 14/11/54.
- BLACK-BACKED GULL.** The two colonies at Kaiaua mangroves and Wrybill Reach are flourishing. Less successful are odd pairs which attempt to nest elsewhere.
- RED-BILLED GULL.** As usual a few remained throughout the summer. Plentiful in winter.
- BLACK-BILLED GULL.** c. 450 still present on 18/9/54, c. 54 on 2/10/54. 1 adult on 15/1/55, but by 11/4/55 c. 240 had returned. c. 400 on 28/5/55, 460 plus on 12/6/55, 580 plus on 26/6/55. On 10/7/55 there was a record count of c. 100 at Kaiaua and c. 900 at Miranda.
- CASPIAN TERN.** A few non-breeders remain for the summer. Winter numbers may run into hundreds. A young bird ringed as a nestling at South Kaipara Heads in November '54 was found dead at Miranda in winter '55.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN. There were three colonies. Near White Bridge 22 nests held one egg, and two nests two eggs each on 20/11/54. A big tide overwhelmed this colony. Near the now dismantled limeworks a small colony had started and two eggs were laid by 14/11/54. On 27/12/54 there were over 50 birds at this colony and at least 12 nests with eggs. At Wrybill Reach on the big shellbank 2 flying young of the year were seen on 27/12/54, perhaps the only survivors of the big tide; and there were 35 new nests, 34 with 1 egg and 1 with 2 eggs. Very few young were raised.

REDPOLL. 40 plus at Kaiua on 12/6/55.

MANUKAU - (a) UPPER MANUKAU

GANNET. 10/5/55, 20 plus above the bridge.

PIED SHAG. 8 on 30/10/54. 18 on 14/9/54 at Onehunga.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG. A flight of c. 30 Shags in line on 23/4/55 appeared to be of this species. On 6/5/55 there were c. 12 and on 10/5/55 9 on the breakwater at Puhea Creek. The status of this bird in Manukau is unknown.

LITTLE EGRET (*E. garzetta*) (v. *Notornis*, 5, 77). This bird, which evidently wintered in Upper Manukau, was last seen on 8/9/54. Mr P. A. A. Stein was informed that its regular night roost was in a narrow sheltered well-wooded gully below Hillsborough.

REEF HERON. 2 in Puhea Creek on 9/9/55. Not recorded in recent years above the bridge.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. Summering was proved for the second year, e.g. 29 on 31/10/54, 23 plus on 23/12/54. On 31/12/54 the high tide drove c. 30 up into a ploughed field near Tararata Creek. Numbers increased from January. 82 on 24/7/55. c. 150 on 10/8/55 was the biggest count so far for this area.

N.I. OYSTERCATCHER. One was present all summer, '54-'55, with S.I.P.O. 2 on 24/7/55 and 3 on 7/10/55.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER. 1 at Favona causeway on 24/11/54.

WRYBILL. Favona causeway. 5 on 23/12/55. 25 on 4/1/55. 4 on 13/2/55. 22 on 25/5/55. These birds are probably from the Puketutu flock. On 5/3/55 a high tide drove a flock of c. 50 over the high stone wall which surrounds Waikaraka Park, and they settled on the turf while cricket was being played. (J.C.D.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. 2000 plus summered; few were seen between the end of March and mid-September.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. One, probably Hudsonian (*haemastica*) was seen flying low at some distance at Harania Creek 30/10/54 and 24/3/55. The colour of the underwing could not be seen. The black and white tail was conspicuous.

KNOT. 3 on 31/10/54. 50 plus on 19/11/54. 120 plus on 22/12/54. 500 plus on 4/1/55, the largest flock so far recorded in this area. 200 plus on 24/3/55.

STILT. As usual some hundreds of non-breeders summered, e.g. 600 plus on 17/9/54 and 400 plus on 30/10/54. The winter population (1955) was 2500-3000. An almost black stilt was noted on 17/3/55 and 24/7/55.

BLACK-BACKED GULL. Great numbers of all ages are attracted by the outfall of meatworks, tanneries, etc.

RED-BILLED GULL. Winter numbers probably 10,000 plus.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN. 1 at Harania Creek at least from 30/10/54 to 24/3/55 (v. *Notornis*, 6, 159-160).