

**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 Kaiaua 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).

CASPIAN TERN. Usually a few.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN. A very rare bird here. One near the bridge on 25/4/54, the only one recorded in recent years.

#### MANUKAU — (b) PUKETUTU

ANTARCTIC PRION (*P. desolata*). 2 came ashore towards the end of May.

BLUE HERON. 3 present in April and May.

BANDED RAIL. Not infrequently seen near the approach to the causeway.

PIED OYSTERCATCHER. Odd birds were seen from time to time; the only big count being of c. 110 on 24/7/55. There was no permanent wintering flock here. Upper Manukau now seems to be preferred.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER. 4 on 4/1/55, 10 on 29/3/55.

BANDED DOTTEREL. c. 350 on 25/1/55, c. 80 on 11/6/55, 7/7/55 and 24/7/55, up in Ascot paddocks.

WRYBILL. 2 on 19/10/54 were in poor plumage. By 4/1/55, 48 had returned. On 25/1/55, 350 plus flew inland and settled very conspicuously on a recently ploughed paddock of rich red-brown soil near Ascot. Such behaviour is unusual. Not far away on short pasture was a flock of about the same size of Banded Dotterels. 440 on 13/2/55, c. 500 on 30/4/55. On 24/7/55 a count of 660 was checked by several observers. 600 plus were reported by H.R.McK. on 14/8/55.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. The first to be recorded in 16 years' watching was seen on 10/5/55.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. As usual numbers were at their greatest, 5000 plus in February and early March. Some hundreds wintered in 1955.

KNOT. As with Godwits, February and March are the peak months, e.g. 1000 plus 13/2/55 and c. 3000 on 2/3/55. Very few wintered.

TURNSTONE. 40 on 4/1/55, 5 on 13/2/55, 6 on 29/3/55.

RED-NECKED STINT. 1 found among the Wrybills on 30/4/55 stayed for the winter. It was last seen on 24/7/55.

PIED STILT. Few had returned by the end of January, c. 200 were back on 18/2/55; and the winter population as usual was c. 400. On 10/8/55 not a single Stilt could be seen.

CASPIAN TERN. Up to 20 juveniles were present throughout the spring. The usual influx began in December. On 13/2/55, 90 - 100 were counted. 60 plus wintered.

#### MANUKAU — (c) KARAKA - PUHINUI

GANNET. 10 plus in Papakura Creek on 7/5/55. As many as 60 have been reported fishing this long wide creek above the narrows at Weymouth.

WHITE HERON. Papakura Creek. Probably 2 wintered; 2 reported roosting in pine mid-May; 1 frequently seen July; 2 on 8/8/55. (H.R.McK.)

WHITE-FACED HERON. 2 appeared in mid-April. 1 seen on 8/7/55, up Wiri Creek. (D.H.B.) 4 at Karaka on 24/7/55.

S.I. OYSTERCATCHER. c. 70 summered '53-'54. 550 plus on 21/3/54. c. 125 on 11/12/54 were summering. 600 plus on 25/4/55.

N.I. OYSTERCATCHER. 2 (pied form) at Puhinui on 16/10/54. 2 (dark phase) on 24/7/55.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER. The Karaka coast remains a favoured locality. 8 on 11/10/53, 45 on 21/3/54, 36 on 3/4/54, 48 on 10/2/55.

BANDED DOTTEREL. A rare breeding bird in Manukau. 1 pair bred Oct. '53. 8 were about in Oct. '54. c. 80 on 21/3/54, c. 60 on 24/7/55.

N.Z. DOTTEREL. 1 to 4 usually to be seen on the Karaka shellbanks.

WRYBILL. The Karaka coast is now a stronghold of this species. 222 still present on 21/9/53; 92 on 11/10/53; 17 on 25/10/53 may have been summering. c. 440 on 3/4/54, c. 230 on 29/8/54; 8 on 11/12/54 were evidently summering. c. 515 on 10/4/55; c. 720 on 24/7/55 at the same time as c. 660 were being counted at Puketutu. 130 plus on 2/10/55.

ASIATIC WHIMBREL. 1 seen on 21/3/54, 29/8/54 and 26/9/54 may have wintered. 2 on 11/12/54.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. c. 1400 on 21/9/53, of which the majority had wintered. c. 4000 on 11/10/53, 6000 plus on 25/10/53. Many again wintered in 1954, e.g. c. 1000 on 29/8/54, c. 1700 on 26/9/54, 5000 plus on 18/10/54, c. 7000 on 11/12/54. 1000 plus wintered in 1955. 6000 plus on 2/10/55.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT. 1 seen on 10/7/55 and 3/9/55, probably *haemastica*, may well have been the same bird as seen twice in Upper Manukau.

TURNSTONE. 76 on 20/9/53. 130 plus on 11/10/53. Many present all summer. 120 plus on 21/3/54. 31 on 7/6/54. 50 plus on 29/8/54. 72 on 26/9/54. Probably some scores throughout summer. 24 on 7/5/55 were thought to be wintering, but none could be found on 10/7/55 or 24/7/55. 42 on 2/10/55.

KNOT. c. 300 on 3/4/54. 4000 plus on 10/2/55. c. 1250 on 10/4/55. c. 1000 on 25/4/55. c. 500 on 7/5/55, but only c. 50 are known to have wintered; and there were still only c. 50 on 2/10/55.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER. 1 on 21/9/53. 5 on 16/1/54.

RED-NECKED STINT. 1 on 10/7/55 and 2/10/55.

PIED STILT. Immature non-breeders on this coast tend to concentrate in Yates' Creek between September and December, e.g. 20 on 11/10/53. A winter count for the Karaka coast was 1420 on 24/7/55. But not a single Stilt could be found on 2/10/55, though there was a great gathering of other waders. Yates' Creek was not visited. c. 110 on 24/7/55 at Puhinui is a typical winter count for that coast. A smudgy Stilt not wholly black was seen on 24/7/55.

BLACK-BILLED GULL. 1 seen at Karaka shellbanks on 10/7/55. The only other Manukau record is of one at Puhinui September-October 1945.

CASPIAN TERN. A few dozen non-breeders remain during the breeding season. There is an influx in the New Year. 150 plus on 25/4/55 was an exceptional count for one roost.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN. A few usually come up the Channel into Papakura Creek in late summer and autumn and D.A.U. has seen as many as 100. c. 1500 on 24/7/55 at Clark's Beach was quite exceptional.