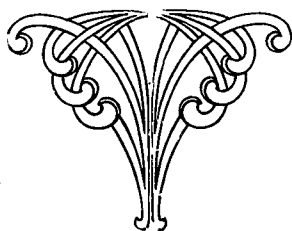


Vol. 2. No. 8.

April, 1948.

New Zealand Bird Notes



Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.

Published Quarterly.

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Edited by R. H. D. STIDOLPH, 114 Cole Street, Masterton.
Annual Subscription, 5/-. Life Membership, £5.
Price to non-members, 2/- per number.

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DENSITY OF PARADISE DUCK POPULATION IN THE MOLESWORTH STATION AREA.—A count of paradise duck (*Tadorna variegata*) from a truck between Molesworth Station homestead, 2,905 feet above sea level, to Tarndale, 3,350 feet, via Sexton Pass and along the Acheron, Sexton and Alma rivers, was taken by the writer on October 29, 1946. A distance of 26 miles, of which about 11-12 miles were along the riverbeds, was covered between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. The weather was fine, warm at noon in sunshine, with slight to moderate winds at times. The total number of paradise duck observed was 207, of which 47 were counted between Molesworth and Red Gate, 108 between Red Gate and Tarndale, and a flock of more than 52 birds was seen on Tarndale Flats. Of these 12 were single birds, 15 were in pairs while the remainder was in flocks from three to 52 birds. Obviously the majority of ducks were already mated with the exception of the large flock which may have been formed by immature birds. It should be remembered that the paradise duck in the beginning of the breeding season is frequently seen in trios, one duck accompanied by two drakes. It is likely that the majority of the paradise duck population was already in their respective breeding grounds. The density of the paradise duck population was about eight birds to a mile for the whole distance and about 17 birds to a mile of river flat.—K. A. Wodzicki, Wellington.