

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

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"The Nesting Activities of a Pair of Blackbirds," by I. Tily.

EDITORIAL.

After some delay, the next issue completes Volume I of the magazine. The editorial work through a number of difficult years has fallen mainly on the Editor, who has also carried the secretarial burden. With the cessation of hostilities it is hoped that a new era of activity may commence. It may even be possible to hold a representative Annual Meeting. The steady increase in membership has been encouraging and it should now be possible to relieve the original officers of the main duties. An enlargement of the magazine, inclusion of illustrations, and more regular issue is planned, and further suggestions from members would be welcomed.

Inclusion of a named list of the birds of New Zealand, compiled by Professor Marples, and issued as a supplement with this number, should prove useful to members.

R. A. F.

REVIEWS.

Jean Delacour and Ernst Mayr: "The Family Anatidae." *The Wilson Bulletin*, Vol. LVII, No. 1, March, 1945, pp. 3-55.

This important review by an experienced aviculturist and a leading systematist sets a new and high standard in taxonomy. The swans, geese and ducks of the world are reviewed and the old classification, with its many small genera, is replaced by more natural grouping. The most revolutionary change is the grouping of some 36 species of river ducks into the genus *Anas*. Thus, the various teal, widgeon, pintail and mallard are recorded as sub-divisions of one comprehensive genus. As far as New Zealand ducks are concerned the effect is to simplify the list, and this simplification is reflected in the new list provided by Professor Marples as a supplement to this issue of *New Zealand Bird Notes*. Much attention is given by the authors to factors