

## THE MAGPIE INVESTIGATION.

As stated in the last number, it has been decided to undertake a special study of the Australian Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca* and *G. tibicen*.) in New Zealand. Members are urged to reply as fully as possible to the questionnaire, and also to send in any further information subsequently obtained. Please send all information to L. W. McCaskill, Teachers' Training College, Christchurch, C.1.

1. Are magpies found in your district? If so, what kind—White Backed or Black Backed, or both?
2. Can you give an estimate of the number of birds in any stated area, e.g., river, valley, township, farm, etc.?
3. Do you consider the numbers are increasing, decreasing, or stationary?
4. What is the usual habitat of the birds, e.g., bush edge, pine plantation, park, school ground, etc.?
5. Have you any information as to when the birds arrived or were introduced?
6. What do you know of the nesting habits, e.g., date, number of broods, site, materials used, number of eggs, number of young reared?
7. Have you any information as to the feeding habits?
8. Do you consider that magpies have any harmful effects on other birds in your districts?
9. Have you any records of attacks by magpies on human beings?
10. Have you any other information not specifically asked for?

Write now before you forget, and answer as many of these questions as possible. If you know nothing of magpies, write stating the district in which they do not occur. We hope to get at least a post-card from **every member now**, and more information later. If you take a train journey, look out of the window on one side and count the magpies, noting the numbers between various stations. Record the date, time and weather. A number of transects like this would give valuable data on distribution. If you are interested in this method, which could be used for other species, and would like more information, don't hesitate to write and ask for it.

---

## ONE YEAR OF BIRD OBSERVATIONS AT WAIKANAE RIVER ESTUARY.

By A. A. Kirk and K. A. Wodzicki.

The Waikanae estuary has for a long time been an attractive spot for Wellington ornithologists for several reasons. Situated about 30 miles to the north of Wellington, it is accessible even during war time in spite of travel restrictions. The Waikanae River, flowing down from the southern part of Tararua Range, is much smaller than the