

"Whero, Island of Sea Birds," by L. E. Richdale; 16 pages, 7 photos. (Issued by the author, 23 Skibo Street, Dunedin. Price, 2/-.) Two pamphlets by Mr. Richdale have already been reviewed in these pages, and with the third the author states that they are to form the first parts of a volume on wild life in New Zealand to be completed by subsequent publications. Such popularly written but accurate accounts of different birds will form a valuable addition to our bird books, and as they are illustrated with such excellent photographs the full set when bound should form a handsome volume. The present booklet gives a short account of the island, which is 50 yards across and has 17 species of plants and 23 of birds, and of the life on it of the observer. Brief accounts of the life histories of four of the petrels are also given.

B. J. M.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MAGPIE INVESTIGATION.

In reply to the questionnaire in N.Z. Bird Notes, 15 replies have been received from members. Some exceedingly valuable information has thus been obtained, but the coverage is not sufficiently great to enable a satisfactory report to be produced. Please send in your notes even though it is just a statement that the birds occur or do not occur in your district.

In an attempt to map distribution more definitely than can be done from present information, 1600 students in the various teachers' training colleges have been approached and asked to answer any or all of the questions in the questionnaire.

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WINTER FEEDING OF BIRDS.

This subject, I venture to suggest, may reveal certain interesting facts worth while recording if what I recorded this last winter is any guide and can be confirmed by other observers.

Not having the Little Blue Penguin as usual to devote attention to, I diverted attention to observing what foods the birds visiting my garden would take during the winter months, and obtained what appear to me to be surprising results.

Below is a table of the food distributed and of the birds that took it:—

Food.	Taken by.
1. Ordinary mixed bird seed	Hedge Sparrow, House Sparrow, Blackbird, Greenfinch, Yellow Hammer.
2. Whole barley - - -	House Sparrow for certain, but not certain which others.
3. Polished rice - - -	House Sparrow, Blackbird. Probably others. Surely something unusual for the Blackbird.
4. Unpolished rice - - -	Same as above.
5. Crushed polished rice	House Sparrow, Hedge Sparrow, Finches. Did not notice if Blackbirds took it.