

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Ornithological Society
of New Zealand.

Edited by Professor B. J. MARPLES and Dr. R. A. FALLA.

Address communications to Professor Marples, The Museum, Dunedin.

Annual subscription, 5/- . Price to non-members, 2/- per number.

Vol. 1—No. 9.

Issued July, 1945.

CONTENTS.

Reviews.

"Some Observations on the South Island Pied Oyster-catcher in Auckland."

By R. B. Sibson.

"The White-faced Heron." By B. A. Ellis.

"A Blackbird Nesting Story." By H. R. McKenzie.

REVIEWS.

"*EMU*," Vol. XLIV, part 4, April, 1945.

The last quarterly number is again deserving of notice for a number of articles of particular interest to New Zealand students.

K. A. Hindwood, in "The Fleshy-footed Shearwater (*Puffinus carneipes*)," describes late summer observation of small flocks off the coast of New South Wales and discusses the possibility that the birds may belong to the nearest breeding population at Lord Howe Island, 450 miles distant, the alternative being that they are non-breeders.

B. J. Marples, in "*Zosterops lateralis* at Dunedin, New Zealand," deals with the weight, size, colour, etc., of white-eyes trapped and ringed since 1938, a total of 1407 birds. This paper is not only model of method in examining trapped birds and in recording results, but extends our knowledge of the species in several directions that have not already been covered by Fleming's ("Emu," 1943) life history study and the movement and migration records made by members of this Society (1944), which were also based on trapping methods.

Results of weight studies are presented in tables and by graphs, and comparison made with the wider works of Baldwin and Kendeigh (1938) on North American Birds show close similarity in that maximum mean weight is reached in mid-winter, there is regular diurnal fluctuation and some indication of inverse correlation with the mean daily temperature. It is shown that white-eyes moult twice a year, that males appear on the average to be slightly larger than females, but that there is no sexual variation in winter plumage. A very interesting section deals with the colour variation in plumages, and three variants are distinguished. This gives a useful basis for future work, and when an equivalent study of the summer plumages of the white-eye can be undertaken the species will have been the most completely studied of New Zealand land-birds.

R. H. D. Stidolph, in "Breeding of Grey Teal in New Zealand," fills an erstwhile regrettable, almost disgraceful, gap in our knowledge of the elementary life histories of New Zealand ducks. The paper