

are problems which require more data, in other years and at other gannetries, for their solution.

GANNETS OF THE THREE KINGS (Vol. 2, No. 6, p. 130).—Correction: It was stated that there were no nesting colonies of gannets or gulls on West King, North-east King and Great King. Actually, there are several very large breeding colonies of red-billed gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*) on Great King.—G. A. Buddle.

MAHUKI GANNETRY, GREAT BARRIER.—(Vol. 2, No. 6, plate 1) The lower photograph was taken on 28/2/34, and not on 28/11/34 as stated.

NUMBER OF KEAS.—The following figures, supplied by courtesy of the Department of Internal Affairs, whose permission I have to publish them, were compiled by the Department of Agriculture from the amount of the subsidy paid to county councils and represent the number of keas (*Nestor notabilis*) destroyed on which bounties were claimed. Figures are given for 1943, 1944 and 1945 in that order, followed by the total in each case:—Nelson: Waimea C.C., nil, nil, 84, 84. Marlborough: Marlborough C.C., nil, nil, 49, 49. Westland: Westland C.C., 175, 387, 757, 1319. Canterbury: Amuri C.C., 246, 57, 58, 361; Tawera C.C., nil, 6, 96, 102; Selwyn C.C., 59, 93, 160, 312; Ashburton C.C., 77, 27, 166, 270; McKenzie C.C., nil, nil, 255, 255. Otago: Waitaki C.C., 122, nil, 139, 261; Vincent C.C., 592, 207, 265, 1064; Lake C.C., 1059, 888, 795, 2742. Totals: 2330, 1665, 2824, 6819.—J. M. Cunningham.

BIRDS AT HALKETT.—Birds recorded at Halkett, Canterbury, 15-18 miles west of Christchurch (see classified notes for scientific names): Observed in the district every day: Black-backed gull, blackbird, chaffinch, circl bunting (?), goldfinch, greenfinch, harrier, hedge-sparrow, white-backed magpie, little owl, pipit, Californian quail, redpoll, rock pigeon, skylark, sparrow, starling, thrush, yellow-hammer. Seen seasonally or occasionally: Black-billed gull, Canadian goose, Caspian tern, fantail, grey warbler, kingfisher, pheasant, pied stilt, black shag, black swan, black-fronted tern, white-eye, grey duck, rook, banded dotterel. Seen rarely: Pukeko, shining cuckoo. Birds that fly in late afternoon or evening towards Waimakariri River bed from paddocks: Black-backed gull, black-billed gull, white-backed magpie, Caspian tern, black-fronted tern, Canadian goose, sometimes grey duck and black swan.—Halkett School Group.

CRESTED GREBE IN SALT WATER.—This morning, 30/10/47, I was surprised to see a crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*) swimming and diving in the Heathcote Estuary. The bird swam with the outgoing tide for about 50 yards, doing an occasional dive, and then swam back, passing within twenty yards of me and performed a dive right in front of myself and a neighbour. Its crest was bright chestnut when viewed from the front and the bird looked to be in good condition. There had been three days of strong southerly wind, with a very cold atmosphere and almost continuous rain—this no doubt was responsible for this most unusual visitor. Dr. R. A. Falla can find no previous record of grebes in salt water in New Zealand.—G. Guy, Christchurch.