

attention to the problems which require study in New Zealand. We are in the fortunate position here of having a practically virgin field on which to work, and the experience of the northern hemisphere to guide us. To mention three striking examples, of which maps are given in the book. There are six sub-species of Wren in Great Britain and the adjacent islands, and a similar state of affairs is found here with the Tui and other birds. There are two forms of the Common Guillemot in the North Atlantic, one common in the south, the other in the north. We have several dimorphic species, such as the Fantails, pied and black; but their relative numbers have not yet been worked out. The Northern Gannet is the only numerous bird whose world population is anything like well-known. Our Southern Gannet is very similar, but no survey of its breeding-colonies has yet

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been made. These are only three of a number of problems discussed by Mr. Fisher which should give a lead to bird watchers in New Zealand, and his book as a whole should prove a great help to our Society in getting to work along modern lines.

B.J.M.

SUMMARIZED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*). Once on Ruahines. No recent reports except on Whareti, over 10 years ago. (C.A.F.). Kukumui Hills, south of Whangarei. Pair caught in a hole, winter 1940. Often heard. Tangihua Mts. S.W. of Whangarei, very common. (W.S.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Chaslands Beach, 1938. (J.J.)

CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes* sp.). Te Wae Wae Bay, 1937. (J.J.)

BIG CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes sclateri*). Adult male commencing moult, New Brighton Beach, 21/4/41. Sub-adult female (?) completed moult, Avonside, Christchurch, May, 1940. At sea about 50 miles off south Canterbury coast, May, 1941, shoals totalling many hundreds, swimming and porpoising. 2 adults full plumage including tail, stained with oil waste, Sumner, 29/6/41. (R.A.F.) Cape Campbell, Marlborough. 11/7/40. Two seen. (L.B.M.).

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). Young one under 10 days old, found at Nelson 4/1/41. (P.M.). One found dead North Brighton, 1/1/41. Adults moulting in nesting burrows have been killed by dogs, bodies found Feb., 1941. (R.A.F.). Mahina Bay, Wellington. Further notes on the nest site already described in the "Emu," Sept.-Oct., 1940. Male killed on the day the first egg was laid. Eggs laid Sept. 3rd and 5th. Female sat for 16 days. Left that night and did not return till the following night. It went on sitting and leaving the nest spasmodically till the 38th day. Left that night and did not return. The incubation period on the two previous occasions was 38 days. (E.W.H.). Motuihi Island. 2 dead birds Feb.-March, 1941. (P.C.B.).

WHITE-FLIPPERED PENGUIN (*Eudyptula albosignata*). Nesting grounds at Diamond Harbour examined by Mr. G. Guy. Numbers as usual and other nesting areas discovered, Nov., 1940. (R.A.F.).

CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*). L. Fergus, Eglinton Valley, 12/1/41. A pair with a small riding youngster. At the other end of the lake was another adult behaving as if it might have a sitting mate. (R.B.S.).

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*). Ward Baths, Rotorua, 6. Blue Lake, several; Hamurana, 2; Okere, 4. Other parts of Rotoiti, 6; Rotoehu 1; Rotoma, 7; Okataina, several; all April, 1941. (C.A.F.). L. Fergus, Eglinton Valley, 12/1/41. A pair with a small riding youngster. Roto-ngaio, L. Taupo Lagoon, 25/3/40, 1 pair. Pouto Pools, N. Kaipara, c. 40 birds mostly in pairs on pools hidden among sand-dunes and the beginning of grass-land. May, 1941. (R.B.S.). Ohau Channel, Jan. 1940, 3 pairs, one pair with 2 well-grown young living in the channel. Rere-whakaitu, 9/11/40, several pairs seen, 2 recently washed-out nests, one

with a single egg remaining. L. Okaro, 6/11/40, 2 pairs, one with young (G.A.B.).

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DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*). Occasionally killed by flying into lights at Stewart Island. Jan., 1941 (R.B.S.). Poor Knights, small colony, Nov., 1940, well-grown chick visited by both parents but not together. (P.C.B.).

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*). Wanaka, 2/3/41. One found alive in a garage. Female. The stomach contained some seeds, probably from the lake. (B.J.M.).

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*). Several seen close inshore in thick fog, east coast of Stewart Island, Jan., 1941. (R.B.S.). Poor Knights, Nov., 1940, single adult found ashore on Aorangi. (P.C.B.).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*). Nelson Harbour, 18/10/40. One appeared after a northerly gale, apparently in good condition. (P.M.). A few seen between Halfmoon Bay and Pegasus, Stewart Island, Jan., 1941. (R.B.S.).

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*). Female, white phase, found dead at Dory Beach, S. Canterbury, May, 1941. (R.A.F.). The colony in Port Pegasus is flourishing. (R.B.S.). Whangarei Harbour, Oct., 1940. Single bird during easterly gales. (W.S.).

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*). 5 adults picked up dead, New Brighton Beach, 10/8/40. About 100 immature specimens dead on New Brighton Beach, 1/1/41 (R.A.F.). Petrels, presumably of this species, flew round lights in foggy weather in Jan. on Stewart Island. They were continually calling ye-ye-ye-ye-er. (R.B.S.). No sign of this species on Whero after 2/1/39 and 1/1/41. Those seen between Dec. 26 and last record were only a few remaining chicks. (L.E.R.).

SALVIN'S PRION (*Pachyptila salvini*). 1 corpse, W. coast near Dargaville, 7/5/41. (R.B.S.).

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*). A few seen just outside Wellington Harbour, 23/12/39 and 28/12/40. 1 corpse Bethels, 15/4/41; 2 corpses near Dargaville, 7/5/41. (R.B.S.). Whero Island, Dec.-Jan., plentiful. (L.E.R.). Poor Knights, Nov., 1940. Breeding in vast numbers all over Aorangi, from the boulders along north shore to clefts in rocky peaks. Most had young chicks; odd eggs seen. Adults come in from 8.15 p.m. One parent remains during day if chick is very young. Often only one parent at nest up to 11 p.m. Captured adults vomit pink substance with colourless shrimp-like organisms. (P.C.B.).

PRION sp. Nelson. After a terrific storm one was seen floating exhausted at Astrolabe. Possibly storm-bound from Stephen Island where they breed. Not usual to see them on the Astrolabe side of Nelson Bay (P.M.). Otago Harbour, 19/10/40, 3 seen in the mouth of the Otago Harbour. (L.E.R.). Dozen off Sandfly Beach within 50 yards of shore, 28/10/40. 13/10/40 several in Otago Harbour mouth, diving right under and ducking head under while flying. None swimming with head under. Gradually disappeared at 3 p.m. 27/10/40, one seen.

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*). Several seen in Cook Strait 23/12/39 and 28/12/40. A few, Bay of Islands, 15/5/41. 2 corpses, juvenile, one with wing only 250 m.m., Pakiri, 22/5/41. (R.B.S.).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*). A few seen at sea in North Canterbury Bight, 29/4/41. (R.A.F.). 3 corpses, May 7th, west coast near Dargaville; 2 corpses, Ngunguru, 18/5/41; 1 corpse, Ruakaka, 19/5/41.

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Average wing of six birds 299 m.m. (varying between 295 and 306). (R.B.S.). Colonies on Aorangi and Tewhiti Rahi (Poor Knights). Adults

on fresh eggs, Nov. 30; often 2 adults together in burrow in day. (P.C.B.)

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*). Numerous on North Brighton and adjacent beaches in Nov.-Dec. and Jan., 1940-41. (R.A.F.). Huge numbers round Stewart Island in mid-Jan. In foggy weather they were sitting on the sea in solid rafts off the Breaksea Islands, and on Jan. 27th, a stream of them, probably running into hundreds of thousands, passed S.E. off the Bluff. Foveaux Strait was almost dead calm. A few on May 6th off Kaipara Heads going north. None seen on subsequent days. 6 corpses only on 50 miles of beach. (R.B.S.). Taieri I., 17/1/41. New holes being dug. One egg chipping. 25/2/41, 3.30 a.m. Watched two birds sitting on the ground, both calling loudly and rubbing their heads together, sometimes one putting its head under the other's chin. Presently one mounted the other and appeared to copulate, being on only a few seconds. After it descended the lower bird moved off a foot or two, stood straight up, but still, I think, with the tarsi on the ground, and flapped its wings quickly but softly for two or three seconds. They resumed calling and head-rubbing and then the lower bird went into an adjacent burrow. The upper bird moved to another burrow and called loudly with another bird whose head was just visible within. After a pause it followed the original lower bird into its burrow, and less violent calling was to be heard within. They remained in the burrow at least until all the other birds had left (by 4.30) as proved by a fence of sticks placed across the hole, so, presumably, all day. (B.J.M.)

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). One came ashore alive but enfeebled at N. Kaipara, on 6/5/41. Another found dead 7/5/41, wing 265 m.m. (R.B.S.).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*). Nelson. Do not occur in the vicinity of Astrolabe in the months of December and Jan. On Feb. 12th they first reappeared in parties of half-a-dozen sitting on the water. In all, about 300 on 18/4/41. They were reported to be thick on the water and to have young birds amongst them. (P.M.). 2 corpses, North Brighton 1/1/41. (R.A.F.). Abundant in Cook Strait, especially near land, 23/12/39. Forsyth and Chetwode Islands and S. of French Pass, 28/12/40. Entrance to Tory Channel and for two or three miles up Queen Charlotte Sound, 2/2/41, 1 just inside the entrance to Wellington Harbour. 6/5/41 1 corpse N. Kaipara Hds. 14-23/5/41 thousands in the Bay of Islands and along the Hauraki Gulf coast off Ngunguru, Ruakaka, Mangawai, Pakiri. Often as close inshore as to be over the breakers. (R.B.S.). Poor Knights, nesting high on rock faces. Full-grown downy young, Nov., 1940. Adults arrive after 8.30 p.m. (P.C.B.).

BLACK PETREL (*Procellaria parkinsoni*). Hokitika, 1/1/41. Adult found alive. Punakaiki, 27/1/41. Another adult found alive. (R.A.F.)

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*). Lyttelton Harbour, 22/11/40. Bird found exhausted. (R.A.F.). One youngster almost ready to leave the nest and showing scarcely any trace of down found in a burrow on Terakihi, off Waiheke, 23/12/40. Probably some scores of nests on this small island. (R.B.S.). Poor Knights, one adult flew ashore 1/12/40. (P.C.B.).

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WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*). 1 corpse, N. Kaipara Heads 6/5/41. (R.B.S.).

MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpecta*). A biggish grey petrel, possibly this, glimpsed in fog off the E. coast of Stewart Island, Jan. 1941. 3 corpses, 1 Bethels, 13/4/41, 2 W. coast near Dargaville, 7/5/41. Wings 260, 257, 265 m.m. (R.B.S.).

COOK'S PETREL (*Pterodroma cooki*). A distinctive, rather high-pitched call was heard several times on an islet off Stewart Island where *P. griseus* were coming in in thousands. It may have been Cook's Petrel. The call was ti-ti-ti-ti. (R.B.S.).

PYCROFT'S PETREL (*Pterodroma pycrofti*). Aorangi Island, Poor Knights, Nov., 1940. Often heard in small numbers. One caught to establish identity. (P.C.B.).

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*). 4 or 5 juveniles in Cook Strait, 18/12/40. (R.B.S.).

ROYAL ALBATROSS (*Diomedea epomophora*). 1 white albatross with black in the wings, may have been this species, Tasman Bay, 23/12/40, 1 almost certainly a Royal just outside Half Moon Bay, Stewart Island, 24/1/41. (R.B.S.).

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche melanophrys*). Immature, just fledged, picked up at Gebbie's Valley, 15/4/41. (R.A.F.).

BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche bulleri*). Several swimming and flying near the wharf, Port Chalmers, 1/6/41. (R.A.F.). Common in Jan. off Stewart Island. Generally gives way to the larger *T. cauta*. (R.B.S.).

WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche cauta*). 3 or 4 Cook Strait, 28/12/40. Common round Stewart Island in Jan., especially near fishing-boats. Corpses: 1 at Muriwai with a fish-hook in its mouth and line attached, 27/4/41; 1 N. Kaipara, 6/5/41. (R.B.S.). 1 corpse, Otago Heads, 19/2/41, wing 670 m.m., culmen (tip to feathers) 132 m.m. (B.J.M.).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). In six months in S. Hawkes Bay every Black Shag seen was noted. Though anglers report this species as abundant in the Manawatu and other trout streams, there were only 42 recorded in this area, and less than 100 in the whole district. Odd birds seen at Kumeroa, Mangatiwainui, Mangatainoka, Dannevirke, Manga-puaka, Wanstead, Purimu Lake, Blackhead (coast) and lakes behind Blackhead. Flocks (over 12) at Manawatu near Tamaki Junction and north of Kumeroa, where there are regular roosting-places, and at Poanui, N. of Pourerere, where, on 23/5/41, numbers of birds had fine white flank patches and were making regular trips with nesting-material from Poanui to a point at least 2 miles north, where undoubtedly there is a nesting-colony. A further colony is reported at Hatuma Lake, south of Wai-pukurau. Muriwai counts throughout 1940 show scarcity from April to September, suggesting that this period covers the breeding-season. (C.A.F.). Nelson. 24/5/41, 2 or 3 hundred passed from the direction of the Waimea Plains towards Wellington. They flew in V-formations, eight birds in each. 23/6/41. A large number appeared in the morning, apparently from the direction of Wellington, rested on the rocks and water for a short time

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and then departed. (P.M.). Ruakaka (J.J.). Glenary, Waikaia, 15/2/41, 8 seen (E.W.C.). Starlings and Black Shags roosting together on the cliffs at S. Hokianga Hds. Common at Gisborne, e.g., 12 on the jetty. (R.B.S.). Rangitaiki R., not common. (J.J.).

PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius*). Astrolabe, Nelson, 19/1/41, 1 immature arrived and fished off the bays for a few weeks. (P.M.). Thinly distributed Aug.-Sept. along Bay of Plenty-Matata-East Cape. Beach count, N. Kaipara to Maunganui Bluff, 15, 7-8/5/41. Not uncommon about Hokianga Hds. (R.B.S.). Motuihi Island, often seen singly; Poor Knights, 1 seen Nov., 1940. (P.C.B.).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*). Single bird, Panmure Basin, 16/8/40. (C.A.F.). Several in Whakatane River, e.g., 7 together 7/9/40. Matata Lagoon, 1; Hakanoa Lake, Waikato, 3/11/40. My diary reads, "Moving about the lake was a flock of c. 60 of these birds, doing massed diving. Occasionally, those at the rear of the group would fly 20yds. or so to get to the front. Most remarkable was the way the flock kept together as it methodically fished the whole water." The same characteristic massed fishing has been observed in Australia. (v. Emu, Vol. 38, p. 362. Serventy. Notes on Cormorants.) (R.B.S.).

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*). Southern Hawke's Bay (1940-41). Manawatu, very few. Mangatoro, about 6 seen. Few at Wanstead and Porangahau. Only one bird, in perhaps a dozen seen, showed signs of whiteness on the belly. (C.A.F.). The proportion of the white-throated to the little-pied at Pouto Pools, N. Kaipara, was about 6 or 7 to 1. At Waipu, about 3 or 4 to 1. White-throated were found to be well distributed along the Bay of Plenty coast, especially at river estuaries. A few little-pied were also seen. (R.B.S.). Riverhead. (J.J.)

STEWART ISLAND AND BRONZE SHAGS (*Phalacrocorax chalconotus*). 19/10/40, 44 seen on rocks at Taiaroa Head; many were juvenals. Others had rudimentary nests and some neck-twining was taking place; none of the nests came to anything. (L.E.R.). Exceptionally large numbers on channel marks in Otago Harbour and about two dozen (both plumages) on roosting cleft in Taiaroa Head, May, 1941. (R.A.F.).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*). Bethel's, 14/4/41. c. 30 were visible on the cliffs. They were in good fresh plumage. 2 seen flying past Tarakihi, off Waiheke, 23/12/40. Oamaru, 29/1/41, 3 on harbour rocks. (R.B.S.). Whangarei, 1 reported seen Nov., 1940 (W.S.). Taiari Island, 25/1/41, several roosting. (B.J.M.).

BLUE SHAG (*Stictocarbo steadi*). Several seen at Port Pegasus, 24/1/41. (R.B.S.).

GANNET (*Morus serrator*). Feeding offshore at Blackhead, Southern Hawke's Bay, May, 1941. (C.A.F.). Frequently seen at Astrolabe in December. (P.M.). 2 adults fishing off Sumner, 25/5/41. 1 adult fishing in Otago Harbour, 1/6/41. (R.A.F.). Common off-shore all round N. Auckland and Bay of Plenty coast. Occasionally above Onehunga Bridge, Manukau. Stewart Island, where they are scarce: 1 at head of Paterson's Inlet 21/1/41, 2 in Half Moon Bay, 23/1/41. (R.B.S.). Taiari Beach, 12/1/41. Very strong and cold off-shore wind. Many birds in the river mouth, including about 100 gannets, all adult. When first seen they were

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resting on the water, but later they flew, and dived actively in one spot. (B.J.M.). Whangarei Harbour, Jan., 1941. Numerous adults and one immature. (W.S.). Motuihi Island, often off-shore in small numbers. Poor Knights; odd birds fishing; large colony on Sugarloaf to south. (P.C.B.).

PARADISE DUCK (*Casarca variegata*). Rare in Manawatu watershed; recorded Kumeroa (pair) and Upper Manawatu near Norsewood (dead male). Much commoner in Tukituki and east coast drainage systems, e.g., Takapau Plains, Waipukurau, Waipawa, Purimu Lake (several), Upper Purakaitai (pair), Lower Purakaitai (6), Porangahau Harbour (c. 32), Pourerere (pair), Clareinch Sta., near Mangakuri (3). (C.A.F.). Common at Manapouri and up the Eglinton Valley. (R.B.S.).

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*). Not abundant in the Manawatu watershed, more so in the east coast systems (e.g., Porangahau). The region is, on the whole, poor in standing water and many areas of water lack breeding cover. Hamurana, Rotorua, 14/4/41, over 400. (C.A.F.). Levin, Fairly common. A few days after the shooting season commences, the centre of Lake Horowhenua (a sanctuary) is black with resting birds. 1/6/41. Again inspected, not as many as on former occasions. 2/6/41, 50 counted as the flock rose from Buller Lake. (H.J.W.). Believed to be decreasing near Nelson. On a dam where there used to be a lot in winter now only a few pairs are observed. (P.M.). Skull Creek, Whangarei, Aug., 1940, 3 pairs nested. Whangarei Harbour Sanctuary, May, 1941, about 120. June, about 140 (W.S.). Rangitaiki River, not common (J.J.)

GREY TEAL (*Querquedula gibberifrons*). Hamurana, 14/4/41, 1 definitely seen, possibly 2 more. The Curator of Fish and Game at Rotorua reports confirmed presence at Rotomahana, Rerewhakitū and Reparoa. (C.A.F.). 1 accidentally shot, Lake Ellesmere, 7/5/41. (R.A.F.).

BROWN DUCK (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*). Said to have disappeared from Wanstead region "many years before the Great War, 1914." (C.A.F.) A small family party feeding in the kelp at Ulva, Stewart Is., Jan., 1940. (R.B.S.). Skull Creek, Whangarei, 1940, 6 families located. Ducklings in down in mid-Jan., 1941. Many in the sanctuary bordering the main road near Waipu. (W.S.).

SHOVELLER (*Spatula rhynchotis*). Fairly well distributed though not in large numbers. Records from Kumeroa, half a mile N. of Manawatu Gorge, Oruakeritaki River, Purimu Lake, Hamurana, 14/4/41; 24 drakes coming into plumage, most accompanied by ducks. (C.A.F.). c. 20 on shallow pools, Te Puia, E. Cape. 1 pair, Matata Lagoon, Bay of Plenty, Sept., 1940. 3/11/40 during a day's searching on the Waikato Lakes, the only water where Shoveller were seen was L. Whangape, on which were 2 pairs and 3 males. (R.B.S.).

SCAUP (*Fuligula novaeseelandiae*). Seems to have disappeared from the Wanstead region (S. Hawke's Bay) "many years before 1914." Rotorua, 13/4/41, more than 480, Hamurana 17, Okere 11, other parts of Rotoiti, more than 80, in four flocks. (C.A.F.). Small flock up to 14 birds Victoria Lake, Christchurch, April-May, 1941. (R.A.F.). Lake Hayes, 9/1/41, c. 70. Many females with broods, the largest being 6, most broods only 2 or 3. Lake Wakatipu, Queenstown, c. 50 very tame. Frankton, a few including

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a brood of 6. L. Fergus, Eglinton Valley, a party of 12 on Jan. 12th. Pouto Pools, N. Kaipara. One pool had over 60 and another 25 in mid-May. Other possible pools not visited. Obviously a strong colony here. (R.B.S.).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*). Though several suitable streams in the Ruahine Ra. were traversed to their headwaters, no Blue Duck were seen. Residents report them as still present in parts of the range and less definite reports come from the streams of the Waewaepa Ra., S. Hawke's Bay. (C.A.F.). Karioi, 1928 (J.J.).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Reported Wanstead, Hawke's Bay, May, 1941. Several dozen on L. Rotorua, April, 1941. (C.A.F.)

BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*). Some hundreds appeared in Nelson Haven on July 20th. (P.M.) Noted at Purimu Lake and plentiful at Hatuna Lake. Cygnets in down, Rotorua, 14/4/41 (C.A.F.). Dunedin. Tomahawk Lagoon, 10/2/41, two; 24/2/41, three; 28/6/41, two, one black, the other with belly, tail and body under the wings white, the rest black. (L.G.).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*). Adult already in breeding plumage, Rakaia River, 1/7/40. (R.A.F.) Glenary, Waikaia, 1-19/12/40. Eggs and young in various stages. The birds will swoop and knock the hats off intruders. (E.W.C.). Muriwai, 10/3/40, five; 17/11/40, one. All off-plumage. (C.A.F.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Mangowai breeding-station, 24/11/40, in two colonies, first mainly eggs, some newly-hatched chicks. The older colony had been flooded, many rotten eggs present, a dozen fledged young had survived from the first hatching, a few fresh eggs and newly hatched chicks from later attempts. Approx. 170 pairs, i.e., same as 1939. Rotorua, 14/4/41, 8 or more. Muriwai, 1940. Regular counts show odd birds up the beach all the year, especially near Kaipara Heads. A maximum in the breeding-season suggests the proximity of an unrecorded colony. S. Hawke's Bay, odd birds on the coast from Porangahau to Pouerere. A few reach Waipawa up the Tukituki River. (C.A.F.). Distributed all along the Bay of Plenty coast, coming up rivers and creeks. Only 1 seen at Gisborne in Sept. L. Waikare, Waikato. 1 on Nov. 3rd, an interesting inland record. In winter 30-50 may regularly be seen in Manukau at high tide, resting on shingle spits near Pukitutu I. Beach counts: Pouto, N. Kaipara to Maunganui Bluff, May 6-7, 26. Waipoua R. to

Hokianga Heads, May 10th, 10. Rawene, Hokianga, 10 at full tide on reclaimed flats. Distributed all along the Hauraki Gulf coast. At Mataitai, near Clevedon, the unusually large assemblage of more than 84 was seen on July 12th on a shingle spit at full tide. (R.B.S.). Oamaru, 25/8/40, Two seen. (B.J.M.). Mangawai, 21/10/40. Colony of 3-400 nesting this year at the S. end of the beach. No young yet hatched. Little change in the condition of this colony during the last 5 years, and according to reports it is much the same as it was 60 years ago. (G.A.B.). Mata colony, Whangarei. About 120 adults in Aug. Nesting site swamped at high tide. All but 12 pairs left in Dec. 30/12/40-8/1/41, 18 eggs hatched and 3 unhatched when a gale swamped the site. All but three young ones rescued and replaced later. In another storm 5 were rescued, one other survived the storm, the rest were drowned. (W.S.). Motuihi Island several often seen. (P.C.B.).

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FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*). Mangowai, 24/11/40. Pair, aggressive to other birds, making mating flights and frequenting a scrape.— (C.A.F.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*). Odd birds only on the E. coast between Porangahau and Purerere, Southern Hawke's Bay. Mangowai, 24/11/40, no colonies found. Muriwai. Regular counts 1940 show abundance after the breeding season, minimum during breeding-season, winter numbers varying but greatest during westerly gales. Young still demanding food June 30th (C.A.F.). Manukau Heads, 17/4/40, c. 80 Aug.-Sept., 1940. Very few seen along Bay of Plenty coast between Matata and E. Cape. Over 60 on jetty at Gisborne. Beach counts: N. Kaipara Heads, 6/5/41, c. 250. On the following days only about 40 seen between there and Maunganui Bluff. Waipoua R. to Waimamuka R. Over 96. A few off Hokianga Heads. Much commoner off the Hauraki Gulf coast, Bay of Islands to Pakiri, May. (R.B.S.). Shag Point, 25/4/41. Many sitting on the rocks. (B.J.M.). Motuihi Id. Up to 30 seen, Feb., Mar. Poor Knights, Nov., 1940, seen but not found breeding. (P.C.B.).

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*). Adults and immature up the Manawatu as far as the Tamaki Stream junction, and up the Tukituki at least as far as Takapau. Abundant along the coast from Purerere to Blackhead, S. Hawke's Bay, summer, 1940-41. Muriwai. Regular counts, 1940, show two peaks of abundance, before and after the breeding-season, suggesting passage. Residents laid about Nov. 17th. Mangowai, 24/11/40. One fresh egg. Rotorua, 14/4/41, a dozen or so. (C.A.F.). Hilderthorpe, N. Otago. Come up from the Waitaki R. to the coast in the morning and return in the evening. (C.W.McL.). Nelson, Several attempted to breed on launches. (P.M.). Taieri Id. Many gulls' nests. 17/1/41, only 8 fledglings still unable to fly. (B.J.M.). Motuihi Id., Numbers rose 12 to 100. Feb.-Mar. Poor Knights, Nov., 1940, one pair. (P.C.B.).

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*). Rotorua, 14/4/41, over 400, many immature. S. Hawkes Bay. Not common between Porangahau and Purerere. (C.A.F.). Port Nelson, very common. Not in the vicinity of Astrolabe though a few follow the fishing boats. They are much fed and are very tame at Nelson. One seen with a thin projection hanging down below the lower mandible, of the same colour and texture as the bill. Photographed. (Appears to be due to tearing of throat with fish-hook. Eds.) (P.M.). Motuihi, numbers rose 0 to 180 Feb.-Mar. Poor Knights, Nov., 1940, 50 to 100 regularly but not breeding. (P.C.B.).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*). Rotorua, 14/4/41. Less than 15, none immature. (C.A.F.). Winter flocks frequenting Victoria Square, Christchurch, have considerably increased during the winter. (R.A.F.). An interesting find on the Bay of Plenty coast in Sept., 1940, was this species as follows:—Mouth of the Rangitaiki R., 1 pair which showed aggressiveness and attempted to keep a little sand-spit clear of Red-bills. Mouth of Tarawera R., one pair. On the next day, two—possibly

a pair—were seen at Matata Lagoon. Common at Oamaru in Jan. Queenstown, 10/1/41, c. 40. Common in the rivers south of L. Wakatipu. (R.B.S.).

SEA-HAWK (*Catharacta lonnbergi*). 3 seen off Otago Heads, 28/5/41. (R.A.F.). Nelson. No appearance of these birds (which were in the vicinity of Astrolabe for a year or more) during the Christmas months. (P.M.)

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Muriwai, single birds, 31/3/40 and 5/5/40, both days when terns were abundant. (C.A.F.). 4 French Pass, 23/12/39, 1 Akaroa 23/1/40, 1 Muriwai 5/5/40. Frequently seen off

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Waiheke, Dec. 21-25. 1 Hokianga Hds., 11/5/41. 1 Bay of Islands, 15/5/41. (R.B.S.).

NORTH ISLAND OYSTER-CATCHER (*Haematopus reischeki*). Mangowai, 24/11/40. One pair and an odd bird. Pakiri, 25.11.40, single pair, several scrapes but no eggs. S. Kaipara Hds., 1940. Up to 4 birds seen till June, thereafter a pair mating on breeding-ground, 15/9/40, nest with 2 eggs, 4/1/41. (C.A.F.).

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTER-CATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*). Muriwai, 15/9/40, single bird. (C.A.F.). Two nests, Upper Rakaia, Oct., 1940. (R.A.F.). Glenary, Waikaia, 15/2/41. Only 2 remaining. (E.W.C.). Pounawea, Catlins, 27/5/41, 56 on mud-flats. 28/5/41, 123 on mud-flats. (L.G.).

BLACK OYSTER-CATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor*). Hooper's Inlet, Otago Peninsula, 20/10/40. Two seen. (B.J.M.). Pounawea, Catlins, 27/5/41. 6 feeding together on rocks and in pools, Owaka Head. (L.G.).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). Mangowai. 24/11/41, 7. Muriwai, 17/11/41, 2 seen. (C.A.F.).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*). Skull Creek, Whangarei. A number nested on the pasture land bordering the creek. (W.S.). Several nests Upper Rakaia, Oct., 1940 (R.A.F.). Rotorua, National Park, Puketitiri, Ruakaka with 2 young, Oreti Beach, 1939. (J.J.). Rotorua, 14/4/41, over 20 flocked. Muriwai 1940 and autumn 1941. Breeding population with young reinforced by passage birds in March, April, and again at the end of June. Faint traces of chest band on a few on April 7th, first full plumage May 5th, increasing numbers coloured till August. First eggs of two pairs laid approximately Sept. 12th. Most failed to rear first clutches. Jan. 4th most adults and young flocked, one pair still on territory. Large populations breed on the Manawatu R. bed and Tukituki and tributaries. Counts of 8 miles of the Manawatu in Dec. when they were breeding showed densities reaching 5 pairs per mile, but averaging 3-4 pair. Numbers of family parties increased from few in early Dec. to many at the end of this month. On 7/1/41 few dotterels were left on many breeding-areas and flocks of up to 40 birds were noted on 11/2/41 lower down the river. As with the Stilts, the impression was gained that the post-breeding flocks were moving down the river. No records between 11/2/41 and the end of May in S. Hawke's Bay. (C.A.F.). National Park, 25/9/40, about a dozen birds, mostly males, no sign of nesting observed. Reporoa Oct., 1940. Many pairs nesting, several young observed. Rotorua, 3/11/40, 8-10 pairs nesting near Postmaster Bath. Muriwai, 18/9/40, 4 pairs seen, 2 nests located. (G.A.B.). Taieri Beach, 16/1/41, one bird seen. (B.J.M.).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*). Pakiri, 28/10/40. At least 12 full-plumaged but still half flocked. A few new scrapes and a deserted incubated egg suggesting loss of early nests by high tides. 25/11/40, 2 nests with eggs and one flooded nest. Adults fading. One pair with downies. Mangowai, 24/11/40. 10 pairs and over two broods of flying young, increase over 1939. Most nests recently flooded,

several derelict eggs, some fresh scrapes and one new nest with 1 egg. Muriwai, winter, 1940. Regular counts on 30 miles of beach reveal few or no birds from Feb. to April, increasing in May and 20-30 in June-Sept. Only 10 have been seen in

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the breeding-season, possibly because some nest out of sight in the dunes. First trace of colour May 11th; many full-plumaged in June. First present on breeding-grounds on July 28th. Vigorous mating and copulation on Sept. 15th. Nest with eggs hatching on Jan. 4th. 1941 counts by P.C.B. support autumn scarcity and winter increase. (C.A.F.).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*). Muriwai, 1940. First seen (4) 4th Jan. Thereafter varying but generally increasing numbers till April. High numbers, maximum 82 until Sept. 15th (23 present). No later records. Numbers less in off-shore winds, greater on falling tide. Chest band first noted on May 5th. 25% had band on June 9th. All on Aug. 18th. (C.A.F.). Three nests Upper Rakaia, Oct., 1940. One nest Ashley R., Nov., 1940 (R.A.F.).

JAPANESE SNIPE (*Capella hardwickii*). Taieri Beach, 7 and 13/1/41. A bird, undoubtedly a snipe, seen on three occasions in a marsh. Probably this species. (B.J.M.).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). Mangowai, 24/11/41. Several hundred. Muriwai only seen in small numbers 17/11/40 and 21/2/41. (C.A.F.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). Mangowai, 24/11/40. 5-700 flocked with Knot, etc. Muriwai: Counts show 3-400 in summer, decreasing in March 30-40 wintering, increase (85) in Nov. (C.A.F.). Otago Harbour, 4/1/41, 20 feeding with Stilts. (B.J.M.). Motuihi Channel 2 flying S. (P.C.B.).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*). 27/11/40, Mr. Ridland and I recorded (for first time in N.Is.) a bird sitting in field at full tide with stilts 3 miles from mouth of Waikato River. (R.B.S.). Clear view of a single bird among a flock of Bar-tailed Godwit at Mangowai, 24/11/40. Smaller, contrasting colours, dark wing, white alar band and rump, black tail. (C.A.F.).

CURLEW (*Numenius cyanopus*). One seen at Muriwai, Jan. 4th, 1941, at exactly the same spot as in Sept., 1939. (C.A.F.) Seen in Godwit flock on several occasions during past years. (W.S.).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). Mata, Whangarei, Aug., 1940. About 50 looked as if intending to nest with Caspian Tern. 8 pairs later. None actually laid owing to flood tides. (W.S.). 4 adults, St. Andrews, S. Canterbury, 27/5/41. (R.A.F.) Breeding abundantly on the Manawatu R. and some of its larger tributaries. Counts in Dec. along 8 miles of the Manawatu gave an average of 5 to 6 pairs per mile and a density of 8 pairs per mile along some stretches. Full clutches of eggs found on 9/12/40, 18/12/40 and 7/2/41 (2 on the last date, several on the other dates). By the last date, however, most pairs had young flying and were becoming less aggressive, while some few had young as early as the first week of Dec. On 10/2/41 Stilts heard flying at night some miles from the river, suggesting movements, which were supported by observations on the Manawatu just east of the Gorge (11/2/41), where flocks of 12-70 birds had congregated in numbers far greater than the breeding population of the area. It appeared that flocks formed after the breeding season were tending to move downstream to the sea. From Feb. 11th till the end of May no more stilts were recorded on the Manawatu nor on the Tukituki and its tributaries, which are other breeding grounds. (C.A.F.). Pakiri, 18/10/40, 4 nests with eggs, 1 incomplete. (G.A.B.). 28/10/40, 2 additional full clutches. Adult

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population 7-8 pairs. 25/11/40. Most pairs reared fledged young, some with downies and two full clutches of eggs. Rotorua, 14/4/41. Over 75,

some family parties. Muriwai, rare, 1 pair 15/9/40, and one immature 17/11/40. (C.A.F.). Levin, 20 or 30 birds on shores of L. Horowhenua throughout the whole year, probably breeding, but no nests found, no special search made. Numbers appear constant. (T.H.W.). Oroua Downs, Ruakaka (J.J.). 27/10/40. Few near mouth of Waikouaiti R. 23/1/41-2/2/41. Heard every evening at Purakanui but not seen by day. 10/2/41 heard flying N.E. over Dunedin. 2/6/41. Over a dozen at Hooper's Inlet, Otago Peninsula. (I.T.). Glenary, Waikaia, 5/10/40. About 50 pairs nesting. One killed by a hawk. (E.W.C.). Clevedon district. Reported by Mr. Duder, 60 years resident at mouth of Clevedon R., that a small party have been in residence for about a year. Previously, he had seen only odd birds or pairs which did not settle. Near Miranda, Thames Estuary, about 50 27/1/41. Kawa Kawa Bay, Clevedon, 1 bird, only one seen in district. Mataitai, 23/3/41, about 50. Clevedon, 12/6/41, 2. Kawa Kawa Bay, various dates, pairs and odd birds now often seen. Evidently becoming newly established. (H.R.McK.) Dunedin, Green Island Lagoon, 29/12/40, 2-300. Taieri Beach, about 8 pairs breeding. 7/1/41. One nest with eggs hatching; no others with eggs. 15/1/41. Adult standing and calling while three small chicks wandered about some 20 yards away. Presently they all went to the parent, whose incessant cry apparently had not altered. The adult sat on its heels so that there was still a gap under its body, and the young stood under it for about 10 minutes. Then it stood up and they scattered again. Three fully fledged young about, also, usually with two adults. 1/2/41, Otago Harbour. About 40, only 2 immature. 10/2/41, Taieri Beach. Only three young found, one able to fly, the others with well-developed feathers, the larger nearly flying. 18/2/41, Harrier seen standing in water by an injured stilt which, presumably, it had attacked. The gut of the Stilt was in a diseased condition, so it may have been weakened. Stilts at Taieri Beach frequently chased harriers in the air. (B.J.M.).

SOUTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*). Nelson. Completely disappeared from Astrolabe bays. Seen in deserted farmlands above Astrolabe. Extremely scarce in bush round Nelson city. Suggested that they have never increased since opossum trapping was carried out in the reserve. (P.M.).

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*). Whakatiri, Clevedon, 24/4/41 in mangroves, 1 bird. Puhoi, N. Auckland 15/4/41 in mangroves, 1 bird. Once plentiful in Clevedon district, now quite rare. (H.R.McK.). Puhoi, 28/10/40. Swanson (inland) 4/1/41, Portland Rd. swamp, Remuera, 1/6/41. Pakiri, 25/11/40. (C.A.F.). Mata, Whangarei. Very numerous. Dec., 1940, nest with 5 eggs. Bird sat very close. 5 chicks hatched and left the nest within 3 hours. (W.S.).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana plumbea*). Poor Knights, 24/11/40. Found to be very plentiful during a week's stay on the island. 16 occupied nests, 4 with young, nest deeply concealed in grass or sedge. Estimated 100 pairs. (G.A.B.). Taieri Beach, 16/1/41. Single bird disturbed from rushes several times. It flew only a few yards with its legs hanging down. Twice it perched in bushes. Several nests, saucer shaped, about 3 or 4 inches across, made of grass and rushes, placed in clumps of rushes a few inches above the water. In one case the grass arched over in a thin dome. All empty. Perhaps belonging to the crane as no other possible bird was known to be about. (B.J.M.).

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SPOTTED CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*). Near Foxton, 2/5/41. One watched for some time feeding in the raupo on the edge of the lake. (G.A.B.).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*). Very local in the Manawatu watershed, much more widely distributed and abundant in the east coast streams and Tukituki tributaries, S. Hawke's Bay. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly plentiful in swamp areas throughout the district. Appears to be decreasing. Edges of Lakes Horowhenua and Buller usually inhabited by flocks of 20-30.

(T.H.W.). Glenary, Waikaia, 5/2/41. 16 eggs in one nest. (E.W.C.). Mammui, Ruakaka, Waiotapu, 1940 (J.J.). Clevedon district. Small numbers at Ardmore and Ness Valley. 17/9/40, nest with 5 eggs, 4 hatched between 8th and 12th October. (H.R.McK.). Whangarei. Numerous. Seen eating a 5-inch flounder, 7-inch eel, and a frog. Saw a cat catch a half-grown young one. (W.S.).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*). Single bird winters Panmure Basin. Present 16/8/40. Then without breeding-plumes. (C.A.F.). Nelson. Has not returned to old haunts near Richmond. One seen at Motueka and another at Riwaka, July 20th. One has been at Riwaka since late summer. (P.M.). Kaitangata, 24/4/41. (O.D.T.). Glanfield, Otautau, 5/5/40. (J.J.). 1 reported at Ashburton, May, 1941. No record from Christchurch Botanical Gardens for first time for 8 years. (R.A.F.).

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*). Single birds at Pourerere and Blackhead, S. Hawke's Bay, May, 1941. (C.A.F.). Nelson. Increasing. Nest in vicinity of harbour. Several nests on a small island. (For details see special report). Ruakaka, 1931. (J.J.). Dunedin, Green Island Lagoon. Bird seen 29/12/40 and 14/1/41. Taieri Island, 25/1/41. Birds seen. Several caves apparently used by them for roosting. In one very low cave was a nest made of sticks about 10 feet in. An empty egg-shell, apparently normally hatched, was found. The nest was clean, but there was much excreta round the mouth of the cave. Shag Point, 24/4/41, bird seen. (B.J.M.). Whangarei Harbour, 1940-41. Very common. (W.S.). Owaka Head, 27/5/41. Bird seen. (L.G.). Motuihi Isd., Feb.-Mar., 1941, 2 pairs. (P.C.B.).

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Levin. Fairly rare, 1 seen Dec., 1939, at Buller Lake. 1 seen winter, 1938 at L. Horowhenua. (T.H.W.). S. Hawke's Bay. Not recorded in the Manawatu watershed. Seen at Wanstead, Purimu Lake and Pourerere Stream, May 1941. (C.A.F.). One found dead, Amberley, N. Canterbury, 19/7/40. One accidentally shot, Timaru, 7/5/41. Still frequently seen in many parts of Canterbury. (R.A.F.). Nelson, Riwaka Harbour, 20/7/41. (P.M.). Taieri Beach, constantly seen. (B.J.M.).

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*). Very rare in S. Hawke's Bay, recorded at Kumeroa, Wanstead and behind Pourerere, 1941. (C.A.F.). Dunedin, 14/5/41. Female seen near Kuri Bush. (B.J.M.). Mata, Whangarei. Nest attacked by a stoat. (W.S.).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus australis*). Mata, Whangarei. Increasing during the last two years but still less abundant than 7 years ago. (W.S.). Roxburgh, Jan., 1941. Fairly common in the hills. (E.W.C.). Kaingaroa, rare, only 2-3 seen. (J.J.). Poor Knights (? species) seen occasionally (P.C.B.).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*). S. Hawke's Bay. Fairly plentiful wherever there is suitable cover along the Ruahine foothills and

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eastwards to the coast. (C.A.F.). Levin area, scarce. (T.H.W.). Nelson, 10/11/40. Pair with new-hatched chicks. 12/11/40. Another covey hatched out. Astrolabe. One or two pairs. Nelson, July. Covey of 25 seen. (P.M.). Dunedin, near Taieri Mouth, 18/1/41. Two seen. (B.J.M.). Mata, Whangarei. General decrease, Jan., 1941. Stoats twice seen attacking families. May, 1941, large coveys all over the Takahewai Hills. (W.S.). Wellington, Karori district. Breeding, rare. Whistle note first heard 5/10/40, last heard 18/1/41. (H.L.S.). Kaingaroa Plains, common, flocks up to 30. (J.J.).

PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Fairly general in bushed Ruahine foothills and sporadically in relict bush patches in Manawatu watershed and Waewaepa Range. (C.A.F.). None seen on coastal plain round Levin during past 4 years. Seen on ranges behind Levin, Otaki Gorge and Akatarawas, not common. (T.H.W.). Less common round

Nelson waterworks since the broom was burnt. Appeared to arrive back at Astrolabe on 6/10/40. Not more than three pairs in the bays at Astrolabe. (P.M.). Queenstown. A pair apparently indulging in sexual flight reported 27/7/41. (L.G.). Bush east of Lake Rotoma, 23/1/38, several seen. (H.R.McK.). Dunedin. Seen at all times of the year. Seen feeding on the flower buds of broom in Oct., and the leaves of laburnum in Jan. The laburnum was finally stripped bare of leaves. (I.T.).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*). Shingle Creek, 14 miles from Roxburgh. Flock of 16. (E.W.C.).

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). Ruahine Range, reported by settlers along the eastern foothills from Manawatu Gorge to Maketetu R. Occasionally seen, e.g., carrying prey, blackbird or rat, in last week of Jan. E. of the ranges not seen but reported on Waewaepa Ra. (C.A.F.). Kaingaroa Plains, not common. (J.J.).

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*). S. Hawke's Bay, 1940-41. Counts of birds seen in an area of 50 square miles in Dec., 1940 (around Woodville) when pairs seemed to be localised round nesting areas, showed a density of at least 1 pair per 2 square miles. Similar abundance throughout the region. In March, on Whangai range, one seen to swoop on a running hare, full grown. The hare yelped as the harrier grasped the small of its back with its talons. The wings were poised and the head held high for balance. The hare, struggling, was lifted several inches, but was too heavy for carrying. The bird seemed to lose balance, for the hare got away and headed out of sight with the harrier in pursuit. The harrier did not use its beak at all. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly common in whole district. Have been seen flying over Levin town. Usually found over scrub, farming and sand-hill areas. (T.H.W.). Whangarei district. Slight increase in 1940-41. (W.S.). For attacks on Stilts see under Stilt. Kaingaroa Plains, common. (J.J.). Motuihi Island, frequent visitors, feed on abundant rabbits. Poor Knights, 2 pairs. (P.C.B.).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). Plentiful in cover in Manawatu watershed, noted abundantly at Kumeroa, Woodville and Mangatoro. Appeared rarer towards the east coast. (C.A.F.). Levin. Scarce but not rare. (T.H.W.). Returned in March as usual to the Cliffs, Nelson. (P.M.). Dunedin. Heard at Caversham, June, 1940. (I.T.). Mata, Whangarei. Abundant. (W.S.). Kaingaroa Plains, common. (J.J.). Motiuihi Is., heard (P.C.B.).

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LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*). Catlins, Longwood Ra., 1939. (J.J.). Dunedin. Heard every night during most of the year. Certainly heard more frequently than ever before. (I.T.).

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*). Temple Basin. Arthur Pass. Aug., 1939. 6 seen at 4000ft., 1000ft. above vegetation. (E.W.C.).

YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*). Puketitiri, 1927 (J.J.). Nelson. Heard twice in May, 1941, in Dun Mt. bush where they have been absent for some years. (P.M.).

RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*). Poor Knights, Nov., 1940. Numerous. Frequenting nesting-holes but no eggs found by Dec. 1st. Feeding on seeding sow-thistle along cliff edges and on seed-heads of sedge. (P.C.B.).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Lamprococyx lucidus*). During Dec. and early Jan. seen and heard very abundantly in all wooded and scrubbed portions of the Manawatu watershed. Apparently still mating till Dec. 24th. Young bird still with warblers at Tirau, 16/4/41. (C.A.F.). Heard at Riwaka, 10/10/40. Heard at Astrolabe for first time 10/10/40. (P.M.). Dunedin. First heard 29/9/40. Heard daily in Oct., Nov. and Dec. Young one seen 24/2/41. (I.T.). Dunedin, 26/10/40, first heard. Reported in Press 3 or 4 weeks ago. 17/2/41 bird seen. (B.J.M.). Piano Flat, Waikaia. Report of 20 seen eating black caterpillars, Nov., 1939. (E.W.C.). Kaingaroa Plains, common in summer. (J.J.).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Urodynamis taitensis*). Becoming scarcer. Not heard at the Cliffs, Nelson, as it used to be for many years on arrival and generally also on departure. Not heard at Astrolabe last year. (P.M.). Mamaku Plateau, Te Wae Wae Bay, Catlins, 1939. Rotoiti, 1940. (J.J.). Mamaku bush 21/1/38, numerous. Waioeka Valley, 26-27/1/38, several. Called at Clevedon at 8.30 p.m., 3/11/40 (H.R.McK.). Dunedin, 20/2/41. Newspaper reports tail feather from bird sent in from Outram. (B.J.M.).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*). Rare and local in the Manawatu watershed where it appears to be confined to portions of the riverbed or stream gullies which are bushed. In the E. coast drainage systems and the Tukituki watershed the species is much more abundant, as also on the coast between Porangahau and Pourerere, but nowhere as common as in N. Auckland. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly common in country districts. Noticeable increase in latter years. One seen to catch a mouse by the edge of the road. When disturbed by a passing car it flew low with the mouse in its bill, but soon dropped it and did not return. (T.H.W.). Glenary, Waikaia. June, 1941. 1 seen. (E.W.C.). Plentiful, Heathcote Estuary, 20/6/41. Reported frequently from Akaroa and other bays of Banks Peninsula. (R.A.F.). Dunedin. Pair seen each month between April and Sept. in the town, near the Bullock Track. (I.T.). Commonly seen round Otago Harbour. (B.J.M.). Pounaweia, Catlins, 27/5/41. 4 seen fishing from rata trees by the mudflats. (L.G.). Kaingaroa Plains, rare. (J.J.). Motuihi Id., probably less than 6 prs. Poor Knights (Nov. 1940), 1 pair seen. (P.C.B.).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthissita chloris*). Recorded at all points visited on the Ruahine Range between Manawatu Gorge and Norsewood. E. of the range to the coast, heard doubtfully in bush in the foothills of the Waewaepa Ra. and seen in tall manuka, with a few beech trees, on the Whangai Ra. near

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Te Uri Rd. Possibly present in other bush patches in S. Hawke's Bay. (C.A.F.). Common in the high-level bush above Nelson city. (P.M.). Puketitiri, Hawke's Bay, Catlins, Otago, Longwood Ra., Southland, Te Wae Wae Bay. (J.J.). Te Waimate, plenty for a short while in early winter but none in summer. (E.C.S.).

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Abundant everywhere from river beds to hill country except in bush in S. Hawke's Bay. Pairs with young flying in Jan. (C.A.F.). Kaingaroa Plains, common, flies in flocks of 4-5; 3 paced by car, 35 m.p.h. (J.J.). Poor Knights (Nov., 1930) one seen. (P.C.B.).

FERN BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*). Seen in swamps at Astrolabe, where the species was discovered in 1827. The swamp was burnt out a few years ago. (P.M.). Whangapoua, Coromandel, 28/6/41. 6-8 eggs and a number heard calling. Ngukuru, 11/11/40, a nest with 4 fresh eggs in the heart of a clump of rushes. (G.A.B.). Riverhead, Kaingaroa, 1940 (J.J.). Aongatete, near Tauranga, 28/1/38. Adult with 2 young nearly full-grown. (H.R.McK.). Mata, Whangarei. Common on gum-fields. (W.S.). Kaingaroa Plains, rare. (J.J.).

GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*). Very abundant and widespread in S. Hawke's Bay. Song eased up in March-April but never ceased. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly common in bush districts. Song noticeably different in Otaki Gorge from that of the Levin district, 15 miles distant. Spread over settled coastal area round town from patches of bush and Tararua R. during winter months. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Begins to sing in July. (P.M.). Dunedin. 28/2/40, pair seen feeding a young Shining Cuckoo. (I.T.). Wellington, Puhipuhi, Waipoua, Ruakaka, Riverhead, Rotorua, Kaingaroa, Main Trunk, Puketitiri, Golden Downs, Hanmer, Catlins, Slopedown, Wakatipu, Te Wae Wae, Longwoods. (J.J.). Hildershorpe, N. Otago. Present all the year. (C.W.McL.). Te Waimate. One with a white stern and tail last year. Not seen this year. (E.C.S.). Poor Knights, Nov., 1940, absent. (P.C.B.).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala*). Numbers unchanged in Nelson district (P.M.). Southland, Catlins, Golden Downs, Hanmer. (J.J.).

WHITE-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica toitoi*). Ruahine, eastern foothills, generally distributed. Rare east of the range in S. Hawke's Bay. Noted in relict bush patch in upper Mangawhero Stream, S. of Wanstead, 20 miles E. of the range (C.A.F.). Otau Hills. Two seen lately, now known to be not so rare. (H.R.McK.). Rotorua, Waipoua, Main Trunk, Kaingaroa, Puketitiri. (J.J.). Motuihi Id. not seen Feb.-Mar., 1941. (P.C.B.).

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro longipes*). Mamaku. As abundant as in previous years. 16/4/41. In good song, one pair but most individuals isolated. (C.A.F.). Main Trunk, N. end of Kaimanaroa Ra. (J.J.). Waimarino (Nat. Park), 24/9/40. 4-5 pairs in area of bush $\frac{1}{2}$ -mile square. Maraeroa, 30/10/40, 6-8 pairs located in a day's walk in rimu-totara bush. At this time the birds were mostly in the high tree-tops, singing freely. The song frequently lasted 15-20 mins. Mamaku, 2/11/40. Fairly plentiful. (G.A.B.).

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro australis*). Nelson. Numbers unchanged. (P.M.). Golden Downs, Southland. (J.J.).

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FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Mainly near water in S. Hawke's Bay, but fairly common. Brood flew, Kumeroa, 16/12/40. Remuera, 1940. Pair together all winter, song noted especially in August. 9/8/40, female began building in bamboo, completed 3/9/40; 1st egg, 4/9, another 7/9/40. Nest liable to wind movement and one of the eggs gone on 17/9 after a gale. Rebuilt immediately. Date of first egg three weeks earlier than in 1939 (for same pair) corresponds with earlier kowhai flowering, oak leafing and generally early spring. Second nest almost finished 23/9 (male fed female), 1st egg 26/9, then daily till 4th egg, 29/9. Eggs again lost 9/10 after rain. Brood eventually reared before Christmas. Another Auckland pair had eggs by 16th Aug. (C.A.F.). Fairly common in bush areas round Levin, spreads over the settled coastal areas in early winter. One seen to catch a fly with its beak, snatch it with its right foot, and then devour it. (T.H.W.). Kaingaroa Plains, common. (J.J.). Motuihi Is., numerous. Poor Knights (Nov., 1940) absent. (P.C.B.). Dunedin, Black Fantails noted, one with a great deal of white about it and another with white patches on the sides of its head. (I.T.)

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*). Fairly general along the eastern Ruahine foothills. East of the range small numbers found in two small bush patches (Mangawhero Stream headwaters and near Wanstead). (C.A.F.). National Park, 24/9/40. Not plentiful. Maraeroa, 30/10/40, plentiful but no occupied nests found. (G.A.B.). Kaingaroa, common (J.J.).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*). Frequently seen in bush near Nelson. Invariably the flocks are accompanied by White-eyes and other birds such as Tits. They seem to exhaust the possibilities of a tree and move on to another long before the White-eyes do. (P.M.).

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Common in all cover in S. Hawke's Bay. (C.A.F.). Levin. Common. During winter months spreads over settled areas in flocks. (T.H.W.). Glenary, Waikaia. Never seen in summer even in the bush. Appear in large numbers in winter but only in cold weather. (E.W.C.). Christchurch. Observed eating berries of strawberry tree, spindleberry, elderberry, barberry, *Cotoneaster sorotina*, asparagus, lonicera, *Coprosma pittosporum*, and cabbage tree. Winter flocks more conspicuous than in Auckland. (M.G.). Nelson. Diminishing rapidly in numbers. (P.M.). Near Dunedin, 28/8/40. Flock of about two dozen singing "canary" song. 16-17/10/40. Pair together gathering cobwebs. 23/11/40. Flock of about 30. Young ones appear at the bird table towards the end of Dec. 16/2/41. Still feeding young. 19/3/41. Back again in the garden in flocks. In April after snow in the hills they seemed to in-

crease in numbers at the bird table. (I.T.). Kaingaroa Plains, not common (J.J.). Motuihi Id., common. Poor Knights (Nov., 1940) absent (P.C.B.)

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*). S. Hawke's Bay. Well-distributed both in bush and plantations. Reported increasing in the last decade. Flying young still fed by parents in second week of March, 1941, at Mangatoro. Wellington, first heard at Karori Reservoir, late June. Remuera, visited garden late June, 1941. (C.A.F.) Levin, 2 or 3 permanent in bush surrounding L. Buller; otherwise scarce on coastal plain. Fairly common in bush on Tararua Ranges. (T.H.W.). Reported by residents of the Cashmere Hills, Christchurch, to be more abundant as winter visitor in gardens, June, 1941. (R.A.F.) Dunedin. Seen frequently July to Nov. 11th, 1940. Returned in mid-Jan., 1941, and about constantly since. (I.T.). Whangarei district. Hundreds winter in the bush, especially on the inland

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sides of the Tangihua Mts. and the Takakowai and Kuhumui Hills. They scatter in spring and are widespread in summer. (W.S.) Waingaroa Plains, not common. (J.J.)

BELL BIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). In S. Hawke's Bay restricted to Ruahine bushed areas, no record to the east of the range. (C.A.F.) Common at Astrolabe. Certainly not on the decrease, possibly slightly on the increase. (P.M.). Visiting gardens for bluegum and tree lucerne, Governors Bay, June, 1951. (R.A.F.). Dunedin. Common at all times. (I.T.). Mamaku Bush, 21/1/38, 1 adult and 1 full-grown young. Hongi's Track, 23/1/38, 2 seen. Waioeka Valley, Opotiki, 23/1/38. Full dawn chorus heard and some birds seen. (H.R.McK.). Kaingaroa Plains. Common. (J.J.). Motuihi Id. Quite numerous. (Feb.-Mar.). Poor Knights (Nov., 1940). Very numerous, nesting. Young first fed on nectar, later insects. (P.C.B.).

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas wilsoni*). Mamaku, 2/11/40. Song heard on several occasions, reported by bushmen to be fairly plentiful at times. (G.A.B.). Mamaku Plateau, 1928 (J.J.). Otau or Moumoukai Bush. Reported to be present. Have heard the call but have not yet seen the bird. Ness Valley, reported seen a few years ago. Clevedon Reserve, one reported seen about 6 years ago. (H.R.McK.).

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*). Rare in S. Hawke's Bay. Present in Wellington. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly rare. Seldom seen in town areas. Usually seen in flocks in farming areas in winter. Rarest of all finches in this district. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Never very numerous. (P.M.)

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*). Common throughout S. Hawke's Bay. Autumn song, snatches on 15/5/41. Wellington. First full song 27/6/41. (C.A.F.) Levin. Fairly rare. Occasionally seen in town gardens in winter, usually seen in farming area. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Fairly common. It has been noticed that for the past few seasons cock chaffinches have remained around the house. At one time only the female would appear round the feeding-ground in winter. Now both are present. Query whether the instinct to flock is becoming less with birds around the city. (P.M.). Kaingaroa Plains, not common, often in large flocks. (J.J.).

REDPOLL (*Acanthis cabaret*). Plentiful in Manawatu watershed. Large flocks formed in Feb. (C.A.F.). Open country round Nelson. Perfect albino with rosy crest, Appleby, 23/5/41, in Nelson Museum. (P.M.) Motuihi Id. doubtful identification. (P.C.B.).

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*). Fairly plentiful in S. Hawke's Bay, flocking in Feb. (C.A.F.). Levin. Whole district, common, March, flocks of 20-30 in town eating seeds of Cosmos and Marigold. 21/2/41 nest with young in advanced stage. 5/3/41, young left the nest but in the same tree. 6/3/41, no sign of presence in the neighbourhood. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Very common though not so plentiful as in former years. Feeding on Zinnias, 14/6/41. (P.M.). Dunedin. Still feeding young 19/3/41. (I.T.). Glenary, Waikaia, 20/10/40. First seen since summer. (E.W.C.). Kaingaroa Plains, common. Flies in small flocks. (J.J.). Motuihi Id., odd individuals. (P.C.B.)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). S. Hawke's Bay. Breeding near houses only but later 31/1/41 in flocks in open country. (C.A.F.). Levin. Very common in whole district. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Plentiful though being

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poisoned. Seen catching white butterflies. (P.M.). Dunedin. 23/8/40. Report of a bird going on laying when its eggs were taken until it had laid 21 eggs. Bird noted hanging by its leg which was entangled in the material of the nest. A female pecked at the material round the leg of the imprisoned bird and three times seized it by the bill and swung fluttering, pulling on it. (I.T.).

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Levin. Not common. Usually seen in flocks in winter. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Very common. (P.M.) Kaingaroa Plains, not common. (J.J.).

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirrus*). Small autumn flocks, Burwood and Hornby, near Christchurch, April, 1941. (R.A.F.). Dunedin. Occasionally seen. (I.T.).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus philomelos*). Nelson. Not so plentiful at the Cliffs as in former years. In full song by the beginning of July in spite of intense cold. (P.M.). Te Waimate. Absent from April to mid-June, plenty again in July. (E.C.S.). Dunedin. 30/4/41. First song, rather hesitating. (B.J.M.). Nest seen with 11 eggs, all of one type, apparently laid by one bird. No attempt at incubation. (H.R.McK.). Mata, Whangarei. Increase during last few years. Collect in bush on hill slopes in winter and scatter in summer. (W.S.) Wellington. Low throat notes heard 29/3/41, 7/4/41 and 30/4/41. First real song 6/5/41. (H.L.S.). Kaingaroa Plains, not common. (J.J.). Poor Knights (Nov., 1940), none seen, but one old nest. (P.C.B.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*). Wellington. First song, 1/7/41, and sporadically during next week. (C.A.F.). Levin. Common, breeding in whole district. (T.H.W.). Nelson. In full song by beginning of July. (P.H.). Te Waimate. Few only from mid-April to mid-June. Plenty again in July. (E.C.S.). Dunedin, 1/9/40, building; 2/9/40, first nest found. Pair built five nests, laid 21 eggs and reared only 1 young. July, Males claiming territory. (I.T.). Wellington 22/6/41. Heard singing. Not heard again till 13/7/41. Weather cold and sunny. (H.J.S.). Dunedin. 4/7/40. Male singing sub-song. 5/7/40. Singing from top of pole. 21/8/40. Two males fighting, female standing by emitting piercing screams. The males fighting fiercely, locking beaks and flying at one another. Sometimes one would be on top of the other and would hold on for quite a long time. The birds seemed to peck mostly at the region above the eye. When I approached they did not seem to be disturbed but just went on. Several feathers were flying. (L.G.). Kaingaroa Plains, common. (J.J.). Motuihi Id., 2 partial albinos. Poor Knights (Nov., 1940). Very numerous, 7 nests. (P.C.B.).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*). Very plentiful throughout S. Hawke's Bay. Song almost ceased in late summer but re-commenced in frosty weather, April 10th, and continued through May. Wellington, June-July, full song. (C.A.F.). Levin. Fairly rare. Usually seen in town gardens. (T.H.W.). Nelson. Common in gardens. (P.M.). Clevedon. First reported about 6 or 7 years ago but may have been overlooked before. Seem to be increasing. Leave the garden in spring and return in Feb. (H.R.McK.). Dunedin. 26/7/40. First song. 3/8/40. Song frequently heard. (I.T.). Te Waimate. July. Not seen for months but expect them back soon. (E.C.S.).

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Kaingaroa Plains, not common. (J.J.).

LARK (*Alauda arvensis*). S. Hawke's Bay. Very abundant in all open country. Eggs on, Jan. 7th. (C.A.F.) Nelson. Common. In autumn migrates from nesting site. (P.M.). Glenary, Waikaia, 5/6/41. First song.

(E.W.C.). Kaingaroa Plains, not common (J.J.) Motuihi Id. less common than on mainland. (P.C.B.).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). S. Hawke's Bay. Very plentiful. Nesting in houses and especially in holes in trees, banks and cliffs. Small flocks in Dec. and vast numbers together in autumn and winter had roosts in pines and swamps. (C.A.F.). Nelson. Very common. One heard to copy the call note of a cock quail perfectly. Roost in winter on rocky islands off the coast between Nelson and Takaka. (P.M.). Christchurch, 12/7/40. Pair seen examining a nesting hole and the cock observed to tread the hen. 26/7/40. Large flock on the Waimakariri River-bed (E.F.S.). Roost on Tokamapuna Islet near Kapiti, in scrub. In a westerly gale they skim the water; when it is fine they fly high. (A.S.W.). Kaingaroa Plains, common. (J.J.). Motuihi Id., flocks moving to and from other islands Feb.-Mar. Poor Knights, Nov. 1940, fairly numerous, feed on shore, nest in cliff faces. (P.C.B.).

MYNAH (*Acrodothores tristis*). Present in most settlements in S. Hawke's Bay, not Woodville 1940-41. Restricted to townships except between Takapau and E. Coast, where they are in the country. (C.A.F.). None in Levin area. The southern limit on the west coast apparently is Palmerston North. Seen there in fairly large numbers. (T.H.W.).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). In the whole of S. Hawke's Bay one of the most conspicuous and abundant birds. Pairs and parties with young from Dec. to Feb. when there was a tendency for larger groups to be formed (largest flock, 25). The magpie dominates the harrier but is dominated by the Rook. Density greatest in pasture-land with pine belts, but absent only in the bush. Near Norsewood the species is reported to be a recent arrival and to have increased greatly during the last few years. (C.A.F.). Levin. Common in country districts, noticeable increase in latter years. Single harrier often seen to be attacked by 2 or 3 magpies. 14/6/41. Magpie seen to catch a mouse in its beak and fly off. 19/7/41. Flock of 14. (T.H.W.). Pair nested in Hagley Park, Christchurch, and reared two young. Sept.-Oct., 1940. (R.A.F.). Increasing and each year reported from new districts. Now in the Taieri. Report of a fight in mid-air with a hawk which was brought down. (I.T.).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*). Quite a large number occur at Omakere, S. Hawke's Bay, where, apparently, there is a rookery. Nearby, on ploughed fields and pasture lands, parties of 10-20 were foraging in May, 1941. (C.A.F.). Christchurch rookeries were concentrated at Sunnyside and Hornby, Sept.-Dec., 1940. (R.A.F.).

SPECIAL REPORTS.

WHITE-EYE INVESTIGATION.

The White-eye was selected as a subject for special study, not because of any remarkable features, but because its abundance makes it possible for every member of the Society to co-operate in observing it. All notes, accompanied wherever possible by dates, times, numbers, weather conditions and other precise data, will be welcome. The following questions are suggested as with alternative: Are they present at all times

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of the year? Is there any evidence of local movements? In what types of country are they found, and at what seasons? Is their distribution affected by the height of the land? At what times do roosting and feeding begin and end? In what positions are the nests placed? Height, aspect, cover, etc., etc.

The White-eye and the Blackbird also are being studied from the point of view of their reproductive habits, and their differences at different latitudes. As many observations and dates for both species are required, as follows:—

SONG.

1. Beginning of song.
2. More or less regular singing.
3. Full song.
4. End of song.