

(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.

MATING AND NESTING.

1. Mating.
2. First sign of building of nests.
3. First egg; number of eggs and dates when laid.
4. Hatching. Length of incubation.
5. Length of time between hatching and leaving nest.
6. Mortality in the egg and nesting stages.
7. Second layings, if possible. Same observations as above.
8. Moulting; beginning and end.
9. Flocking, if any.

Please send communications regarding White-eyes to Prof. Marples, the Museum, Dunedin, and Blackbirds to Dr. Wodzicki, National Bank Chambers, Wellington.

INTERIM REPORT ON BANDED DOTTEREL MOVEMENTS.

Organizers: R. H. D. Stidolph and C. A. Fleming.

The Banded Dotterel occurs as a breeding bird throughout New Zealand and the Chatham Islands. It has been found regularly in South-eastern Australia and Tasmania, chiefly in the non-breeding season, and less frequently in West Australia, Norfolk, Lord Howe and Kermadec Islands. As there is no evidence of nesting in Australia, a migration is believed to occur across the Tasman. The routes taken and the times and places of arrival and departure are not known and are the chief objects of this investigation.

The aim of the investigation is to provide documented observations on the distribution of the Banded Dotterel throughout New Zealand at all times of the year. For this purpose detailed and continuous observations at stated representative localities are better than generalizations based on impressions of what happens over a wider area. If series of detailed studies from places scattered all over New Zealand are available, they will serve as a factual basis for interpretation and discussion when similar data are available in Australia. Up to the present the following series of observations are to hand, all from the North Island, to which this report is therefore restricted.

1. Wairarapa River Beds, Lake and Coasts of Palliser Bay and East Wellington. (R.H.D.S. 20 years' observations.)
 2. Manawatu and S. Hawke's Bay Rivers. (C.A.F., a summer's observations.)
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3. West Wellington coast and Kapiti. (Various workers—more details wanted.)
 4. East Cape district (incomplete—C.A.F. and R.B. Sibson).
 5. Rotorua and nearby parts of Volcanic Plateau. (M. E. Fitzgerald—4 years' notes.)
 6. Manukau Harbour. (1½ years complete, P. C. Bull. Several incomplete years, C.A.F.)
 7. Muriwai Beach. (1½ years complete, P.C.B., C.A.F. and R.B.S.)
 8. Parengarenga Harbour. (A. H. Watt, several years' notes.)

BREEDING DISTRIBUTION.

In addition to these observations bearing upon seasonal changes, there are many less extended observations allowing the breeding distribution of the species in the N.Id. to be outlined. (1) The greatest density is on the shingle-beds of rivers draining both sides of the main divide of the N.Id. from Wellington to East Cape. (2) Quite large numbers nest on the pumice uplands, river flats and lake shores of the central Volcanic Plateau. (3) Scattered and usually smaller populations breed at river mouths on dunes, spits and beaches on the coast (Wellington, Bay of Plenty, N. Auckland). There is some indication that birds of group (1) regularly begin laying in mid-August and do not have eggs later than mid-November, whereas in the other two groups no egg-dates before mid-September are known, but eggs are recorded into December and even January.