

During nesting (21/10/40) between 1.8 p.m. and 3.24 p.m. a detailed account of the pair's activities was kept. Trips to the nest alternated with feeding at sugar-pots, song from the male, flights hawking for insects and feeding of hen by cock, 11 trips to nest by cock occurred at 1 to 23 minute intervals, averaging 19 minutes. (P.M.).

#### THE WHITE THROATED SHAG

(*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*.)

The attention of members is drawn to the problem of the proportions of black-bellied (white-throated) to white-bellied (little pied) shags in different parts of New Zealand. Both forms, with intermediate, occur in most parts of the country, but the relative numbers of each vary from place to place, and the few counts available suggest that there may be a fairly regular change from north to south, in the proportions of the types. The problem resembles that of the two forms of Guillemot in the Atlantic (see Fisher's "Watching Birds," reviewed elsewhere). All flocks or breeding aggregations of these shags seen should be counted and the numbers of the various forms recorded, together with the locality. (C.A.F.)

#### THE REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).

The common "Blue Heron" which occurs in New Zealand is widespread in the tropical Pacific and northern Australia, and interest attaches to its southernmost breeding places in New Zealand. Reports to hand indicate that the greatest numbers breed in Northern New Zealand and Cook Strait, but that smaller numbers breed along the east coast of the South Island as far south as Taieri, while birds usually are present as far south as Port Pegasus, Stewart Island. Any information from members relating to the presence or breeding of this bird in Southern New Zealand would be welcome. (C.A.F.).