

SHORT NOTE

Impact impression of New Zealand Pigeon on window



FIGURE 1

Photo: Douglas Flux

The accompanying photograph (Fig. 1) was taken on 23 December 1989 at Raetihi Lodge, Kenepuru Sound, Marlborough ($41^{\circ}11'S$, $173^{\circ}56'E$). There were no feathers or other signs on the ground below the window, so the bird had apparently flown off unharmed. From comparison of a life-size sketch against museum specimens in the Ecology Division collection, I identified the imprint as that of a New Zealand Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*), one or two of which fed regularly on a tree 20 m in front of the window while we were at the lodge (21-24 December). New Zealand Pigeons often fly into windows – three have flown into the Orongorongo Field Station since it was built in 1974 – but the Raetihi bird left a particularly fine impression, with individual barbs clearly visible on many flight feathers.

According to the editorial comment on a recent imprint photographed in Britain (Baird 1989), "Pigeons (Columbidae), all of which have 'talcumy' plumage, appear to be the most frequent perpetrators of such impact impressions". Other photographs have appeared in British Birds 48; plate 57, and 50; plate 56 (Buxton 1957).

LITERATURE CITED

- BAIRD, J.A. 1989. Impact impressions left by birds on windows. *Brit. Birds* 82: 566-567.
 BUXTON, E.J.M. 1957. Impressions left by birds striking glass windows. *Brit. Birds* 50: 393.

JOHN E.C. FLUX, 230 Hill Road, Belmont, Lower Hutt