

Zealand during the last decades underlines the general importance of the issue to the protection and management of kiwis.

#### LITERATURE CITED

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#### SHORT NOTE

##### Birds taking insects from car radiators

Our note describing how House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) search for insects on car radiators in Lower Hutt, New Zealand, Illinois, USA, and England (Flux & Thompson 1986 *Notornis* 33: 190-191) stimulated four most informative responses.

Mrs Jean Potter reported sparrows visiting car radiators at Moorhouse Avenue, Christchurch, between August and December 1985. Mr R. C. Baker had watched a male sparrow making four or five visits to his Mazda 323 before transferring its attention to several adjacent cars parked at Lake Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes National Park, in the summer of 1982-83. Mr Dick Veitch saw sparrows searching cars at the terminal building, Auckland Domestic Airport; and at a Give Way sign at the main highway junction east of Te Puke, where most cars have to pause, "The sparrow was disappearing into the fronts of these briefly stopped cars". Finally, Dr Peter Harper had seen sparrows at bus radiators at least three times in Canterbury, and on 15 January 1987 watched a pair of Greenfinches (*Carduelis chloris*) gathering insects, including two white butterflies, from the radiator of his MG Montego parked on the Arthur's Pass road.

These reports establish that the habit is widespread in cities in both the North and South Islands; that some birds learned the trick in places as isolated as St Arnaud, Lake Rotoiti; and that another species, the Greenfinch, also shows similar initiative. We are very grateful to these respondents for their observations.

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