

(RBS). Pahiatua, 1 on 18/1 (BE). Gisborne, Kaiti Beach, 1 on 7/9 (BRK); Kaiti, 1 on 24/5 in suburb (BRK). Hararapara Stream, East Coast, present in lower reaches, 28/12 (GAT). Hapuku, 2 on 17/7 (BE). St Anne's Lagoon, 1 on 23/10 (BE).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE *G. t. hypoleuca*

L. Otamangakau (Access Road), 24 on 1/11 (DJB). Kokatahi/Kowhitirangi, 7 on 25/8/80 (NJW). Dunton Creek, Te Anau/Milford Sound, 1 on 4/8 (WJC).

ROOK *Corvus frugilegus*

Okiwi Airstrip, Great Barrier, 1 juvenile (no white on face) on 25/5 (CCO). Miranda, 18 on 28/8 inland (CM). FoT winter census, 119, an increase of 59 from last winter; a farmer reports having known this species on his Walton farm "some years ago" (BB). Waihau Beach, East Coast, 2 on 12/11 (BRK). Kaiti Hill, Gisborne, 29 on 3/8 over rookery in eucalypts (BRK). Takapau, 22 on 19/5 (KVT). Pahiatua, 3 on 18/1 (BE). Kaikoura, 8 on 24/7, 10 on 16/10; 1 carrying nesting material 5/11 (BE).

CORVUS sp.

Marahemo, 1 big and black, not obviously a Rook, foraging among sheep on 1/8 (RBS).



SHORT NOTE

RED-BILLED GULL USES CURRENT TO FORAGE FOR FOOD

On 14 May 1982, I watched a Red-billed Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) at Miranda, Firth of Thames, feeding in an interesting way. A small stream runs out on to the mudflats, and as the tide was about 1½ hours out much of this stream was exposed. The gull was drifting down this stream, always facing in the direction it was being taken. It would submerge its head and drift for five or six metres, raise its head to look around, then dip it again. It kept up this procedure for about 150 metres. Then it took to the air, flew back upstream, landed on the mud, walked into the stream, and continued its seaward drift again.

Once it caught a small fish, at which the bird stopped until it had positioned the fish correctly for swallowing. Then it went back to its activity, which it was still doing when last seen 20 minutes later.

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