

it has been noted as "single birds attached to flocks of Bar-tailed Godwits."

Although it is too soon to be certain, the Hudsonian Godwit observed at Suva Point is probably overwintering in the southern hemisphere. Smart (1971) noted that the main passage at Suva seems to be over by the end of the first week of May, and certainly all godwits seen by us at this time are in non-breeding plumage. The possible migration route of this Hudsonian Godwit is still speculative, since there are no records elsewhere in Australasia and SE Asia (Slater 1970) and we are not aware of other published records for Pacific Islands, nor for the western rim of the Pacific.

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### DUNDAS ISLAND, AUCKLAND ISLANDS, 1980

During the morning of 29 December 1980, a small party landed on Dundas Island from A. J. Black's *Acheron*. We were on the island for about one hour, and while the main reason for landing was to count the sea lions (*Phocarctos hookeri*), the following birds were noted.

#### GIANT PETREL *Macronectes halli*

Three well-grown chicks were in nests in the vegetation just above the beach, and six adults were on the beach among the sea lions.

#### AUCKLAND ISLAND TEAL *Anas aucklandica aucklandica*

Two birds seen on the beach.

#### TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Six were on the rocks near where we landed, and a flock of 50+ flew off the rocky beach on the south side of the island as we approached them.

#### SOUTHERN SKUA *Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*

In the sea lion rookery 62 were counted, and a further 20+ were spread around the island. No sign of nests or young birds.

#### SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL *Larus dominicanus*

A total of 24 birds was counted. Of these, only one was in brown juvenile plumage, five appeared to be 2-3 year olds and the rest were adults. No signs of breeding.

### BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*

One was seen on the edge of the low vegetation in the centre of the island.

Previous counts of birds on Dundas Island are given in R. A. Falla, R. H. Taylor, & Colleen Black, 1979, *Survey of Dundas Island, Auckland Islands, with particular reference to Hookers Sea Lion (Phocarctos hookeri)* NZ J. Zoo. 6: 347-355.

There was no sign of burrows in the consolidated sand banks where Falla recorded South Georgian Diving Petrels breeding during 1943. These banks were badly worn by sea lions crossing them, as Falla *et al.* found in 1978.

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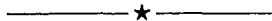
### SMALL GREBES IN THE FAR NORTH

The Australian Little Grebe (*Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*) seems to be spreading in the Far North. On 15 July 1980, I saw two in breeding plumage at Lake Rotokawau, near Waipapakauri. They were associating with a group of duckshooter's decoys and so were much more approachable than usual.

On 24 August 1980, I recorded Australian Little Grebes on two lakes near Ngataki — Lake Half and a small 3-ha lake west of Lake Half. I heard one on Lake Half, and on the small lake I saw two in breeding plumage and may have heard two more; however, it was difficult to keep the two birds in sight while others called, and so I could not be absolutely sure that extra birds were calling.

Three species of small grebe have now been recorded on the lakes near Ngataki — New Zealand Dabchick (*Podiceps rufopectus*), Hoary-headed Grebe (*P. poliocephalus*), and Australian Little Grebe. On the Far North lakes, Dabchicks are much fewer than on the Dargaville and Pouto lakes further south. This may explain why Australian Little Grebes seem to be spreading in the Far North but not in the Dargaville area, where they have been present since August 1972.

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### FOODS OF THE NEW ZEALAND KINGFISHER

(*Halcyon sancta vagans*)

I have collected information on the foods of Kingfishers on three occasions.

1. *Ianthe State Forest, Westland*: In November 1977, I saw a Kingfisher diving into a stream and catching five freshwater crayfish