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SHORT NOTE

PARADISE SHELDUCKS STANDING ON LIPS OF WATERFALLS

On 15 January 1980, in brilliantly fine weather, my family and I twice saw Paradise Shelducks perching on the lips of falls on the Aniwaniwa River at Waikaremoana. On the first occasion we saw a drake on one of the main Aniwaniwa Falls, while later in the day we saw a duck on the edge of the Papakorito Falls, some distance further upstream. Possibly the birds found the lip area of the falls favourable places for feeding because of the growth of algae on the flat and constantly wet rocks there — although we did not see them feeding. Alternatively, the birds may simply have been occupying ideal vantage points for watching the downstream parts of the river.

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