

ship feeding on 23/10 as they 'talked' softly; seen to eat unripe supple-jack berries and young fern leaves (BB). Otanewainuku, 2 heard on 15/10; 2 seen on 23/12 (PCML). Rerekapa, at least 3 on 14 and 15/4 (RWW).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen*

Waiotira, 1 on 4/6; Kawakawa Bay, 1 on 17/6 (TGL, RBS). South Auckland region, becoming commoner, especially in west (BB).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*

B.o.P., still scarce but becoming entrenched (PCML). Ureweras, Kaipō Lagoon, 4 on 17/5 (MDD). Mt Robert, 1 above bushline on 17/3 (PJ). Ward, 14 on 29/7 (TJT). Eglinton Valley, Smithy Ck, 1 on 13/7 (KM). Te Anau, first seen Lynwood Block, 28/9/77; resident since (Lionel Woods per MLB). Ivan Wilson Park, 6 on 5/9 (JVM).

ROOK *Coryvus frugilegus*

F.o.T., some evidence that small breakaway rookeries are being formed (BB, RBS). Gisborne, occasional sightings (JCH). Taranaki, 1 at Huiaroa, May '78 (JM). Ward, 1 seen twice Sept '78 (TJT). Balclutha, small new rookery, 2 nests, 5+ birds on 12/9 in tall blue-gums. Rooks also reliably reported from Te Houka and Clydevale (GG).



SHORT NOTES

HARRIER IMITATING OSPREY

At Hood's Landing in the Waikato River estuary on 29 April 1979, I saw a Harrier (*Circus approximans*) flying downstream about 4 metres above the water. Suddenly, it doubled back and picked up a fish with its feet, which disappeared under the surface. The Harrier did this without any difficulty. I could not tell whether the fish was alive or dead.

It then flew off with the fish in its talons, presumably to some roost or plucking-place where it could eat its catch at leisure. I did not see the Harrier alight; but shortly afterwards I saw it being pursued by two other Harriers. It still had the fish in its talons. When they left, the Harrier flew back towards what was evidently its intended destination.

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