

## CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

30 June 1978 to 30 June 1979

Compiled by R. B. SIBSON

These notes have been contributed by more than 120 observers, surely an encouraging sign of vitality. Most of the contributors are amateurs, who watch birds for recreation and the fun of the game. Although these notes are by their very nature 'snippets,' they touch upon a wide variety of topics, eg: breeding, distribution, behaviour, diet, flocking, beachcombing and of course, migration. It is not to be expected that the tens of thousands of square miles of bird-rich ocean, which surround our long chain of islands can be adequately covered, but a glance through the notes will show how both land-tied zealots and sharp-eyed mariners can make observations of unusual interest.

The annual gathering and publication of data leads to a clearer understanding of what birds are where; how numerous they are and how successful in a changing environment. These notes cannot give the full picture, but they can fill in a few details. May I thank all contributors, especially those Regional Representatives who so carefully sorted and sifted the notes from their regions. If I have inadvertently omitted a note which some observer thinks particularly significant, I apologise for the slip.

Most of the observations here recorded were made between 30 June 1978 and 30 June 1979. A few made before or after these dates are dated accordingly.

Abbreviations: est = estuary, pen = peninsula, N.P. = National Park, S.F. = State Forest, S.F.P. = State Forest Park, S.P. = Sewage Ponds, W.R. = Wetland Reserve.

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E & O E

**BROWN KIWI** *Apteryx australis*

Russell S.F. (KLO) Waitotira calling 18/4 (TGL). Coroglen Rangihau R. heard frequently (Brian Baker per BB). Taranaki, calls heard Huatoki Valley, New Plymouth; Taramoakou Trig on 20/1 (GD). (Sp?) reported by farmer, Waitoto, S. Westland (HAR).

**YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN** *Megadyptes antipodes*

Jack's Bay, SE Otago, 4 on 19/11 (P & KM).

**BLUE PENGUIN** *Eudyptula minor*

B.O.P. Mt Maunganui, Aug '78; a few pairs courting very audibly (PCML).

Westland, Twelve Mile Bluff, reported breeding annually (DJO).

**FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN** *Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*

Preservation Inlet. Pr. nesting in long cave on Weka Is. on 20/7 (JVM, KM).

**CRESTED GREBE** *Podiceps cristatus*

Nelson Lakes N.P. Rotoiti near Coldwater Hut 1 on 11/6. Elterwater, 2 courting Aug '77; apparently failed to breed and both had disappeared Jan '78 (TJT). L Alexandrina/McGregor 48 on 12/11 (RJP), L. Te Anau 1 pr. near Caves wharf on 29/11 (KM) 1 pr and 1 juv near Yacht Club on 20/2 (JVM); near Terrace on 27/3 (KM). L. Thomas, max 5 on 21/3 (MB).

**N.Z. DABCHICK** *P. rufopectus*

Waitotira, pr. on farm dam on 13/1 (TGL). Muriwai dune-lakes, 69 on February census, the average for the last seven years being 65 (SMR). Karioitahi, max 3; Ryburn's lagoon, 1 on 15/7 (DAL). Tuakau/Pukekohe S.P. occasional visitor (AH). Rotokauri 1 on 8/7. Hamilton lake on 15/4 (MAB). B.o.P. scarce; Awaitei wetlands 1 on 27/8 and 22/4 (PCML). Rotoiti, numerous on 24/3, especially in bays on north side (TGL). H.B., visits many lakes and farm dams. L. Runanga 20 on 15/6; Te Roto-o-kiwa 23 on 16/6 (KVT). Taranaki, scarce; Opunake 1 on 21/1 (DGM). Manawatu 227 on 22 ponds, lakes, farm-dams on 24/6 (LJD). Omanuka 16 on 5/5; Kaikotapu 12 on 6/7 (AC). Marton S.P. 25 on 9/6 (LJD).

**HOARY-HEADED GREBE** *P. poliocephalus*

L. McGregor, one July '78 (RJP). Redcliffe W.R. 2 present, June to November; nest building on 28/8. Adult on 21/3 seen to eat two large tadpoles, first held crosswise in bill and then hit against

the water 10-15 times. Grebe then lifted head and tossed tadpole down with some gulping. None seen on five visits between 29/8 and 21/3 to Lagoon Creek dam, Dawson Dam, L. Thomas and L. Luxmore (MB, RRS).

**AUSTRALIAN LITTLE GREBE** *Tachybaptus novaehollandiae*

Cheviot, St Anne's Lagoon 1 pr on 7/4 and two full-sized young (BDH, TJT). Redcliff W.R. max. 5 on 3/6 (RRS).

**WANDERING ALBATROSS** *Diomedea exulans*

B.o.I. 1 close astern on 3/10 (DWW). Foxton Beach, seen passing Aug, Jan, April (JL & MM).

**BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK** *Diomedea melanophrys*

Raoul Is. 1 with dark brown iris freshly ashore in 31/8/77 (KM). Outside B.o.I. 1 on 3/10 (DWW). Poor Knights 1 on 29/10. Off C. Colville 1 ad. & 1 juv. on 23/5 (TGL). Foxton, 1 passing S. on 30/7 (JL & MM).

**YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK** *Diomedea chlororhynchos*

Several sightings in northern waters. 410 miles WSW of C. Reinga 1 on 10/9; 305 miles WSW of C. Reinga 1 imm. on 12/10; 11 miles SE from C. Brett, 1 ad. on 6/6; 12 miles NE from C. Karikari 1 on 6/6; 14 miles ENE of C. Reinga 1 adult on 6/6; 5 miles ENE of Needler Pt 1 on 26/6 (NGC). Cuvier I. Landing Bay 1 juv. on 18/8; 5 miles W of C. Colville, 1 on 23/5 (TGL).

**BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK** *Diomedea bulleri*

Tasman Bay 3+ May '79 (JH). Off Tairaroa Hd, 5 on 12/5 (P & KM). The swarthy Chatham Is form is commonly seen in coastal waters around Pitt, Mangere and SE Islands (BDB, RBS).

**WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK** *Diomedea cauta*

Foxton Beach 40-50 on 27/8 (JL & MM). Tasman Bay, 2 in early April; up to 100 May '79 (JH). Pipikaretu 11 on 10/2 (P & KM).

**NELLY** *Macronectes giganteus*

Raoul, an imm. of southern form died on the beach, 5/10/77 (KM). Bream Bay 1 on 28/10; off Tiri 1 on 23/5, Rangitoto beacon to Tiri, several on 3/8 (TGL). Waikato Heads, one flying within the estuary on 24/9 (BB). Clive 4 on 17/12 (JL & MM). C. Egmont 2 off-shore on 17/9. Totaranui, 1 on 18/9 (DDM). Foxton, seen off-shore at all seasons, max. 30 passing S. on 27/8. Wellington Hr. up to 6 between 16/10 and 5/12 (JL & MM). D'Urville Is. 12 on east side in early June (JM).

**ANTARCTIC FULMAR** *Fulmarus glacialisoides*

Many found wrecked between August and January, e.g. Auckland west coast 131, Taranaki 32, Wellington 8 (SMR, DGM, SL). Foxton 7 passing S and 1 N on 27/8 between 0730 and 1030 hrs (JL & MM).

**ANTARCTIC PETREL** *Thalassoica antarctica*

Dargaville beaches, Aug-Sept, 30 dead; one inland at Kaiwaka (DEC, WJC). Auckland beaches 16; Taranaki 3 (SMR, DGM). Foxton, two passing N close inshore at 0730 hrs and two passing S well out at 0930 hrs on 27/8 (JL & MM). Foveaux St. unusual numbers (MB).

**CAPE PIGEON** *Daption capense*

Between Tiri and Cuvier Is, several on 3/8 (TGL). Foxton, seldom seen close inshore; 4+ on 27/8 (JL & MM). Pipikaretu, several on 10/2 (P & KM).

**GREY-FACED PETREL** *Pterodroma macroptera*

Raoul Is, one wrecked on 5/10/77 (KM). Hokianga, several, 8 in one group chasing and calling over the south head on 9/7/79 (DJB). B.o.I. apparent increase of breeders on islets (DC). Tarahiki, many burrows on 11/11 (JMc). Cuvier, Aug 78, much coming and going on the steep slopes; 4/12 adults still feeding well-grown downy young; May '79; many flying over; some landing to clean out burrows (TGL). Mt Maunganui, Aug '78, many present (PCML).

**KERGUELEN PETREL** *Pterodroma brevirostris*

Pukekohe, one swept inland on 14/7 lived for two days (DAL). Several wrecked, Aug-Oct, e.g. Auckland west coast 12, Taranaki 2, Wellington 2 (SMR, DGM, SC).

**TAIKO** *Pterodroma magentae*

Tuku Valley, Chatham I. One caught on 1/12; 2 others on 3/12 (HAR).

**COOK'S PETREL** *Pterodroma cookii*

Great Barrier. Whangaparapara, mid-Jan; heard every dusk flying E to W towards Little Barrier; also 03-04 hrs, especially on 17/1 which was overcast and windy (BDH).

**BLACK-WINGED PETREL** *Pterodroma nigripennis*

Far North, flying round headlands from North Cape to C. Reinga in broad daylight, Feb '79 (GE, RNT, HB, VH). 4 miles N of Tom Bowling Bay, 4 on 1/2; then throughout day max. 22, till 100 miles W of C. Reinga; chasing and calling tee-tee-tee-tee and soaring up to 100 ft (NGC). Petone, 1 on 30/3 (SC). Invercargill, 1 on 4/1 (RRS). Chatham Islands, Feb '79, Big Mangere some overhead calling after dark; SE Is. after dark perhaps 100 around high ground; evidently a successful colonist; 4 old corpses in skua middens (BDB, RNT, MLF, MMcD, AW).

**CHATHAM ISLAND PETREL** *Pterodroma axillaris*

SE Island, Feb '79, 6+ seen; 4 banded (BDB, AW, MLF, RNT, MMcD).

**BLUE PETREL** *Halobaena caerulea*

Many wrecked July-October '78. Dargaville beaches 23 (WJC), Auckland 8 (SMR), Taranaki 4 (DGM), Wellington 5 (SC).

**BROAD-BILLED PRION** *Pachyptila vittata*

Seagrove, one on 18/7 in paddock attacked and killed by magpies (DAL). L. Tekapo, one landed on Cass Delta on 14/12 (RJP). Big Mangere and SE Islands, thousands in freshly moulted plumage coming ashore after dark to excavate burrows, claim nesting sites and set up prolonged subterranean cacophony, Feb-March (RBS).

**ANTARCTIC PRION** *Pachyptila desolata*

Wiroa Is, Mangere airport, 1 recently dead on 15/7 (AA).

**FAIRY PRION** *Pachyptila turtur*

Noted as common around Pinnacles, Poor Knights on 30/10; few Bream Bay 28/8 and 27/1; some between C. Colville and Cuvier on 3/8 and 23/5 (TGL). Mokohinau, 5 offshore on 9/1 (JMcC). Papamoa, at least one blown inland on 12/7 (PCML). Foxton Beach c.100 passing N, evening of 5/1 (JL & MM).

**FULMAR PRION** *Pachyptila crassirostris*

Dargaville, 1 dead on 5/8 (WJC); 1 on 15/7 at Petone; and 1 on 5/8 at Wainuiomata (SC).

**GREY PETREL** *Procellaria cinerea*

Aupori pen. 1 dead on 20/8 (DEC).

**BLACK PETREL** *Procellaria parkinsoni*

c. 5 miles NW of Little Barrier, several followed astern on 8/12; between G. Barrier and Cuvier c.15 astern with *P. carneipes* on 1/3 (TGL).

**WHITE-CHINNED PETREL** *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

Chatham Is, Waitangi to Big Mangere on 13/2, odd birds as temporary ship followers (BDB, RBS).

**FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER** *Puffinus carneipes*

G. Barrier to Cuvier, still a few on 23/5 (TGL).

**BULLERS SHEARWATER** *Puffinus bulleri*

275 miles WSW of C. Reinga, small flock (8) on 3/10 (NGC). G. Barrier to Cuvier, still a few on 23/5 (TGL). Chatham Is, several at either end of Pitt Str., Feb to mid-March (BDB, RBS).

**SOOTY SHEARWATER** *Puffinus griseus*

Dargaville beaches, probably 3000 wrecked Nov '78. 1513 picked up and counted! (WJC). Bream Bay small flocks on 28/10 and a few S of Little Barrier on 7/11 (TGL). Fiordland, large flocks had arrived by 20/9, rather early (Roy Milford per MLB).

**FLUTTERING SHEARWATER** *Puffinus gavia*

Spirits Bay, 28/1, large flocks offshore (BB). Numerous in northern coastal waters, thinning out by Cuvier (TGL). Foxton Beach max. c.100 on 4/1 and 4/3. Wellington Hr. up to 30, Sept-Oct (JL & MM). Abel Tasman N.P. hundreds offshore on 18/11 (DGM).

**LITTLE SHEARWATER** *Puffinus assimilis*

Bream Bay, Rimiriki Is, G. Barrier to Cuvier, usually in ones and twos while flutterers are commonly in biggish flocks. Scattered all the way from Cuvier to C. Colville on 23/5 (TGL).

**WILSON'S STORM PETREL** *Oceanites oceanicus*

5 miles W of C. Colville on course for Tiri, 3 on 23/5 (TGL, CM).

**GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL** *Garrodia nereis*

Chatham Is. Tuku; often attracted by bright lights (HAR). SE Island, a few still coming ashore in March among hosts of White-faced Storm Petrels (BDB, RBS).

**DIVING PETREL** *Pelecanoides urinatrix*

Cuvier, May '79, hundreds offshore (TGL).

**AUSTRALASIAN GANNET** *Sula bassana serrator*

15 miles W of C. Reinga, 100+ adults on 1/2 feeding over disturbed water; 320 miles W of C. Reinga, one adult flying E ahead of a strong wind on 13/5 (NGC). Muriwai, the new mainland colony had a successful season. Manukau, 42 out from Karaka on 24/6 (BB). Port Waikato 17 on 13/5, 7 km upstream (AH). Foxton Beach, at all seasons, max. 16 on 3/12 (JL & MM). Wellington Hr. max. 6 on 3/6, between Petone and Somes I. (SC). Abel Tasman N.P. c.60 offshore on 18/11 (DGM). Croiselles 6+ (1 juv) on 13/3; Tasman Bay 30+ all adults, 2-4/4 (JMH).

**BLACK SHAG** *Phalacrocorax carbo*

395 miles W of C. Reinga, 1 on 20/4 circled vessel and 19 miles further W the same bird or one in similar plumage (NGC). Cuvier, one, May '79 (TGL). Papakura reservoir, 15 occupied nests and 24+ chicks on 1/10 (AJG, JM). Kapiapia offshore stacks on 6/8, 54 mainly on nests (TH, BB, DMW). B.o.P., Awaiti, Aug-Sept, c.40 nests (PCML). H.B. common throughout (KVT). Mt Hauhungatahi 1 at 950 m on 10/5/78 (MDD). Diamond Lake, 2 on 2/3 (DGM). L. Tekapo, resident; nests in willows and on river cliffs (RJP).

**PIED SHAG** *Phalacrocorax varius*

Mokohinau, 2 on 21/5 (JMcC). Upper Waitemata, colony near Paremoremo, in use all year (DWW). Increasing in Manukau; Hingaia 97 on 23/7, already a few occupied nests (AH, RS). Kidds Bay, c.80 on 23/6 (AH).

**LITTLE BLACK SHAG** *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*

Raoul, Blue Lake, 2 small shags 'long dark bill,' believed to be of this species, July-Oct '77 (KM). The usual winter flocks widely reported in the north, e.g. L. Kereta 18 on 1/10; Hobsonville 60 on 21/5; Glenbrook 25 on 23/9 (DWW). Weymouth c.60 on 22/5 (HRMcK). Waikare outlet 20+ on 16/7 (BB). Matata 16 on 6/5, Awaiti c.15 present on 27/8 (PCML). L. Whangape c. 350 pairs nested; colony almost deserted by 17/3 (JH & BS). H.B. visits most waters; breeds at Harimoana (KVT). Manawatu est, winter visitor, 10 on 3/6 (BDH), max. 17, 6/5 to 30/6. Wellington Hr c.10 July-Aug '78; up to 16 April-June '79 (JL & MM).

**LITTLE SHAG** *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*

Mokohinau 1 on 21/5 (JMcC). Waipu on 29/7, 18 (5 w.t., 7 l.p., 6 dark); 20 on 23/4 (TGL). Waikare outlet, 90+ on 16/7 (BB). B.o.P., Awaiti c.26 nests on 27/8 (PCML). Taupo, nesting in cave 17/10 and Motuwaharu, 49 nests on 21/11, each holding 2-5 eggs or 3-5 young (TBST). L. Tekapo, resident, nesting in willows (RJP).

**CHATHAM ISLAND SHAG** *Leucocarbo onslowi*

Makarakau, c.30; 5 nests on 24/11 (TCD). Some present on the cliffs near Manukau Pt. on 12/2; but nesting over (BDB, RBS). None seen around Mangere or SE Island; but a few up the NE coast of Pitt; Feb-March (MLF, RNT).

**SPOTTED SHAG** *Stictocarbo punctatus*

F.o.T. along inner coasts, 1167 on 5/11; 500+ on 17/6 (BB). Kapiapia rocks, 43 nests on 6/8, a few with quarter-grown chicks; and all but two nests had one attendant adult (DMW). Some 1. c.100 on 3/6; nesting in progress; 19 nests, 12 c/3, 7 c/2 (SC).

**PITT ISLAND SHAG** *Stictocarbo punctatus featherstoni*

Generally distributed; c.40 at Makarakau on 24/11 (TCD). Waitangi, Owenga, Manukau Reef, Pitt Is. Scattered thinly round Mangere and SE Is. max. together 8 (MLF, RBS).

**WHITE-FACED HERON** *Ardea novaehollandiae*

Flocking after nesting season widely reported. Cuvier 3 on steep pasture on 2/3 (TGL). Auckland isthmus, after mid-winter, nesting widely in suburbs (BB, TGL, RBS). Te Anau, arrived May 1969 (Lionel Woods per MB). Southland lagoons 95 on 19/8; 157 on 30/12 (RRS). Chatham Is, well established and has spread to Pitt, Mangere and SE Is (AW, RBS).

**KOTUKU** *Egretta alba*

Singles reported from many traditional winter stations. Also Otamatea R. 7 in May '78 (MEW), Jordan's 4 on 13/10 (GE, SMR). Pahurehure Inlet, 3 wintered (HRMcK). L. Whangape, 7 on 16/7 (BB, R & NP) and on 13/12 (BS). Horowhenua 5 on 7/8 (BDH). Waimea est, 3 on 27/2 (KLO). Wairau est. 4 on 5/11 (JH & BS). At Miranda one on 29/4 captured 11 'herrings' with 20 stabs in 8 minutes (ARL).

**LITTLE EGRET** *Egretta garzetta*

Kerikeri April '79, one on seasonal lake (ATE). Bayly's Beach, one at small pond for two weeks in April (WJC). Otamatea R. one during May '78 (MEW). Whangateau 1 on 28/9 (DWW). H.B., Westshore 1 from at least 24/3 to 4/6 (KVT). New Plymouth, Rotomanu, 3 April-May (RWW). Tangimoana 1 on 20/7 (AC). Foxton No. 1, one July-October '78 (MDD) and 7 April-30 June '79 (MD, JL & MM).

**REEF HERON** *Egretta sacra*

Widespread reports in N.I. of ones and twos; but none of communal roosts, e.g. Taranaki, thinly distributed from Urenui to C. Egmont. S.I.: Croiselles 1 on 13/3 (JMH). Heathcote-Avon est. usually one or two (GG). Katiki 1 on 10/6; Nugget Pt. 1 on 11/5 (P & KM).

**CATTLE EGRET** *Bubulcus ibis*

Some non-breeders stayed over the summer, 78-79, the winter irruption surpassed all others, as these egrets returned in record numbers 600+ to most traditional localities or explored new ones.

**BITTERN** *Botaurus stellaris poiciloptilus*

N. Wairoa, widespread (WJC). Waitotira 2 on 18/6 (TGL). L. Kereta and Kawakatai c.12 on 13/8 and 1/10; frequent daylight booming (DWW); 1 perching in Kanuka for more than two hours till two others flew past on 13/8 (MJT). Aka Aka swamp near Hood's Landing, several on 7/9 booming frequently on a calm day (BB). B.o.P., Thornton lagoon 4 on 24/9 (PCML). Tutakuri est.

1 on 11/1 (MD). East Clive 2 on 1/7; Ahuriri 6 on 12/8; Te Rotokere 2 on 25/4 (KVT). Waitotara est. 4 on 26/11 (RWW, WFC, DGM). Foxton (JL & MM). Rai Valley 1 on 16/6 (K & AU). Martin's Bay 1 on 25/6 (KM). Redcliffe W.R. max. 2; L. George 8 on 7/8 (IAM per RRS).

**GLOSSY IBIS** *Plegadis falcinellus*

Meremere, one on 4/6; 19/6; still present mid-October '79 (J. Cheyne *et al.*). L. Elterwater 1 on 2/6 (TJT). Waimea est., 1 on 18/2 and 17/4 (KLO, JMH).

**WHITE IBIS** *Threskiornis molucca*

Foxton No. 1, one on 6/8 (HAR).

**ROYAL SPOONBILL** *Platalea regia*

Waitara est, 1 on 3-4/12 (WFC, RWW). H.B., Westshore 1 on 4/6 (KVT). Manawatu est, usually some 23-26 during June (BDH, LJD, JL & MM). Farewell Spit, 6 on 3/3 (JMH). Waimea est, 14 on 27/2 (KLO), 16 on 18/3 (JMH, PMS). Bromley S.P. 2 on 19/5 (P & KM). Wairau lagoons, 6 in May '79 (C. Macnab per JC).

**YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL** *Platalea flavipes*

Near Waipapakauri, one on 20/10; evidently a 'lost' youngster now at least two years old (KLO).

**CANADA GOOSE** *Branta canadensis*

Waikato northwards, strays appearing more often (MAB, DAL). Harrisville 7 on 16/11. L. Waikare, 25 on 6/5 and 21/5 (AH). Taranaki, 2 over Fitzroy on 27/11 (GEL). Westshore, 12 on 30/9 (KVT). Foxton 10+ on 9/5 (MD). L. Elterwater, max. 36 in June (TJT). Molesworth, Saxton Valley 100+ on 19/2; Ada Valley 300+ on 25/4 (AC). Rainbow Valley 7 on 8/4 (PJ). Kaikoura, occasional visitor (JAC). Barrytown, 11 on 26/8 and 18/11 (DJO). St Anne's Lagoon, 15 on 7/4 (TJT). L. Tennyson, 2 on 20/11; Diamond Lake, Dart Valley c.150 on 2/3; Glenorchy, dozens on 2/3 (DGM). Te Anau Downs, pr with 5 goslings on 12/12 (KM, JVM). Redcliff W.R. max. 51 on 28/7 (RRS). L. Waitaki 350+, May '79 (JCH).

**PARADISE SHELDUCK** *Tadorna variegata*

Continues to increase in once forested northern districts and visiting most sizeable waters. C. Reinga 18 on 28/1. Waiotira moulting flock of c.200 on 13/1 (TGL). Clevedon 29 on 27/5 (MEMcK). Coromandel near Jackson's Bay 30+ on 3/4 (WE & MF). B.o.P. and lower Kaimais scattered pairs, Aug-Sept (KF). Awaiti wetlands, max. 325 on 22/4 (PCML). H.B. widespread, 54 on 30/6 at Kautuku swamp (KVT). Foxton 28 on 16/6 (JL & MM). Pauatahanui 3 on 22/4 (MD). Nelson Lakes 168 at Lake Station on 1/4 (PJ). L. Maerae 100+ on 21/2 (AC). Cass Delta, 600+ moulting on one tarn Jan '79 (RJP). Pleasant R. 28 on 8/4 (P & KM). Rees R. dozens on 1/3; Diamond L. and Dart Valley c.150 on 2/3; upper Glenroy 8 on 20/11; Rainbow R. 5 on 20/11 (DGM). Redcliff W.R. max. 94 on 27/2 (RRS).

**GREY DUCK** *Anas superciliosa*

Breeds at Tuakau/Pukekohe S.P. in competition with many Mallard. 29 ducks and 22 ducklings on 14/10 (AH). B.o.P. 30 at



Matata on 22/4; c.50 on 6/5 (PCML). H.B., Westshore 6 on 4/6 (KVT).

**GREY TEAL** *Anas gibberifrons*

Tuakau/Pukekohe S.P. 5 broods — 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, on 14/10; later c.200 (AH). F.o.T. up to 15 in March (RML) 41 on 19/4 (AH). B.o.P., Awaitei 4 on 22/4; Matata c.50 on 6/5 (PCML). H.B., Puketapu, 10 on 30/7; Westshore, c.90 on 20/5 (KVT). Karere Lagoon, ducklings seen on 3/10 (LJD). Manawatu est, 3 on 5/5 (JL & MM). Nelson Haven 1 on 25/6 (JM). Birchwood N. Otago 11 on 16/2/78 (JCH). Hooper's Inlet 26 on 18/2 (P & KM). Redcliff W.R. max. 24 on 19/3 (RRS).

**BROWN TEAL** *Anas chlorotis*

Great Barrier, flocks max. 104 around coast at many stream-mouths and on tidal flats, sometimes near human habitations (TGL, BDH). Hokianga Hr, pair on upper tidal reaches of Mangamuka on 15/10; Whangaruru est., c.60 on 31/1 (KLO). Helena Bay, 8+ on 31/12 (TGL). Takou, 33 on 9/12: apparently moved to lakes on Te Pene Plateau about March; none at usual river bend on 22/5 (ATE). Tuakau, 1 on 7/12 (AH).

**N.Z. SHOVELER** *Anas rhynchos*

Waiotira, c.20 on 13/1 (TGL). N. Muriwai lakes, 4 on 15/11 and 16/4 (DWW). Tuakau/Pukekohe S.P., 146 on 14/10, drakes outnumbering ducks; c. 175 on 21/1; only c.10 in April (AH). Miranda, 23 on 19/4 (AH). Hamilton Lake, 10 drakes and 7 ducks on 2/6 (MAB). B.o.P. Matata, 8 pairs on 27/8; c.80 on 6/5; Thornton Lagoon, c.30 on 24/9 (PCML). H.B., deserts lakes and ponds in May to go out to sea (KVT). Taranaki, an irregular visitor in small numbers to coastal lakes e.g. at Pihama (RWW, DGM). Kaikotapu, 13 on 6/7 (AC). Himatangi, c.20 on 24/9 (JL & MM). Nelson Haven, scarce; 9 on 1/10 (PM, PH). Barrytown, drake on 26/8; 2 pairs on 18/5 (DJO). Grassmere, 2000+ on 8/4 (BDH, TJT). L. Forsyth, 80+ on 7/2/78 (JCH). Redcliff W.R. max. 177 on 19/3 (RRS).

**BLUE DUCK** *Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*

Upper Waikohu, pair nesting under homestead verandah, Sep '78; 4 pairs on 5 km of Korenga R, Matawai (AB). Nelson, 1 visiting waters within city and consorting with Paradise Duck (KLO). Hopeless Creek, Traver's Valley, one often with Paradise Duck (PJ). Shark Cove, Dusky Sound, drake with pr of Paradise ducks on 4/10 (KM).

**N.Z. SCAUP** *Aythya novaeseelandiae*

Western Springs, 2 on 24/9 (escapes?) (DWW). B.o.P., Matata, 5 pairs on 27/8; c. 30 on 22/4 (PCML). Tuakau/Pukekohe S.P., 1 on 7/12 (AH). H.B. Kautuku swamp, 9 on 13/5 (KVT). Taranaki, a thin scattering, Waiwakaiho est., 4 on 29/11 (RWW). L. Mangamahoe 40+ on 24/10/77 (JCH). L. Pounui, 7 on 9/9; Waikareiti, 17 on 17/5 (TCD, MDD). Runanga S.P., 1 pair on 9/3 (KLO). St Anne's Lagoon, 68 on 20/5 (JCH). Cass Delta, up to 80 Aug-Dec apparently non-breeders (RJP). Wanaka, 65 on 10/3/78. L. Hayes,

56 on 9/3/78 (JCH). L. Orbell, duck with 3 young on 6/2 (KM). Redcliff W.R. max. 198 on 27/11 (RRS).

#### HARRIER *Circus approximans*

Kerikeri, Jan '79, one quartering a farm lake banked sharply to avoid a flock of hawking Swallows (ATE). Cass Delta, first display flights seen on 18/7, during a mild spell; regular displays after 27/8 (RJP).

#### N.Z. FALCON *Falco novaeseelandiae*

An increase in reports from the northern fringe of this falcon's range. Otautou, near C. Colville, 2 in Jan preying on a young Black-backed Gull (TH). Pirongia, Tawhitiwhiti, 1 on 21/4 (DAL). Several sightings near Kawhia; pr playing and calling on 17/4 (Sue Grant). B.o.P., Waikino on 30/10 (JCH). Lower Kaimais, pr tumbling and squealing on 14/9. Omanawa Gorge, pr probably nesting on 29/10 (KF). Tolaga Bay (JCH). Gisborne, young male in suburbs, 26/5 (AB). Napier, seen at Bluff Hill (MPM) and Anzac Park (JCH). Mt Hauhungatahi, 1 on 9/5 (MDD, HAR). Taranaki, 1 at 1400m. on 11/3; 3 at Dieffenbach Cliffs on 13/3; Humphries Castle 21/9; ranging over farmland May-November (RWW). L. Rotoiti, 1 casually chasing 3 ducks on 11/6 (KLO). Mt Robert, Lakeland Flats, Sabine R. (PJ). Ward, several sightings, including dark juv. (TJT). L. Benmore, 1 on 28/5 eating mouse, flustered by human comings and goings (BS). Singles seen Livingstone Temple Forest, Hermitage, Kawarau Gorge (JCH). Birchwood Hill, 1 on 9/7. Te Anau, chasing and eating Sparrows, March '78 (JVM).

#### NANKEEN KESTREL *Falco cenchroides*

Picton, one reported hovering with gulls and terns over harbour (K & AU).

#### CHUKOR *Alectoris chukar*

Ward, No. 3 spur — up to 11 (TJT). Carr, few in '79 compared with past two years (RJP). L. Waitaki, 7+, Feb. '78 (JCH).

#### BANDED RAIL *Rallus philippensis*

Numerous coastal reports from Parengarenga (KLO) to B.o.P. (PCML, KF) and Kawhia (SG). Port Fitzroy, several calling in evening of 7/12 (TGL). Occasional inland reports: confluence of Kopuera and Maramarua R., 1 caught on 3/3 (DAL). Whatawhata (TC). Tasman Bay, Riwaka, 1 dead (KLO).

#### WEKA *Gallirallus australis*

Recolonists continue to thrive and spread at B.o.I. (DBR) and Waipu (TGL). Kaipara, Slater's Refuge, 1 on 9/6 (BS). Chatham Islands, the buff form *hectori* prospers, especially around the Tuku camp (RBS).

#### MARSH CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*

Rehutai, dune-lake, 1 seen in flight on 6/1 (WJC). L. Alexandrina, locally common (RJP). Redcliff W.R. resident. Monowai, 1 on 26/2 (RRS).

SPOTLESS CRAKE *Porzana tabuensis*

Tape-recorders have proved most effective in detecting the presence of these secretive 'purring' rails, which till a few years ago were thought to be rather rare. So far recorded from 30% of Northland map-squares (ATE); also Ponati lagoon and Spirit's Bay Oct-Nov (KLO); N. Wairoa and Pouto Lakes (WJC). Helena Bay calling 31/12; Waio tira seen in raupo on 13/1 (TGL). Taporā (BB). Waitakere swamps (DWW). Waiuku (DAL). Kawhia (MJT) and swamps in Pirongia foothills (JH & BS). Rotoiti, Waiiti stream (TGL). Taihape-Napier Rd, 2 calling in Long Swamp on 1/5 (BRK). Oakura (GD). L. Pounui on 9/9; L. Ngakawau on 9/4 (MDD, HAR).

PUKEKO *Porphyrio melanotus*

H.B., plentiful. Westshore c.200 on 26/5; L. Runanga 164 on 29/4 (KVT). Pauatahanui Inlet c.25 on 21/4 (MD). L. Alexandrina irregular visitor (RJP). Martin's Bay, McKenzie lagoon, 1 near airstrip on 20/2 and 13/6 (JVM, KM). Fiordland, Kaipō airstrip 7 on 12/6 (KM). Redcliff W.R. max. c.60. Southland Lagoons, 7 on 19/8; 42 on 30/12 (RRS). Chatham I. and Pitt, occasional sightings (MDD, TCD, HAR, BDB, AW).

COOT *Fulica atra*

Te Werahi swamp, one on 27/1 (J. Cheyne). Hamilton Lake; has increased rapidly, 33 on 13/8 (TC), 19 prs and 35 young in late Nov. (JC), 49 on 26/6 (DWW), 56 on 10/6 (MAB). University of Waikato Lake, 2 in Jan '79 (EM). H.B., Tutira, 200+ on 17/8/77 (JCH), c.114 in two groups of 90 and 24 on 27/9 (BRK). Palmerston North Centennial lagoon, 1 on 28/10. L. Pounui, 1 on 9/9 (MDD, TCD). Elterwater, 5 on 20/8/77 (TJT). St Anne's Lagoon, 3 on 7/4 (TJT), 18 on 20/5 (JCH). L. Alexandrina and McGregor, have declined (RJP). Oxbow Lagoon, 1 on 5/2 (MB).

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus ostralegus finschi*

Numbers wintering in north still seem to be increasing, Paua c.30 on 22/8 and 1/3 (ATE). Rangiputa, 25 on 23/10 (KLO) and 4/11 (JHS). Whangarei Hr., 1365 on 6/7; 106 on 14/11; 462 on 3/3 (MPK). Waipu est., 4 on 23/4 (TGL). Jordan's x1000 on 18/3 (RBS). Hobsonville, 3 on 2/2. Waikato est. c.105 on 10/9 and 18/10 (AH). F.o.T., 1311 on 5/11; 12 091 winter census '79 Manukawa 1974 on 3/12; 25 420 on winter census '79 (BB). Clevedon-Kawakawa Bay-Umupaia, 727 on 14/4 (AJG, MEMcK). Kawhia 1598 on 30/6 (JH & BS). Tauranga, rarely seen at eastern end of harbour; 2 with stilts at Aerodrome Bay on 20/5 (KF). Little Waihi-Maketu, max. 10 (PCML). H.B., 2 at Mangatahi on R. Ngaururoro c. 20 miles inland with stilts and dotterels on 30/12 (BRK). Mokau est, northward passage noted 26/12-14/1, flocks of 50+, 28, 16, etc. (RWW). Manawatu est., max. 75 on 17/3 (JL & MM) flocks flying N. Punakaiki, 15 on 3/12; Barrytown, 13 on 12/12 (DJO). Abel Tasman N.P. some dozens 18/11; Upper Wairau, Dip Flat, 3 on 20/11 (DGM). Ward, show little fear of working tractors. Marfell Beach Road, 24 on 25/7 (TJT). Lynwood Block, Te Anau average date of return '65-'74, June 29th (Lionel Woods per MLB). Bluff c.400 near Tiwhai smelter on 13/1 (MD). Southland Lagoons, 1231 on 19/8, winter census; 1233 on 30/12 (RRS).

**VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus unicolor***

Paua, 17 on 22/8; 20+ on 31/3 (ATE). Rarawa Beach, 34 on 20/8. Great Exhibition Bay, 122 in several flocks, certainly mainly Variables; possibly a few S.I.P.O. (KB, AH). Rangiputa Bank, 3 prs on 8/11 (JHS). Kerikeri Inlet, 26 over May-July '79 established a routine, gathering on a shellbank as tide rose, moving to a rock-shelf at full tide and dispersing thence to feed on exposed flats (ATE). Koutu Beach, Hokianga, winter flock up to 31 (DJB). Ruakaka, 28 on 24/9 (AHG), 31 on 4/11 (MPK). Waipu, max. 77 on 18/6 (TGL). Oputere, 2 prs nesting over mid-summer (BB). Great Barrier, 26 in mid-Jan, including just-flying young; also nest c/2 on 14/1 (BDH). B.o.P. Omokoroa Beach, 36 non-breeders on 10/10 (KF). Sulphur Pt, 4 prs nested successfully; post-nuptial flocking, 38 on 7/3; 22 on 16/6. Little Waihi, max. 25 on 3/6. Maketu, 11 on 6/2 (PCML). Ohope Spit, 1 pr and 2 fledglings on 10/1 (MD). Waikato est., 17 on 24/9; 31 on 29/4; 20 on 10/6 (AH). Taranaki, Mimi est., 2 on 18/2; Abel Tasman N.P., 2 at Sandfly Bay on 18/11 (DGM). Manawatu est., usually 1-3 (JL & MM). Marfell Beach, one with S.I.P.O. (TJT). Nugget Point, 23 on 11/5 (P & KM).

**CHATHAM ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER *Haematopus chathamensis***

Pairs at Durham Pt and Point Gap (PCML). Nest c/2 on 24/11 (MDD, TCD, HAR). Scattered pairs bred successfully on Pitt, Big Mangere and SE Is. (BDB, RBS).

**SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae***

Miranda, one heard 6/12 (Gerald Robinson), 2 prs appeared, winter '79 (MSF). Gisborne, Muriwai Lagoon, pr for some weeks, Dec. '78 (AB). Volcanic Plateau, Tokoroa airstrip, 1 pr (JCD). Whakamaru, pr with 2 chicks on 8/9 (Hans Rook). Karatau, pr winter '78 (MPM). H.B., L. Poukawa, 26 on 25/4 (BRK), 9 pr on 11/5 (MDD, HAR). Waipawa, pr at farm dam, Sep '78 (IBD). Bred near Dannevirke below Ruahines (MPM). Hopelands, pr defending territory; Awatoto, 3 on 6/12; Te Hauke, 26 on 16/6 (KVT). Taranaki, 1 pr, spring '78 (Mrs Penwarden) at Urenui; Brixton, 4/2, first noticed mobbing a Harrier (RWW). Manawatu, now common and spreading inland (HAR), forming flocks 10, 16 etc (JL & MM). Turnbull's Lagoon, 11 on 12/3; others at Foxton, Santoft (LJD). L. Horowhenua, 9 on 19/8; Whiteman's Valley, 14 on 26/5 (BDH). Nelson Haven, 5 on 23/3 (JMH). Appleby, 18+ Murchison, 51 on 20/4 (KLO). L. Rotoiti, Lake Station c.50 on 6/6 (PJ). Ada-Waiiau junction, 19 on 25/4 (AC). Ward, now well established, Marfell, Sept '78 pr and 3 chicks; 10 on 25/7/79 (TJT), Kaikoura, pr reared 4 chicks Nov-Dec '77 (JAC). Washdyke, 12 on 29/5 (BS). Cass Delta, no nests before August (RJP). Paradise, Dart Valley c.40 on 1/3 (DGM). Martin's Bay, 2 calling at night on beach on 13/6 (KM). Redcliff W.R. max. 44 on 30/3. Southland lagoons 252 on 19/8; 191 on 30/12 (RRS).

**GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola***

Manukau. Kidd's Bay, 1 from at least 13/8 to 4/3 (RC, DWW).

**LEAST GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis fulva***

Paua, 20 in October, 38 Nov, c.100 Dec; 200+ Jan '79; c.100 on 31/3 (ATE, BJB, BB). Great Barrier, 30 on 17/1 (BDH). Port Whangarei, 19 on 2/2 (WJC). Jordan's, 15 on 17/10. Oyster Pt, 28 on 29/1 (AH, JAFJ, RBS). Mataitai, 4 on 6/3 (AH). Manukau,

16 on 5/10, 77 on 20/1 (BB), c.120 on 10/2 (DWW), 14 on 13/4 (AH). F.o.T., c.150 on 5/11, summer census (BB). H.B., Westshore, 6 on 14/10; c.30 on 10/2 (KVT); Rangitikei est., 1 on 18/2 (LJD, BP). Manawatu est., 21 throughout summer (LJD). Waimea est., 5 on 8/1 (JMH), 10 on 8/3 (PMS, JMH). Kaikoura, 1 on 13/1 (JAC). Chatham Is., 2 at Te Whanga Lagoon on 24/11 (MDD, HAR).

#### N.Z. DOTTEREL *Charadrius obscurus*

Paua, no large post-breeding flocking noted (ATE). Rangiputa, 23 on 23/10 (KLO). Port Whangarei, 52 on 8/7; 11 on 3/3 (MPK), 27 on 28/4 (WJC). Dargaville coast, 45 in 18 km on 23/6 (WJC). Ruakaka, 11 on 23/9, 2 prs guarding territories (AHG). Waipu, max. 18 on 29/7 (TGL). Great Barrier, 10+ on 14/1; Whangapoua 10 (BDH). Mataitai, 24 on 6/3; 22 on 17/4 (AH), 25 on 19/4 (HRMcK, MEMcK). Wiroa Is., 9 on 25/1 and 26/6 (DWW). Karaka, no autumn flock (BB). F.o.T., 9 at gravel pits on 17/6 (TGL, RBS). B.o.P., apparent increase around Sulphur Pt, 10 during winter '78; first chick seen on 17/10; several chicks on 7/1; flock of 20 on 3/5; 16 on 18/6, 5 with buff breasts; 11 grey (KF). A few pairs along coast (PCML). Scattered pairs south to Kawhia and Taharoa (JH & BS). Nelson Haven, 1 in breeding dress on 7/9 (JMH).

#### BANDED DOTTEREL *Charadrius bicinctus*

Paua, 10 in Sept. '78; 200, Jan-Feb; 1000 in March (ATE). Port Whangarei, none seen Nov. '78 or March '79 (MPK). Great Barrier, 21 on 17/1 (BDH). Oyster Pt., c.250 on 29/1 (AH, JAFJ). Mataitai c.200 on 6/3 (AH). Kawa Kawa Bay, Umupuia, 85 on 19/4 (MEMcK, AJG). Ardmore, 36-50 during Feb. (Peter Coleman). Kawakawa Bay, c.30 on 17/6 (RBS). Manukau winter census 580 (BB). F.o.T., max. c.150 on 4/2 (BB). Bethells, pair bred, running chick on 5/1 (OP). B.o.P. Sulphur Pt, 3 prs nesting 1/10; Kaituna Cut 3 prs breeding, 21/10; 13 (5 juv.) on 31/12; Maketu c.30 on 3/6; Ohope Spit, 4 on 24/9 (PCML). H.B., breeds all large riverbeds and some along coast. Awatoto c.30 on 20/1 (JL & MM). Westshore, c.12 on 10/2 (KVT). New Plymouth airport, 30 on 28/2; 27 on 4/4; Mimi est., 2 on 18/2; Waitotara, 6 on 26/11 (RWW, DGM). Waiongone, 10 on 13/2 (GD). Rangitikei R., Bulls-Tangimoana, 58 on 11/11. Longburn, 25 flying up river on 16/6 (HAR). Manawatu est., c.60 on 17/3 (JL & MM). Ohau, 40 on 27/5 (BDH). Rainbow R., 1 on 20/11 (DGM). L. Tekapo, c.250 wintering in '78 and 350 in '79, mostly at the Godley Delta (RJP). Lynwood block, Te Anau, seen occasionally, max. 12; no sign of breeding (Lionel Woods per MB). Martin's Bay, 4 on sandspit on 13/6 (KM). Southland Lagoons, 20 on 19/8; 85 on 30/12 (RRS). Shag R. Est., 1 on 10/6 (P & KM). Chatham Is. several pairs on rough farmland in SW, Nov.-Dec; 101 on Te Whanga lagoon on 24/11; nest c/3 on 24/11 (TCD, MDD, HAR).

#### MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL *Charadrius mongolus*

Manukau S., 1, possibly 2, 18/10-4/4 (KJF, AH).

#### LARGE SAND DOTTEREL *Charadrius leschenaultii*

Manukau S., 1 from 17/10-18/4; 2 from 10/12-18/3, call note *true-eet* (AH, BB, DWW).

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *Charadrius melanops*

B.o.P., Welcome Bay, 2 on 11/6 and 19/6 (KF). H.B., Ahuriri est. c.80 feeding in grass or on mud at edge of outfall channel on 12/8. Awatoto, 10 on 19/12 (KVT). Tutaekuri est., 3 on 12/1 (MD). L. Poukawa, 25 feeding with Spur-winged Plovers on 11/5 on muddy stubble (BRK). Pahiatua S.P., 2 on 23/8 (SC). Waingawa S.P., 15 on 16/4 (BDH); 29 on 28/5 (MDD). Omanuka Lagoon, fairly regular; 6 on 6/7 (AC); 13 on 27/3; 8 on 18/5 (MD); 199 on three rivers on 11/11; namely Manawatu 117; Rangitikei 66; Oroua 16 (MDD, LJD, HAR). Longburn, max. 65, on 30/7/78; 91 on 19/5/79 (MDD). Otaki S.P., 7 on 24/5, dashing up and down the concrete strip like sanderlings, pursuing the wind-blown waves (BDH, MDD). Marfell beach road, 1 on 10/7 (TJT). Ophi est., 8 ad. and 2 juv. Dec. '78. Wainono, 1 in April '79 (RJP).

WRYBILL *Anarhynchus frontalis*

Paua, 40 in Jan; 50 in March; one feeding on tidal flat chased by Turnstone (ATE). Great Exhibition Bay several; Whangarei Hr., 143 on 8/7, 14 on 4/11; 12 on 24/12; 50 on 2/2; 132 on 3/3 (MPK, WJC). Great Barrier, 1 at Whangapoua on 17/1 (BDH). Jordan's, 12 on 31/10 (AH, SMR), 45 on 29/1; 120 on 18/3 (MJT, RBS). Manukau, Wiroa I. c.350 on 23/9 (RJVC); summer census 6; winter '79, 1758 (BB). F.o.T., c.190 summered; seasonal pattern of rise and fall normal; c.2500 on 21/1 and 3/6 (JH & BS); but only 2011 on winter census (BB). Port Waikato, 6 on 10/9; 5 on 18/3 (AH). B.o.P., a few summered at Sulphur Pt, e.g. 21 on 12/12; then 31 on 16/1; 90 on 29/1 rising to 190 on 12/5 (KF), 106 on 21/2 (BS). Kaituna, present from 15/7 to 26/11; max. 13 (PCML). Rangitikei est., 2 on 18/2. Manawatu est., usually some; max. 31 on 31/8 (JL & MM). Ohau est., 4 on 15/10 (BDH). Nelson Haven, 20 on 24/8; 1 on 1/10 (PM & PH), 1 on 26/3 (JHM). Motueka, 3 on 9/7/79 (KLO). Marfell Beach, 2 on 4/8/79 (PJ, WAC). Ashley est., 1 on 20/5 with full neck band (BS). Waimakariri Gorge, nest c/2 on 3/12 (GG). Cass Delta; begin to arrive early August. One imm. present late June and throughout July-August '79, evidently overwintering (RJP).

FAR-EASTERN CURLEW *Numenius madagascariensis*

Paua, none in July; 2 on 22/8; 4 on 21/9; 3 or 4 throughout summer till 1/3; none on 31/3 (ATE). Rangiputa, 4 on 23/10 (KLO). Whangarei, 1 on 8/7 (MPK). Manukau, 2 in Dec. '78 (BB). F.o.T., 4 on 9/9 (TGL); 6 in October; 12 on 5/11 summer census; 7 on 4/3; 2 on 24/3 (AH, BB). Maketu, 1 between 21/10 and 6/2 (PCML). Manawatu est., max. 3 during summer till 17/3 (LJD, JL & MM).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

Raoul Is., one 17/9-7/10/77 (KM). Paua, odd birds Aug-Oct; 33 in flock on 6/11; 20 on 29/1 (ATE, JH & BS). Rangiputa, 2 on 8/11 (JHS). Oyster Pt., c.20 on 29/1 (AH, JAFJ, RBS). Manukau S., one June-September; up to 4 throughout summer; 4 on 19/2 (CRV, BB). F.o.T., one on 9/9; 21 on 5/11 (TGL, DAL). Waimea est., 1 on 9/1 (JMH). Maketu, 1 between 13/8 and 6/2 (PCML).

AMERICAN WHIMBREL *Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*

Karaka, 1 on 25/10 (MSF). Miranda, 1 on 1/11 (AH).

## WHIMBREL sp.

Westshore, Ahuriri, 2 on 24/3 (KVT); 2 on 19 and 21/12 (JL & MM); 1 on 11/5 (MDD, HAR). Petone, 1 on 21/10 (SC).

LITTLE WHIMBREL *Numenius minutus*

H.B., Westshore, one feeding quietly along grassy slope on 28/1 (KVT).

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa melanuroides*

Whangarei Hr, one on 2/2, 3/3 and 28/4, probably the bird that overwintered in 1978 (WJC, MPK).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa lapponica*

Paua, Sept 600+; October-November 1000; Jan, only 270; March c.100 (ATE). Rangiputa, 3000 on 8/11 (JHS). Manganui Hr. and Kerikeri Inlet transient parties evidently drifting S, Oct-Nov (ATE). B.o.I., last week Sept, many flying over at night and some seen by day (DC). Whangarei, 270 on 8/7; 2119 on 4/11; 3887 on 3/3 (MPK). Waipu, 77 on 16/12 (TGL), 150 on 1/1 (AHG). Mataitai 350 on 24/10. Port Waikato, 60 on 18/10; 73 on 18/3 (AH). Manukau, 10 652 on 3/12; 1616 overwintering '79. F.o.T., 5292 on 5/11; only 256 on winter census '79 (BB, SMR). Jordan's, much outnumbered by Knots on 29/1 and 18/3 (RBS). B.o.P., Opoutere 230 on 14/1 (BB); Sulphur Pt, c.1100 on 1/10 (PCML); high numbers over summer, 6000+ on 3/12; c.5000 on 3/1; rather few overwintering e.g. 85 on 12/5; 82 on 16/6; possibly disturbed by dredging (KF). Kaituna Cut-Maketu c.260 on 21/10; c.1000 on 31/12 (PCML). Hope Spit c.500 on 24/9 (MD). Kawhia c.100 overwintering '79 (JH & BS). H.B., Westshore c.130 on 30/9; c.400 on 14/10 (KVT); c.500 on 19/12 (JL & MM); c.250 on 24/3, when at 1630 hrs c.100 passed overhead, stringing out as they went N and out along the coast (KVT). New Plymouth, Bell Block, 2 on 29/10; Waitara est., 6 on 27/11; Waitotara, 10 on 26/11 (DGM, WAC, RWW). Rangitikei est., 33 on 18/2. Manawatu est., max 460 during summer; c.30 overwintering (LJD). Motueka, 49 on 9/7/79 (KLO). Waikouaiti, 62 on 24/2 (MB). Southland lagoons, only 89 on 19/8/78, winter census; 4925 on 30/12 (RRS).

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

B.o.P., Matahui, 1 on 7/1 with Stilts, probably the same bird as seen at the same place a year before (PCML). L. Wairarapa, 2 on 22/1 and 18/2 (MDD, HAR).

TATTLER (?sp) *Tringa brevipes-incana*

Awatoto, 1 on Tutakuri on 30/12 (JL, MC). Kaikoura, 2 on 24/12; 1 overwintering at least from 20/4-25/7/79 (JAC).

SIBERIAN TATTLER *Tringa brevipes*

Kidd's Bay, 1 on 20/1, jumpy (BJB, BB, AH, MSF). Awarua Lagoon, 1 on 30/12 (RRS). Chatham I., C. Pattison, 1 on 23/11 (MDD, TCD, HAR).

TEREK SANDPIPER *Xenus cinereus*

A poor year. Karaka, 1 on 7/12; 2 on 4/2 (AH, RNT); 1 staying to overwinter '79 (BB).

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*

Raoul, up to 4, Sept-Oct '77. Puaa, 300 in Sept, 500 in Nov (ATE), c.1240 late Jan (BB), c.3000 on 31/3 (ATE) (cf C.S.N. Dec. '78). Rangiputa, 800+ on 23/10 (KLO), 200 on 8/11 (JHS). Whangarei, 5 on 4/11 (MPK). Waipu, 9 on 16/12 (TGL). Kidd's Bay, c.350 on 30/12 and 13/4 (AH). Manukau, 262 on 3/12, summer census; 221 overwintering. F.o.T., 141 on 5/11; 52 overwintering (BB). B.o.P., Sulphur Pt, a few most of year, max. 14 on 15/12; 2 on 16/6 (KF). Kaituna cut, 2 on 19/11. Little Waihi, 4 on 22/12 (PCML). H.B., Westshore, 5 on 30/9 (KVT), 1 on 21/12; Te Awanga, 1 on 17/12. Manawatu est., usually some Oct-Feb, max. 6 on 2/12 (JL & MM). Nelson Haven, 1 on 7/10; 3 on 14/3 (JMH). Motueka, 14 on 9/7/79 (KLO). Marfell Beach, 10 on 15/7; 7 on 25/7 feeding in a wet paddock (TJT). Southland Lagoons, 16 on 19/8, winter census; 1166 on 30/12 (MLB, RRS). Chatham I., Waitangi, 62 on 23/11; Te Whanga, 266 and others elsewhere. SE Island, 9 on 16/12 (MDD, HAR).

KNOT *Calidris canutus*

Raoul, 6 on 21/8/77, up to 4 Sept-Oct '77 (KM). Puaa, Aug-Nov. max. 300; only 100 on 3/12; 600 on 29/1; March only c.20 (ATE). Rangiputa, 1000+ on 23/10 (KLO), c.2000 on 8/11 (JH & BS). Whangarei, 410 on 4/11, 2001 on 3/3 (MPK). Waipu, 88 on 16/12 (TGL). Jordan's, 7000+ on 29/1 (AH, JAFJ, RBS). Manukau, 10 535 on 3/12, summer census; 6561 overwintering '79. F.o.T., 7472 on 5/11; c.2000 on 3/6 (JH & BS); but only c. 900 on winter census (BB). B.o.P., Sulphur Pt, 4 on 24/1 and 30/1 (KF), 8 on 26/12 (PCML). Kaituna cut, 4 from 19/11-22/12. Matahui, 30+ on 7/1; 22 on 22/1, most recorded in B.o.P. (PCML). H.B., Westshore, 2 on 30/9 (KVT). Bell Block, 5 on 29/10 (DGM). Mokau, 1 on 27/11 (WFC). Manawatu est., some throughout summer, c.80 on 17/2 (JL & MM); 74 on 18/3, none overwintering (LJD). Southland Lagoons, c.175 on 30/12 (RRS). Chatham I., Te Whanga, 500+ on 24/11 (MDD, HAR).

GREAT KNOT *Calidris tenuirostris*

Kidd's Bay, 1 on 18/3 (BB, MSF, CRV) and 1/4 (BJB, BB, RNT). Feeding in front of Lesser Knots, its larger size and longer bill most apparent; streaked on crown; heavily spotted breast; legs yellowish green; white across rump plain in flight.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

Puaa, 1 on 31/3 (ATE). Karaka, 4 on 28/11; 1 in autumn (SMR, BB). F.o.T., present throughout summer, max. 23 on 5/11 (BB). Sulphur Pt, 4 transients on 30/11 (KF). Kaituna Cut, 2 from 21/10-31/12 (PCML). Westshore, 7 on 28/1 (KVT). Manawatu est., 2, 17/12-18/3 (LJD). Awarua Lagoon, 5 on 30/12 (RRS).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER *Calidris melanotos*

Miranda, 2 on 10/4 (ARL). Kaituna Cut, 1 on 5/11 and 31/12 (PCML). Tutaeakuri est., 1 on 6/12 & 19/12 (KVT); also 22/1 with 2 Godwits and a Turnstone (BRK).



**CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea***

Paua; Nov-Dec, 10; Jan-March, 15-16 (ATE, BB). Karaka, 1 on 1/12; 2 on 30/12 (AH) and 20/1 (BB). Miranda 25+ on 1/11; 20+ throughout summer; 20 on 10/4, all reddened; 5 on 29/4 (ARL); 3 pale on 3/6 in Curlew Paddock (JH & BS). Kaituna Cut, 1 on 21/10 and 5/11 (PCML). Southland Lagoons; 13 on 30/12 (RRS).

**DUNLIN *Calidris alpina***

Karaka, 1 on 23/6, in breeding plumage, brilliantly rufous (almost 'carrot') back contrasting with white underparts and large black belly-patch; still present on 22/7 (AH, BB, MSF, JAB, RNT, SMR).

**RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis***

Paua, 4 on 28/1 (BB), March, 6-10 (ATE). Rangiputa, 1 on 23/10 (KLO), 2 on 8/11 (JHS). Karaka, 6 on 18/8 were probably overstayers; influx in October c.25 on 25/10; but 15-18 over summer; 9 on 4/4, 6 being well 'balaclavad,' calling loudly, often *t-rrr*-ing; also some answering soft calls; 3 pale birds were silent, 6 on 6/5; 5 on 23/6 (AH, BB, DWW). F.o.T., 3 on 15/10 (PW, RNT), max. 6 over summer; 2 on 5/4 (ARL) and 3 on 17/6 (BB, TGL). B.o.P., Sulphur Pt, 2 on 26/12 (PCML); 1 most of summer till May (KF). Rangitikei est., 1 on 18/2 (SEC, RAC). Manawatu est., 3 on 29/10 (JL & MM), 1 on 17/4 and 13/5 (LJD). Grassmere, 1 on 10/7 (TJT). Southland Lagoons, 37 on 30/12 (RRS).

**WESTERN SANDPIPER *Calidris mauri***

Paua, 1 on 28/1; bill heavier and larger than in *ruficollis* (4 nearby for comparison), drooped at tip; crown streaky; dark at and behind eye; legs black; otherwise grey above, white below; watched at c.25m through x15-60 telescope (BJB, BB).

**PIED STILT *Himantopus leucocephalus***

Paua, increased to 500+ by March (ATE). Whangarei, 374 on 8/7; 181 on 4/11; 943 on 3/3 (MPK). Waipu, 30 on 16/12; Waiotira, 70 inland on damp pasture on 4/6 (TGL). Jordan's, 1000+ on 18/3 (MJT, RBS). Manukau, 562 on summer census; 6561 in winter '79; Papakura, Aug. '78, c.8 prs nesting on a poultry farm. F.o.T., 1101 on summer census; 5918, winter '79 (BB, SMR). B.o.P., Kaituna, 250 on 19/11, c.600 on 3/6; Matahui Pt, 145 on 7/1 (PCML). H.B., abundant c.500 on 12/8 (KVT), c.1000 on 11/5. L. Poukawa, 99 on 11/5. Wairoa est. and Whakaki Lagoon c. 460 on 10/5. R. Manawatu, 41 on 10/11; R. Rangitikei, 76 on 11/11 (HAR, MDD). Manawatu est, c.120 on 30/8 (MD), max. c.450 on 26/5 (JL & MM). Waingawa S.P., 70 on 23/2; Foxton No. 3, 147 on 1/4 (MDD). Taranaki, Bell Block, 66 on 29/10; Opunake, 83 on 21/1 (DGM). Upper Wairau, 2 near Rainbow on 20/11 (DGM). L. Forsyth, 520+ on 7/2/78 (JCH). Katiki Beach, 44 on 10/6 (P & KM). Te Anau, Lynwood Block, average date of return '65-'74, July 26 (Lionel Woods per MLB). Redcliff W.R., present Aug-Feb, max. 161 (RRS). Southland Lagoons, 174 on 19/8; 298 on 30/12 (RRS).

**BLACK STILT *Himantopus novaezealandiae***

Few reports of pure 'all-blacks'; several of 'smudgies' showing varying degrees, traces of white on face or underparts. Wiroa I., 1 on

2/5 and 21/6 with some whitish undertail coverts (DWW). Miranda, 1 typical smudgy from 4/3 and throughout winter (AH, TH, ARL). Kawhia, Ope Ope rocks, where some are expected almost every winter, 2 on 12/2, one black, one smudgy; 2 on 14/3 black; 6 on 30/6 (JH & BS). Longburn, 1 smudgy on 14/10 (LJD). Horowhenua, 1 on 24/6 (SC). Grassmere, 1 on 8/4 (BDH, TJT). L. MacGregor, 1 twice disturbed by Harrier on 23/2 (MLB). "The latest count of Blacks is c.20 pairs plus a number of solitary birds, mainly males, mated with pied/hybrids." (RJP). Oreti headwaters, 1 smudgy on 10/10 (S. A. Sutherland per RRS).

#### SOUTHERN GREAT SKUA *Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*

Chrystall's Beach, 1 on 15/4 (P & KM). Chatham Is. Feb-March, some dozens on Big Mangere and SE Islands. Pitt I., 1 on 7/3 visiting Glory Bay to scavenge dog tucker (RBS).

#### POMARINE SKUA *Stercorarius pomarinus*

Rangitaiki est., 2 possibles on 4/4 (PCML). Off Clive, 2 on 17 and 20/12 (JL & MM).

#### ARCTIC SKUA *Stercorarius parasiticus*

Mokohinau, 1 on 8/1 (JMc); 7 miles west of C.Colville, 1, dark phase, harassing terns on 23/5, evidently overwintering (TGL). Rangitaiki est., 5+ on 4/4 (PCML). Clive, 10+ on 17 and 20/12 (JL & MM). Awakino, 1 on 3/1 (RWW). Foxton Beach, often seen offshore, Oct-5/5, max. 4 on 5/2 (JL & MM). Petone, 2 on 16/4 (SC). Off Ngauranga, 1 on 5/4 (JL & MM). Tasman Bay, 1 on 3/4 (JMH). Punakaiki, 2 on 20/4 (DJO). Kaikoura, 1 dying 15/11 (JAC). Chatham I., Te Awapatiki, 2 near tern colony on 20/11 (MDD, HAR). Manukau Reef, 1 dark-breasted among terns on 12/2 (RBS).

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

Tauranga, great increase. 'They look a well-fed lot and do not interfere with other birds. 2 pairs nested on Sulphur Pt Island' (KF); 112 (90% sub-adult) on 3/12 (PCML). H.B., c.3000 between estuaries of Ngaruroro and Tukituki (KVT). Ruapehu, c.8000 on 6/2, 3 on snow and ice, feeding presumably off abundant flies and insects (DAL). Waimakariri Gorge, c.1000 on 3/12 at nesting colony; eggs mostly hatched and chicks mobile (GG). Rees Valley, 12 on 1/3 (DGM).

#### RED-BILLED GULL *Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*

Rangiputa on 8/11, 300-350 birds, incubating; one nest with small chicks (JHS). Cuvier, Oct '78, c.500 prs nested; but few if any, raised young. By 7/12 few birds remained; there were many abandoned nests and some dead chicks (TGL). Opoutere, Hikinui Is. on 14/1, c.50 prs; only c.10 still at nests (BB). H.B., Ngaruroro c.100 on 22/7 (KVT). Castle Point, 22 nests still with eggs on 1/1; many chicks also present. Onoke Spit on 31/12, 1 nest c/2 in tern colony (MDD, TCD).

#### BLACK-BILLED GULL *Larus bulleri*

Kelly's Bay, Pouto, 1 with 13 Red-billed on 4/6, the most northerly record (WJC). Kawakawa Bay, 6 on 17/6 (TGL, RBS). Karaka, 1 on 5/10 (BB). F.o.T., 63 on 5/11; 380+ in winter (BB).

Kawhia, 2 on 30/6 (JH & BS). B.o.P., Tarawera Est., 30 on 30/7, 10 on 10/6; Little Waihi, 5 on 3/6 (PCML). Gisborne, Muriwai Lagoon, 131 on 29/9; group of 30 foot-trembling; no Red-billed (AB, JCH). H.B., Ngaruroro est., c.240 on 22/7; c.300 on 5/5; Ahuriri c.130 on 14/10; Tukituki, 30 inland on 7/4 (KVT). Taranaki, Rahotu est., 10 on 9/10 (RWW, DGM). Foxton, c.40 in flooded paddock on 24/5 (MDD, BDH). L. Wairarapa, 55 on 4/2 (BDH).

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucopterus*

Farewell Spit, 1 on 3/3 (JMH). Opihi, 1 on 1/2 in full breeding dress with *S. albobristata* (JHS).. One seems to be an annual visitor to Cass Delta, viz. 21/10/77-25/1/78; then 29/10/78-28/1/79. In breeding dress till Jan, when it moults quickly (RJP).

GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nitotica*

Kaipara, 1 at Jordan's on 31/7 and Oyster Pt on 31/10 (AH, SMR, KJF, GE).

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

Rangiputa bank, 180+ adults, 20-30 chicks, one very small, others half-grown on 8/11 (JHS). Waipu, max. 8 on 19/8 (TGL). Kawa Kawa Bay-Umupuia, 68 on 19/4 (MEMcK, AJG). Mataitai, c.50 on 17/4 (AH). Manukau, 17 on 5/11, summer census; 232 winter '79. F.o.T., 126 on 3/12; 330 on winter census (BB, RBS). When the fishing is good off Karaka, Caspians may join Gannets and Pied Shags. Waikato est., c.160 adults and 20 chicks on 28/11 (AH). B.o.P., size of some coastal roosts well down (PCML). Sulphur Pt, 1 pr c/1 on 4/10; for ten minutes on 24/10, 6 juv. Caspians deliberately annoyed nesting *striata* by dive-bombing or sitting among them and squawking. The noise was startling. Usual winter roosting flock c.40; but 73 on 3/2 (KF). East Clive, 15 on 1/7. Ahuriri, 15 on 26/5 (KVT). Manawatu est., max. 15 during March (JL & MM). Palliser Spit, 26 occupied nests, most with young chicks on 26/11 (JL). Southland Lagoons, 7 on 19/8, winter census; main colony 50+ nests, second colony 14+ nests on 31/12 (MLB & RRS).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN *Sterna albobristata*

B.o.P., Tarawera est., 26 (8 juv.) on 30/7; 7 (2 juv.) on 6/8; 1 juv. on 19/8; 3 juv. on 4/4; 13 on 22/4; 14 on 20/5 (PCML). Gisborne, Muriwai Lagoon, 17 on 11/10/77 (AB, JCH). H.B., Ngaruroro est., 45 on 24/6; 4 on 23/4 (KVT). Manawatu est., 1 on 5/2 and 16/4 (JL & MM). Farewell Spit, 40+ on 3/3 (JMH). Upper Wairau, several on 20/11 (DGM). Dashwood, Awatere, 190+, 30 of which were on the ground (TJT). Kaikoura, Kowhai est., 128 on 21/2; The Point c.60 on 1/6 (JAC). L. Waitaki, 7 mid-May (JCH). Either under-recorded or declining.

ARCTIC TERN *Sterna paradisaea*

Southland, West Plains, 1 found dead on pasture 18/11 (RRS).

FAIRY TERN *Sterna nereis*

Waipu, max. 4 on 16/12 (TGL), 2 pairs on 1/1, one with nest c/2 (AG). Mangawhai, 2 on 17/9; 3 on 19/11; 3 ad., and 2 flying young on 14/1, one adult carrying food; 1 on 16/4 and 23/6 (SMR, MJT).

LITTLE TERN *Sterna albifrons*

Paua, 1 on 29/1 (BB). Rangiputa, 24 on 23/10 (KLO), 37 on 8/11 (JHS). Dargaville coast, 1 dead near Glink's Gully on 20/11 (WJC). Whangarei Hr, 9 on 4/1; 13 on 3/3 (MPK). Rawene, 2 on 20/1 (DJB). Karaka, present all summer, 12 on 3/2 (RNT, RBS). Jordan's, 3 on 31/10 (SMR, GE). Miranda, 6 on 1/11; 4 on 4/3 and 1/4; 1 on 6/5 (BB, AH, JH, BS). Tauranga, 3 arrived c. 3/11; 7 by 21/11; 5+ all summer, 2 still on 29/4 (KF, PCML). Manawatu, 1 on 28 and 29/10 (JL & MM). Dunedin, 1 in the Lower Hr, cross channel on 16/11. Off Dog Island on 21/3/77, 11 on the edge of a flock of feed Sooty Shearwaters. The Little Terns fed by making shallow dives and only half-submerging their bodies. Most southerly record for this species in NZ (JAFJ).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN *Sterna striata*

Aupori pen., hundreds off both coasts in February (NWC). Cable Bay, 400 on 30/1 (BB). Rangiputa, egg-laying not started on 8/11 (JHS). Waipu, one banded 13/1/57 (RBS) found dead at Uretiti on 24/3/79 (A & AG). Cuvier, c.30 prs bred with some success. Remuera, small flights, e.g. 10, 6, crossing the isthmus in October (TGL). B.o.P., Sulphur Pt island, many bred successfully; c.200 adults and first eggs about 10/11; c.1000 adults in Dec., downy chicks still being fed on 15/3. Other colonies at Mt Maunganui and Rabbit Island, Kaituna Cut, 60 on 19/11; Tarawera est., roosting numbers fluctuated 60-200; Rangitaiki est., c.1000 on 4/4 with attendant skuas (KF, PCML). Ngaruroro, c.12 on 17/2; Tukituki, c.60 on 22/10; 1 on 7/4 fishing inland c.1 mile (KVT). Manawatu est., c.1000 on 6/2 (JL & MM). Oreti est., 62 nests with eggs on 19/12 (MLB). Chatham Is., Manukau Reef c.300 on 12/2; Big Mangere, 60-75 at roost; SE Island, c.150 on 2/3; Pitt Island, c.200 at Glory Bay on 4/3; few juv, seeming to indicate low breeding success (RBS).

SOOTY TERN *Sterna fuscata*

Raoul, Feb '77, all chicks in Denham Bay drowned in gale; Sept-Oct, 500-2000 back (KM). Bayly's Beach, 1 dead on 14/2 (WJC). Waikawa, 1 dead on 18/2, wrecked perhaps by cyclone Henry (SC).

GREY TERNLET *Procelsterna cerulea*

Poor Knights, summer 78-79, 400+ presumed breeding (JH & BS).

N.Z. PIGEON *Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*

Papakura, 6+ in acmenas on 24/8 (BB). Gisborne, 1 in garden, 11/5-7/6 (AB). Maraetotara, 5 on 6/2; Tutira, 3 on 16/12 (KVT). Makarora, 15+ near school on 3/3 (DGM).

CHATHAM ISLAND PIGEON *Hemiphaga chathamensis*

Tuku Valley, 5 sightings 16/3-3/4; once 2 together (PCML); 2 feeding on green berries and tips of shoots of *Hymenanthera chathamica* (HAR).

WHITE COCKATOO *Cacatua galerita*

Flocks frequently disperse across the Waikato estuary to feed in Waiuku State Forest (AH, BB).

**KAKA** *Nestor meridionalis*

Awanui, Aug '78, 3 in puriris (DV). Raetea Forest (KB). Russell, 1 in Nov '77 (GC) and 1 in Oct '78 (LDS). Tamaterau, 2 in Nov '78; 1 late June '79 (CWD). Mokohinau, 1 on 23/5 flew over from Fanel (JMCC). Great Barrier, commonly seen or heard at Pt Fitzroy and Shoal Bay (TGL). Coroglen, Rangihau Rd 22/10 (BB). Tarawera est., 1 dead on beach 30/7 (PCML). Waitara, 1 at Tikorangi Aug-Sept '78 and 14/4 (RWW). Mt Humphries, 2, 28 and 29/12/77 (RWW, GD). Nelson Lakes, Rotoiti, several wintered near Buller Gorge; Travers Valley present on 1/12 (PJ).

**KEA** *Nestor notabilis*

St. Arnaud, ringed bird filching fat put out for Wax-eyes, winter '78 (PJ).

**EASTERN ROSELLA** *Platycercus eximius*

Orere, c.35 on 8/4 (HRMcK). Advancing Hunua and Colville Ranges. Pirongia foothills S to Oparau (BB, BS). Waipori Falls, 5 on 15/4 (P & KM).

**RED-CROWNED PARAKEET** *Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*

Waipoua, present (KLO). Cuvier apparently thriving after introduction (TGL).

**CHATHAM ISLAND RED-CROWNED PARAKEET**

*C. n. chathamensis*

Flock of 10 feeding on young tips of *Dracophyllum*, 7/12 (MDD, HAR). Abundant on Big Mangere and SE Island (RBS).

**YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET** *Cyanoramphus auriceps*

Cuvier, odd birds present, Feb-Aug '79. Recent invaders? (TGL). Taranaki, Mt Humphries, 1 seen; parakeets heard on several occasions (RWW). Mt Richmond F.P., 1 pr on 7/6. Big Bush S.F., 1 pair in forest of red and silver beech on 28/6 (KLO). Preservation Inlet, Cromarty, 1 on 7/9 (KM).

**ORIENTAL CUCKOO** *Cuculus saturatus*

Ponatahi, 1 frequenting a willow grove beside Ruamahunga R. from at least 28/12/77-1/1/78 (MDD, BDH, MLF).

**SHINING CUCKOO** *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

B.o.I., many heard passing over at night, first week Sept (DC). First song: Ponui 13/9 (PC), Clevedon, 2/10 (MEMcK), Ward, 14/10 (TJT), Dunedin, 18/10 (MLB), Punakaiki 27/9; frequent by 5/10 (DJO). Cuvier, common Nov '78; 1 as late as 17/5 'tsuing' (TGL). Tauranga, 1 at the Mount on 7/11 chased by 3 Grey Warblers (KF). Otanewainuku, 2 heard on 15/10; 6 seen on 23/12 (PCML). L. Alexandrina, 2 in pines on 20/8/77 with 2 Long-tailed; no further occurrences till Nov (RJP).

**LONG-TAILED CUCKOO** *Eudynamys taitensis*

Cuvier, 1 picked up exhausted Oct; 1 seen Nov '78; 1 calling 7/2 (TGL). Otanewainuku, 3 on 15/10 (PCML). Punakaiki, 1 on 1/11; several by 4/11 (DJO). Kaikoura, Kowhai Bush, 1 on 7/3 (RP). Catlins S.F.P., quite common (P & KM). L. Alexandrina, 2+ in pines on 28/8/77; 1 on 23/12 and 25/12/77 (RJP).

MOREPORK *Ninox novaeselandiae*

Mokohinau, 2 on 23/5 (JMcC). Clevedon, pr and 2 flying young on 1/1 (PF, BJB, HRMcK). Foxton Beach, 1 on 12/8, our first local record (JL & MM).

SPINE-TAILED SWIFT *Chaetura caudacuta*

Bayly's Beach, 1 dead on 15/12 (WJC). Karamea, 1 found dazed in Dec. Waikawa, Catlins S.F.P., 1 on 16/11 (TC). Tautuku Lodge, 60+ on 16/2, overcast with light rain. By far the biggest flock seen in New Zealand (PM). Stewart Is., 12+ around Bob's Pt on 5/1 (GE & HW).

N.Z. KINGFISHER *Halcyon sancta*

Henderson Valley, stealing worms from Song Thrushes (DWW). Ward, Feb, 1 with 2½" fish in bill (TJT). L. Alexandrina, 1 seen mid-winter '78. Regular sightings in summer; but population small (RJP).

RIFLEMAN *Acanthisitta chloris*

L. Rotoiti, fair numbers in bush at SE end (TGL). Waitara R. headwaters, 8+ April (RWW). Tararua's Field's Track, c.50 on 9/6 (MD). Leatham Valley, 20+; Gordon Valley 10+; Molesworth, Elliot Hut often in willows and introduced trees, Feb (AC). Wide-spread, especially in beech forest. Travers Valley, flying young both being fed and foraging for themselves on 29/10 (PJ). Noted at Mt Aspiring N.P.; Diamond Lake, Dart Valley, Haast Pass, early March (DGM).

ROCK WREN *Xenicus gilviventris*

Saxton Saddle on 19/2 (AC).

SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*

45 miles WSW of C. Reinga, 1 flying round ship on 19/9 (NGC). Cass Delta '78, first singing on 18/7; '79 imperfect song on 19/7, full song on 21/7. By 3/8 most birds on territories; but on 9/8 when 10 cm of snow lay, birds apparently left territories and up to 1500 gathered where hay was being fed out to sheep. By 15/8 most birds had reoccupied territories. A few small flocks persisted into September (RJP).

AUSTRALIAN TREE MARTIN *Hylochelidon nigricans*

Miranda, after storms and high winds, one flying along ditch on 18/2 (BB). Farewell Spit, 1 on 3/10 (Dr M. Harris per JMH).

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*

Raoul, June-Nov '77, seen widely; 23 on 7/8/77 (KM). 'Wide-spread throughout,' applies to most N.I. lowlands. Post-nuptial flocks, sometimes of 100+, often noted hawking over water or among cattle, e.g. late May, 300+ at Karaka circling high near water's edge in fine weather; many more than usual for more than a fortnight (G & JU). Occurs now on many offshore islands, e.g. Mokohinau, 2 on 21/5; Karumurumu, 2 on 20/1 (JMcC); Cuvier, breeding (TGL). Chatham Island, airport and Te Whanga Lagoon (BDB, RBS). Kerikeri, 20/7, pr twittering and sitting on fence wire near site where two broods were raised last season (ATE). Waitotira, nest used for some years on top of meter-box; adults dive-bomb cat as need arises (TGL). AMDB, at artificial nest-box, 4 chicks in Sept; 3 in Nov; third brood

deserted (SMR). Diving repeated on shags swimming in farm pond (ET). Karapiro, albino on 29/12 (TT). Ward and Kaikoura, still increasing and flocking after summer (JAC, TJT). L. Tekapo, 2 on 16/3; 1 on 27/5 (RJP). Te Anau, 2 on 26/4 (L. Woods per MLB). Southland, still few summer sightings. Redcliff W.R., present over winter. L. George, pr raised two broods (IAM, RRS).

#### N.Z. PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

C. Reinga, pr and used nest; Spirits Bay, 2-3 prs, 28/1 (BB, BJB). Waiotira, uncommon, 1 on 13/1. Cuvier, 1 on 14/5. L. Rotoiti, seen occasionally on rough forest clearings (TGL). Sightings at Pakiri on 19/5, Waiwera, 20/5, Muriwai, 26/5 (MJT). Hunua hill roads, 5 on 16/6 (HRMcK, BJB). Karaka, 2 on 10/2; first seen here by BB. Miranda coast, now scarce; mainly in autumn; 1 on masonry of old limeworks on 17/3; Awhitu outer beaches, not uncommon May-December (DAL, RBS). Kapiapia, 6 on 8/8; Coroglen and summit of Kopu-Hikuai Rd, a few (BB). B.o.P. coast, scarce winter visitor seen between April and July. Papamoa, recorded only once in summer (PCML). H.B., Fernhill, 3 on 23/7; Tukituki, 1 on stony bank 7/4 (KVT). Ward, 1 briefly chased by Yellowhammer on 23/1 (TJT). Mt Robert, near top of ridge. Travers R., none seen below the bridge (PJ). Cass Delta, first song-flight for '79 on 22/8 (RJP). Preservation Inlet, Cording I., 1 on 16/7 (JVM, KM). Apparently becoming more and more a bird of the wilderness.

#### DUNNOCK *Prunella modularis*

N. Wairoa and Pouto pen, seen and heard widely; song from late May (WJC). Cuvier, inconspicuous Feb-March, common and singing in May (TGL). Auckland west coast, Muriwai to Kapiapia, fairly common; also inland in the hills (BB). Tahuna Torea, 1 surviving in suburbia and singing on 12/6 (RBS). Cass Delta, singing starts in July, viz. 27/7/78; part song on 2/7/79 and full song on 6/7 (RJP). Fiordland, basin NW of Mt George, nest c/5 on 5/12 (KM). Chatham I., common at the bush edge, Tuku (HAR). No song heard 13/2-10/3 on Big Mangere, SE and Pitt Is. (RBS).

#### FERNBIRD *Bowdleria punctata*

Waikuku, North Cape, Jan '79, 35 counted (VHH). Paua, nest c/4 on 6/11, just hatching (JHS). Pouto pen., locally common, e.g. 10+ at Tawhara Ck on 3/6; 3 Omamari on 14/6 (WJC). Whangamarino Swamp, many in wiwi and manuka on 1/4 (DAL). Ruku block, Hamilton, surviving in peatlands (LB). Taihape-Napier Rd, Long Swamp 6+ heard on 1/5 (BRK). Totaranui, several calling on 19/11 (DGM). Motueka S.F. 3; Tasman Bay, Marahau Inlet, pr seen on 5/12 (KLO). Fiordland N.P., 2 on 14/10 at Henry Ck. Martin's Bay, some calling on 14/6, 25/6 and 20/12 (KM, JVM). Redcliff W.R., can be heard most months (RRS). Invercargill, pr nest-building on 28/10; 29 visits with 'straws' to nest-site in 31 minutes (MLB).

#### BROWN CREEPER *Finschia novaeseelandiae*

Ward, present in farm gully among willows and wild plums (TJT). Mt Robert, flocking by 13/12, some singing by mid-August (PJ). Akaroa, 2 on 6/4 (GG). Mt McLean, common above 400 m

(HAR). Haast Pass, 12 on 3/3 (DGM). Waitahuna Hill, c.10 on 15/4; Chrystall's Beach, c.10 on 16/4 (P & KM).

**WHITEHEAD** *Mohoua albigilla*

Otanewainuku, always present, more audible than visible, c.10 on 15/10 (PCML). Rotoiti, small numbers 25/3 (TGL); located, but not easily, August '78 (RBS). H.B., Woodstock, c.10 on 10/12 in remnant of bush ringing with their song (KVT). Mt Bruce, small noisy flock in bush on 5/4 (RBS); 4 on 7/7; Harris Ck, Tararuas, 9 on 23/6 (AC). Field's Track, 2 on 9/6 (MD). Matemateonga Ranges, numerous (RWW).

**YELLOWHEAD** *Mohoua ochrocephala*

L. Manapouri, George Bay, 2+ on 2/1. Mt Luxmore Track, small flock on 5/1 (JVM). Catlin's S.F., Rata Range, some (P & KM, TC, PB, NH).

**GREY WARBLER** *Gerygone igata*

H.B., Tutira, 12 on 16/12; Elsthorpe, Paeroa Stn c. 20 on 6/5 (KVT). Cass Delta: snippets of song on 3/8/78; in July in mild winters (RJP). Mt Aspiring N.P., Diamond Lake, Dart Valley, Haast Pass, Rainbow R.; not noticeably common (DGM).

**CHATHAM ISLAND WARBLER** *Gerygone albofrontata*

Tuku, fair numbers (PCML, HAR). SE Island, numerous after a good season; many greenish 'juv,' quite distinct from adults, in Feb-March (RBS).

**FANTAIL** *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Mokohinau, 3 on 21/5; Tarahiki Is, 4+ on 11/11 (JMcC). H.B., Tutira, 12 on 16/12; Elsthorpe c.18 on 6/5 (KVT). Akaroa, many pied and one black on 6/4 (GG). Diamond Lake, Dart Valley, Haast Pass, several, March '79 (DGM). New Plymouth, 1 black in suburban garden, Mar-August and 20-29/10 (RWW).

**PIED TIT** *Petroica macrocephala toitoi*

Northland, more widespread than had been believed; recorded in 37 map squares (ATE). Tutamoe Track, 5 heard on 23/11; Whau Valley Dam 10/6 (WJC). Otanewainuku, 5 males on 14/11 (DWW). Rotoiti, moderate numbers (TGL). Coroglen, small numbers (BB). Pirongia foothills, persisting (RBS). Matawai, pure albino on Koranga Stream (AB).

**YELLOW-BREASTED TIT** *P. m. macrocephala*

Present Mt Aspiring N.P.; Diamond Lake, Dart Valley, Haast Pass, March '79 (DGM). Te Anau, Ivan Wilson Park, male singing 6/4 and 24/4 (JVM).

**CHATHAM ISLAND TIT** *Petroica chathamensis*

Possibly now missing on the main island (HAR). Thriving and inescapable on SE Island (RBS). Pitt I., persisting in Glory Block (RNT).

**N.I. ROBIN** *Miro longipes*

Otanewainuku, 6 seen and more heard on 23/12 (PCML). Rotoiti, 1 on 25/3 (TGL). Matemateonga Range, fair numbers (RWW, GD).



**S.I. ROBIN** *Miro australis*

St Arnaud, often seen and heard (PJ). Upper Glenroy, several on 20/11; Routeburn, Mt Aspiring N.P., Dart Valley, fair numbers (DGM). Manapouri, South Arm, 1 on 9/7; MacKenzie Basin (915m), 1 sang all day 2/11; no sign of it over next 9 days (JVM).

**SONG THRUSH** *Turdus philomelos*

Waiotira, faint song on 22/4 (TGL). Auckland, autumn song, slow to start; little before May (RBS). Cass Delta, singing becomes evident second half of July (RJP). Penrod oil rig, 40 miles offshore, 1 on 18/8 (RRS).

**BLACKBIRD** *Turdus merula*

Waiotira, fairly strong song by 22/6. Waipu, full song on 29/7 (TGL).

**SILVEREYE** *Zosterops lateralis*

Remuera, seeking nectar on flowers of *Rondeletia* in Sept (RBS). Tauranga, large winter flocks favour acacias which start flowering in June (KF). Blenheim, mutual preening by pair in garden (PJ). Chatham I., the commonest bird in the forest remnants (HAR).

**BELLBIRD** *Anthornis melanura*

Northland, sightings at 7 places on east coast between Helena Bay and Pataua (A & AG). Cuvier, the most numerous passerine (TGL). Tutira, 1 on 16/12, singing for more than 5 minutes without a stop (KVT). Ward, 1 chased a Waxeye at high speed for 80 m till out of sight behind trees. Bellbird returned with feather in bill (TJT). Above Heathcote-Avon estuary, increasing numbers, April-September, attracted by flowering gums. Craigieburn F.P. common (GG).

**TUI** *Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*

Hunua Hills, 12 on 8/4 (HRMcK). Cuvier, normally a rare straggler but during May-June, there was a minor invasion; the flowering of kohekohe seems to have been the attraction. Rotoiti, less common than Bellbirds (TGL). St Arnaud, numbers vary, 3 ad. on 6/1 'going mad,' but unable to stop stoat from raiding nest and killing young (PJ). Makarora, common March '79 (DGM). Between Haast and Arawhata only one seen 27/3 and 1/4 (HAR). Preservation Inlet, 2 taking Fuchsia nectar at Cattle Cove on 10/9 (KM).

**CHATHAM ISLAND TUI** *Prothemadera n. chathamensis*

Rare (HAR). Tuku Valley and forest, not common (PCML). SE Island, a mere handful (RBS).

**YELLOWHAMMER** *Emberiza citrinella*

Foxton Beach, c.500 on 3/6 in one flock (JL & MM). Cass Delta, first full song on 22/8 (RJP). Chatham I., Tuku, 2 seen Dec '78 (HAR).

**CIRL BUNTING** *Emberiza cirius*

Gisborne, 2 on 19/5 and 28/5; 1 on 26/9 (JCH). Wanganui R., 1 at Kaiwhaiti on 18/7 (AC). Nelson, lower Maitai, 2 males

feeding on lawn seed on 6/10 (KLO). Ward, pr on 10/12 with 2 flying young; earliest nesting I have recorded; female giving quiet alarm call similar to soft territorial call of male. Marfell Beach Road, 4 on 25/7 (TJT). Cattle Creek, 14 on 25/12; L. Hayes, 3 on 9/3; Arrowtown, 2, Kawarau Gorge, 1 on 10/3; L. Hawea, 5 on 10/3 (JCH).

#### CHAFFINCH *Fringilla coelebs*

Oparau on 20/8, four times one hovered and pecked at reflection; then flew to another window to repeat performance; finally perched and sang strongly (MJT). Cass Delta, in a mild winter, singing may be expected towards the end of the third week of July (RJP).

#### GREENFINCH *Carduelis chloris*

Cuvier, c.60 on 9/8 (TGL). Preservation Inlet, July '78, noted at Weka Island, Cording Island, Kisbee Bay, Resolution Bay; Chalky Inlet, Fisherman's Bay on 21/7 (JVM, KM). Invercargill, 20/12, feeding at flax flowers; fronts and crowns golden with pollen (MLB).

#### GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*

Mokohinau, 20 on 20/5 (JMcC). Remuera, mid-winter, feeding daily on prickly liquid amber bobbles, sometimes on lavender heads (RBS). Pukekohe, 2 fledglings still in nest on 11/3 (DAL). Big Mangere Island, a few in Feb (RBS). Preservation Inlet, small flocks in July; Chalky Inlet, 35+ at Fisherman's Bay on 21/7 (JVM, KM).

#### REDPOLL *Carduelis flammea*

Cuvier, odd birds (TGL). Papamoa, hundreds in July-August after poa seeds on lawns with Goldfinches (PCML). H.B., Kuripuponga, 10 on 15/10; Woodstock, c.10 on 10/12 (KVT). Ward, 30+ Nov. '78 (TJT). Widely noted, Mt Aspiring N.P.; Dart Valley; Makarora, Haast Pass, Wairau; St Arnaud (DGM). SE Island, abundant (RBS).

#### STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*

Te Anau, Lynwood Block, 1965/66, huge flocks; paddocks black with them; nothing similar seen since (Lionel Woods per MLB). SE Island, often feed on green mats of algae in typical 'Thinornis country.' There is also a big roost, augmented by hundreds of birds which come from Pitt Island and return to Pitt soon after day-break. Harriers show some interest as the Starlings settle in for the night (RBS). Ward, noted as imitating calls of California Quail, Black-backed Gull, Little Owl, Paradise Shelduck, Black Swan, Oystercatcher and Blackbird alarm-notes (TJT).

#### MYNA *Acridotheres tristis*

Whitford, c.600 at rubbish tip on 27/10 (AJG, MEMcK). Blenheim, 2 at Riverlands, February '78 (TJT).

#### N.I. SADDLEBACK *Philesturnus carunculatus rufusater*

Middle Chicken, many in song audible from Starfish Bay on 28/10. Cuvier, thriving; population perhaps now 400 (TGL).

#### N.I. KOKAKO *Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*

Raetea S.F., 1 on 16/1, apparently young (KLO). Kohukohunui, 2 on 3/9 (TGL). Mt Maunaupaki, pr. near previous nest-site; court-

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.T., 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.

A. HABRAKEN, *Harrisville Road, R.D. 2, Pukekohe.*