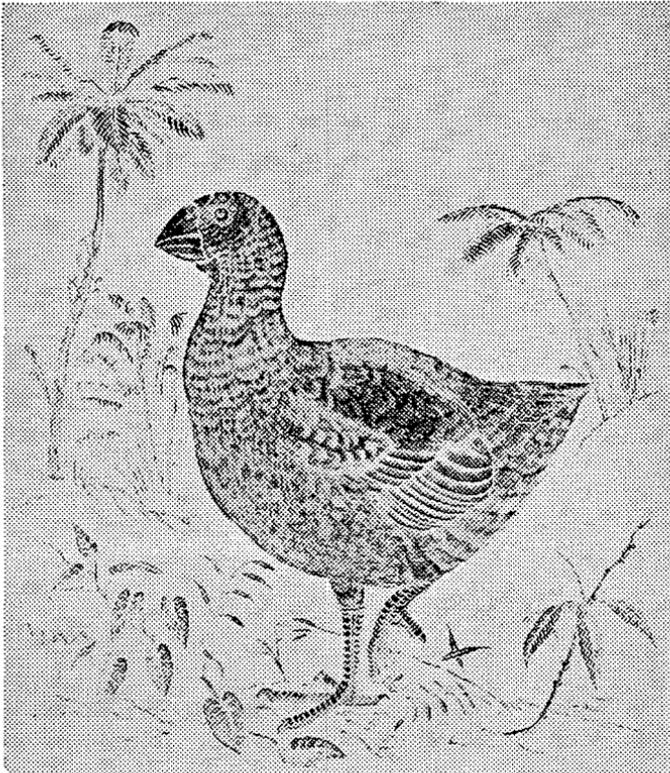


Vol. 4. No. 3.

January, 1951

Notornis

In continuation of New Zealand Bird Notes.



*Bulletin of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand.
Published Quarterly.*

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Edited by R. H. D. STIDOLPH, 114 Cole Street, Masterton.

Annual Subscription, 5/-; Endowment Membership, 10/-; Life Membership, £5.

BACK NUMBERS AVAILABLE.—Vol. 1, 15/-; Vol. 2, 10/-; Vol. 3, 10/-.

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NOTES.—Meeting at Dunedin, 37; Notes on Gannet, 37; Stilt at Brothers Light-house, 48; Birds in a Fig Tree, 48; Congregating of Bronze Cuckoos, 48.

MEETING AT DUNEDIN.—On October 20, 1950, a meeting of the Dunedin members of the Ornithological Society was held in the Biology Lecture Room at the Museum. Two natural history films dealing with bird life were shown. After a discussion on matters of interest for the welfare of the Society members were free to chat and to examine the photographs of bird life and bird records exhibited.

NOTES ON THE GANNET (*Morus serrator*).—On Whangaroa Harbour, 15/3/50, one was seen asleep on the water, the feet moving to keep it into the wind although its head was under its wing. I went alongside with the launch engine idling and it only awoke when I lifted it on the flat of my hand. A young gannet was seen leaving a colony, Coromandel gannetry, early in March, 1942. With W. Blair I waited below for two hours until one young flew off squealing and away out of sight. The adults were working the young down to the edge of the cliff by enticing them with food. Young apparently old enough to leave were seen being fed. Off Whangaroa, Northland, observations of young gannets at sea seen from launch engaged in sword-fishing in summer and autumn are: Say five days each week: 1947-48 season, none seen; 1948-49 season, seen from January to March, mostly singly, seldom two at once, never more frequent, about once in three trips; 1949-50, seen from January to present date (14/3/50) as in 1948-49. The young birds were always travelling north and were not seen feeding. The adults seen were in parties of four to 12, feeding and not moving in any particular direction. No adults were seen with or near young.—(T. M. Roberts.)

SUMMARISED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

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Included in this year's notes are a record of the lesser frigate bird in 1937, grey heron (probably) in 1949, glossy ibis in 1935, Geoffroy's sandplover in 1949, whimbrel in 1950 and an Oriental cuckoo in 1944. There are an increasing number of occurrences of the white-faced heron, several being in the Auckland district.

BROWN KIWI (*Apteryx australis*).—Whangaroa, Northland, 1950, quite plentiful.—(C.M.R.) Little Barrier Is., 24/10/47, one seen approx 50ft below Summit, Hauturu; 31/10/47, one seen near the Thumb, Herekoku, about 2,000ft.—(C.H.P.) Minginui, April, 1950, heard several nights on Upper Waiau Stream, four calls in one night, more common on east than west side of Huiarau Range.—(R.St.P.) Farmer in Te Pohue district, H.B., reports kiwis still present.—(D.H.B.) Whakahoro, Wanganui River, 9/5/50, numbers heard.—(J.M.M., W.P.M.) Paporangi, Wanganui, 6/6/50, female taken by dogs.—(J.M.M.)

DROOPING CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*).—Mahina Bay, Eastbourne, 25/12/49, year-old bird, identity confirmed.—(A.G.B.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Otago Pen., 19/12/49, four nests, three containing parent and two chicks, and one two parents and two chicks; traces of recent tracks to other nests.—(D.N.F.C.); 26/2/50, three at nesting grounds in moult.—(L.E.W.)

LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).—Bethells, 23/9/50, at least four pairs in caves at south end of beach, no eggs; Whites Beach one pair, 13/8/49, no eggs; 6/11/49, two eggs.—(B.D.H. and J.C.D.) 5-13/1/50, always plentiful round islands off Coromandel and from there to Waiheke.—(A.J.G.) Clevedon, 22/12/49, one crawled up on Duders Beach and died; 28/12/49, four, including one young, between Waiheke Is. and mainland.—(J.E.McK.) Young bird just losing last of its down knocked over near Patent Slip, Evans Bay, Wellington, 16/11/48.—(R.A.F.) Wycliffe Bay, Otago, 26/2/50, one dead on sand with large hole in neck, ferret seen close to body.—(L.E.W.)

DABCHICK (*Poliiocephalus rufopectus*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23 11/49, not seen but reported present on lake and on Lake Waikare-iti.—(B.D.H. and J.C.D.) Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49, 23 plus; lagoon near Paori Lake, Wanganui, 2/9/50, two.—(J.M.M.) Lake Kanieri, 6/2/50, one pair.—(L.W.McC.) Lake Wombat, Westland, 9/10/49, two.—(R.H.D.S.) Titri, Otago, 13/8/49, one.—(K.J.W.M.)

CRESTED GREBE (*Olymbus cristatus*).—Mr. L. Bruce of the Maruia River, Westland, reported sixteen on Lake Cristobel at headwaters of Grey River, about May, 1945.—(C.J.L.) Lake Pearson, 5/2/50; Lake Kanieri, 6/2/50; Lake Ianthe, 12/2/50; Lake Paringa, 16/2/50.—(L.W.McC.) South Westland, 6-15/10/49, six seen.—(R.H.D.S.)

GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*).—One found alive on wharves at Napier recently; kept alive for some days, and subsequently sent to Dominion Museum.—(D.H.B.)

DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).—Moturoa Islands, Kare Kare Pt., north of Mangonui Harb: Mr. R. Woolley reports that for several years at same time each year, when fishing commercially, he caught many snapper containing diving petrels. Large fish contained up to three and the smaller school fish not more than one. Some time in Nov.-Dec. thousands unable to fly were noted. It is presumed that these were young birds; about a month later all could fly.—(T.M.R.) Corpses: 11/12/49, one Muriwai; 12/8/50, one Whatipu; 23/9/50, one Bethells.—(J.C.D., J. E., B.D.H. and C.B.T.) Napier, reported not uncommon offshore, dying bird found on newly-docked ship recently by Port Medical Officer.—(D.H.B.)

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*).—Reported off Cape Kidnappers.—(D.H.B.)

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).—Corpses: 11/6/50, one, Muriwai; 23/8/50, one Whatipu; 13/8/50, one fresh, Bethells; 16/8/50, two, Muriwai.—(J.C.D., J.E., B.D.H. and C.B.T.) Off end of Queen's Wharf, Auckland, one present from mid-Aug up to 6/10/50, associating with black-backed gulls.—(P.A.S.S.) Seven, Lyttelton wharves; 12 in open harbour, 25/3/50.—(E.W.D.)

BLUE PETREL (*Halobaena caerulea*).—Pakowhai, H.B., 27/8/50, one found injured in garden, died next day, sent to Dominion Museum.—(D.H.B.)

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*).—Adult with renewed wings and tail picked up at Pahiatua, 3/5/48.—(R.A.F.) Herbert, the first broad-billed prion recorded here, discovered in field three miles from sea, 2/9/50, forwarded to Museum, Dunedin; a two-day easterly storm abated day before finding of body.—(S.I.A.) Wanaka, 3/11/48, one found by J. Matheson; few days later one found by W. Hogan, reported by V. C. Barton.—(F.L.N.)

SALVIN'S PRION (*P. salvini*).—Corpses: 19/3/50, one came up alive, Muriwai, identified by Dr. R. A. Falla as *P. s. crozeti*; 11/6/50, eight fresh, Muriwai.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.)

FAIRY PRION (*P. turtur*).—Corpses: Muriwai, 11/12/49, four; 19/3/50, one; 23/7/50, two; 16/8/50, 104 in 6/7 miles; Bethells, 17/8/50, 28. (J.C.D., B.D.H.); Whatipu, 12/8/50, c. 13 (J.E., C.B.T.) Kawa Kawa Bay, Clevedon, 7/8/50, one newly-dead on inner beach.—(D.J.S.) Taihape, 23/11/48, one found under house, probably form from Snares.—(R.W.) Queenstown, 1/5/49, young one rescued while being attacked by harriers, died two days later; several reported in Omarama-Tarras district about this time.—(F.L.N.)

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).—10/12/49, some scores near Crusee Island, Hauraki Gulf; 23/12/49, during strong north-easterly blow, two seen over Mangere, one at c. 300ft., the other at scarcely 100ft. crossing from Hauraki Gulf to the Manukau.—(R.B.S.) Corpses: 19/3/50, two fresh, Muriwai (J.C.D.); 4/6/50, Orewa Beach, two fresh (J.H.). One flying off Puhinui, Manukau Harb., 25/12/49.—(D.A.U.) Eight off Torrent Bay, Tasman Bay, 22/1/49.—(C.J.L.)

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*).—Auckland dist., 7/3/50, several seen going down to c. 20 feet after bait as is common with flesh-footed shearwater, not previously experienced with this species. (T.M.R.) Corpses: 15/2/50, one Ohope Beach; 11/6/50, one Muriwai.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) 15/1/50, several with flesh-footed shearwater around island off Coromandel and from there to Waihake; 20/3/50, between Ponui Island and mainland, one, unusual inside islands.—(A.J.G.)

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*).—Corpses: Muriwai, 11/12/49, 8; 19/3/50, 9; 11/6/50, 3 (1 recent).—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Seen off Otago Pen. going south in continuous stream for 12½ hours, 12/10/49.—(A. Hickman, D.N.F.C.) Long Beach, flying south all afternoon, 26/10/49; at 3.15 p.m. numbers began to feed close to shore, flocks rested on the water, and some birds flew north.—(I.T.)

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*).—10/12/49, 300 plus near Crusee Island.—(R.B.S.) 30/1/50, Waiwera, 100 plus with white-fronted terns quarter of mile off coast.—(J.C.D.) Corpses: Muriwai, 11/12/49, 3; 19/3/50, 2; 28/5/50, 1; 16/8/50, 2.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Goat Is., Coromandel, 6/1/50, several hundred; Awa-awaroa Bay, Waiheke, 3/7/50, c. 500 with white-fronted tern.—(A.J.G.)

ALLIED SHEARWATER (*P. assimilis*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 7/4/50, one freshly dead.—(B.D.H.)

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*).—Whatipu, 12/8/50, 1 dead.—(J.E., C.B.T.)

MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpectata*).—Muriwai, 19/3/50, 1 dead.—(J.C.D.)

COOK'S PETREL (*P. cookii*).—One found sick, centre Manukau, on 2/4/50, later recovered.—(D.A.U.) Little Barrier Is., 28/9/50, first calls of birds going in to nesting place.—(C.H.P.)

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*D. exulans*).—Muriwai, 11/12/49, one freshly dead.—(J.C.D.)

ALBATROSS (*Diomedea* sp.).—Vicinity of Queen's Wharf, Wellington, 7, 24/8/50; 4, 7/9/50; 3, 14/9/50; 1, 17/9/50.—(J.M.M.)

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche melanophrys*).—Muriwai, 16/8/50, one dead.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Off S.-W. coast of Ponui Island, Hauraki Gulf, 4/7/50, 2, flying and on water, thought not fully mature.—(P.C.) Ohiwa Har., entrance, 17/9/50, one dead some time. (B.S.)

GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*Th. chrysostoma*).—Corpses: Muriwai, 19/3/50, one; 16/6/50, one.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Whatipu, 12/8/50, one.—(J.E., C.B.T.)

CHATHAM IS. MOLLYMAWK (*Th. eremita*).—While deep-sea fishing, about ten miles seaward of Whangaroa Har., Northland, 16/3/50, a Chatham Island mollymawk circled the boat and alighted quite close. It was classified by its grey head, yellow bill and dark band from bill

over top of eyes. This feature gave the bird a very severe look. Food was thrown to it, but no interest was taken. After about ten minutes it took to the wing using its legs very strongly to become air-borne and then gradually disappeared out to the far ocean.—(L.W.)

LESSER FRIGATE BIRD (*Fregata ariel*).—Mr. F. E. Reeves found immature bird in dying condition on Day's Bay Beach, Wellington, 31/3/37; specimen in Dominion Museum.—(C.J.L.)

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—Howick, many to be seen at most times, best count 28, 22/4/50.—(N.M.) Two flocks totalling over 100 birds seen on banks of Tutaekuri Est., H.B., 27/5/50.—(D.H.B.) Company Bay, Otago Harbour, 16 on jetty, one or two pied among them.—(Miss M. Bayne, D.N.F.C.)

PIED SHAG (*P. varius*).—Clevedon River mouth, 15/8/50, 25-30.—(A.J.G.) Otago Pen., hundreds on rocky islets, Sandfly Bay; 6/10/49, pied, black and spotted shags were identified among near birds in flight, and through field glasses parents could be seen feeding young on islets.—(L.E.W., I.T.)

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*).—Whangaroa Har., Northland, 15/3/50, four in south-east part of harbour.—(T.M.R.) Whangarei Har., 12/3/50, below town wharf, c. 15 in party.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon, Maraetai coast, 8/3/50, 5.—(D.J.S.) Ohiwa Hr., Bay of Plenty, 5/9/49, party of 20.—(P.H.B.)

WHITE-THROATED SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*).—Clevedon River mouth, 2/4/50—18/8/50, 4 to 12.—(A.J.G.) Common on Ahuriri Lagoon and river-mouths along the coast near Napier and Clive.—(D.H.B.) Wairarapa colony, 24/10/49, 18 nests contained 54 eggs and 10 chicks few days old, only 1 adult of 22 had white belly.—(J.M.C.) Hutt River mouth, Wellington, 28/4/50, 30 plus feeding together.—(J.C.Y.)

LITTLE PIED SHAG (*P. melanoleucos*).—Granity, 6/5/50, one.—(B.V.D.)

BRONZE SHAG (*Leucocarbo c. chalconotus*).—Lawyer's Head, Dunedin, 23/6/49, one on rocks, apparently old bird.—(L.E.W.)

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo p. punctatus*).—Bethells, 80 plus resting and mating on Ihumoana Cliff, 13/8/50; c. 100, some nesting, but no sign of young, 23/9/50.—(N.M.) Noises Is., 2/4/50, 40 plus on Otata colony, some on nests and one clean egg found.—(J.C.D.) Long Beach, 26/10/49, flocks of 10 to 20 flying north.—(I.T.) Brighton, 18/6/49, one; Otago Pen., 200 to 300 in flight and nesting on rocky islets, 19/11/49, most too distant for identification but some nearer birds identified as above, also white-throated shag among those identified.—(D.N.F.C.)

GANNET (*Morus serrator*).—Two young (brown) of season, Waiuku Estuary, Manukau, 26/2/50.—(D.A.U.) Three feeding near Castle-cliff mole, 8/7/50.—(W.P.M.) Cape Foulwind, 2/7/50, three flying north.—(B.V.D.)

GREY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*).—Bird seen, Ashley River Bridge, closely resembling that seen on 23/12/47 (N.Z.B.N., Jan., 1949, p. 91); 29/10/49.—(E.W.D.)

WHITE HERON (*Casmerodius albus*).—Several reported occurrences in recent years in Clive district.—(D.H.B.) Motupipi River, Takaka, 14/10/48, one, bill yellow, feet black, no plumes.—(C.J.L.) Westport, one seen frequently during June, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Lake Brunner, 8/4/50, one.—(R.J.S.) Lake Mahinapua, 9/2/50, four.—(L.W.McC.) Blueskin Bay, Waitati, one, on or about 25/3/50.—(Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophox novaehollandiae*).—Report of one at Onerahi, Whangarei Harbour, 31/8/50, by Edward Saul.—(E.G.T.) Miranda, from 8/11/49 to 20/8/50, 1 seen on each of five trips out of 12. Clevedon, from 22/10/49 to 11/9/50, one seen on many occasions on either side of the river mouth. Puketutu, Manukau Harb., one seen distantly, identity almost certain.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M.,

W.W.R., D.E.A., et al.) Clevedon River mouth, west, 25/1/50, one seen; 1/2/50, two seen together at c. 50 yards.—(J.E.McK.) One seen near Tasman, Nelson, 14/10/49; Mr. F. Hadfield, 22/1/49, reported seventeen at Awaroa Inlet, Nelson; two seen from train near Palmerston South, 2/5/49.—(C.J.L.) Westport, Orowaiti Est. and Buller River, frequently seen Feb.-July, 1950; four seen at one time.—(B.V.D.) Totara Flat, Westland, 18/2/50, one.—(L.W.McC.) Okarito, Westland, 10/10/49, one; 11/10/49, four; Five Mile, 13/10/49, one; near Hari Hari, 16/10/49, one.—(R.H.D.S.) Near Otaio, Canterbury, 18/1/50, two seen, one sitting on post and the other landed in paddock.—(L.E.W.) Near Morven, Canterbury, 21/2/50, two (E.W.D., J.C.Y.); Lyttelton Harbour, 25/3/50, two (E.W.D.); Blueskin Bay, Warrington, 8/4/50, two.—(D.N.F.C.)

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*).—Howick, 1 constant inhabitant; Motutapu Is., 2, 23/4/50, 1 30/4/50; Miranda, 1, 28/5/50; Port Waikato, 3, 20/8/50; Orewa Creek, 7, 7/10/50; Hatfield's Beach, 1, 7/10/50; Kawakawa Bay, 2, 8/10/50.—(N.M.) Koi Rock, Waiheke, 10/12/49, two nests, one with three well-grown young, the other with two agile young and one addled egg; Motukaka Is., two young away from nest.—(R.B.S.) Port Ahuriri, 30/4/50, one.—(D.H.B.) Hutt River mouth, Wellington, 4/2/50, four feeding together on mudflats.—(J.C.Y.) Waimakariri River mouth, 1/4/50, four seen by J. Moore.—(R.J.S.) Otago Har., 1/9/49, three (Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.); Kakanui, 1-20/1/50, one (G. J. Billing, D.N.F.C.); tidal flat, Blueskin Bay, Waitati, 20/4/50, two (Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.)

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*).—Awanui, Northland, 20/11/49, two seen on river; 15/3/50, one flew into side of house, dazed, but flew away; 28/3/50, one on roadside, Kumi Road.—(Mrs. M.H.) Bethells, one reported, 23/9/50; Wairoa River swamp, Clevedon, 2 on roadside flew into swamp as car approached, 8/10/50.—(N.M.) Reported still common in Napier district, 1950.—(D.H.B.) Turakina Beach Lagoon, 31/5/50, one.—(W.P.M.) Westport, Buller River, in swamp, 3/5/50.—(B.V.D.) Waihi River near Temuka, 1950, seen frequently, always single.—(C.S.P.)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*).—Mr. Hammond, of Nelson, shot immature bird at Wangamoa, Nelson, during February, 1935; specimen preserved by Mr. Elliot, taxidermist, Nelson, and now in Dominion Museum.—(C.J.L.)

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, at least eight pairs, one with seven young; also two pairs, one with seven young, in small lake south of outlet; L. Rotokare, 17/5/50, two males and one female.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 1949-50, odd ones or a pair seen on the flats occasionally.—(R.St.P.) Lake Roto Ngaio (Lake Taupo) one pair, 10/4/50.—(F.M.B.) Flock of 49, Ahuriri Lagoon, 4/6/50.—(D.H.B.) Raetihi, pair; Chateau, pair, June, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Kaiwhata, East Wairarapa, 12/11/49, 6 ducklings c. week old.—(J.M.C.) Waikawa Beach, Manawatu, Nov., 1949, pair.—(G.C.F.) North Canterbury: Spencer Mountain area, the common duck of this area, particularly plentiful in Clarence Valley (27/11/49) and Waiiau Valley (3/1/50)—(F.M.B.) Magdalen Valley, Lewis Pass, 6-7/5/50, flock 60-70, also odd pairs and small groups seen by R. Jacobs.—(R.J.S.) Slovens Creek to Waimakariri-Beasley June., 20/8/49—2/9/49, numerous.—(G.G.) Lake Sumner, 11 and Harper Pass (east side), 50 plus, 27/12/49; Teramakau River (east), a few pairs, 30/12/49.—(E.W.D.) Washdyke Lagoon, near Timaru, 10/7/49, counted 31; 25/4/50, c. 50 feeding on grassy flat of same lagoon in company with black swans, very nervous and unapproachable.—(C.S.P.)

GREY DUCK (*Anas poicilorhyncha*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, scattered flocks round the lake; L. Rotokare, 17/5/50, 300 plus (this lake is a sanctuary).—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Ahuriri Lagoon, 30/4/50, over 300 mixed grey ducks and mallards.—(D.H.B.) Waihi River, Temuka, 7/10/50, nest with eight eggs ten feet up in pollard willow growing 200 yards from river.—(C.S.P.) Leith Valley, Dunedin, 5/11/49, pair taken possession of pond made for their benefit in private sanctuary; 1/1/50, pair has family.—(Mrs P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.)

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*).—Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49 five plus.—(J.M.M.) A few birds shot on Hatuma Lake, near Waipukuru in recent years, one on 28/5/50.—(D.H.B.)

SHOVELLER (*A. rhynchotis*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, one pair seen.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49, seven.—(J.M.M.) Ahuriri Lagoon, 4/6/50, large flock of mixed shovellers and mallards.—(D.H.B.)

BLACK TEAL (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*).—Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, 17 always near landing stage beside the camping ground; this is considered the total for the lake according to local information.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Lake Tutira, June, 1949, large flock.—(D.H.B.) Mackenzie Bird Sanctuary, Cheviot, 6/1/50, two on lake.—(L.E.W.) Queens-town Wharf, 20, two dark-eyed young in flock; at old wharf, Frankton, 30; Kawarau Falls, 12, 14-20/9/49.—(I.T.) Lake Kaniere, 6/2/50, twelve.—(L.W.McC.) Lake Wahapo, Westland, 15/10/49, one male.—(R.H.D.S.)

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, one seen; reported present on the larger streams.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 2/4/50, 2 on upper Minginui; 9/4/50, 3 on upper Whirinaki; 16-17/4/50, 4 and 12 on upper Waiapu Stream.—(R.St.P.) Reported present in upper Retaruke River.—(J.J.M., W.P.M.) Recently reported in Mohaka River, near viaduct, and near Taupo Road, and also in Puketitiri district.—(D.H.B.) McGrath's Stream, Arthur's Pass, 31/1/49, one; Rockburn, Wakatipu, Dec., 1949, two.—(E.W.D.) Moraine Creek, 28/3/50, two.—(H. Taylor and B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.)

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*).—Clevedon Est., west side, 1950, 90 plus.—(B.F.D.) L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, several pairs with up to seven cygnets.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Ahuriri Lagoon, over 120 on 30/4/50 and on 4/6/50.—(D.H.B.) Of two nests seen at Waitotara Lagoon, one had already hatched on 25/8/50.—(W.P.M.) Mackenzie Bird Sanctuary, Cheviot, 6/1/50, seven.—(L.E.W.) Washdyke Lagoon Sanctuary, highest count, 163, 29/1/50; no swans 11/6/50 as lagoon covered with large area of ice; earliest nest, 20/8/49, latest, 3/6/50.—(C.S.P.) Lake Waiholā, c 150 plus many young, 14/9/49; c. 27, 15/1/50.—(I.T.) About 6.15 p.m. heard flying over King Edward Street, S. Dunedin, 10/6/49.—(D. M. Gilchrist, D.N.F.C.) Bleuskin Bay, Warrington, 8/4/50, seven.—(D.N.F.C.) Foreshore, Dunedin, 12/6/49, 18, numbers decreased from this date until one was left and stayed on through September and October; four were recorded on 16/11/48, 8 on 6/1/50, 10 on 17/4/50, and 28 on 22/5/50. Tomahawk Lagoon, 2/5/49, 75 arrived together and took up residence on the lagoon; on 10/8/49, a cygnet with a parent was seen on nest. Two cygnets noted on 21/8/49, while on 14/9/49 two swans with one cygnet were seen and nearby another pair with five cygnets. Again, on 1/3/50, a swan was sitting on a nest.—(L.E.W.) Lake Waiholā, 13/8/49, 20-30; 26/9/49, 80-100; 30/9/49, none seen, lake muddy.—(K.J.W.M.)

WHITE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*).—Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, three throughout the year, and on 1/3/50 a pair with six cygnets; all six were reared.—(L.E.W.) Lake Waiholā, 14/9/49, count from road six.—(I.T.)

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, one seen; reported common.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Reported 1950 plentiful in Te Pohue and Puketitiri districts.—(D.H.B.) Orongorongo Valley, 1/1/50, pair nesting in high rata tree.—(B.V.D.) Jollie's Cairn, Southland, 9/9/49, one, unusual to see it here.—(K.J.W.M.)

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—Wanganui River boat captain, A. Anderson, tells me he has twice seen harriers take eels which were basking in the sun in shallow water.—(W.P.M.) Dunedin, 23/3/50, young harrier perched on chimney of house, Maori Hill, for at least 40 minutes, chimney was smoking all the time.—(I.T.)

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Howick: Pair reared seven young cocks during Jan., 1949, almost fully grown and very tame, April, 1949; from four to eight cocks and hens came frequently to garden to eat apple windfalls, 1950.—(N.M.)

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*).—Miranda: Four flushed in marshy field, 28/5/50.—(N.M.)

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*).—Minginui, Feb., 1950, in flocks of 20 to 50 mixed adult and young; first hatch is about end of Dec.; many live in bush.—(R.St.P.)

PEAFOWL (*Pavo cristatus*).—Wairoaiti, near Napier, reported as formerly common and present a few years ago.—(D.H.B.)

SOUTH ISLAND WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*).—Pelorus Bridge, 8/1/50, one round camp all the time we were there, camp nearby hand-feeding three, while caretaker reported that nine kept round house; Nelson, 13/1/50, one seen by caretaker of Reservoir Camp, first he had seen for many months.—(L.E.W.) Karamea and Buller River vicinities, frequently seen in forest; pair and three chicks seen on Buller Gorge Road, 5/3/50.—(B.V.D.) South of Cook River, Westland, 7/10/49, reported in numbers.—(R.H.D.S.)

BANDED RAIL (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*).—Whangaroa, Northland, 1950, plentiful.—(T.M.R., C.M.R.) Kaiiua, Firth of Thames, 12/11/49, two adults feeding whilst three black downy chicks kept under cover and made repeated dashes to meet them.—(R.B.S.) North Road, Clevedon, 20/11/49, pair with three young in swamp.—(B.F.D.) Weheka, S. Westland, 6/10/49, one heard.—(R.H.D.S.)

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*).—Small rail seen at Lake Hatuma, Waipukurau, in recent years appears to be of this species.—(D.H.B.) Near Levin, May, 1950, specimen caught by dog sent to Dominion Museum.—(A.S.W.)

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio poliocephalus*).—Heard at night flying over Remuera, Auckland, 18/10/49.—(R.B.S.) Common around Napier, Hastings and Fernhill, downy chick seen on 27/4/50.—(D.H.B.) Lake Wairarapa, 3/1/50, one eating eyes of 13-in. fish it must have caught itself.—(J.M.C.) Otaio River, 22/8/49, sixteen; Temuka, 31/8/49, four crossing paddocks between rivers; Totara, near Oamaru, 1/10/50, two nests in tussock in creek bed; numbers appear to be increasing.—(C.S.P.) Benhar, Southland, 13/8/49, 70 plus; 30/9/49, 100 plus in flight, 50 plus feeding.—(K.J.W.-M.)

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 7-10/4/50, c. 400 (B.D.H.); Manukau (Puketutu Flats) 1/3/50, 3 flocks total c. 150; 25/6/50, 265 (F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H., H.R.-McK.); Miranda, c. 60 summered (R.B.S.), 12/3/50, c. 70 (J.C.D., D.A.U., B.D.H.); Kawhia, 9/5/50, c. 35 (S.C., J.C.D.); Ohiwa Harbour, 16-17/9/50, two at the entrance (J.C.D., B.S.) Miranda: 50 plus, 19/2/50, c. 100, 28/5/50, c. 50 8/10/50; Clarke's Beach, Manukau, 30 plus, 25/6/50.—(N.M.) Waitemata Harbour (Mission Bay), One, Sept., 1948 (F.M.B.) Kaiiua-Miranda, late in 1949, 60-70 summering birds, rising on 16/1/50 to c. 110 and 26/2/50 310 plus, then dropping to c. 270 for wintering.—(R.B.S., F.M., H.R.McK., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.) North Canterbury, Clarence River-Spencer Mountains region, Clarence Valley (above St. James Station), small numbers seen 27/12/49, the largest flock being one of five; between Stanley River and Lake Guyon, three, 28/12/49; Waiiau Valley, two, 29/12/49 (F.M.B.) Ashley River, 29/10/49, two flights of 50 and 20 plus. (E.W.D.) Pair nesting Washdyke Lagoon, 2/10/49, arrived 18/9/49, none there 10/1/50, first time noted here over period of three years. (C.S.P.) Doctor's Point, Waitati, Otago, 24/8/49, group of 200 on sandbank. (L.E.W.) Bald Hill, near Alexandra, two in flight, 14/9/49; Allan's Beach, Hooper's Inlet, one, 6/10/49; Purakanui Inlet, two, 26/10/49. (I.T.) Victory Beach, Otago Pen., 12/4/49, c. 12 (Mrs J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.) About 200, Blueskin Bay, Michie's Crossing, 10/7/49 (Misses C. White and A. Edmond), and many 19-22/4/50. (Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.) Kakanui, 1-20/1/50, two. (G. J. Billing, D.N.F.C.) Blueskin Bay, Warrington, 8/4/50, c. 300; 14/1/50, 14 (Mrs. J. Parker, D.N.F.C.) Mataura River, flat past Diamond Peak junction, 1/9/49, one pair and nest containing two eggs. (W.A.W., K.J.W.-M.)

NORTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*H. reischeki*).—Puketutu Flats, 2/4/50, one, seen on this occasion only (F.M.B., B.D.H.). Ohiwa, 16/2/50, one, 16-17/9/50, two at the entrance.—(J.C.D., B.D.H., B.S.) Waikawa Beach, Manawatu, Nov., 1949, two, one pied, one black.—(G.C.F.)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. ?sp.*)—Between Te Arai Bluff and Te Pahi Stream, N. Auck., 2/1/50, three pairs.—(J.C.Y.) Ohiwa Bay, Bay of Plenty, 5/9/49, one; 23/9/49, two and one pied (? sp.); 26/9/49, two; 5/10/49, five and two pied (? sp.); 5/11/49, seven and two pied (? sp.); 15/11/49, had left for nesting grounds.—(P.H.B.) Ohiwa Harbour, 16/2/50, four; 16-17/9/50, 17.—(J.C.D., B.D.H., B.S.) Waitotara Est., 25/8/50, two.—(W.P.M.) Blumine Is., Queen Charlotte Sound, 19/2/50, three on rocks.—(A.J.G.) Kartigi, 26/9/49, c. 20.—(K.J.W.M.) Kartigi Beach, Otago, 28/8/49, nine; Waitati Bay, Otago, 31/1/50, seven.—(L.E.W.) Allan's Beach, Hooper's Inlet, 6/10/49, pair together and one in flight.—(I.T.) Victory Beach, Otago Pen., 1/9/49, three.—(Mrs. J. Hickman, D.N.F.C.) Wickliffe Bay, 24/10/49, thirty, one pied; Sandfly Bay, Otago Pen., 19/11/49, pair.—(D.N.F.C.) Kaka Point, S. Otago, 14/12/49, three (Miss M. P. Finlayson, D.N.F.C.)

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 8/4/50, 25. (B.D.H.) Manukau (Puketutu), 30/11/49, 43 (R.B.S.); 5/3/50, four with wrybill; 18/3/50, c. 35; 16/4/50, 35-40.—(F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H.) Puketutu, c. 45, 11/2/50 (F.M.B.); c. 30, 25/3/50 (B.D.H., F.M.B.) Karaka, c. 50 from 4/12/49 to 7/4/50; a gradual increase through winter, i.e., seven, 14/5/50; nine, 4/6/50; 13, 2/7/50; 16, 16/7/50; 19, 10/9/50; c. 31, 29/9/50.—(D.A.U.)

GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominicus*).—Tauranga Beach, Whangaroa, mid-Jan., 1949, eight.—(T.M.R., C.M.R.) Taimaru Harbour, 14 miles n. of Whangaroa, early Nov., 1949, three; Taupo Beach, Whangaroa end Dec., 1949, eight.—(C.M.R.) Manukau (Puketutu), 30/11/49, nine. (R.B.S.); 2/4/50, 11 (F.M.B., B.D.H.). Miranda, 12/3/50, 35.—(J.C.D.) B.D.H., D.A.U.) Ohiwa Harbour, 15/2/50, three at the entrance, two colouring.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Ohiwa Heads, 9/12/49, four; Ohiwa Harb., west, five.—(P.H.B., H.R.McK.) Karaka, max. summer count, 49 on 5/3/50; none wintered; first arrivals three on 24/9/50; 10, 1/10/50.—(D.A.U.) Waitotara Est., 5/12/49, two, only visit made last summer, so usual number could have been there.—(W.P.M.)

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*).—Tamaki Est., Auckland, c. 50, 5/8/50; 10, 19/8/50.—(F.M.B.) North Road, Clevedon, 25/1/50, 100 on farm flats; 25/1/50, 30; 20/6/50, c. 300; 10/7/50, 74; 16/7/50, 23; 12/9/50, one flying wildly, apparently not breeding; 8/10/50, three in party, not breeding.—(J.E.McK., G.K. McK.) North Road, Clevedon, 6/5/50, flock of 170 plus in paddock.—(B.F.D.) Clevedon River mouth, 18/5/50, 30; 3/7/50, 10-20.—(A.J.G.) Miranda, c. 12, 19/3/50; 20, 28/6/50; c. 20, one nest, one egg, 8/10/50; Bethells, one, 13/8/50; 8, 3 nests, 3 eggs in each, 23/9/50; Clarke's Beach, Manukau, c. 30, 25/6/50; Puketutu Is., 2, 26/8/50.—(N.M.) Kaiaua, 20/8/50, one nest with two eggs; 22/8/50, three eggs.—(J.C.D., D.A.U., H.R.McK.) Miranda, 1949-50 breeding season, 20 plus pairs, 12 nests found with total of 32 eggs, many chicks reared; 26/3/50, Miranda c. 69 and Waitakaruru c. 2,000; Kaiaua, 20/8/50, first nest found, 2 eggs.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., F.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.) One seen near Maraekakaho, near Hastings, in June, 1949, and another on Ahuriri Lagoon on 4/6/50.—(D.H.B.) Fifteen seen at one place on Turakina Estuary, 31/5/50. (Time did not permit a search further down.) At Waitotara Lagoon, c. 60 on 25/8/50. (W.P.M.) North Canterbury: Clarence River-Spencer Mountains area (seen on tramp), Clarence Valley above St. James Station, 5-6, 27/12/49; Waiau Valley, 2, 29/12/49; Ada Valley, near junction of Ada and Christopher rivers, 1, 3/1/50.—(F.M.B.) Ashley River, 29/10/49, 14 plus.—(E.W.D.) Lake Waitaki, 20/10/49, 20, some with young.—(L.W.McC.) Washdyke Lagoon, 10/7/49, seven, increased to 57 by 11/8/49.—(C.S.P.) Orowaiti Estuary, Westport, two, 23/4/50.—(B.V.D.) Fox River, Wehe-

ka, Westland, 8/10/49, two; Okarito, 11/10/49, three.—(R.H.D.S.). Mataura River flat, past Diamond Peak Junct., 22/8/49, five; 1/9/49, seven; Mataura river-flat past Jacobstown, Gore, 5/9/49, four.—(W.A.W., K.J.W.-M.).

GEOFFROY'S SAND PLOVER (*Charadrius leschenaultii*).—Karakā, present, 18/12/49, 7/4/50. Miranda: The one reported by R.B.S., Vol 3, No. 4, p. 95, stayed at least until 6/3/49. On 15/10/49, with P.A.S.S., saw two together, one pale and one with bright apricot breast-band, apparently beginning to fade. Large dark markings around and behind eye; 30/10/49 band fading back towards shoulders and eye patch smaller; pale bird not seen on this and later dates; 8/11/49, only a trace of colour left; it was last seen on 26/2/550.—(H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.)

N.Z. DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 8/4/50, 30.—(B.D.H.) Tamaki Estuary, Auckland, one (not coloured) on 19/8/50, with 10 banded dotterel.—(F.M.B.)

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*).—Kaipara Sandspit, 8/4/50, six.—(B.D.H.) Manakau (Puketutu), 8/1/50, eight (R.B.S.); 1/3/50, c. 215; 22/4/50, 235; 5/6/50, 239; 18/6/50, 285; 22/7/50, 225; 2/9/50, 96; 17/9/50, 66 (F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H., H.R.McK.). Miranda, c. 24 summered; (R.B.S.); 12/3/50, c. 590; 23/4/50, 600-700 (F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H., D.A.U.). Kawhia, 9/5/50, none seen.—(S.C., J.C.D.) Puketutu, Manukau Harbour, c. 160, 28/1/50; c. 185, 11/2/50 (F.M.B.); c. 200, 18/3/50, c. 225, 25/3/50; c. 250, 16/4/50.—(F.M.B., B.D.H.) Karakā, 88, 21/1/50; 138, 5/2/50; c. 205, 5/3/50; c. 165, 2/7/50-7/8/50.—(D.A.U.). Miranda, Waitakaruru, 1950 winter, 800-900.—(H.R. McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A. et. al.). Lake Onoke, 16/1/50, one immature without band.—(B.D.H.) Washdyke Lagoon, 24/9/50, one; Rakaia River, 17/12/49, 16. (C.S.P.)

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*).—Specimen killed at Pahautea, Wairarapa, August, 1947, now in Dominion Museum.—(C.J.L.)

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—Doubtless Bay, 4/5/50, one.—(Mrs M.H.). Karakā, c. 30 wintered; c. 200 present on 14/5/50.—(D.A.U.). Miranda, several thousands in summer, a few hundred in winter; strangely rare at Clevedon and also at Ohiwa Harbour.—(H.R.McK.) Ohiwa Harb., Bay of Plenty, 3/3/49, six; 21/4/49, two; 26/9/50, one at heads; 2/10/49, one in harbour.—(P.H.B.)

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*).—Miranda, 8/11/49 to 16/1/50, one with unusual chest band and very dark mantle on shoulders and upper back; it did not seem to match any other species.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.)

SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*).—Miranda, 15/10/49-16/1/50, from three to 14; not seen on usual pools after 16/1/50; one had definite lower edge to pectoral colouring but had the appearance of the species otherwise.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.)

RED-NECKED STINT (*Pisobia ruficollis*).—Miranda, the two mentioned in N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol 3, No 8. p. 209, stayed on through the summer from Nov., 1949, to 26/2/50. They may have migrated soon after the latter date, although they had wintered here in 1949.—(R.B.S., H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.)

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Erolia testacea*).—Miranda, 12/11/40 and 20/11/49, one, possibly the bird that wintered and not necessarily a newly arrived migrant.—(R.B.S.) Miranda, 26/2/50, four with wrybill, colouring.—(H.R.McK., F.M., L.H.M., W.W.R., D.E.A., et. al.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*).—Kaipara, 8-10/4/50, c. 200 (B.D.H.); Puketutu, 18/6/50, c. 600 (F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H., H.R.McK.); Miranda, 20/8/50, 1000 plus (J.C.D., F.M., D.A.U.); Tauranga, 10/3/50, large flocks until 1/5/50, then only smaller parties recorded, e.g.,

27/5/50, 40-50; 12/6/50, 30-40 (M.H.); Ohiwa Harb., 150-200 wintered (P.H.B.); 17/9/50, c. 240, only one in fading colour (J.C.D., H.R.McK., D.A.U.); Kawhia, 9/5/50, c. 30 (S.C.) Miranda, 100 plus, 19/2/50; 200 plus, 28/6/50, 200 plus 8/10/50; Howick, c 100 flying in V formation over house about mid-day, 4/3/50; Maungaroa River, Howick, 20 15/4/50, 30 plus 22/4/50, 42 16/7/50; Clarke's Beach, Manukau, 50 plus feeding with stilts and oystercatchers, 25/6/50.—(N.M.) Howick, east, 17, 18, 20, 21/2/50, flocks each day totalling several thousands, flew east to west, presumably to Whitford coast; 20/2/50, flock of c. 300 flew west to east; the tide on these dates was half to full on the east coast and rising so the flights are difficult to understand.—(D.J.S.) Karaka, 500-600 wintered, 3 to 4000 summered; 1000 plus Clarkes Beach and Waiuku Creek on 26/2/50.—(D.A.U.) Tamaki Estuary, Auckland, near sandspit, 35 on 18/2/50 (F.M.B.); 12 on 11/3/50 (B.D.H. and F.M.B.). Puketutu, Manukau Harbour, three in breeding plumage with the wintering flock, 14/5/50. (B.D.H. and F.M.B.) Clevedon, 1949-50, a sharp rise from c 800 last year to c 1500 this year. The rise I think is largely due to their not being molested here. The lowest all-winter tally, 1950, was 31 on 19/8/50. From this date they rose to c. 130 on 26/9/50, all pale birds, not migrants. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 29/9/50, c 200 migrants had joined the wintering birds.—(F. Murray.) Ohiwa Harb., Bay of Plenty, 23/9/49, c 300, increasing, thought to be all new arrivals; 2/10/49, party of 20-30 came down coast from west into harbour, very hungry, probably their first landfall.—(P.H.B.) Ahuriri Lagoon, 1949, small flock wintered and 29 present, 1950.—(D.H.B.) Castlecliff, Wanganui, 20/2/50, six flew north along coast in fading light.—(J.M.M.) Glenburn, east coast, Wairarapa, 13/11/49, one at creek mouth.—(J.M.C.) L. Onoke, 16/1/50, 32, (B.D.H.), 29/1/50, three (J.M.C.). Christchurch Estuary, 5/1/50, large flock, running into hundreds.—(L.E.W.) Washdyke Lagoon, 30 on 6/11/49, decreased to 12 by 13/11/49, and to four by 18/11/49. First noticed over three years.—(C.S.P.) Blueskin Bay, Waitati, 22/2/50, c 200.—Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.). Blueskin Bay, Warrington, 8/4/50, twelve.—(D.N.F.C.) Numbers, Mataura Estuary, near mouth, 17/1/50.—(I.T.) Orowaiti River, Westport, 9/7/50, one, had a leg missing just below leg joint, bird often fell when probing mud.—(B.V.D.) Okarito, Westland, 10/10/49, eight; 11/10/49, c. 120 in several flocks.—(R.H.D.S.)

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus*).—Waitakaruru, 20/8/50, three (J.C.D., F.M., D.A.U.); Ohiwa Harbour, 15/2/50, two at the entrance (J.C.D., B.D.H.). (***Numenius phaeopus variegatus***): Clevedon: The two reported in N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 3, No. 8, p. 210, stayed through the 1949-50 summer but were not seen after 10/4/50. They probably migrated, though they had wintered here in 1949.—(H.R.McK.)

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*).—Between Te Arai Bluff and Te Paki Stream, 90 Mile Beach, 2/1/50, three pairs; Pandora, Spirits Bay, 3/1/50, two pairs.—(J.C.Y.) North Harbour, Ponui Island, 15/1/50, two; Clevedon River mouth, 23/3/50, 50-60; 18/5/50, c. 60; Awa-awaroa Bay, Waiheke, 3/7/50, 8.—(A.J.G.) Miranda: 500 plus 19/2/50, 28/5/50, 200 plus, 8/10/50 two nests, 4 eggs each, one with one egg, one broken shell in water nearby, 1 nest empty, 8/10/50; Shelly Park, Howick, three, 25/4/49, 50 plus 5/3/50, 25 15/4/50, 6 16/7/50; Rangitoto, one 30/4/50; Clarkes Beach, Manukau, 100 plus 25/6/50; Port Waikato, c 12 20/8/50; Mangatawhiri, one feeding alone in field, 17/9/50; Kawakawa Bay, two 8/10/50; Kaiaua, eight, 8/10/50.—(N.M.) Miranda, 20/8/50, c. 1500. (J.C.D., H.R.McK., F.M., D.A.U.); L. Waikaremoana, 21/11/49, two were seen feeding on the lakeside to the east of the Moka Stream. (J.C.D., B.D.H.). Ohiwa Harb., Bay of Plenty, 2/10/49, two visited but left, none breed here, found breeding inland, large winter population.—(P.H.B.) Righton River, Lake Coleridge, 16/11/49, pair with 4 eggs.—(L.W.McC.) Ashley River, 29/10/49, nest, four eggs, also chicks seen, c. 12 breeding pairs.—(E.W.D.) Washdyke Lagoon, 18/11/49, 9 nests with 3, 4 and 5 eggs, two chicks still in down hiding in driftwood; 3/12/49, 3 nests with 3 eggs, one chick found; 7/10/50, nest with four eggs.—(C.S.P.) Very

(Summarised Classified Notes continued on Page 49.)

PHOTOGRAPHIC STUDIES OF BIRDS IN N.Z.—VI.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN.

The photograph of the black-fronted tern (Plate IX.) at its nest in North Canterbury should be compared with that of the white-fronted tern which appeared in Vol. 3, N.Z. Bird Notes, facing page 200. The main differences of these two species in the breeding plumage are mentioned in the text accompanying the last-mentioned plate.

WHITE-HEADED STILT.

The study of the white-headed or pied stilt (Plate XII.) also photographed by Mr. K. V. Bigwood in North Canterbury, is an excellent one of this unmistakable bird, at once to be distinguished by its black and white plumage and very long legs. The stilt has increased in numbers in recent years and is to be found in many districts formerly clothed in dense forest. It is one of the native species that has benefited by settlement and is now widely distributed. Members should keep a watch for the black stilt, which, as the name suggests, is a black-plumaged bird. All records of its occurrence are of interest, as formerly it was more numerous, whereas now it is rarely seen.

WANDERING ALBATROSS.

The two fine photographs of a wandering albatross (Plates X. and XI.) which appeared in Waitemata Harbour on September 13, 1950, are reproduced by courtesy of the "N.Z. Herald." Reporting the occurrence, the "Herald" stated that the bird aroused considerable interest and that many of Auckland's "old salts" had never before seen an albatross on the Waitemata. The photographs bring out clearly the characteristic field marks of the species. Photographic details are: $\frac{1}{4}$ -plate Speed Graphic, 200th at F16. HP3 cut film developed in pyro-metol.—(R.H.D.S.)

STILT AT BROTHERS LIGHTHOUSE.—The occurrence of a stilt at The Brothers, in Cook Strait, is reported by Mr. J. H. Sutherland, assistant-keeper. After a southerly storm on October 17, 1950, a stilt was found dead at the foot of the tower. This bird, he states, had not been seen there before. A good description of the bird, with measurements, was supplied, also an excellent sketch, which left no doubt as to its identity.—(Ed.)

BIRDS IN A FIG TREE.—On a morning in April, 1950, our two fig trees, only a few feet from the house, appeared to be a veritable bird sanctuary. Just as a matter of interest I noted the following, all within the branches at the same time:—Myna, 4; blackbird, 9; starling, 8; silvereye, 23; house sparrow, 18; grey warbler, 2; total, 64. Needless to say there were few ripe figs left for human consumption.—Noelle Macdonald, Howick, Auckland.

CONGREGATING OF BRONZE CUCKOOS.—Notes on the communal display of *Chalcites lucidus* ("Communal Display of the Shining Cuckoo," Watson and Bull, N.Z. Bird Notes, Vol. 3, p. 226) recalled an observation of an allied species, *C. basalis*, which I made near Corrigin, Western Australia, on August 4, 1946. My field note reads: "Found several of these birds associated in the forest. As the birds were moving from place to place I could not determine the exact number. There were certainly three, probably five and perhaps more. The birds were uttering an unfamiliar cry and from time to time would pursue one another." The unfamiliar cry was probably identical with a call I later described as a loud "Cheer-r-r-r," quite distinct from the usual mournful "Here!" or "Here it is!" Bronze cuckoos had appeared in the district in June and apparent adults were noted as late as the third week in November. Fosterers with fledgling cuckoos were observed during August, September and November.—Eric H. Sedgwick, Leonora, Western Australia.

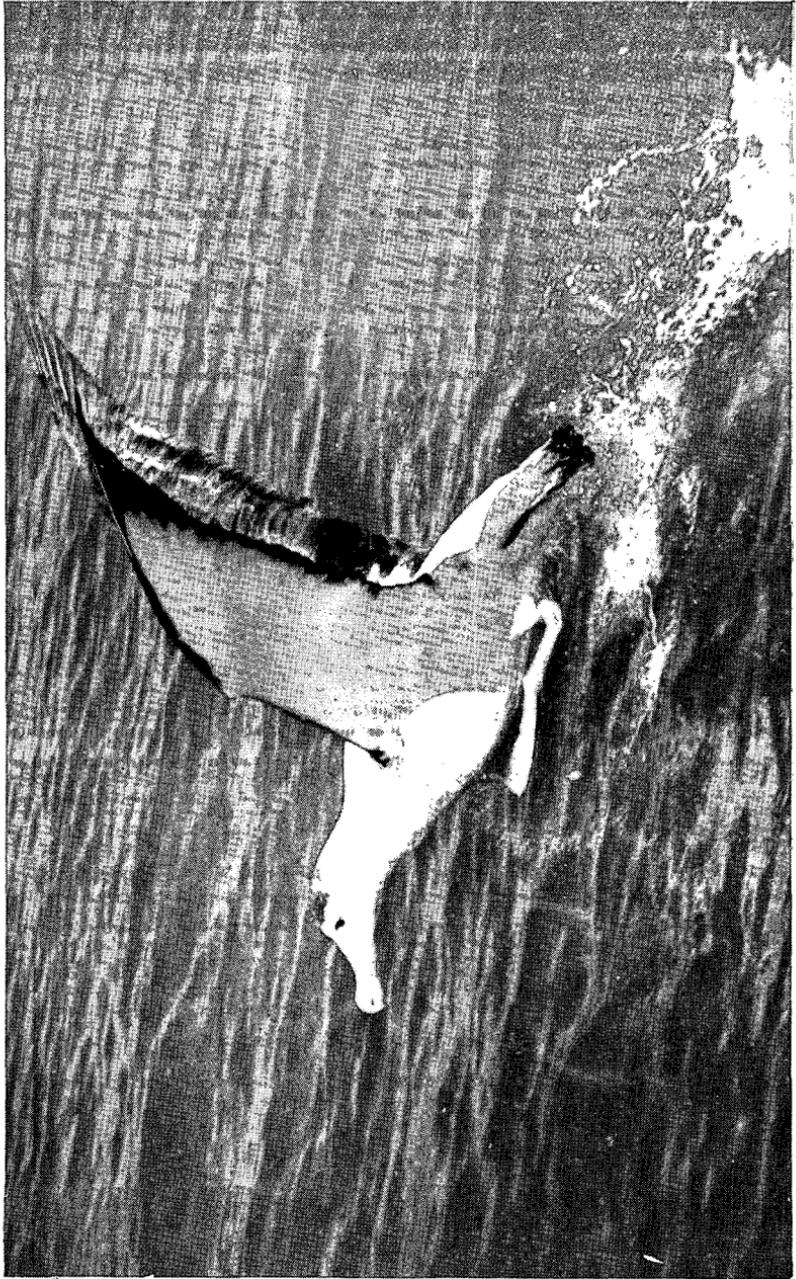


Photo. Copyright, K. V. Bigwood.
BLACK-FRONTED TERN AT ITS NEST, NORTH CANTERBURY.



Photo. courtesy "N.Z. Herald."

WANDERING ALBATROSS, WAITEMATA HARBOUR.



WANDERING ALBATROSS RISING FROM WATER, WAITEMATA HARBOUR.
Photo. courtesy "N.Z. Herald."



Photo. Copyright, K. V. Bigwood.
WHITE-HEADED STILT BESIDE NEST, NORTH CANTERBURY.

SUMMARISED CLASSIFIED NOTES.—Continued.

plentiful on Ahuriri Lagoon and large flocks are also to be seen at times at the mouth of the Ngaruroro River. Several plumage phases have been noticed.—(D.H.B.) Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49, 18 plus.—(J.M.M.) Kopane, Manawatu, 24/8/50 and 2/9/50, two; 1/10/50, six.—(E.D.) Orowaiti Estuary, Westport, 24/4/50, two.—(B.V.D.) Hapuka Riverbed, Marlborough, 7/1/50, three adults and one young; Hanging Rock, Canterbury, 18/1/50, three; Christchurch Estuary, 5/1/50, flocks numbering hundreds of birds on mudflats.—(L.E.W.) Summer, 1947-48, farm lands, Berwick, infested by grass grubs; large flocks of stilts, one alone numbering 60, appeared and fed on the grubs; Mining pools, Stewart's Creek, Miller's Flat, pair, 20/9/49; mouth Little Kuri, Hampden, 2, 9/10/49; Lagoons, Long Beach, 8, 26/10/49; Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 4, 7/12/49; Abbot's Creek, Green Island, 3, 15/1/50; lagoon, Finegand, Balcultha, 3, 16/1/50; Mataura River estuary, numbers, 17/1/50. (I.T.). Otago Harb., 24/10/49, c. 20.—(D.N.F.C.) Kakanui, 1-20/1/50, 50 to 100.—(G. J. Billing, D.N.F.C.). Blueskin Bay, Warrington, 8/4/50 (D.N.F.C.). Blueskin Bay, Waitati, 21/4/50, three.—(Miss C. White, D.N.F.C.). Foreshore, Dunedin, anything up to 30 birds generally seen in this vicinity, depending on tide level. On 16/11/48, 30 birds were counted and four young were seen on clumps of weed while three adults were noted on nests. Hooper's Inlet, Otago, 22/8/49, 11; 1/3/50, three. Morton, 28/8/49, nine; Tomahawk Lagoon, 14/9/49, eight; 1/3/50, 150 plus (lagoon very low). Merton, Otago, 31/1/50, 38.—(L.E.W.) Pura-kanui, 18/2/50, c. 30.—(E.W.D., J.C.Y.). Long Beach, Otago, 21/2/50, 14-16 seen daily.—(E.W.D., J.C.Y.) Mataura River-flat, past Diamond Peak Junc., 22/8/49, 13 plus; do., past Jacobstown, Gore, 3/9/49, six; 5/9/49, 13.—(W.A.W., K.J.W-M.) Balfour Road, 9/9/49, pair; Mataura river-flat past Diamond Peak Junc., 20/9/49, 14; also nest containing 4 eggs; mile s. of Pukerau, 26/9/49, pair; Benhar, 30/9/49, one.—(K.J.W-M.). Mataura River, mile past Gore Aerodrome, 21/11/49, 14.—(W.A.W., K.J.W-M.).

BLACK STILT (*Himantopus himantopus*).—Harania Creek, Otahuhu, 6/5/50, one completely black except for whitish forehead.—(F.M.B., J.C.D., B.D.H.) Miranda, one resting with pied stilts, 28/5/50. (N.M.) One, patchy, on Yates' dam, Karaka, 21/1/50.—(D.A.U.)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albigularis*).—Ngaruroro River mouth, 29/4/50, 16 adults and two immature, not seen week later. (D.H.B.) Lake Onoke, 29/1/50, 10; Palliser Spit, 11/6/50, over 12.—(J.M.C.) Mackenzie Bird Sanctuary, Cheviot, 6/1/50, ten; Hanging Rock, Canterbury, 18/1/50, 200 in riverbed.—(L.E.W.) Ashley River, 29/10/49, six.—(E.W.D.) Washdyke Lagoon, 24/7/49, 42, including nine young.—(C.S.P.) Reported that in 1949 terns appeared in Matukituki Valley in July instead of, as is usual, in August.—(I.T.) Gore, 22/8/49, eight; past Diamond Pk. Junc., 10; past Jacobstown, Gore, on Mataura river flat, 3/9/49, six on gravel, 10 flying; Mataura river-flat past Diamond Pk. Junc., 1/9/49, eleven.—(W.A.W., K.J.W-M.) Mataura river-flat past Diamond Peak Junction, 30/9/49, 30.—(K.J.W-M.).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Clevedon River mouth, 17/11/49, juvenile with three adults.—(A.J.G.) Mouth of Ngaruroro River, usually one or two, sometimes more; Ahuriri Lagoon, average of c 12 birds.—(D.H.B.) South Mole, Wanganui, 20/2/50, 20 plus, included number of immature.—(J.M.M.) Bay of Many Coves, Queen Charlotte Sound, 19/1/50, one with white-fronted tern.—(A.J.G.) Timaru district, nesting colony c. 40-60 birds Sept., 1949, to Jan., 1950, c. 25 nests; casualties heavy amongst eggs and chicks, chief enemies black-backed gulls and high tides.—(C.S.P.) Kakanui, 1-20/1/50, 10 to 12.—(G. J. Billing, D.N.F.C.)

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*).—Whangaroa, Northland, 1½ miles off heads, 14/3/50, one flying, size noted and yellow bill plainly seen at c. 30 yards, forehead not seen.—(T.M.R.) Tauranga, 5/12/49, resting with white-fronted terns at harbour mouth; evidently young bird as had

dark mark on upper wing coverts, reddish black bill and legs; small size; squarish tail when on the wing.—(A.W.H.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).—Te Arai Bluff, 90 Mile Beach, N. Auckland, 2/1/50, 1000 plus.—(J.Y.C.) Doubtless Bay, 4/5/50, c. 60.—(Mrs. M.H.) Castlepoint, 27/11/49, c. 33 on rock near red-billed gulls, 4 nests with one or two eggs, first time I have known them nest here. Palliser Spit, nesting reported unsuccessful 1949-50. Three miles west Palliser Lighthouse, 2/1/50, colony of c. 300 chicks all one or two weeks old.—(J.M.C.) Waimeha Creek Estuary, Waikanae, 30/1/50, c. 400.—(B.I.) The Grove, Q. Charlotte Sound, 8/1/50, nine.—(L.E.W.) Mouth Orowaiti River, Westport, 24/4/50, 50.—(B.V.D.) Waimakariri River mouth, 1/4/50, six seen by J. Moore.—(R.J.S.) Kartigi Beach, 3/1/50, flocks up to thousands packed on beach.—(L.E.W.) Kakanui, 1-20/1/50, several hundred.—(G. J. Billing, D.N.F.C.) Warrington, 14/1/50, numbers carrying small fish from one side of beach to other.—(Mrs. J. Parker, D.N.F.C.) Otago Pen.: Cliffs north of Sandfly Bay dotted with hundreds of nesting terns; red-billed gulls nesting on same cliffs, 7/12/49.—(L.E.W. and I.T.) Long Beach, Otago, 21/2/50, six.—(E.W.D. and J.C.Y.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).—Waiheke, 4/1/50, one flew down and picked up live sprat without alighting; Clevedon River mouth, 20/5/50, 59, about quarter juveniles.—(A.J.G.) Numbers at Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49.—(J.M.M.) Palliser Spit, 31/12/49, all eggs hatched.—(J.M.C.) Waikanae Estuary, low tide, 18/1/50, c. 240; 24/1/50, low tide, ten.—(B.I.) Rakaia River, 12 miles inland, 9-23/12/49, nine nests occupied, two with eggs, numerous half-grown chicks running around shingle.—(C.S.P.) Sandfly Bay, Otago Pen., north end, 19/11/49, five nests, three containing three eggs, two two eggs. (D.N.F.C.); 27/11/49, eggs in one nest, three eggs all shipped.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.); eggs in two other nests chipped and chicks peeping. (I.T. and L.E.W.)

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*).—Awanui, Northland, in autumn, winter and spring come into Awanui Flats in large flocks.—(Mrs. M.H.) Numbers present, 17/4/49, Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo.—(J.M.M.) Castlepoint, 27/11/49, again nesting, c. 64 sitting; three miles west Palliser Lighthouse, 2/1/50, c. 200 chicks little older than white-fronted tern (q.v.)—(J.M.C.) Herbert, 8/2/50, on cold, dull day with strong south-east wind greatest aggregation of red-billed gulls ever seen here followed ploughing operations on farm. When work ceased at 5 p.m. they left in flocks resembling clouds; estimates were from 1,000 upwards. The next day when conditions were same but no wind, only dozen present.—(S.I.A.) Kartigi Beach, 3/1/50, packed together in flocks, impossible to even estimate number.—(L.E.W.) Otago Pen.: Hundreds nesting on cliffs, Sandfly Bay, in company with white-fronted terns.—(I.T., L.E.W.) Wangaloa, Kaitangata, 16/1/50, 80 in fields where turnips were being thinned, majority were young birds; on debris, Kaka Point Beach, 130, 16/1/50.—(I.T.) Red-billed gulls and black-billed gulls in mixed flocks, Queen's Gardens, Dunedin and Brighton Beach, 18/6/49. (D.N.F.C.) Long Beach, Otago, 21/2/50, c. 450 in flock.—(E.W.D.)

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*).—Miranda, 20/8/50, 400 plus, the largest flock seen this winter. Their habit has changed and they now scatter in small flocks along the coast.—(H.R.McK., L.H.M., D.E.A., W.W.R., et al.) Clevedon, 8/7/50, seven, including one juvenile, with red-billed; not seen again.—(H.R.McK.) Several at Ngaruroro River mouth on 29/4/50, with red-billed gulls, not identified there since. Also seen at Ahuriri Lagoon, 30/4/50 and 4/6/50.—(D.H.B.) Motuopa Bay, Lake Taupo, 17/4/49, one.—(J.M.M.) Palliser Spit, 16/1/50, one.—(B.D.H.) Righton River, Lake Coleridge, 16/11/49, four pairs with nests and eggs.—(L.W.McC.) Loch Katrine, 27/12/49, three; Lake Sarah, Cass, 3/1/50; Ashley River, 29/10/49, 30 to 40.—(E.W.D.) Junction of rivers, Alexandra, 14/9/49, 30; Queenstown wharf, 15-20/9/49, flock of c. 40, not more than six adults; ploughed field, Lower Shotover, 20/9/49,

flock 40.—(I.T.) South of Freshford, 24/8/49, 200 plus.—(K.J.W.M.). Past Diamond Peak Junction, 1/9/49, 30 plus; past Jacobstown, Gore, and off Mandeville Road, 3/9/49, several hundreds, too many to count, appeared to be nesting on eyot in river; 5/9/49, difficult to estimate numbers, at least 5000; 400 yards to the left of this colony there was another of at least 500.—(W.A.W., K.J.W.M.). Garston-Nokomai, 9/9/49, heading upwind and upstream (Mataura River), c. 150 birds; a colony at mouth of stream near Kartigi, 26/9/49, 100 plus; 30/9/49, seen from train south of Rangitata R. flight of c. 40 flying parallel with train for nearly half mile, allowing time to estimate their speed as 30 m.p.h. Estimated speed equals time in seconds between quarter-mile posts divided into 900.—(K.J.W.M.). Past Gore aerodrome and on east bank of Mataura River, 21/11/49, 180 plus on bank of river-island.—(W.A.W., K.J.W.M.).

SOUTHERN SKUA OR SEA HAWK (*Catharacta antarctica*).—Kare Kare Point, Northland, date not noted, Mr Woolley reports a young red-billed gull struck away from bait, fell injured at the side of the fishing boat; skua rushed in, took it away a short distance, tore it to pieces and ate it. By the description given by Mr Woolley it was almost certainly this species.—(T.M.R.)

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Near Crusoe Island, Hauraki Gulf, 10/12/49.—(R.B.S.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 19/11/49, one chased Caspian tern and took food from it in the air.—(H.R.McK.) One off Brereton Cove, Tasman Bay, 22/1/49.—(C.J.L.)

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*).—Off Whangaroa Harbour, Northland, 14/3/50, a dark skua, almost black, with white right round neck, thought larger than Arctic skua and fuller in chest; tail not prominent; thought to be young bird of this species.—(T.M.R.)

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*).—Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, very frequently seen, often in pairs, in the bush fringing the lakeside road.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Clevedon South, Aug., 1950, ones and two in scattered small gullies in bush.—(W.W.R.) Minginui, 1949-50, scarce, more plentiful in back country. Feeding noted: April, fuchsia (konini) along streams; May, kowhai leaves; June, miro fruit; August, lace-bark leaves.—(R.St.P.) Bay of Many Coves, Q. Charlotte Sound, 1950, one has lived near house for nearly a year.—(A.J.G.) Peel Forest, 12/11/48, common; Homebush (Malvern Hills), 18/3/49.—(G.G.) Buller forests, fairly common, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Dunedin, nine about our garden, 9/2/50. Though this is the largest count actually made about the garden, I have recorded the pigeon less about the garden this past year. From reports received it appears to be more widespread about Dunedin gardens and city reserves.—(I.T.) Botanic Gardens, Dunedin, 24/4/50, three (Miss McElrea, D.N.F.C.), 8/5/50, two (Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.).

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*).—Common in Napier, 1950.—(D.H.B.) Hancock Park, St. Kilda, 27/8/49, 60 feeding—(Miss E. Sutherland, D.N.F.C.). Near junction Kawarau and Shotover rivers, 20/10/49, seven; Nevis Bluff, Kawarau Gorge, nine.—(I.T.)

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Waitakere Range, 23/9/50, three flying and calling. Reported by Mr. Jas. Prickett to be frequently seen and heard here and to have appeared lately at Birkenhead.—(H.R.McK.) Mounoukai, Clevedon, Sept., 1950, very scarce; only one or two heard for some months.—(J.W.St.P.) Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, calling and often seen on the L. Waikare-iti track; one party of at least six was seen circling high above bush on 18/11/49.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, Nov., 1949, up to eight; most of year only one or two occasionally. Waiiau, Huiarau Range, up to 12. Upper Whirinaki, up to 10.—(R.St.P.) Weheka, S. Westland, 5-7/10/49, three heard.—(R.H.D.S.)

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).—Magdalen Valley, Lewis Pass, 6-7/5/50, two seen by R. Jacobs—(R.J.S.) Arthur's Pass, 20/8/49-2/9/49, nine.—(G.G.) Harper Pass (east side), 27/12/49.—(E.W.D.)

YELLOW-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*).—Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, only parakeets definitely identified were three of this species on track up to Panekirikiri Bluff; others were seen and heard in tops of beech forest, but we were unable to identify them.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 1949-50, decreasing, same as all native birds here owing to felling of bush; 20/1/50, two chicks in nest in pocket in large totara, one killed by fall of tree; no other species seen here.—(R.St.P.)

KAKAPO (*Strigops habroptilus*).—Minginui, 1950, Maori bushman told me that when his grandfather was with Te Kooti in the Waiau, Huiarau Range, their main food was the kakapo.—(R.St.P.)

WHITE COCKATOO (*Kakatoe galerita*).—Wainuiomata Valley, 15/10/50, one.—(C.A.F.)

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*).—Bethells, c. 16 feeding with finches on field about 11 a.m., 13/8/50.—(N.M.) Pine Hill, Dunedin, 6/6/49, nine, two fed on ripe dock seed.—(D.N.F.C.) Woodside, Otago, 3/10/49, two on ground.—(L.E.W.)

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*).—Awanui, Northland, 23/9/50, first calls.—(Mrs. M.H.) Little Barrier Island, 20/9/50, first song; more numerous this year.—(C.H.P.) Clevedon, 24/12/49, last song heard; 20/9/50, first song, Mr. A. R. Browne; 22/9/50, one at Mataitai; 3/10/50, 11.30 p.m., several groups of downward notes given.—(H.R.McK.) North Road, Clevedon, 3-4/10/49, one seen and heard in kowhai by house.—(B.F.D.) Clevedon, 30/9/50, c. 9.30 p.m., nocturnal full song.—(R.J.F.) Clevedon, 8/9/50, first heard, three rising notes only; 22/9/50, long series of even notes without ending; 24/9/50, first full song; 1/10/50, first seen.—(A.J.G.) North Road, Clevedon, late song, 1/2/50, one gave five upward notes and one downward; 2/2/50, one gave a single downward note; first song 7/10/50.—(J.E.McK.) Clevedon South, 20/9/50, one seen and heard.—(L.H.M.) Howick, one on plum tree only few feet from kitchen window, March, 1949, and again on same tree, March, 1950.—(N.M.) Puhoi River mouth, 27/1/50, one young being fed by pair of warblers (J.C.D.); 17/10/39, male bird seen flying round mate with tail erect and vibrating with excitement, would hunt for food which he gave his mate, male brighter with decided yellow blotch posterior of eye (A.H.W.). Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, considering the numbers of grey warblers present, few were heard.—(J.C.D. and B.D.H.) Minginui, Feb., 1950, silent, but some seen and some young being fed by grey warblers; 20/3/50, last one seen; 20/9/50, first seen and heard.—(R.St.P.) Moumoukai, Clevedon, 18/9/50, first song.—(J.W.St.P.) Hamilton, 27/8/49, (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.); three separate birds calling, Kaingaroa State Forest, 15/9/49 (Miss I. T. Currie, D.N.F.C.) Northland, Wellington, 9/10/50, heard, first of season. (A.A.B.) Christchurch garden, 22/9/50, heard (E.W.D.). Cashmere, 30/9/50, "Press" report (3/10/50); West Coast records, 20/9/50 (Mrs. P. Wafe, Barrytown), 26/9/50 (Mrs. Oliver, Cobden), "Press" reports 6/10/50.—(E.W.D.) Heard and seen in suburban garden, Timaru, 9/10/50, vigorously chased by blackbirds, thrush and sparrows.—(C.S.P.) Heard and seen, Tainui, Dndin., 22/9/49.—(L.E.W.) Heard Wickliffe Bay, Otago Pen., 26/9/49 (Mrs. J. Hickman); Leith Valley, 26/9/49 (W. H. Davidson); Glen, Mornington, 3/10/49 (Mrs. Walsh); Botanic Gardens, 5/10/49 (Miss Hepburn); Opoho, 8/10/49 (Miss I. McArthur); Tomahawk, 8/10/49 (D.N.F.C.); Kaka Point, S. Otago, 20/10/49 (Miss M. P. Finlayson). Dunedin, first calls, garden, 3/10/49; heard almost daily till mid-December; last recorded call, 26/12/49.—(I.T.)

ORIENTAL CUCKOO (*Cuculus optatus*).—Mrs. E. Haytor, at Motupipi, Takaka, on 17/12/44, sent to Dominion Museum specimen which she had found in dying condition near homestead.—(C.J.L.)

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*).—Clevedon occurrences: Calls heard, 17 and 27/11/49, 16/1/50, 21, 22 and 23/2/50; seen on 21/5/50.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon South, 20/9/50, one seen in tree.—(L.H.M.) L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, commonly heard, occasionally

in evenings; one was seen hopping through undergrowth mobbed by riflemen in numbers.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Heard Te Miro, Hamilton, 25/8/49 (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Kaimanawa Ranges, two heard 24/11/49.—(B.V.D.) Masterton, 22/4/50, one seen in garden (B.I.); also reported in another garden same day and again 5/5/50, latter occasion reported two hours, apparently young bird in immaculate plumage.—(R.H.D.S.) East Teramakau River, 30/12/49, frequently heard. (E.W.D.) Heard at midnight, 27/9/50 (Bruce Thompson, Greymouth, "Press" report 6/10/50).—(E.W.D.)

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*).—Howick: Several heard calling frequently; one sits regularly on power lines near street light, main road.—(N.M.) Raetihi, 8/6/50, one seen.—(B.V.D.) Kopane, Manawatu, 27/4/50, one seen in dense tawa and one in dense titoki, daytime.—(E.D.) Pine Hill, Dunedin, 6/6/49, 4 p.m., bird called in response to call given by member of party.—(D.N.F.C.) Weheka, Westland, 7-8/10/49; Waiho, 9/10/49; Okarito, 14/10/49, heard.—(R.H.D.S.) Hapuku Reserve, near Kaikoura, 6/1/50, one in tree above tent; Picton Motor Camp, 7/1/50, calls heard; Pelorus Bridge, 8/1/50, calls heard all evening, one much deeper than others; Reservoir Camp, Nelson, 10-13/1/50, calls heard each evening.—(L.E.W.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).—Magdalen Valley, Lewis Pass, 6/5/50, one seen by R. Jacobs—(R.J.S.) Waihi River, Temuka, 8/7/50, one flew out of large pollard willow; collected many pellets of fur, bone, beetle cases, spiders, etc., at foot of tree; 7/10/50, found grey duck's nest, 8 eggs, in same tree, entrance to owl's hole stranded with spider web.—(C.S.P.) Tainui, Dunedin, 20/2/50, two young birds on cliff calling to each other, flew on to rock ledge and preened each other's feathers.—(L.E.W.)

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*).—Clevedon South, 21/9/50, one chased flock of c. 15 white-eyes from tree across small field to other trees.—(L.H.M.) Howick: Half-dozen or more kingfishers about usually; old nest-burrows to be seen all along cliffs; one bird appeared to be carrying food to nest high up in cliff as early as 16/7/50.—(N.M.) Minginui, 1949-50, breeding season, up to six seen; June and July, none seen.—(R.St.P.) Plentiful around Napier and Hastings.—(D.H.B.) Pareora Gorge, 25/4/49, eight seen flying; appears to be increasing, as ones and twos seen all year round in most river localities; one even bold enough to fish in goldfish breeding ponds in heart of town.—(C.S.P.) Dunedin, July 16, 1949, to April 22, 1950, seen about garden on six occasions; on August 10, 1949, one was surrounded by number of tuis scolding and threatening but kingfisher ignored them.—(I.T.) Anderson's Bay Inlet, Dunedin, 21/7/49, four on one pole; Christchurch-Nelson, 6-14/1/50, eight single birds at various places; Tainui, Dunedin, 21/3/50, first appearance of this bird at my fish pond and regular visits have been paid since but apparently no fish have been taken, bird fairly tame.—(L.E.W.)

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49 very common bird in this area; nest found half-way along Waikare-iti track in hole in dead beech about 40ft. above ground; entrance concealed by strip of loose hanging bark; young being fed.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Huts 2 and 3, Harper Pass, 28/12/49, very common.—(E.W.D.) Te Moana, Canterbury, 18/1/50, birds heard calling frequently.—(L.E.W.) Peel Forest, 12/11/48, common.—(G.G.) Dunedin, three pairs about garden November, and appeared to be nesting in garden; one nested in bag of firewood, 19/12/49.—(Mrs. P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Buller forests, not many seen, 1950.—(B.V.D.) South Westland, Weheka-Waiho, 6-9/10/49, scarce, Okarito not recorded.—(R.H.D.S.)

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*).—Lako Adelaide, W. Otago, 29/3/50, one.—(H. Taylor and B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.)

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*).—Minginui, 1949-50, up to eight or so about bush roads; up to 30 on open flats; two live at sawmill and as

each log is rolled off the truck they quickly run over it catching the disturbed grubs and insects.—(R.St.P.) Nest with three eggs, 17/9/50.—(A.J.G.) Raetihi, one seen (through glasses) feeding in puddles of water, 3/6/50.—(B.V.D.) Kopane, Manawatu, 24/3/50, three; 27/4/50, four.—(E.D.) Near Lake Rotoiti, Nelson, 13/1/50, too numerous to count, flocks of up to a dozen kept flying near car and then alighting while another flock rose up ahead of car; also plentiful on Marua Saddle, Murchison.—(L.E.W.) Peel Forest district, 12/11/48, common.—(G.G.) On gravel road Fortrose to junction with tar-sealed Invercargill-Bluff Road, 17/1/50, very common, c. 37 plus, of these at least 12 were in pairs.—(I.T.)

FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).—L. Rotokare, 17/5/50, heard in raupo, fringing lake.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Westport, 9/7/50, three seen, very tame, allowed an approach to within three feet.—(B.V.D.) Okarite, 12/11/49, numerous.—(R.H.D.S.)

GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*).—Otata Island, 2/4/50, peculiar double nest found in coprosma; nests were placed one on top of other, the lower hanging from the upper by few strands of material; lower nest had the roof broken through.—(J.C.D.) L. Waikaremoana, 14-12/11/49, very common.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Masterton, 26/9/50, warbler picking flowers from peach tree in garden holding them in its bill and banging from side to side on branch as when reducing caterpillar to pulp; eventually dropped flower and burst into full song, after which performance was repeated several times. Nest is in adjoining garden and hen was not present.—(N.F.S.) Nelson Reservoir Camp, 12/1/50, at 7 p.m. two warblers seen feeding young shining cuckoo.—(L.E.W.) Beech Forest, Harper Pass, both sides, 27-29/12/49, common.—(E.W.D.) Very numerous Waihi River, Temuka, 11 nests 9/9/49 in one small area of broom and gorse.—(C.S.P.) Dunedin, full song 20/6/49, daily song mid-July to April.—(I.T.)

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica m. macrocephala*).—Blumine Is., Queen Charlotte Sound, 19/2/50, several in bush.—(A.J.G.) Hapuku Reserve, near Kaikoura, 7/1/50, several; Buller forests, numerous, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Harper Pass, 27/12/49, male.—(E.W.D.) Magdalen Valley, Lewis Pass, 6-7/5/50, four males, one female seen by R. Jacobs.—(R.J.S.) Peel Forest, 12/11/48, occasional birds.—(G.G.) Mahinerangi, Otago, 23/3/49, one male seen.—(L.E.W.) Bush track, Pine Hill to Pigeon Flat, 6/6/49, six males, two females; Silverstream, 25/3/50, 14 males, two females; Mt. Cargill Creek, Dunedin, 22/4/50, two or three.—(D.N.F.C.) Reported only bird beside sparrows that used ferry to cross south branch of the Clutha between Paretai and Inchelutha, 16/1/50; judging by numbers seen in bush by roadside a fairly plentiful bird in Catlins, 17/1/50.—(I.T.)

PIED TIT (*Petroica m. toitoi*).—Cascades, Waitakere Ranges, 7/7/50, two seen, repeatedly calling to each other.—(J.C.D.) L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, quite evenly distributed about the bush.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 1949-50, follows logs being dragged from stump to loading skids catching disturbed grubs and insects; 27/10/50, nest, three chicks ready to fly, nest was in hole 60 feet up in rimu and yet chicks survived fall of tree; bushmen took them out of nest and set them on stump where parents immediately fed them.—(R.St.P.) Hodderville, Putaruru, May, 1950, male reported by Mr. M. J. Thorn half a mile from pine forest in open country; common in this district.—(H.R.McK.) Te Aroha Mt., 12/10/50, one half-way up.—(W.W.R.) Western Kaimanawas, Nov., 1949, few seen.—(B.V.D.) Not common in Te Pohue district but dead male found some time ago.—(D.H.B.)

ROBIN (*Miro australis*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, not seen but the ranger reported that a pair had been seen regularly round camping ground some four years ago.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 1949-50, inspect each tree after it is felled; 7/11/49, pair feeding young in nest 40 feet up in tawa tree; 5/2/50, moulting.—(R.St.P.) Kaimanawa Ranges, 25/11/49, one.—(B.V.D.) Whakahoro, Wanganui River, 9/5/50,

numbers seen and heard, area appears to be northern limit of occupation in middle reaches of river.—(J.M.M. and W.P.M.) Lake Brunner, 7/4/50, two.—(R.J.S.) Whare Flat, 6/8/49, one (B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.); Silverstream, 25/3/50, one seen, another heard (D.N.F.C.); increasing Silverstream district, 3/7/50 (M. R. Skipworth, D.N.F.C.); Whare Flat, 28/1/50, one adult, one young (B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Buller and Ohikanui rivers, very common, 1950, often foot of robin seen to vibrate just before digging for a worm.—(B.V.D.) Okarito, 12/10/49, one seen, two heard singing.—(R.H.D.S.)

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Pandora, Spirits Bay, N. Auckland, 3/1/50, very common in bush.—(J.C.Y.) Black phase: Clevedon South, 1/6/50, Mr. George White reported one near his home.—(H.R.-McK.); East Road, Clevedon, 30/8/50, one closely seen, very rare here (H.M.M.) Clevedon South, pied phase, 24/10/49, nest with chicks, a shining cuckoo which came within two feet of nest was chased by adults for about fifty yards. Pied phase: Clevedon South, 3/9/50, nest partly built; 10/9/50, one egg; 13/9/50, three eggs; 28/9/50, three chicks a few days old; 10/10/50, chicks had left nest.—(H.M.M.) Minginui, 5/2/50, moulting; June, 1950, one consistently followed tractor to and from bush and loading skids catching insects disturbed in leaves by vertical exhaust; frequently it was caught in exhaust itself and blown straight up for six or eight feet. When a log was being unloaded at skids it would catch blowflies. Holding fly in one foot it tore it apart with its bill. The tractor in the meantime would be on its way back to the bush and the fantail would have to go at top speed to catch up. Rainbow Mountain, 22/6/50, ten hawking over hot pool where insects attracted by warmth.—(R.St.P.) Pied phase common around Napier; one black fantail reported recently in Napier.—(D.H.B.) Kopane, Manawatu, 27/4/50, 12 in one afternoon.—(E.D.) Peel Forest, 12/11/48, common, nest with four eggs.—(G.G.) Waihi River, Temuka, 16/9/49, nest found attached to dead twigs against main trunk of large willow; pair, one pied, one black.—(C.S.P.) Dunedin, June 1, 1949 to May 31, 1950, count garden, Maori Hill, 174 pied, 44 black; count outside garden, 75 pied, 16 black.—(I.T.) Silverstream, Dunedin, 25/3/50, 31 pied, six black.—(D.N.F.C.)

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua o. o chrocephala*).—Monowai district, 17/5/49, four.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.)

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua o. albicilla*).—L. Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49 common but no large parties seen.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Minginui, 1949-50, still fairly plentiful; 19/12/49, two young being fed after leaving nest.—(R.St.P.) Reported present in Puketitiri district.—(D.H.B.) Whakahoro, Wanganui River, 9/5/50, three seen.—(J.M.M., W.P.M.)

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*).—Bush Track, Pine Hill to Pigeon Flat, 6/6/49, three small parties, five in one.—(D.N.F.C.) Whare Flat district, 3/7/49, three flocks of about eight to nine seen in widely separated areas.—(B. W. Campbell, D.N.F.C.) Silverstream, Dunedin, 25/3/50, 15 different localities, largest flock numbered at least 12; estimated number for day at least 80; Mt. Cargill Creek, 22/4/50, heard or seen in three localities.—(D.N.F.C.)

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1950, less than usual; c 20 about home all winter; flock of 50 a few miles away; others scattered.—(J.W.St.P.) Clevedon, 1950 winter, large increase on 1949, but still only moderate numbers.—(H.R.MeK.) Clevedon: More plentiful than usual all winter; up to 25 around house.—(B.J.G.) North Road, Clevedon, 18/6/50, flock of 40 plus feeding in paddock.—(B.F.D.) Minginui, July, 1950, number attend for food when cross-cutters are having their lunch; many appear to be in weak condition and can be caught by a quick grab; when released they seem able to fly only 20 or 30 feet. Numbers erratic. Flocks of 10 to 30 frequently seen, up to 120 birds in one day. In May, many come down for winter from high country.—(R.St.P.) Dunedin, in winter, 1949, silvereyes not so numerous about tables as in previous winter. Native trees and shrubs heavily laden

with berries well into spring. Pair gathering spider webs, 7/9/49; collecting nesting-material from net bag, 12/9/49; carrying food to young 3/10/49; first young at bird table, 31/10/49; last date seen collecting hair from bag, 6/2/50; last date young fed table, 23/2/50. Large number garden, 40 at time on table, 5/4/50; flock of hundreds about garden, 25/5/50. In May more than double the syrup consumed than at peak of previous winter. Poor crop of berries on native trees and shrubs, some quite bare in early autumn.—(I.T.) Dunedin: Carrying food to young, 26/9/49—(Miss K. Fountain, D.N.F.C.)

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*).—Howick: Pair usually in garden; about eight birds in vicinity of township. Rocky Bay, Waiheke, several heard, 25/4/50. Otau, one, 23/8/50; Te Aroha Mt., several, 17/9/50; Bethells, several heard, 23/9/50; Hunua, several heard, 1/10/50; Gittos Point, Manukau, several heard, 7/10/50; Kawakawa Bay, one, 8/10/50.—(N.M.) Clevedon, 7/11/49, Mrs. Sladdin reported one close under window using its feet to pull into reach a flower of abutilon on slender twig which would not carry its weight.—(H.R.McK.) Mounoukai, Clevedon, 1950, extremely and unusually quiet during winter and up to September.—(J.W.St.P.) Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, numerous throughout bush.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Reported common and breeding in Te Pohue district; several heard at Havelock North.—(D.H.B.) Kopane, Manawatu, 1/1/50, two in kahikatea; 25/6/50, one in macrocarpa near back door; 3/7/50, one in orchard.—(E.D.) Pelorus Bridge, 8/1/50, several round camp; one flew down to camp fire which was nearly out, but weka drove him off; Reservoir Camp, Nelson, 10-13/1/50, several birds seen daily; Kaiteriteri, 12/1/50, one; Takaka Hill, 12/1/50, one flying; Murchison, 14/1/50, several round camp.—(L.E.W.) Ohika-nui River, Buller, few seen, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Dunedin, tui brought two young to garden, one young allowed observer to stroke it twice before its leg away; adult tui took long drink at honey cup, then flew to young bird which it fed, 11/2/50.—(P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.) Dunedin, 4/6/49, cold day, tui bathed before sunrise, later in morning tui had 32 plunges in bird bath before satisfied; 14/7/49, tui with white feathers in tail seen in garden, only record of this bird; 28/1/50, young bird with growing collar; By March as many as six young birds in garden, and by April, twelve tuis about. Though this number is not unusual later in year, it is exceptional in April. Believe it is due to shortage of natural food supplies. (See silvereve notes)—(I.T.)

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*).—Thames, 11/6/50, seen and heard in high country behind town.—(J.C.D., R.McK., H.R.McK., E.G.T.) Lake Waikaremoana, 14-23/11/49, from song and numbers seen seemed to be in greater numbers than tui; first song commenced between 3.45 and 4 a.m.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Lake Rotokare, 17/5/50, heard and seen.—(J.C.D., B.D.H.) Mounoukai, Clevedon, 1950, steady increase in numbers and area of distribution.—(J.W.St.P.) Onope, Bay of Plenty, 28/7/49, one feeding on tree lucerne, singing; 31/7/49, Master John Mahy caught one by accident in box trap baited with bird seed—(P.H.B.) Reported common in Te Pohue district; recently reported at Havelock North.—(D.H.B.) Comparatively few spent winter, 1950, in Castlecliff, presumably not feeling same need to migrate to coast in unusually mild winter.—(W.P.M.) Bay of Many Coves, Queen Charlotte Sound, Feb., 1950, thick in pine plantation around house.—(A.J.G.) Ohika-nui River, Buller, plentiful, 1950.—(B.V.D.) Pelorus Bridge, 8/1/50, bellbirds appear to be fairly plentiful; calls very different from any heard on other parts of trip; dawn chorus delightful; Lake Rotoiti, 13/1/50, four seen chasing each other.—(L.E.W.) Lake Brunner, 7-11/4/50, very plentiful, fine song display seen.—(R.J.S.) Harper Pass, 29/12/49, west side, common.—(E.W.D.) Peel Forest, 12/11/48, common; Homebush (Marvern Hill), 18/3/49.—(G.G.) Timaru, 19-20/7/50, feeding in garden on japonica bush.—(C.S.P.) Dunedin, 1/12/50, first young heard in garden; through the autumn about in larger numbers than usual; poor crop of berries on native trees and shrubs.—(I.T.) Mt. Cargill Creek, 22/4/50, four females and two males sang together in chorus for about five minutes

from perches near together in tree; birds came in response to call, and seven or eight people were few feet from them.—(D.N.F.C.) Waipori Gorge, Otago, 23/8/49, two males and two females; Woodside Glen, Otago, 3/10/49, six males.—(L.E.W.)

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas c. wilsoni*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 6/3/50, one came out of bush, crossed a road by hopping, and ate clover. It hopped into scrub when approached within 20 feet. Crows very quiet all winter and spring up to Sept. 20th, when general song was resumed.—(J.W.St.P.)

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).—Awanui: Numerous on semi-scrub-covered sandhills, etc., towards Ninety Mile Beach.—(Mrs M.H.) Minginui, 5/2/50, flocking after breeding season; April, 1950, flocks in open country; odd ones along streams in bush.—(R.St.P.) On fence wires at St. Kilda, 2/7/49, hundreds of greenfinches seen which had been feeding on what appeared to be spilled turnip seed, a wet day; seen again about week later but not so many.—(Mrs. E. Sutherland, D.N.F.C.) Maori Hill, Dunedin, 25/10/49, flock c. 40 on chickweed.—(I.T.)

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*).—Minginui, 1949-50, mostly in small flocks on flats and bush workings; a few in main bush.—(R.St.P.) Nelson, 31/7/50, first full song, quite long bursts, 8.30 a.m.—(L.G.) Arthur's Pass township, 20/8/49-2/9/49, flock c. 200.—(G.G.)

REDPOLL (*Carduelis cabaret*).—Ohiwa Harbour, 17/8/50, seven plus in flock, two with three goldfinch.—(J.C.D., H.R.McK., B.S., D.A.U.) Northland, Wellington, before 13/8/50 only odd birds; 26/8/50, largest group at one time, 11, feeding on lawn; 9/9/50, 13; 23/9/50, 15—(A.A.B.) Balmacewen Golf Links, Dunedin, 28/9/49, thousands after seed sown.—(I.T.) Wairuna, S. Otago, 29/1/50, incubating four eggs.—(H. Taylor, D.N.F.C.)

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Howick: Small flocks often in garden feeding on flower seeds (golden rod, helenium, michaelmas daisy and dandelion); one bathing in birdbath, 4/4/50; Maungaroa Bridge, 19, 15/4/50; Motutapu Is., 12, 30/4/50; Clarke's Beach, Manukau, flocks of 20 plus, 25/6/50; Bethells, c. 20 feeding with eastern rosellas, 13/8/50.—(N.M.) Hunua, 11/4/50, only seen about twice this year, feeding on thistles.—(D.N.L.) Large flocks seen near Napier and Te Pohue, May, 1950.—(D.H.B.)

SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—Hunua, 11/4/50, much less plentiful; c. Feb., 1949, saw flock 50 plus on move and for six months none about at all; about following July, c three pairs seen, has not increased greatly since.—(D.N.L.) Minginui, Sept., 1950, up to 400 seen in one day, greatly increased; July, Aug., Sept., 1950, c 50 eating white interior of fern root; this food was exposed by constant working of tractor.—(R.St.P.) Masterton, 21/9/50, cock sparrow investigating dried garden rubbish rose awkwardly from ground with material held in feet, legs fully extended, and gradually gaining height flew across street to nest in kohuhu about 20 feet high; returned almost immediately but ignored pile of rubbish and had a dust-bath.—(N.F.S.) Waitaki River Bridge, 19/1/50, nine nests placed next to one another in box thorn bush, and ten as close as possible to one another in gorse bush—ones in thorn bush were empty but in gorse bush young were still being fed.—(L.E.W.) Sparrow with partially white tail, Maitland Street, 4/7/49.—(Miss Slemint, D.N.F.C.) Watched sparrows using Paretai Ferry to cross south branch Clutha River; saved them flying against a cold south wind. 17/1/50.—(I.T.) On 30/9/49, two were observed, in particular, to be flying parallel with and at the same speed as the southbound Limited (which began shortly to increase its speed), i.e., to approx. 34.6 m.p.h., estimated thus: Let "a" equal 900; let "b" equal time in seconds between quarter-mile posts, i.e., 26sec. Then speed equals a over b, which is 900 over 26, equals 34.6 m.p.h.—(K.J.W-M.)

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*).—Kawa Kawa Bay, Clevedon, Dec., 1949, Mr. W. H. Collett reported nest 2ft. 4in. up in 4ft. high

manuka, 6ft. from wall of beach cottage; long grass under tree; four eggs; one chick was hatched and reared.—(H.R.McK.) Mōumoukai, Clevedon, 23/1/50, nest in small punga, 13in. from ground, three eggs; 24/1/50, nest under smaller punga and almost on ground, three chicks.—(J.W.St.P.) Common around Napier, May, 1950.—(D.H.B.) Masterton, from first week in June to end of August, 1950, big influx in town gardens, first of such magnitude for many years, numbers gradually lessened in September.—(R.H.D.S.) Summit, Skipper's Road, 3,000ft., flock about 40; very plentiful in district, Frankton-Arrowtown, 19/9/49. Dunedin, yellowhammer inspecting cauliflower plants and eating grub of white butterfly, 8-12/2/50.—(I.T.) Reported on Balmacewen Golf Links in spring, 1949, in hundreds when seed had been sown.—(Mrs. P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.)

CIRL BUNTING (*Emberiza cirius*).—Waihi River, Temuka, 14/1/50, pair seen in willow tree; Normanby Beach, south of Timaru, one male bird seen, 11/7/49; Totara, near Oamaru, two seen Oct., 1949.—(C.S.P.) Resolution Is., east side of Mt. Phillips, Duck Cove, at 2,000ft., 31/3/49, one seen eight feet away.—(R.I.K.)

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Whangaroa, Northland, 1950, scarce in comparison with other areas.—(C.M.R.) Otau, Clevedon, 9/7/50, nest with one chick about a week old; the egg would, therefore, have been laid about 20/6/50; I saw the chick out of the nest on 25/7/50 and up to 9/8/50, when it was well matured. This is the earliest successful rearing so far recorded to my knowledge; 3/7/50, completed nest; three eggs laid on 8, 9, 10/7/50, destroyed by vermin.—(D.E.A.)

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).—Clevedon, 1/10/49, nest, three small chicks. A thrush nest had been used with the addition of blackbird lining; under the lining were fragments of thrush egg-shell (thought to have been destroyed by rats). Whakatane, Ohope and Ohiwa, 7-15/12/49, many singing strongly all day. (Silent at Clevedon from Nov. 30.) Ohiwa Harb., 28/1/50, no song. Clevedon, 25/7/50, Mr. D. H. Renton reported a pure white bird in Ness Valley hills.—(H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 10/10/50, three chicks left nest.—(A.J.G.) Clevedon, 12/6/50, nest with three eggs which had been sucked a few days earlier.—(H.R.McK.) Pukekawa, 25/4/50, one all white; Te Puke, 22/9/50, one all white.—(W.W.R.) Minginui, Te Whaiti, 1949-50, increasing, odd ones right through main bush.—(R.St.P.) Nelson, 19/7/50, first weak full song, evening; 22/7/50, next record, weak full song, evening; first week in August, song stronger and general in evening.—(L.G.) Dunedin, first song heard High St., 5/7/49.—(Miss E. Farquharson, D.N.F.C.) Taieri, never before seen so many, dozens feeding on berries on hawthorn hedges, 5/6/50.—(Miss D. Jackson, D.N.F.C.) Blackbird's nest in raspberry canes, two eggs; another in gooseberry bush, three eggs; in fruit tree, four eggs; 16/12/49. (W. H. Davidson, D.N.F.C.)

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*).—Minginui, 1949-50, common, increasing in main bush.—(R.St.P.) Dunedin, daily song from June 17, 1949; two on song perches singing a challenge, wing flicking and chasing commenced, 29/6/49.—(I.T.) Warrington, 25/9/49, four eggs, nest macrocarpa hedge.—(D. M. Gilchrist, D.N.F.C.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Minginui, 1950, many nesting in big trees while flocks of up to 300, apparently non-breeders, live on flats.—(R.St.P.)

MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*).—Pair arrived in garden, March 17, and stayed till beginning of June. These were the first I had seen in Howick in the 16 years we have lived here. Saw one at Pakuranga, about seven miles north of Howick, 10/5/49. Another pair arrived Howick garden, 13/3/50, but did not stay longer than a few days; fed on figs. Miranda, one, 19/2/50, two 8/10/50; Panmure, one often seen; Pakuranga, two seen frequently; Maramarua, one, 17/9/50; Te Aroha, everywhere, 17/9/50; Ngatea, six, 17/9/50; Wairoa River, two, 8/10/50; Kaiaua, one, 8/10/50.—(N.M.) Papatoetoe, 14/11/49, one.—(E.W.D.)

In Rotorua, 16/1/50, one.—(C.J.L.) 22/5/50 plentiful in and around Tauranga (M.H.); Mt. Maunganui, first pair noticed on 30/9/48, seen at intervals, and on 12/8/49 were nest hunting, lately seen several together, 18/1/50.—(A.H.W.) Palmerston North railway yards, 11/8/50, two; Feilding, 12/6/50, two.—(E.D.)

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Numerous near Chateau Tongariro, 23/3/50.—(L.W.McC.) Whakahoro, Wanganui River, according to reports, first appeared in 1948, present 9/5/50 in fair numbers.—(J.M.M., W.P.M.) Present in Te Pohue district.—(D.H.B.). Waihi River, Temuka, 7/10/50, two half-grown young, one in nest and one in nearby poplar.—(C.S.P.) Just north of Oamaru, 26/9/49, furthest south seen recently.—(K.J.W.M.) Kartigi, 28/8/49, one seen; Merton, Otago, 28/8/49, one seen; Nelson trip, 3-19/1/50, 178 birds noted, 17 of these seen between Christchurch and Kaikoura, 21 between Lewis Pass and Christchurch, and the remainder between Christchurch and Dunedin.—(L.E.W.)

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).—Near Clive, 28/4/50, one.—(D.H.B.) Three more Wairarapa records.—(J.M.C.)

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Waiorongomai, Western Lake, 26/2/50, flock c. 54, feeding in paddock.—(R.H.D.S.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

EUROPEAN STARLING.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—For some years I have been making a special study of the starling, and I would like to have comparative information from those parts of the Southern Hemisphere into which man has introduced it, i.e., South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In Britain the first clutches are laid during April 15-30, which would be October 15-30 in the Southern Hemisphere. If any readers can give information from particular nests on the following points, I shall be most grateful.

When is the nesting time, as indicated by laying of eggs, hatching, feeding of young, and date when young fly? What is the size of the completed clutch, and of the brood of nestlings? This is the most important point. How common are second broods, i.e., being fed in the nest at Christmas or later? Where is the starling absent, uncommon, or abundant, both as a nesting bird in spring and as a winter visitor? I particularly wish to know how far it has spread as a nesting and wintering species, and whether the advance now seems to be halted.

I shall be very glad indeed to correspond direct with any readers who are interested enough to make these observations, or indeed any others on the starling. Readers will appreciate that their own observations, however small, will all help to piece together the more complete picture of the starling's nesting habits and present distribution.—(DR.) ROBERT CARRICK, Natural History Department, University of Aberdeen, Scotland.

REVIEWS.

“Introduced Mammals of New Zealand: An Ecological and Economic Survey,” by Dr. K. A. Wodzicki. Royal 8vo., full cloth, 250 pages, 4 appendixes. Line and half-tone illustrations. 12/6.

This excellent volume gives an authoritative review of the 29 species of animals that have become established in New Zealand, with particular reference to their ecological and economic position, which, in some instances has a bearing, indirectly or directly, on the numbers of

introduced birds. It is of interest to note in returns supplied by opossum trappers that considerable numbers of blackbirds are caught in traps set for these marsupials and other birds mentioned include the song thrush, quail, magpie, morepork, kiwi, hawks and to a much lesser degree, pigeon, weka, robin, and tomtit, but the author comments: "The fact that only a few native birds are mentioned as caught in traps may be obscured by a reluctance on the part of trappers to mention such an occurrence." On the other hand, *animals caught, other than opossums*, may constitute as much as 24 per cent. of the total number of opossums caught, rats being the most numerous but with stoats, ferrets and cats, all predators of birds, well represented.

A passage in the introductory chapter, under the sub-heading of birds, states: "With regard to birds, three main problems seem at present to be of interest to the practical ecologist: (1) The present status of native birds; (2) questions concerning native and imported game birds; (3) the present status of introduced birds. In addition, some native birds such as the kea, the black shag or the harrier, present special problems and require special studies because their present ecological niches interfere with man's various economic interests. The native birds have an amenity value which is of first importance to many to whom the problem of conservation of national resources is of interest. The present and future status of feathered game has an economic importance because it involves the interests of thousands of sportsmen. Finally, the remaining introduced birds, although they seem to have lost the status of pests which some had attained in the last century, present several items of interest to ecologists. It is obvious that most of the problems are interdependent and no study embracing the whole problem has yet been attempted. The time allotted to this survey did not permit any attention being directed to these problems, but the hope is expressed that further work on some of them will be undertaken in the future."

The need for a scientific approach to control problems in relation to introduced animals and for further research work in that connection is emphasised. All interested in the wild life of New Zealand will find this volume a most readable and informative one.—(R.H.D.S.)

Birds, by R. A. Falla; illus. by F. Mervyn Taylor. A Primary School Bulletin.

The Education Department is to be congratulated on publishing such a booklet in furtherance of their policy of making the best available to school children. Forty birds are described, 20 in some detail, and information is accurate and precisely presented, yet in a very readable style. It has been carefully chosen and describes the salient features of each bird for the school child. It is pleasing to see that some common imported birds are included, as children do not readily distinguish these from native birds (though the distinction could well have been mentioned in more cases). The drawings are charming, well drawn and are a fine example of scraper-board technique. Some more indication of relative size might have been given and though the rifleman, for example, is poor, the majority are excellent. In particular, the nesting tui and fantail, the pukeko, banded dotterel and crested grebe are especially pleasing. Booklets of this type will help to stimulate an interest in birds and should augur well for the future of ornithology.—J.M.C.

The scientific names of birds mentioned in the text in this issue (apart from those in the summarised classified notes) will be found listed in the latter compilation.

Date of Publication—January 1st, 1951.

The Masterton Printing Co., Ltd., Lincoln Road, Masterton: