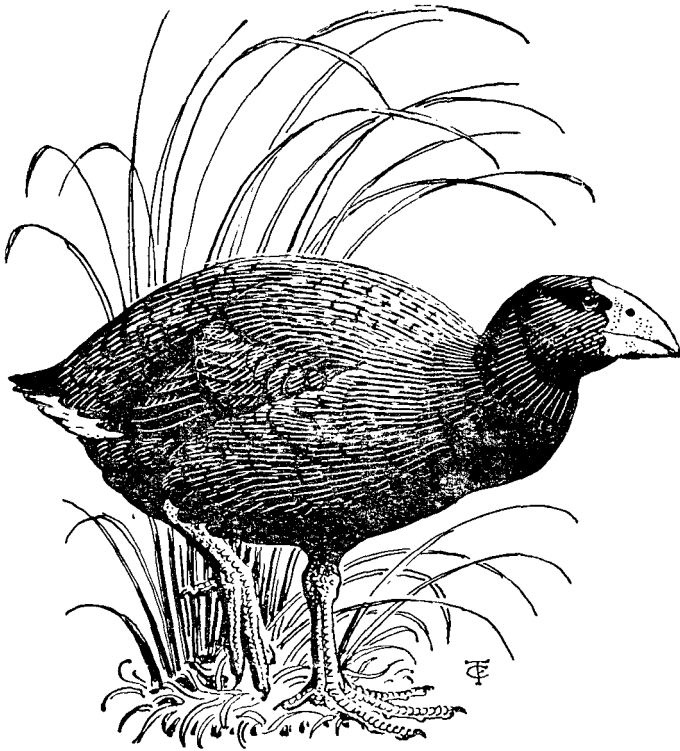


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NOTORNIS

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WELCOME SWALLOW AT STEWART ISLAND.

By Olga Sansom, Invercargill.

Early in September, Mr. J. C. Carrington, of Stewart Island, found a strange bird on a pile of timber on Greenvale Wharf. It was dead. He sent it to the Southland Museum. A few days later the Stewart Island school children found another of these birds and it also was sent on to the Museum. I sent one specimen to the Dominion Museum and one to the Ornithological Society. The latter specimen also reached the Dominion Museum.

Dr. R. A. Falla, who identified the bird, writes as follows:—"The little bird luckily reached us on Friday and Mr. Lindsay has been able to save it as a specimen. The second New Zealand record of the Australian welcome swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*), in one sense it is the first New Zealand record, for the other specimen was obtained in 1943 at the Auckland Islands. These swallows arrive in great numbers in Australia from the Northern Hemisphere during September. It is rather surprising that there have not been earlier and more numerous records, but such a small bird is likely to be overlooked although it should be recognized on the wing by anyone who has seen swallows in their normal habitat."

The remains of the second bird from Stewart Island also have been preserved.



NEST OF SPUR-WINGED PLOVER, NEAR INVERCARGILL, AUGUST 20, 1953.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER IN SOUTHLAND.

By Olga Sansom, Invercargill.

During the spring months of 1953, Mr Geo. Moffett and I did a good deal of observation of the spur-winged plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*). Although we have managed to secure a photograph of the egg and chicks we must admit that the spur-winged plover in Southland is an elusive bird. This, coupled with the fact that it is a noisy bird, presents a paradox. The bird cannot be pinned down to one locality: it ranges widely over its area.

Our observing-field includes Lake Hawkins (more correctly a shallow marsh); the Invercargill Aerodrome, on reclaimed ground of the Oreti Estuary; the Borstal Farm; and Mr. Fosbender's farm. The cover includes peat-bog, soft marshland, natural tussock country, extensive sand-dunes, cultivated paddocks and flax and toi-toi encircled lagoons. This stretch of country, flanked on the south by a fourteen-mile surf beach with another fourteen-mile stretch of estuary on its other flank and some 10,000 acres in Mr. Fosbender's farm alone gives the birds a wide range. And they use it.

For instance, on December 15, 1952, on a calm day, following gale-force south-westerlies, the reclaimed ground about Lake Hawkins seemed to sprout "spur-wings." We counted sixty birds in small separate groups, 15 on the edge of the Borstal Lagoon and six in a ploughed paddock—81 birds. Yet on October 11, 1953, with Dr. W. R. B. Oliver as our guest, we searched the same area without result. Only on the following day did we locate two birds. The usual noisy alarm gave them away—there is no mistaking it—and one bird flew close enough for us to say "lemon-yellow wattles—not orange." I have seen them looking like orange peel. (Notornis, Vol. 4, No. 6.).

Early in July, 1953, the birds had paired, according to Mr. McKenzie, farm manager of Mr. Fosbender, who keeps a close watch on the birds. He reported a nest on August 15 and on August 20 the speckled spur-winged chicks, white collar and egg-tooth complete were in the nest.

The nest was a shallow natural depression on a lump of land in open wet marsh on Mr. Fosbender's farm, New River Ferry. Sparsely lined with dry tussock the nest held four buff-grey eggs splashed with brown. Three chicks hatched. One of these died—the weather was wet and cold at this time—and the two chicks in the picture were quickly on their feet.

On the day of this photograph we watched the parent birds defending the nest. A harrier sailed low over the nest. The sitting bird had only just settled, after arriving by zig-zag trail, to our extreme relief, as it was a bitterly cold day. Both birds went up in a swift parallel flight, overtook the hawk and quickly put it to rout. The strong, black-tipped spur on the carpal joint of the wing must be an adequate weapon of defence. Harriers are plentiful in Southland. Rabbits are fewer. Any bird that can defend its nest against the harrier appears to have an excellent chance of survival.

THREE SHINING CUCKOOS FED BY ONE GREY WARBLER.—

One grey warbler was observed feeding three young shining cuckoos. Mrs. Parkin first saw them and called me over. This was 27/1/53, in the afternoon and they were in kanuka in the bull paddock. We watched them closely for over half an hour and there is no doubt that the grey warbler was feeding the three of them. They worked their way down to a jacaranda at the back of the house. On the 29th we again saw them being fed in the garden. The poor little warbler was looking very worn and no wonder, it was working at top speed.—Charles Parkin, Little Barrier Island.

SOME INSECT FOOD OF NESTLING RED-BILLED GULLS (*Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*).

By L. Gurr, Nelson.

Two red-billed gulls, both nestlings from the same nest, while being ringed at a colony on the Boulder Bank, Nelson, on 14 January 1951, regurgitated their recently ingested meals which consisted of:—

Diptera:—	Calliphoridae (Blow-flies).	
	<i>Calliphora hortona</i> Walk.	5 larvae
	<i>Calliphora quadrimaculata</i> Swed.	3 larvae
	<i>Calliphora icela</i> Walk.	1 larva
	Syrphidae (Hover-flies).	
	<i>Eristalis tenax</i> L.	1 larva
Lepidoptera:—	(Butterflies.)	
	Head of one adult, probably <i>Pieris rapae</i> L., the White Butterfly.	
Coleoptera:—	Scarabaeidae (Chafer Beetles).	
	<i>Pyronota edwardsi</i> Sharp	1 adult
Hemiptera:—	Cicadidae (Cicadas).	
	<i>Melampsalta cruentata</i> Fabr.	4 adults
Orthoptera:—	Mantidae (Praying Mantises).	
	<i>Orthodera ministralis</i> Fabr.	3 adults
	Tettigoniidae (Long-horned Grasshoppers).	
	<i>Xiphidium semivittatum</i> Walk.	25 adults

In addition there were several small pieces of flesh.

The volume of the food was:—

Blowfly larvae	0.5 ccs.
Cicadas	1.5 ccs.
Praying Mantises	2.0 ccs.
Grasshoppers	3.0 ccs.
Hover Fly, Beetle and Butterfly	0.5 ccs.
Flesh	1.5 ccs.

Total 9.0 ccs.

The Boulder Bank at Nelson is a ridge of rocks ten miles long and some two chains wide rising out of the sea about ten feet. It is joined to the land at its northern end but is separated from it for the rest of its length by reclaimed land for about two miles and thereafter by tidal flats about one mile wide. Vegetation on the Boulder Bank itself is sparse but the reclaimed land is in pasture and supports dairy cattle.

The various insect habitats that this area provides had all been worked to provide these meals. Of the blowfly larvae, *Calliphora hortona* is a species which is more or less confined to the seashore, breeding in rotting seaweed (Miller 1939) while the other two species *C. quadrimaculata* and *C. icela* are common everywhere and breed in rotten flesh and probably came from the corpse that provided the flesh in the food contents. The vegetation on the reclaimed land, about two miles away from the nesting colony, would be worked for the mantids, grasshoppers, butterfly and beetle while stagnant freshwater pools on this area would supply the hover-fly larva (a rat-tailed maggot).

The adult birds are quite catholic in their tastes and take insects when they are available. Turbott (1951) records that red-billed gulls were regularly taking cicadas, *Melampsalta cingulata* (Fabr.), on the wing and from the tree tops on Great Island of the Three Kings Islands. To collect the insects recorded in this paper would involve a good deal of foraging as none of these insects occur in swarms and they come from a diversity of habitats. It is not surprising, therefore, that although 57 birds were ringed that day, a number of which regurgitated, except for the two nestlings mentioned above, none of these had been fed insects, all had had marine food, small fish or planktonic crustacea. Neither have I noted insects, other than blowfly larvae which commonly occur, in the food of the nestlings during the five seasons that I have been ringing these birds at the Boulder Bank. Small fish seem to constitute the principal food of the nestlings. It is interesting to note, therefore, that the parent bird had

exploited the less usual food material, adult insects, and apparently very efficiently.

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- Turbott, E. G., 1951: Notes on the birds of the Three Kings Islands. 4 : 141-143.

THE BREEDING AGE OF THE BLACK-BILLED GULL: RESULTS OF RINGING.

By Elliot W. Dawson, Christchurch.

Some information is now available about the breeding age of the black-billed gull (*Larus bulleri*) from ringing work carried out in the breeding seasons of 1950, 1951, 1952 and 1953 at a colony in the Ashley River, Canterbury.

Stead (1932) mentions that the black-billed gull takes two years to reach breeding age. Observations which I have been making on the plumage changes of this gull suggest that there is a pre-nuptial moult, of the body plumage only, prior to the adoption of the second nuptial plumage. This nuptial plumage seems to be found in about October of the bird's second year. From a consideration of the time taken to acquire "adult" plumage, it seems theoretically probable that breeding takes place for the first time during November-December of the bird's second year. According to Dwight (1925) this is what would be expected in a gull of this size and of such a plumage cycle.

During the 1952 breeding season, several ringed black-billed gulls were seen in and around the colony at the Ashley. On November 7 1952 amongst the hundreds of gulls in the colony, I saw three birds bearing 1950 rings and one bird with a 1951 ring. Several other 1950-ringed birds were also seen on this day by my companions. A bird ringed in 1950 with ring 10261 was seen to be sitting on a nest in one group of the colony while two other 1950 birds were seen sitting in another group. On November 15 a bird bearing ring 9909 was seen sitting on a nest with a clutch of three eggs and on the same day, a bird with ring 10114 was seen over a clutch of two eggs. It seems probable that 10114 was sitting on the same nest as 10261, but, although 10261 was seen again during the rest of the season, I was unable to associate it with any one particular nest. It is possible that there were other ringed birds present but owing to the size of the colony (approx. 1075 nests) and the destruction of some groups by floods before observations were complete, all the adult birds were not able to be observed closely.

Early in 1953 a report was received that a gull with ring 10206, ringed as a chick on December 3, 1950, was "found nesting, 11/1/53, incubating two eggs. No other nests in the vicinity," Waipara River, Canterbury, about two miles from the coast (see Bull, 1953).

Thus, while these observations may not be conclusive evidence of the time of sexual maturity of the black-billed gull, they are at least indications although all that may safely be said is that, during the 1952 season, a number of birds ringed as chicks in November-December of 1950 were seen to be sitting on eggs.

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- Dwight, J., 1925: The Gulls of the World. *Bull. Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 52.
- Stead, E. F., 1932: *Life Histories New Zealand Birds*, p. 53.

FURTHER NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE MYNA.

By J. M. Cunningham, Masterton.

Since my last note on the distribution of the myna (*Acridotheres tristis*) (Notornis, 4(4): 66-67, and see also 3(2): 57-64) a little additional information has come to hand and there have been some records published in Notornis. The following is a summary of this new information and includes all the records I have up to mid 1953. It is still desirable to record every myna seen in districts not given in these three papers.

Wairarapa.—I have not seen it in Featherston for some two years, and in Martinborough there is now only one bird, or perhaps two. There are a few still in Carterton and Greytown, but none in Masterton.

Hawke's Bay—East Cape.—No important change is reported: it may be seen all the way to Te Araroa where it is plentiful (P. J. Couchman, who adds it is not at Waihou Bay). It is numerous at least as far as Te Karaka on the Gisborne-Opotiki Road. In March, 1953, I did not see any beyond Fraserton on the Wairoa-Waikaremoana Road.

Manawatu-Taranaki.—E. Dear states it was quite plentiful at Kopane, Palmerston North, about 1910 and was then present in Taihape, but Feilding (where there are small numbers still) is now its last main stronghold in the Manawatu. R. E. W. Fordham states that south of Kawhia Harbour it was not very numerous in 1919. Near the mouth of the Marokopa River he found it very numerous in 1931. In 1951 J. C. Davenport reported it very common in Kawhia.

Rotorua.—It is evidently not yet very numerous here, as two observers reported odd birds, Ohau Channel, May, 1953 (W. J. Phillipps), and six miles north of Rotorua, November, 1950 (M. J. S. Black). S. G. Parlane saw 14 settle but fly on, at Mamaku, in November 1951 but said they were scarce.

Bay of Plenty.—A report of birds nesting at Edgecombe in November 1951 was given in a Nature Time Radio Session and reported to me by C. A. Fleming.

Auckland.—No further reports have been received from north of Auckland. Additional suburbs where mynas have been seen, are: Ponsoby (June 1951, P. A. S. Stein), Orakei (September 1952, A. C. Hipwell) and others are mentioned in Notornis 4(7): 197, and 5(3): 104. They had not reached Waiheke Island in 1951 (P.A.S.S.).

SUMMARY.

A few additional records received or published up to mid 1953 show that the expansion is continuing in Auckland and the Bay of Plenty. No important change is noted from Rotorua, Manawatu-Taranaki, or Hawke's Bay-East Cape, but there are still fewer left in the Wairarapa.

WHITE HERON ROBBING PIED SHAG.—I saw an amusing piece of by-play with a lone white heron and a pied shag at Shelly Park. The shag was swimming and diving near the heron and each time it came up with a fish the heron very neatly took away the catch. As the shag dived again the heron very slowly stalked it, always managing to be at the exact spot where the shag appeared with its fish and so had an easy meal, until the shag eventually flew away to another part of the creek. As from June 6, 1952, this white heron was a daily visitor to Shelly Park, arriving about two hours before low tide and fed in the shallows until the tide was well in. I also saw a "pair" on June 14, July 22 and October 21, but they did not mix with the daily visitor at all. They were busy courting on October 21, 1952.—Mrs. B. Whittaker, Shelly Park, Howick.

SUMMARISED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

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NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*).—Whangarei area, 1952, plentiful, reported freely eaten by Maoris (H.R.McK.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, a good population scattered everywhere; heard quite often at night; numerous tracks seen in snow in Aniwaniwa Valley;

also heard at Lake Waikare-iti recently (G.E.S.). Te Araroa, East Cape, 1952, not known by local Maoris; Mr O. J. McLachlan, resident since 1900, had never seen it here, though he had a bush farm (H.R.McK.).

GREAT SPOTTED KIWI (*Apteryx haastii*).—Coal Creek, Grey-mouth, 21/4/53, adult female; Blackball, 9/10/53, immature female; both killed in traps (R.A.F.).

KIWI (*Apteryx* sp.)—Several reports from Buller Gorge, 1952-53; corpse eaten by dogs winter of 1952; one seen in heavy bush near the Loopline by Messrs. Sweetman, June, 1953—(T.J.P.). Two were caught (and released) outside the Greenlaw Hut in the Upper Waimakariri River, December, 1952 (R.A.E.).

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*).—Otago Pen., 4/4/53, 15 moulting (R.M.J.). Abraham's Bay, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island, 19/1/53, one seen (J.W.).

BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).—Whangaroa, 2-11/5/53, several dozen seen inside and outside Heads during week (N.M., L.W.). Alderman Is., 23/1/52, one in burrow with a tuatara (B.S.). Karewa Is. to Mt. Maunganui, 13/5/52, 20 in small groups (B.S.). Wellington Harb., 14/8/53, off Queen's Wharf, six (very calm day). (E.B.J.). St. Kilda Beach, Dunedin, 26/1/53, one (D.H.). Approx. one mile off coast of Stewart Island 7/1/53, one seen; Deep Bay track, 8/1/53, one dead; and Halfmoon Bay, Stewart Island, 20/1/53, one near wharf (J.W.).

WHITE-FLIPPED PENGUIN (*Eudyptula albosignata*).—Evans Bay, Wellington, 14/10/52 (R.A.F.).

CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus pachyrhynchus*).—First North Island records of attempted breeding have been made by Mr John Thomson, who has photographed a sitting bird in the Palliser Bay area. In 1953 addled eggs were abandoned at the end of September. Photographs and records have been lodged with the Dominion Museum (R.A.F.).

ERECT-CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus sclateri*).—Adult female, Raumati Beach, 23/6/53, picked up injured (R.A.F.). Kakanui, 19/5/53, two dead high on beach as if washed up by storm (Mrs. J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.). Otago Pen., one moulting among scattered group of 15 moulting yellow-eyed penguins, 4/4/53 (R.M.J.). St. Clair garden, one spent fortnight moulting; returned to sea safely, 20/2/53; Tomahawk Beach, one, 4/4/53, seen again 8/4/53 and moulting; another smaller bird of same species present 8/4/53; one moulting, Smail's Beach, 3/5/53 (I.T.).

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus australis*).—John o' Groats Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, four seen (J.A.M.). Mudflats, at Waitati, Otago, 29/1/53, one; seems odd that this bird should be seen here (K.J.W-M.). Lake Fergus, Otago, 7/1/53, two adults and four young; Lake Gunn, Otago, 7/1/53, one seen (L.E.W.). Te Anau, two adults and two young, 18/1/52; Lake Gunn, eastern side, one adult, one young, 19/1/52; western side Lake Gunn, two adults with two young, 22/1/52. (D.N.F.C.).

NEW ZEALAND DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*).—Te Arai Lake, Mangawhai, 1 with grey duck on largest lake (N.M., G.T.H.M., A. & J.P.). Muriwai Lakes (Tarawera Road group), 1/6/53, three pairs and three single birds seen. (R.B.S., N.M. and D.A.U.). Cambridge (Te Koutu Lake), 11/10/52, pair (N.M., R.S.); 2/6/53, 3, one rather small, white under tail, not visible (N.M., D.A.U.). Rototoi, 24-27/10/52, several reported on lake and nest with two eggs found under boatshed by Miss M. Macdonald. L. Rotorua, 19/5/53, 21 off Sulphur Pt. (R.B.S., M.J.S.B. and H.R.McK.). Lake Waikare-iti area, May, 1953, 3 on a remote lake in the ranges; seemed quite tame and curious; reported to have been seen on Waikare-iti Lake in June (C.E.S.). Lake Taupo (Roto Ngaiu Lagoon), early April, 1953, seven (F.M.B.). Napier, Embankment, 27/3/53, 2 (J.M.C.). Westshore, 4/4/53, 1 (J.M.C., D.H.B.). Paukawa Lake, Hastings, 22/5/53, immature female, accidentally shot (R.A.F.) Kaitoke Lake,

Wanganui, 5/5/53, one (H.W.A.). Forest Lakes, Manawatu, 7/3/53, four (A.S.W.). Kourarau Dam, Wairarapa, 21/6/53, six; highest number recorded here (R.H.D.S.). Eglinton Valley, 18/1/52, two (D.N.F.C.). John o' Groats Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, two seen (J.A.M.).

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*).—Whangaroa, 5/5/53, one flying round launch outside Heads (N.M., L.W.).

NORTHERN ROYAL ALBATROSS (*Diomedea epomophora sandfordi*).—Two adults found dead, Petone Beach, male 29/6/53, female 27/7/53 (R.A.F.).

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea melanophris*).—Mt. Maunganui Beach, 9/8/53, one ashore, first mollymawk seen since 1946 (M.H.). Hauraki Gulf, 2/8/53, seven in flight and at rest on water (B.S.). One seaward of Motuara Island, 5/9/53 (B.D.B.). Stewart Island, Feb., 1953, seen frequently in fairly large numbers (W.A.W.).

GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea chrysostoma*).—Muriwai 25/4/53, one immature with bill completely dark (J.C.D., N.M.). Awhitu Pen., one on 2/1/53, one on 14/2/53, one on 16/7/53 (V.M.R.).

BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea bulleri*).—Mole, Otago Harb., 3/8/52, one flying (L.E.W.).

WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea cauta cauta*).—Muriwai 25/4/53, one; *D. c. cauta*, bill 135 mm (N.M., J.C.D.).

SALVIN'S MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea cauta salvini*).—After easterly storm, Orewa Beach, east coast 18 miles north of Auckland, 27/8/53, found by A. B. Robertson exhausted and died 28/8/53; specimen Auckland Museum (E.G.T.).

GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*).—Waipapakauri, 90-Mile Beach, 23/8/53, one dead (J. Prickett et al.). Whangaroa, 5/5/53, seven flying round launch outside heads (N.M., L.W.). Waitemata Harbour, 27/9/52, six quite close to wharves (N.M.). Waitemata Harb., 26/10/52, c. 10 seen off wharves and 14 plus beyond the Rangitoto Channel (J.C.D. and G.W.G.). Waitemata, 31/8/53, c. 20 seen on ferry crossing (R.B.S.). Motuihi Channel, 23/12/52, one (A.J.G.). Port Charles, Hauraki Gulf, 2/8/53, six seen in flight (B.S.). Mt. Maunganui, 2/9/53, one in flight offshore (B.S.). Wellington Harb., 5 and 6/10/53, one; 7/10/53 and 8/10/53, all white phase (E.B.J.); 6/10/53, one white phase additional to other on Oct. 6 (R.V.R.).

CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*).—Muriwai, Auck., 12/7/53, two picked up recently ashore (J.C.D.). Queen Charlotte Sound, flock of 13, 28/10/53 (R.M.J.). Foveaux Strait, 26/1/53, two followed ship for about half-way across the Strait from Stewart Island, first seen outside Horseshoe Bay (J.W.).

BLUE PETREL (*Halobaena caerulea*).—Muriwai, 25/7/53, one fresh but wave-beaten corpse, wing 208, tail 89.5, culmen 26.1, and tarsus 33.3 mm. (J.C.D. and N.M.).

BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata vittata*).—Muriwai, 25/4/53, one ashore, the only one throughout the winter (N.M., J.C.D.). New Brighton Beach, one found by R. J. Jacobs, 23/12/52, had the following dimensions: Culmen 37 mm, width 18mm, depth 11 mm, tarsus 34 mm, midtoe and claw 40 mm.; wing 210 mm.; 47 washed up during storm on 3/1/53 at New Brighton Beach (D.E.C.).

PRION (*P. desolata*).—Muriwai, picked up more often than they are normally, i.e., 25/4/53, two; 24/5/53, one; 12/7/53, two; 25/7/53, three; 15/8/53, one (J.C.D., R.D.S., N.M.). Puketutu Causeway, Manukau, 22/7/53, one found just dead (R.B.S.).

LESSER BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila salvini salvini*).—Waipapakauri, 23/8/53, two dead (J.P. et al.). Muriwai, odd birds washed ashore from April until 25/7/53 when 25 recent birds were counted in about 4 miles of beach; 15/8/53, eight about a week ashore (N.M., R.B.S., J.C.D.). Awhitu Pen., 26/7/53, 25 (V.M.R.).

SOUTH GEORGIAN PRION (*Pachyptila desolata banksi*). — Six examples of this race washed up on New Brighton Beach, five on 3/10/52 and one on 9/10/52, identified by Dr. R. A. Falla as representing the above sub-species. Another bird agreeing in dimensions with the above specimens was washed up on New Brighton Beach on 3/1/53 (D.E.C.).

NARROW-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila belcheri*). — Muriwai, 12/7/53, seven fresh; 25/7/53, one, the only records for the winter. (J.C.D., N.M.). Awhitu Pen., 26/7/53, three (V.M.R.).

FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*).—Waipapakauri, 90-Mile Beach, 23/8/53, two dead (J. Prickett et al.). Muriwai, odd birds ashore throughout the winter months, no heavy mortality, i.e., 13/6/53, 3; 12/7/53, 3; 27/7/53, 4; 28/8/53, 1 (N.M., J.C.D., R.B.S.). Schooner Bay, Great Barrier Is., 27/12/52, one fresh corpse (A.J.G.).

PRIONS (*Pachyptila* spp.)—Whangaroa, 5/5/53, many hundreds flying outside Heads (N.M., L.W.). Mt. Maunganui Ocean Beach, first winter record was one *P. turtur* on 6/6/53; after severe north to north-easterlies in early July c 30 prions came ashore on about five miles of beach and of 17 examined specifically there was 1 *P. vittata*, 7 *P. desolata* and 9 *P. turtur*. This is the biggest deposit of prions recorded from this coast that can be recalled; 9/8/53, *P. vittata* 2, *P. desolata* 1, *P. belcheri* 2 and *P. turtur* 1, about two or three days ashore (M.H., A.H.W.).

FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*).—Waiheke-Kawau-Little Barrier, 24/12/53-3/1/53, seen all the way, few seen round Great Barrier or Colville-Whangapoua; Coromandel-Waiheke, many; 9/2/53, off Matiatia, Waiheke, 2; 10/2/53, 1; 22/2/53, Waiheke-Mahurangi, seen all the way; 3-5/4/53, Waiheke-Coromandel, many (A.J.G.). East of Ponui Is., Hauraki Gulf, 1/2/53, 4 seen (J.McK.). Awhitu Pen., 14/2/53, one (V.M.R.). Manly, 27/1/53, seen in some numbers with *P. gavia* just offshore (S.C.). Bay of Plenty, 1-2-3/1/53, 19 on wing, Tauranga-Motiti-Rurima area (B.S.). Matakaoa Pt., Hick's Bay, 7/10/52, 4.30-6 p.m., odd ones at first, then many, going west (H.R.McK.).

BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*).—Pakiri, 30/11/52, one corpse (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Mangawhai, 7/3/53, one corpse (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.). Waiheke-Kawau-Great Barrier, 24/12/52-3/1/53, only odd ones seen, five together the most; Colville-Whangapoua, none; Coromandel-Waiheke, 1; 10/2/53, off Matiatia, Waiheke, 1; 3/4/53, Ponui-Coromandel, several (A.J.G.). East of Ponui Is., Hauraki Gulf, 1/2/53, one seen (J.McK.). Mt. Maunganui Beach, 3/5/53, three freshly ashore (M.H.). Bay of Plenty, 2/1/53, 45 between Rurima and Whale Is., eight between Rurima and Motiti (B.S.). Matakaoa Pt., Hick's Bay, 7/10/52, 4.30-6 p.m., c. 100, mostly singly, all flying west (H.R.McK.). Waikanac, one fresh corpse, 13/5/53 (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Adult found exhausted, Tory Channel, 1/6/53 (R.A.F.). New Brighton Beach, 3/1/53, one (D.F.C.).

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*).—Taupo Bay, Whangaroa, 7/5/53, one male (N.M.). Whangaroa, 5/5/53, c 30 flying outside Heads (N.M., L.W.). Outer Chicken Is., 21/3/53, a dead bird was found in a deep man-made pit on a scrub covered slope; there was a petrel burrow close by (J.C.D.). Muriwai, 25/4/53, six ashore, 5 being recent; 25/7/53, one, not more than a fortnight ashore (P.C.D., N.M.). Mt. Maunganui Beach, 3/5/53, one fresh bird ashore; 6/6/53, two quite fresh (M.H.). Off Blumine Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, 10/10/53; seven (B.D.B.) New Brighton Beach, 3/1/53, five corpses (D.F.C.). Seen from express between Christchurch and Dunedin long lines in flight at sea, 30/4/53 (M.A.E.B.).

SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus tenuirostris*).—Awhitu Pen., 26/1/53, one dead (S.C.R.); 26/12/52, two (fresh), 2/1/53, one (V.M.R.). Plate Island, 3/1/53, two resting in sheltered water; one taken up in weak state, apparently immature, length 34 c.m. bill 3.2 c.m. (B.S.). New Brighton, 22/10/51, one (D.F.C.).

FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*).—Waiheke-Kawau-Great Barrier-Whangapoua, 29/12/52, seen all the way, small groups,

except flock of 2000 plus off Whangaparapara; 24/2/53, off Martin's Bay, 1,000; 3-5/4/53, Coromandel Is., small flocks up to 60; 29/5/53, off Maraetai, c. 100 (A.J.G.). Manly, Whangaparaoa Pen., flocks of 200 to 300 commonly seen off the coast in January (S.C.) East of Ponui Is., Hauraki Gulf, 1/2/53, 40 seen (J.McK.) Off Duder's Pt., Clevedon, three seen, 29/1/53 (J.McK.). Matakaoa Pt., Hick's Bay, 7/10/52, 4.30-6 p.m., many, nearly all going east, whereas other petrels were going west (H.R.McK.). Wellington Harb., 28/7/53, off Queen's Wharf, 27; 29/7/53, two (E.B.J.). Pelorus Sound, 11/7/53, numerous; Queen Charlotte Sound, 5/9/53, and 10/10/53, numerous (B.D.B.).

HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*P. gavia huttoni*).—Muriwai, 9/11/52, one dried corpse, measurements, wing 230 mm., tail 68, culmen 38.7, tarsus 43.2, toe and claw 54.4; under wing coverts a dirty white (J.C.D.). New Brighton Beach, 12/12/52, one (D.F.C.).

ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*).—Mt. Maunganui Beach, 25/4/53, dried remains of one bird found (M.H.).

BLACK PETREL (*Procellaria parkinsoni*).—Auckland City, during a spell of particularly strong north to north-east winds between 21st and 25th May, 1950, two live birds were picked up in an exhausted condition at Grafton Gully in the heart of the city. The first bird was sent to the Zoo where it finally died about a week later. The second was kept in a large enclosed pen at my home. After thirty-three days ashore it was finally let go from a slight hill and was last seen flying strongly towards the sea. While ashore it had always to be forcefully fed on a mixture of raw mince and sardines. During most of the day it remained hidden in a box, but once darkness fell it became very active and climbed all over the wire-netting. Measurements of this bird were: Wing c. 365, bill 43.3, width 17.3, tarsus 50.5, and mid-toe 68.2 (J.C.D.).

GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*).—Parengarenga, 4/9/53, 3 fragmentary; Muriwai, 28/8/53, 1 dead (R.B.S.). Corpses: Mangawhai, 7/5/53, three (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.); Taupo Bay, Whangaroa, 7/5/53, one female (N.M.). Found on road, Mt. Albert, Auckland suburb, 22/12/52, sent to Auckland Museum by D. Griffiths (E.G.T.). Tauranga 29/11/52, two in burrows; Motuotau (Rabbit Is.) (B.S.). Mt. Maunganui, Tauranga, an extensive breeding colony discovered in the winter of 1952 on the lower western slopes of the Mount. Extends from northern side of a sandy beach on the west shoreline to the vicinity of the north-west beacon and from there up the slopes some 200 to 300 yards. Burrows most concentrated in areas of tumbled rhyolitic boulders and pohutukawa and manuka overhead covering, but odd holes scattered all through this area. First signs of burrow cleaning on 24/3/53 and by late April extensive diggings with grass, leaves and feathers in burrows; 11/7/53, clean fresh egg found outside a burrow. In September, 1953, c. 140 nests counted, only four of which showed no sign of occupation. Besides numerous dead adults during late November and early December, 1952, three well fledged birds were found outside burrows. (M.H. and A.H.W.). New Brighton Beach, 12/12/52, one, the second record for the Canterbury area, the first being found on board a ship in Lyttelton Harbour (D.F.C.).

WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*).—Manganui Bluff, Northland, 18/3/53, one freshly dead (A.J.G.). Corpses: Muriwai, 8/3/53, one (N.M., R.B.S., D.H.B.). Paroa, Westland, adult female found exhausted, 4/10/53 (R.A.F.).

MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*).—Awhitu Pen., 26/1/53, one dead (S.C.R.). Mt. Maunganui, 30/3/53, first bird I've picked up on this coast (M.H.). New Brighton Beach, 17/5/51, one (D.F.C.).

PYCROFT'S PETREL (*Pterodroma longirostris pycrofti*).—Mangawhai, 7/3/53, three corpses, two brought back and identification confirmed at the Museum (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.).

COOK'S PETREL (*Pterodroma cooki*).—Otua Bay, Awhitu Pen., calls heard at c. 9 p.m. on 20 and 31/1/53 (S.C.R. and V.M.R.). Kawau-Great

Barrier, 24/12/52, only seen about 5 miles each side of Little Barrier; Whangaparapara-Port Charles, a few about half-way across (A.J.G.). Muriwai, 25/4/53, one, some time ashore, bill 28.5 mm. (J.C.D., N.M.). Manly, Whangaparaoa, calls heard on 22, 28 and 29/1/53 at 8.30 p.m., 9 p.m., and 8.30 p.m. respectively (S.C. and B.C.). Found in park, Royal Oak, Auckland suburbs, 21/11/52, sent to Auckland Museum by S.P.C.A. (E.G.T.).

WILSON'S STORM PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*). — Otumoata Beach, Tauranga, 9/2/53, one corpse found, a mere bundle of bones and feathers, confirmed by Dr. R. A. Falla (M.H.).

WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*).—Doubtless Bay, 3/9/53, one recently ashore (H.G.W.). Off Beachlands, 23/12/52 one; 24/12/52-3/1/53, Motutapu-Kawau-Great Barrier, fairly thick, up to 30 in places; Whangaparapara-Port Charles, c. 120 half way; Port Charles-Whangapoua and back, none; Coromandel-Waiheke, three; 3/4/53, Ponui-Coromandel, none (A.J.G.). Corpses: Mangawhai: 17/1/53, one (N.M., D.A.U., J.P.); 7/3/53, one (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.). Bay of Plenty 25/1/53, 1500 (est.) spread over area inshore from Alderman Is. (B.S.). Oputama Beach, H.B., 18/11/52, corpse (R.H.D.S.). One landed on ship off Greymouth, 1/4/53 (R.A.F.).

COMMON DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*).—Parengarenga, 4/9/53, one with malformed bill ashore (R.B.S.). Waipapakauri, 23/8/53, two dead (J.P. et al.). Whangaroa, 5/5/53, many flying round launch and diving (N.M., L.W.). Corpses: Pakiri, 30/11/52, three (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Mangawhai 21/12/52, four (N.M., D.A.U., A.B.E.); 7/3/53, one (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.); Waipu Cove, 18/4/53, one immature (?) with "collar" of light grey mottling (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Mt. Maunganui, 15/8/53, three recent on beach (M.H.). Colville, 2/8/53, 250 to 300 (est.); off Port Charles, flying seaward, 6 a.m.; Tauranga, 3/1/53, 12 off Motuotau (Rabbit Is.) (B.S.). New Brighton Beach, 3/1/53, one after severe storm (D.F.C.).

AUSTRALIAN GANNET (*Sula bassana serratator*).—Whangaroa, 1953, young birds were observed as last year making north in similar numbers and manner (T.M.R.). Whangarei Town Basin, 24/8/53, one, fishing. (J.P. et al.). Manly, Whangaparaoa, 19/1/53, one young seen on water: 27/1/53, three young seen being fed by adults, flew north (S.C.). Off Coromandel, south of gannetry, 5/4/53, a few young birds scattered among flying adults (A.J.G.). Off Mercury Bay, 20/3/53, juvenile on the wing (B.S.). Matakaoa Pt., Hick's Bay, 7/10/52, 4.30 to 6 p.m., parties flying west round the Point all the time, probably returning to White Island gannetry. (H.R.McK.). Pelorus Sound, 11/7/53, about 20; Queen Charlotte Sound, 5/9/53, six; 10/10/53, about 20 mostly resting on water (B.D.B.).

BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae*).—Rangaunu Harbour, Northland, 22/8/53, eight (J.P. et al.).

PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius varius*).—Rangaunu Harbour, Northland 22/8/53, c. 45 (J.P. et al.). Catherine Bay, Great Barrier, 25/3/52, 25 birds, 17 nests (A.J.G.). Rurima Rocks, 31/12/52, 25 (est.), with 20 young (B.S.). Ship's Cove, Queen Charlotte Sound, 5/9/53, common and breeding, five nests occupied; Wairau Bar, 10/5/53, 17 resting on spit (B.D.B.).

LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*).—Parengarenga Hr., 5/4/53, off Te Pua Pt., one, with many white-throated (J.P., A.P., N.M., A.H.W., D.A.U., H.R.McK.). Rangaunu Har., Northland, 22/8/53, three; reported to be numerous at times (J.P. et al.). Whangarei Town Basin, 24/8/53, five, one had white cheeks, but was not *P. m. brevirostris*. (J.P. et al.). Orakei Basin, 29/6/53, seven or eight diving in small group (N.M.). Orakei Basin, Auck., 5/7/53, 30 plus (R.B.S. and J.C.D.). Matata Lagoon, 25/1/53, four (R.B.S.). Rurima Rocks, 31/12/52, c. 25, with young or incubating (B.S.). Tukituki Estuary, four on 18/5/53

(M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Floating Dock, Wellington Harb., 4/12/52, one; identity confirmed (E.B.J.).

WHITE-THROATED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*).—Parengarenga, Aug., 1953, the proportion of little pied to white throated seems to be high, perhaps one to three (R.B.S.). Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, off Te Pua Pt., c 120 pied phase, c 40 white-throated, others scattered not counted (J.P. et al.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland 22/8/53, several hundred; about three small pied to one white-throated; reported usually about equal (J.P. et al.). Tauranga Harb., 12/6/53, c 150 in trees at Omokoroa nearly all white-throated type (B.S.) Rurima Rocks, 31/12/52, one little pied type incubating three eggs, crest displayed. (B.S.). Gladstone, Wairarapa, 11/10/52, eight nests with four eggs; four with three eggs; two with two eggs; one with one egg and three chicks; one with one egg and two chicks; one with two eggs and two chicks; seven incomplete nests; at least 35 adults including two little pied. The chicks were just hatched, eyes shut and egg-tooth showing (J.M.C.). Lake Rotoiti, Nelson, 31/5/53, two resting on rocks around shore; Queen Charlotte Sound 5/9/53 and 10/10/53, odd birds (B.D.B.). Heathcote-Avon Est., 2/11/51, two (one pied); 19/3/52, four; 26/3/52, six (two white-throated, three black and one pied) (G.G.).

N.Z. KING SHAG (*Phalacrocorax (Leucocarbo) carunculatus carunculatus*).—One near Maude Is., Pelorus Sound, 11/7/53; one near Diefenbach Point and about six flying singly from White Rocks passed Motuara Island 5/9/53; four between Ruakaka Bay and Long Island and four off Motuara Island, Queen Charlotte Sound 10/10/53 (B.D.B.)

STEWART ISLAND SHAG (*Phalacrocorax (Leucocarbo) carunculatus chalconotus*).—Ulva Island, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island, 13/1/53, one on rocks (J.W.).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax (Stictocarbo) punctatus punctatus*). Oaia Is., 15/8/53, c 40 on summit (R.B.S.). Off Matiatia, Waiheke, 22/2/53, one; near Hautapu Pt., Coromandel, 4/4/53, 9 (A.J.G.). East of Ponui Is., Hauraki Gulf, 1/2/53, one seen (J.McK.). Queen Charlotte Sound, 5/9/53, two flocks (seven and about 20) at Ship's Cove, also odd birds and pairs flying out towards Jackson's Head when disturbed; about half in breeding plumage; only one in breeding plumage near Picton on 10/10/53; Wairau Bar, 10/5/53, 56 resting on shingle spit. (B.D.B.). Lower Portobello, Otago Harb., 6/6/653, 15 (A.R.H.).

BLUE SHAG (*Phalacrocorax (Stictocarbo) punctatus stadi*)—Paterson Inlet, Stewart Is., 13/1/53, six on rock; Caerhowel Arm, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Is., 19/1/53, four (J.W.).

LESSER FRIGATE BIRD (*Fregata ariel*).—Umutoi, near Apiti, Nov. 1951, one found dead on farm by Mrs. Burton, sent to Dominion Museum (E.D.).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba modesta*).—Ahipara, 22/5/53, first sight report for north this year; one Rangaunu Harb.; 6/6/53, 11; 9/7, 13; 22/8, 10 (though up to 16 seen at once by Mr. Ted Walker, Awanui); 3/10, 10 (though numbers up to 16 reported by Mr. Stead, Kaitaia); Mangonui, 18/9 and into Oct., one daily in roadside mangroves. (H.G.W.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, 10 in close flock (J.P. et al.). Whangaroa, 26/5/53, two at Kaero end of harbour with reef heron reported by Miss Brenda Sanderson (N.M.). Whangarei Town Basin, 24/8/53, one, very tame (J.P., A.P., N.M., H.R.McK.). Whangarei-Onerahi Road, 9/8/53, two feeding in tidal creek, reported by Mr and Mrs B. A. Christie (H.R.McK.). Whitford: 30/8/52, one near bridge; 26/10/52, one on fence post on beach with white-throated shags; 15/11/52, two; 16/11/52, one; 23/11/52, two; 1/8/53, one (N.M.). Orakei Basin, Auckland, one reported on 6/6/52 and 17/5/53 by D. H. Binney (R.B.S.). Wiri Creek, Auckland, one reported on 2/8/53 by D. Phillips (R.B.S.). Matata, Bay of Plenty, one bird seen on seven occasions between 22/5/53 and 21/9/53 (B.S.). Wanstead Lag., H.B., 7/11/52, seven; Westshore, Napier, 23/11/52, three (R.H.D.S.). Kawhia, 9/9/53, one on low tide mudflats; New

Plymouth, 26/5/53, one; Pukekura Park, very tame, apparently wintering there; Kaitoke Lake, Wanganui, 21/8/53, one (H.W.A.). Porirua Harb., 28/11/52, two (E.B.J.). Westhaven, Wairoa River, 29/10/52 (C.L.): 19 miles n. of Oamaru, 24/5/53, one (K.P.S.). Stirling: 2/7/52, eight flew from roost in macrocarpa trees after dark, seen arriving to roost in evening, leaving in morning by Mrs Reid and son, sometimes 11 or 13, until 8/7/52: 8/6/53, one seen in ditch (R.V.McL.). Waikouaiti, 25/10/52, one (R.M.J.). Merton Swamps, 10/10/52, one in association with a white-faced; Purakanui, 19/4/53, two; Green Island Swamp, 12/8/53, one; Taieri Mouth, 6/8/53, one (I.T.). Blueskin Bay, Waitaiti, 1/8/52, one (Miss C. S. White, D.N.F.C.). Silverstream, N. Taieri, 8/8/53, one (E.M.M.). Waianakarua Lagoon, Otago, 5/6/53, one (S.K.). Waitaiti Valley, near Dunedin, 15/8/53, one (L.E.W.). Lake Tuakitoto, Otago, 3/5/53, one shot (T.R.B.). Awarua River, Big Bay, Sept., 1953, one (with dorsal plumes) and South End Creek, Big Bay, one without plumes (O.S.). Ranger at Lake Te Anau reported three birds were seen May-Sept., 1952, one at Lynwood Station, one at Mararoa and one at Manapouri-Te Anau Road (L.E.W.). Paterson Inlet, Stewart Is., 23/10/52, one (O.S.).

BLUE HERON (*Egretta sacra sacra*).—Parengarenga Harb., 5/4/53, flock of 11 (J.P. et al.). Ranganu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, c 26, all flying out of harbour as the tide became full (J.P. et al.). Taipa River, 10/5/53, two miles from coast, one, feeding (H.G.W.). Hobson Bay, Auck., 9/5/53, one seen at the Ayre Street end, not usually recorded here (S.C.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 26/10/52, six; 28/6/53, one (N.M.). Karewa Is., 18/12/52, 28 on rocks (B.S.). Motuotau (Rabbit Is.), 7/11/52, one nest with chick in down; 29/10/52, 18 birds, nests counted 22, young birds in feather 12, one nest with three eggs in branches of fallen pohutukawa, later deserted (B.S.). Gisborne, 4/4/53, Tatapouri, feeding at low tide among rock pools; 2/9/53, Waikanae Creek, near Railway Station, Gisborne (J.P.C.). Kawhia, 9/9/53, one (H.W.A.). Long Island, Queen Charlotte Sound, 10/10/53, one (B.D.B.).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*).—Parengarenga Harb., 5/4/53, off Kaiata Bank, one (J.P. et al.). Taipa River, 15/4/53, one with bright yellow legs; Ranganu Harb., 19/7/53, six (H.G.W.). Ascot 'Flash', Mangere, one on 25/6/53 (R.B.S.). Karaka, Manukau, 3/5/53, four seen (R.B.S.). Mission Bay, Auck., 17/9/53, one reported by Mr. D. H. Binney (R.B.S.). Turanga Creek, 28/6/53, seven (N.M., D.A.U.). Gisborne, Waipaoa, 2/4/53, two (J.M.C., P.J.T.); Napier Embankment, 27/3/53, two (J.M.C.). Lake Wairarapa, the first bird reported to me in this area was at Kumenga, May, 1951 (N. M., Nix, per I. A. Barton). At Whareroto, 23/10/52, I.A.B. saw six and 7/11/52 (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.) saw five, one showed deeper colour on the breast and back, with whiter face markings, and the bill was more intense. It seems likely that the other four were young birds. On 13/12/52, I.A.B. saw 15. At Turanganui, 7/11/52 were two, probably three birds. H. and J. Warren said two birds appeared three years ago and they were five in the winter of 1952 (J.M.C.). Record of nest with eggs Ruataniwha Inlet, Golden Bay, November, 1952. Also built nests Pahautanui same season, but eggs dislodged by wind or harriers (R.A.F.). Two, Rangihaeatea Heads, Takaka, 28/10/52 (C.L.). Three (one pair and one odd bird) present Motueka Island, Wairau Lagoon, 26/4/53; one, mouth of Opawa River, 28/8/53; pair on pond near Woodbourne Aerodrome, 12/10/53, this pair present but not definitely identified about a fortnight before this date (B.D.B.). Avon-Heathcote Est., 2/1/53, one; Spencer Park Beach, 9/1/53, one (D.F.C.). Stirling, July, 1952, three reported seen several times with white herons: 25/3/53, one at pond (R.V.McL.). Merton, Otago, 6/6/53, nine seen (W.A.W. and J.H.). Evansdale, Otago, 6/6/53, six seen (J.M. and J.W.). Taieri River, Otago, May, 1953, one seen with red legs and red bill (L.E.W.). Karatane, two together, larger bird yellow legs, smaller, red legs; Merton swamps, one; Warrington, one, 10/10/52 (I.T.). Merton lagoons, over half-a-dozen together, 14/2/53 (O.R.C.). Merton, three: Blueskin Bay, two, 16/8/53 (J.H. and I.T.). Blueskin Bay, reported nesting in bluegum trees late summer, 1950 (J.H.). Michie's Crossing,

Waitati, foreshore, one, 2-3/8/52; same area, one kept watch from the top of a tall pine for half-an-hour, 25/12/52; one still repeatedly seen till 5/3/53 (Miss C. S. White, D.N.F.C.). Sawyer's Bay, one, tidal pond, 23/5/53 (D.N.F.C.). Hooper's Inlet, five, 12/4/53 (R.M.J.). Kuri Bush, one, 6/6/53 (O.R.C. and I.T.).

BITTERN (*Botaurus stellaris poeciloptilus*).—Rangaunu Harbour, 9/7/53, three; Lake Ohia, reported as nesting annually (H.G.W.). Taumere, Kawakawa, Northland, 30/3/53, one flew from swamp by railway line (A.J.G.). Tauranga Harb., 11/10/52, one sprang up near the Wairoa River, first record for some time, next seen on 28/4/53 (M.H.). Opautama, H.B., 18/11/52, heard booming repeatedly (R.H.D.S.). Lake Whakaki, H.B., May, 1953, best one-day count in nine days of shooting was 20 (R.St.P.). Ahuriri Lagoon, 25/11/52, one (E.B.J.). Manawatu, in last week of January, 1953, one of the largest floods for 50 years, habitat of bittern would be flooded out; on 10/1/53, at 5.30, I saw several flying high from direction of Moutoa and northern Horowhenua swamps; they settled in Mt. Stewart area, where there are some large dams edged with raupo, rushes, etc. (E.D.). Harts Creek, Leeston, 11/1952 (reported by Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Brown); Orton, South Canterbury, 3/1953 (reported by R. O'Reilly) (T.I.P.). Dunback, Otago, 30/12/52, one flying; Green Valley, Otago, 30/4/53, one killed, flew into windshield of car (T.R.B.). Henley Otago, 11/9/53, one on side of main highway (A.R.H.). Mining pond, near Miller's Flat, 13/1/53, one (I.T.). "Invermay," Taieri, 6/6/53, one (J.T.B.). Lake Tuakitoto, 6/6/53, one seen; a resident estimated the number in locality about 12 (R.V.McL.).

ROYAL SPOONBILL (*Platalea leucorodia regia*).—Manawatu Est., 13/5/53, five; according to D. H. C. Davidson two more arrived a few days later (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.); 24/5/53, six (R.H.D.S.).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis canadensis*).—Lake Rotorua, 30/6/49, recorded by Mr W. Perston, who gives this description: "I saw two birds bigger than duck, smaller than swan, flight strong, with heavy wingbeats, faster than a swan's wingbeat. Colour, blackish with white ringed neck and black head. Seen over swamp at Waiteti, circled twice and headed for Rotorua and then returned from there and flew towards coast. Note given to me by Mr. J. H. Clayton (M.J.S.B.). Levin, 29/5/53, nine reported flying over town, later reported on flat near Ohau River (A.S.W.).

MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*).—Lake Pupuke, Takapuna, 3/8/52, eight seen (S.C.). Hamilton Lake, 2/6/53, two (N.M.). L. Poukawa, 18/5/53, 14 (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Mouth Kaikorai Stream, Dunedin, 6/4/53, ten (R.M.J.). Otago Harbour (upper), 31/8/52, six in flight (L.E.W.).

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*).—Houhora Harb., 25/8/53, 200-300 (B.J.M.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 12/10/52, 52; 26/10/52, 58; 9/11/52, 20; 29/11/52, 54; 28/6/53, c. 50 (N.M.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, a few pairs can be seen nesting in the spring around the shores; not as numerous as formerly as owing to low level of the lake feeding grounds have been destroyed; two birds seen on L. Waikare-iti in May (G.E.S.). L. Whakaki, Wairoa, H.B., 1-8/5/53, 1500-1700 seen each day; Minginui, 21/6/53, 11 flew over (R.St.P.). Maungawhio, near Mahia, 1/4/53, 58 (J.M.C.). Ahuriri Lagoon, 11/10/53, still about 40-50 on pond behind motor camp (D.H.B.). Upper Lagoon, Wairau lagoons, four nests occupied (eggs 5, 2, 2, 6), two incubating, other nests under construction (B.D.B.). Heathcote-Avon Est., 1-10/10/51, c. 200; 3/2/52, four (G.G.). Several thousands on Lake Ellesmere on 23/2/53 and on 4/3/53, and on subsequent occasions. It is usually present in thousands in this area. However, on 21/2/53, not a single bird was to be seen. The weather at the time was overcast, but was clearing. On 11/2/53 (weather overcast) two swan and five cygnets were seen on Lake Forsyth which adjoins Lake Ellesmere (K.J.W-M). Lake Tuakitoto, 6/6/53, c 39 (R.V.McL.). Waikouaiti Lag., 7/9/52, nest, 2 eggs; 5/10/52, seven eggs; Lake Waiholo, 2/9/53, pair with five cygnets (L.E.W.). Lake Alabaster, W. Otago, 15/5/53, two (B.W.C.). Upper Otago Harb., frequently seen on southern embankment (W.A.W.).

Near Lake Waiholo, 2/9/53, pair with five cygnets (L.E.W.). Caerhowell Arm, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Is., 21/1/53, three (J.W.).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*).—Minginui (45 miles S.E. of Rotorua), 14/9/52, two flying high (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1952-53, a small population, breeds here, one nest found in a tall dead tree a good half-mile from water (G.E.S.). Mouth of Haparapara River, Bay of Plenty east, 5/10/52, one female; Potaka, near Hicks' Bay, one pair; Te Araroa, reported present a few miles to south (H.R.McK.). Lake Taupo (Roto Ngaio Lagoon), early April, 1953, pair (F.M.B.). Maungawhio, near Mahia, 1/4/53, 28 (J.M.C.). Tutira, 27/3/53, c. 32 (J.M.C.). Napier, Embankment, 27/3/53, c. 23; 5/4/53, 4 (J.M.C.). Ahuriri Lag., 11/10/53, four pairs (D.H.B.). Waikanae Est., Manawatu, 2/3/53, two; 4/3/53, 16; Weggery's Lagoon, Waikanae, 5/3/53, 24 (B.I.). Little Wanganui River, West Nelson, 11, 2/1/53; Avon River, Christchurch, immature female in company with grey ducks, 15/3/53-9/5/53 (T.J.P.). Martin's Bay, Sept., 1953, 200 pair (O.S.). Eglinton Valley, pairs and family parties which numbered from about six to 11, 17-23/1/52; Makarora Valley, flock c. 30, 15/1/53; Matukituki Valley, from twos and threes to flock of 50, 6/1/53 (D.N.F.C.). On Lake Harris, surroundings snow covered, 12/5/53 (B.W.C.).

GREY TEAL (*Anas gibberifrons gracilis*).—Waimangu, L. Rotomahana, 16/1/53, c. 15; Sulphur Pt., L. Rotorua, 29/1/53, five (R.B.S.). Kahutara, Wairarapa, 3/5/53, eight shot by duck shooters (R.H.D.S.).

BROWN TEAL (*Anas castanea chlorotis*).—Whangarei area, 1953, has apparently disappeared in recent years from Mangapai, Tangihua, Maungakamea, Parakao, Titoki, Aponga and Purua; still present at Waipu; Wayby, 25/12/52, Mr. G. H. Wilson had seen c. six on his lagoon recently (H.R.McK.).

GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa superciliosa*).—Turanga Creek, Whitford, 12/10/52, 27; 26/10/52, 21; 9/11/52, 34; 15/11/52 and 23/11/52, 20 (N.M.). Cambridge, 11/10/52, c. 30 on lake; 2/6/53, c. 30 (N.M. et al.). Takatu Lagoon: 28/2/53, 300 plus (N.M., A. and J.P.). Waipu Cove Lagoon, 18/4/53, c. 50 (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Matata, 5/5/53, c. 2000 on lagoon; 30/3/53, c. 90 between Tarawera and Rangitaiki rivers on flooded paddocks (B.S.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, scattered in small numbers about streams and lakes (G.E.S.). Mohokinui River, West Nelson, 1/1/53, 16 (T.J.P.). Stirling, pond, or river, always some seen; total count with mallard, 6/6/53, 100, majority mallard (R.V.McL.). Wanaka Lake, 13-23/1/53, at township, 50 plus (D.N.F.C.).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*).—Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, a few semi-tame about the motor camp on the lake (G.E.S.). Ahuriri Lag., 11/10/53, at least 20 pairs, one pair with 13 downy young (D.H.B.). Lake Tuakitoto, 6/6/53, majority in count 570; Stirling, common in winter, always some on pond or river; 25/9/52, pond, f. with 10 young (R.V.McL.).

N.Z. SHOVELER (*Anas rhynchotis variegata*).—Takatu Lagoon, 28/2/53, one (N.M., A. and J.P.). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 15/6/52, one male and two females; 20/6/53, two males and one female (H.R.McK.). Tarawera-Rangitaiki rivers, 30/7/53, 150 to 200 on flooded paddocks (B.S.). Matata Lagoon, 25/1/53, 30 plus (R.B.S.). Ahuriri Lag., 27/9/53, five males, 2 females (D.H.B.). Waipukurau, 18/5/53, many on the lake; West-shore Lag., 18/5/53, 250 plus (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Kaitoke Lake, Wanganui, 5/5/53, two pairs (H.W.A.). Lake Grassmere, 21/6/53, 30 to 40 (B.D.B.). Stirling, pond, 25/7/52, four pairs also 6/8/51; 1 pair 30/9/52, 1 pair 5/5/53, 1 pair 30/5/53, 6/6/53 3 pairs, 27/6/53, heard (R.V.McL.). Pond near Arrow River, 23/1/53, pair (I.T.). Invercargill Est., 10/5/52, flock of 30 (R.M.R.).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*).—Minginui, on Waiau Stream, 2/4/53, pair; almost wiped out by illegal shooting in the upper Whirinaki area (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, a few on all the streams flowing into Lake Waikaremoana, one lone bird can be seen any day below the Papa-okarito Falls (G.E.S.). Hollyford River, 14/5/53,

near end of road, pair (B.W.C.). Lake Lochie, Otago, 7/1/53, two seen (L.E.W.).

N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*).—L. Rotomahana, 16/1/53, a loose flock of 200 plus (R.B.S.). Lake Rotoiti, 1/6/53, between 115 and 120 counted off cliffs by the Lake Okataina turn-off (J.C.D.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, three seen on remote lake in the ranges in May; 30-50 on L. Waikare-iti, and a few can be seen on L. Waikaremoana (G.E.S.). Waikaremoana, 30/3/53, 14 (J.M.C.). Lake McKerrow, Sept. 1953, 50 and 17; Lower Hollyford, groups of 5, 11 and 9 (O.S.). Lake Lochie, two; L. Fergus, 10, 19-20/1/52; Wanaka, flocks 20 plus and 40 plus, apart from the flocks were two with 4 young (later both reduced to 3) and another with two young, 13-23/1/53; Lagoon, Matukituki, 17/1/53, two (D.N.F.C.). Queenstown, 23/1/53, 40 to 50, one with five young; 18/2/53, 59 (I.T.). East branch, Eglinton River, Eglinton Valley, 8/1/53 four in pool by roadside (L.E.W.). John o' Groats Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, twenty seen (J.A.M.).

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).—Chicken Islands, 21/3/53, seen quartering the bush-clad slopes on both the Western and Outer Chickens (J.C.D.). Remuera, Auckland, recorded at Seaview Rd. in Dec. 1950, and then not seen until 14/3/53 when one flew over, and then on 14/7/53 one seen being attacked by black-backed gulls (S.C.). Haumoana, 20 and 27/9/53, display flights (R.H.K.). Very common Otago Peninsula and surrounding districts but one seen Blanket Bay 13/7/53 and one on 1/8/53 at Burkes, the first seen in twelve years in this area (W.A.W.). Counts from moving car: Dunedin to Cascade Creek Camp, Eglinton Valley, 57, 17/1/52; Dunedin to Milton 12, Milton to Roxburgh 15, Roxburgh to Cromwell 4, Cromwell to Wanaka 2; total, 33; 13/1/53; Dunedin to Milton 8, Milton to Gore 18, Gore to Winton, p.m., 16, 6/7/53; Winton to Gore, a.m., 12, 8/7/53 (I.T.).

N.Z. FALCON (*Falco novaeseelandiae*).—Putaruru, 2/3/53, one seen chasing a sparrow just out of the town and well away from any bush except for exotic pine plantations (J.C.D.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, seen and heard quite often; a strong population in relation to the habit of the species (G.E.S.). Eglinton Valley, 22/1/52, one in dispute with a tui; Diamond Lake, Matukituki Valley, 20/1/53, one in dispute with a black-fronted tern (D.N.F.C.). Bethune's Gully, Dunedin, 7/12/52, one chasing a N.Z. pigeon (J.T.B.).

BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus* subs.).—Minginui, July 1952-July 1953 very scarce. Kept down by cats and bush hawks (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, one bird seen quite often in garden, thought to be only one here (G.E.S.). Near Frasertown, H.B., 16/11/52, two on roadside (R.H.D.S.).

PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*).—Slipper Is., 21/3/53, one male bird rose from dune grass, S.E. Bay (B.S.).

VIRGINIAN QUAIL (*Colinus virginianus*).—Ohuka area, east of Waikaremoana, 1953, two pairs seen January; quite common this area 1944 (G.E.S.). This species was re-located in Wairoa district in 1952 and skins were sent to the Dominion Museum from the Wild Life branch of Internal Affairs (R.A.F.).

CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica brunnescens*).—Rotoma, 9/10/53, pair breeding on my property, Tarewa Road; three and possibly four pairs, Government Gardens (M.J.S.B.). Minginui, July, 1952, July 1953, best one day winter tally 350, a good breeding season (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, fairly plentiful, usually in small flocks of 8 to 10, but in pairs in the spring (G.E.S.). Christchurch Botanical Gardens, pair with seven chicks, 4/1/53 (reported by Miss T. M. Packer (T.J.P.)). Wanaka district, 13-23/1/53, six or seven pairs noted (D.N.F.C.). Cadrona Valley, 23/1/53, flock 15 (I.T.). Green Valley, Otago, six pairs in valley (T.R.B.).

N.Z. BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis assimilis*).—August, 1953, Kohu Kohu, Hokianga Harb., seen 6 or 7 times in a fortnight and foot-

prints seen and calls heard a number of times in the mangroves, seems to be plentiful (B.J.M.). Paua, Far North, 7/4/53, one (N.M. et al.). Takātu Lagoon, 20/12/52, one immature (N.M., A. and J.P.). Head of Bon Acord Harb., Kawau Is., 25/2/53, six swam across creek (A.J.G.). Miranda, 12/4/53, one at north end of lagoon (N.M., A. and J.P.). Takaka, adult male found, 3/3/53 (R.A.F.) Onekaka, 18/4/53, one caught by cat in manuka, specimen sent to Dominion Museum (R.A.F.).

WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*).—Whangarei, 1952, fading out fast according to reports from adjoining areas (H.R.McK.). Te Araroa, East Coast, 1952, stated by old resident, Mr. C. J. McLachlan, and also Maoris, to have been plentiful, but now absent for many years (H.R.McK.). Gisborne, 1953, seen and heard from eight places around the district; in one large hedge on the outskirts of the borough, 24 birds, including several young have been seen; Grey's Bush, 25/10/52, two birds nesting, nest at the base of a rotting tree trunk, made of bark, moss and sticks (J.D.C.). Island Bay, Wellington, 11/2/53, "I often hear wekas calling from gorse and scrub here; they escaped from the Wellington Zoo" (W.E.W.). Buller Gorge, two pair, each with two chicks, 11/1952; pair with two chicks, 4/10/53; Karamea Bluff, pair with one young 7 p.m. and 1 7.10 p.m., 2/1/53 (T.J.P.). Mangarakau, Westhaven, 29/10/52 (C.L.). Mingha Valley, Canterbury, 26/8/53, two heard calling (R.A.E.). Upper Pelorus, Rocks Creek, 27/1/53 and 2/9/53, one seen, three others heard (R.A.E.). Cascade Creek Camp, Eglinton Valley, 17-23/1/52, three, all had appeared during the past year (D.N.F.C.). Bravo Is., Stewart Is., 1951: The wekas at Bravo were definitely mating at July 1 and July 20. I heard them but they kept away from the camp; on Aug. 4 I saw the cock bird, and his behaviour gave me the impression that the hen was sitting. On Sept. 20 there were three young ones, quite small. Some other wekas at the same time had fairly well grown young ones (R.H.T.). Thule, Stewart Is., 7/1/53, one in bush; Boulder Beach, Ulva Is., Stewart Is., two seen on 17/1/53 and Goat Is., Paterson Inlet, Stewart Is., 24/1/53, two seen (J.W.)

MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*).—Mt. Maunganui, Tauranga, killed on road, 2/9/53, decayed remains sent to Auckland Museum by C. Jesson (E.G.T.). Waimate, Canterbury: Mr. L. O. Turner writes, 7/5/53: "While shooting north of Lake Wainono on the evening of May 5 my dog put up, chased, and caught what I believe to be a marsh rail. It was a small bird standing approximately 3in. in height, with small head, downward-curved beak, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. in length coloured green. Legs and feet green. Toes long and similar in shape to those of the pukeko. The breast was greyish blue in colour and wings brown. Iris of eye reddish brown. Body mainly covered in feathers like attached and a short downward-pointing tail open $\frac{3}{4}$ in. of the same feathers. I took the bird from the dog and he put up another about 20 yards further on. This flew with rapid wingbeats but did not rise more than 3ft; flew for about 100 yds. I kept the captured bird overnight, and as it seemed uninjured and strong enough in the morning I liberated it in the same place." (R.A.F.).

SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*).—Okaiua, 4m. east of Mata-mata; May, 1951, one caught by cat (H.N.B.).

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio porphyrio melanotus*). — Westfield, Auckland, 18/3/53, 18 feeding swamp by railway lines, around 8 to 10 frequently seen here until May (S.C.). Horsham Downs, Hamilton, 1/9/53, two adults with two small chicks (S.C.).

AUSTRALIAN COOT (*Fulica atra australis*).—Lake Waihola, Otago, May, 1933, two shot (T.R.B.).

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER—(*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*).—Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, best count 7 (J.P. et al.). Parengarenga, 1-5/9/53, two recorded (R.B.S.). Tinopai, 22/5/53, 17 with one black (H.G.W.). Shelly Beach, Kaipara, 9/1/52, five seen (S.C.) Kaipara, 19/4/53, 200 plus on sandbank near Wharehine (N.M., E.T. and L.W.). Manukau Harb., (a) Puketutu Causeway, 5/2/53, six were seen, the winter flock built up to a maximum of c. 310 between April and July, 20 on 8/8/53 and 61 seen on 16/9/53 at Tarata Cr., Upper Manukau,

probably from this flock (R.B.S., and N.M.). (b) Karaka, 3/1/53, c. 200; 14/2/53, c. 700 (R.B.S., N.W. and H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 15/1/53, two; 24, 28/1/53 and 12/2/53, four (F.M., H.R.McK. et al.). Firth of Thames, c. 40 summered; the wintering flock numbered 400 plus (R.B.S., H.R.McK., N.M., et al.). Tauranga Harb., N., 14/6/53; 15/7/53, 21 on sandspit opposite Bowentown Heads (B.S.). Manawatu Est., one on 13/5/53 (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Wairau Bar, 10/5/53, seven resting on shingle spit but more out of sight; 12 feeding on exposed mudbanks Te Aropipi, Wairau Lagoons, 28/8/53 (B.D.B.). Heathcote-Avon Est., Jan., 1952, numerous; 3/2/52, 700; 15/11/52, c. 800; two black oystercatchers with them. (G.G.). Causeway, Sumner, 30/12/52, four; Rangitara River, Peel Forest, 24/8/52, pair mating (H.W.A.). Avon Est., 24/5/53, 12,000 feeding with godwits and gulls; Spencer Park, 1/6/53, 300 on beaches flying to and from mudflats, 1/8/53, many on western bank of estuary, many flying across sandhills, 200 plus; Avon Est., 8/8/53, several in water up to tibia, very inquisitive, one bird broken right leg, tarsus twisted to right; total 2,500 plus; when surprised at night flew along water's edge; Sumner lights were reflected in water (C.G.H.). Mataura River flat, Gore, 1/9/49, two eggs found (K.J.W-M.). Mudflats at Waitati, Otago, 29/1/53, 21, flowing tide (K.J.W-M.). Karatane tidal flats, 10/10/52, 70 plus (I.T.). Karatane Flats, 16/8/53, 26; Blueskin Bay, 61 plus (J.H. and I.T.). Warrington, 21/5/53, 15 (J.T.B.) Papanui Inlet, 15/12/52, 60 (D.N.F.C.). Taieri Mouth, a.m., 60 p.m., 140, 21/3/53 (D.N.F.C.). Taieri Mouth, 6/6/53, 155 plus (O.R.C., I.T.). Karitane, Otago, 27/8/52, 58 on spit, one bird had whitish grey plumage with black spots, mingled with other oystercatchers (bill and legs normal in colour) (J.W.). Purakanui, Otago, 6/6/53, ten (A.G.D.). Old Man Range, Otago, one pair obviously breeding (alarmed and doing decoy trick) at 5,000ft. on 29/11/52 (A.J.H.). Eglinton River bed, Otago, 6/1/53, two adults and one young (L.E.W.).

NORTHERN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor reischeki*)—Spirits Bay, 4/4/53, 11 (some black); Parengarenga Harb., best count, 4 (1 black) (J.P. et al.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, 22, including seven black; 12 others not seen closely (J.P., A.P., N.McD., R.H.M., H.W.W., H.G.W., H.R.McK.). Pakiri, 30/11/52, two both paired with black; 17/1/53, pair, one black with nest, 1 egg; 24/1/53, same pair, now two eggs in nest, both birds brooding (N.M., J.G.H.M., A. and J.P.). Mangawhai, 7/12/52, two paired with black (N.M., A. and J.P.); 22/3/53, two; 26/7/53, one paired with black (H.R.McK.). Clevedon, 15/1/53 to 12/2/53, one, the first known record here (H.R.McK. et al.). Firth of Thames, two blacks were seen, generally with the South Island pied oystercatchers, throughout the winter; they were still there on 20/9/53 (H.R.McK., N.M., J.C.D. et al.). Whangapoua, Coromandel, 31/12/52, two pairs, one pair pied, one pair mixed, pied and black (A.J.G.). Cook's Beach, Mercury Bay, 6/1/53, c. eight counted in the sand dune (G.W.G., J.C.D.). Maketu, 25/1/53, three (two being black) at Kaituna Estuary, and two blacks at Waihi Lagoon (R.B.S.). Whangamata, 13/3/53, eight with two S.I.P.O. on banks above wharf, mostly pied; three on east side of channel. A family group of which one was slightly mottled and the other two black, the young bird rusty black (B.S.). Turihaua, 7/3/53, weather fine, light wind, sea calm, tide $\frac{3}{4}$ way out; one black (completely black), one black with underparts between the legs white, otherwise black, feeding among the rock pools; 13/6/53, one black, Tatapouri, rock pools; 25/6/53, two, one completely black, one black with white spotted underparts from tail to just front of the legs; this latter one appeared to be slightly larger than the former; the trailing edges of the wings near to the sides of the body showed streaks of white when flying. This latter bird kept to the seaward side of the black bird while it was on the beach (at high tide level) and when flying. Observations made by means of 8x binoculars at 10 yards distance (J.D.C.). Kawhia, 9/9/53, one feeding with a flock of bar-tailed godwits and later flying away with them (H.W.A.). Long Island, 10/10/53, two, one entirely black, the other had fine white band on each wing (B.D.B.).

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor unicolor*)—Pakiri, 30/11/53, two (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Karaka, 15/3/53, one

(N.M., D.A.U.). Mangawhai, 9/3/53, eight; 22/3/53, one with black legs; 26/7/53, three (N.M., D.A.U., A. and J. P.). Clevedon, 18/1/53, one with two S.I. pied; 29/1/53, four seen (J.McK.). Kennedy Bay, Coromandel Pen., 30/12/52, two (A.J.G.). Cooks Beach, Mercury Bay, 6/1/53, five seen with N.I.P.O. (J.C.D., G.W.G.). Opita Bay, 24/1/53, two on rocks at north end of bay; Tauranga Harb. N., 14/6/53, 15/7/53, four on sandspit opp Bowentown Heads; Motiti Island, 3/1/53, four, being two pairs at West Knoll; Rurima Rocks, 1/1/53, eight, being four pairs, three nests with fresh eggs, 1, 2 and 3 eggs in respective nests; Whale Island, 1/1/53, two, a pair on sandy beach; Rangitaiki Est., 21/7/53, four, in company, on dry sand bank; Whakatane, 21/7/53, 21/9/53, 12 black oystercatchers and one pied bird have wintered on the sandspit and flats north side of Whakatane River near the Heads. As the black oystercatcher (**unicolor**) is dominant in this part of Bay of Plenty, these black birds were probably of that species (B.S.). Gisborne, Waipaoa, 2/4/53, four (J.M.C., P.J.T.). Ship Cove, 5/9/53, two; Long Island, two; Long Island, 10/10/53 two; Wairau Bar, 11/10/53, one (B.D.B.). Goodwood River mouth, 2/1/53 nest with three eggs ten feet from the above (B.J.M.). Karatane, 16/8/53, one with pied oystercatchers (J.H. and I.T.). Mouth Kaikorai Stream, 21/8/52-4/9/52, reported two present constantly (I.T.). Warrington, 21/5/53, one with 15 pied (J.T.B.). Taieri Mouth, 6/6/53, 33 (O.R.C., I.T.). Akatore, 21/3/53, seven (D.N.F.C.). Stewart Island, Feb., 1953, numerous scattered birds seen, largest flock numbered seven (W.A.W.).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novachollandiae*). — Fledgling, unable to fly, accidentally killed at Lake Wanaka, December, 1952, and sent to the Dominion Museum by the Department of Internal Affairs (R.A.F.).

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus*).—Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, best count 32 (J.P. et al.). Parengarenga, three on 2/9/53 (R.B.S.). Puketutu, Manukau, 23/10/52, two 7/1/53, seven; 2/4/53, seven (R.B.S.). Karaka, 3/1/53, 29; 14/2/53, 18 (one well coloured). (N.M., H.R.McK. and R.B.S.). Clevedon North, 1/8/53, two in winter plumage with stilts and banded dotterel one-third mile from sea, resting on my farm; shy and wary as is usual with this species (G.K.McK.). Mataitai, Clevedon, 28/1/53, two flew N.W. towards Duder's Pt.; 26/2/53, four at Duder's on west side of Clevedon Est. (H.R.McK.). Wairoa River lagoon, H.B., 21/11/52, eleven; Westshore, Napier, 22/11/52, three (R.H.D.S.). Wairoa, north lagoon, 28/3/53, 17 (six in full or near full plumage); Napier, Embankment 27/3/53, 11 (J.M.C.); 5/4/53, 27, including eight in full plumage (J.M.C., D.H.B.). Ahuriri Lagoon, 27/9/53 seven, one or two with some black on abdomen; 11/10/53, one (D.H.B.). Palliser Spit, 16/11/52, one (J.M.C., M.C.D.).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*).—Parengarenga Harb., 5/4/53, flock of 600-700 flying from sandhills into harbour (J.P. et al.). Aureore Bay, Ranganui Harb., 23/8/53, a pair (N.M., H.G.W.). Manganui Bluff, Northland, 18/3/53, one; Tokerau Beach, Doubtless Bay, 24/3/53, several (A.J.G.). Hohoura Harb., 30/5/53, 80 plus; Tokerau Beach, 9/10/53, two just hatched, on sands, with parents, four other adults in breeding plumage (H.G.W.). Pakiri, 30/11/53, c. two pairs (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Muriwai, 8/3/53, one at creek (N.M., R.B.S., D.H.B.). Mangawhai, 22/3/53, two (N.M., D.A.U.). Ruakaka, 18/4/53, c 4 (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 29/3/53, one by itself (N.M.). Karaka, 4/2/53, c. 150 (N.M., H.R.McK.). Clevedon North, end of Oct., 1952, two flying wildly on my place; Nov., 1952, 50 plus landed in Mr. F. Duder's paddock and a fortnight later had increased to 150 plus and settled on my place; Aug., 1952, still 150 plus; Aug., 1953, c 150 at the beginning and down to c 20 at the end (G.K.McK.). Colville, 14/3/53, pair feeding on mudflat (N.M.). Whangapoua, Coromandel Pen., 31/12/53, three, two adults one juv. (A.J.G.). Tauranga, scattered flock usually recorded at the Matapihi mudflats throughout the autumn and winter; various counts were, 25/4/53, 15-20; 9/5/53, c. 80; 6/6/53, five; 19/6/53, 9-10; 11/7/53, 60-70; 26/7/53, 15-20. On 6/3/53 on the same mudflats I counted a flock of 240 plus which was not recorded again. On 21/2/53, five were

seen around the stream mouth c 5 miles along the Mt. Maunganui Beach (M.H.). Opiu Bay, 24/1/53, four, and nest on bare sand with one egg (B.S.). Opotiki to East Cape, Oct., 1952, breeding pairs on all suitable beaches and river mouths (H.R.McK.). L. Whakaki, Wairoa, H.B., 8/5/53, c 300 in flock (R.StP.). Gisborne, Waipaoa, 2/4/53, 29 (J.M.C., P.J.T.). Wairoa, north lagoon, 28/3/53, 55, none with full bands, many immature: Maungawhio, near Mahia, 1/4/53, one (J.M.C.). Napier, 27/3/53 and 4-6/4/53, none seen in any estuarine locality (J.M.C.). Ahuriri Lagoon, 27/9/53, few (D.H.B.); Lake Reserve, Featherston, 18/1/53, c 67, about a quarter immature (J.M.C.). Waitotara Beach, 17/12/52, one pair with two nestlings; 23/12/52, one pair, one nestling at same place; innumerable birds on nearby gravel flats in summer but appear to leave in winter (H.W.A.). Lake Grassmere, 21/6/53, 30 feeding on water-logged pastures: Wairau Bar, 11/10/53, one (B.D.B.). Godley Valley, Canterbury, 27/12/52 3-4 singly (F.M.B.). Lake Tekapo, Canterbury, 11/1/53, adult and chick near Washdyke Stream (F.M.B.). Avon Est., 8/8/53, 6 to 12 birds, many pairs flying and fighting; Spencer Park, 1/8/53, one ran to within 15 ft. of hide, wading so as to appear floating, taking head right under water; 6/6/53 more than ever seen on estuary before, 150 plus; Green Park huts, Lake Ellesmere, 31/5/53, on tidal mudflats, scattered, feeding nervous flocks, 1000 plus (C.G.H.). Stevenson's Arm, Wanaka, 14/1/53, two young birds; outlet L. Wanaka, 17/1/53, two; Beacon Point, Wanaka, 22/1/53, four adults and two very young chicks (D.N.F.C.).

LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (*Charadrius leschenaulti*).— Miranda, Firth of Thames, one from 28/9/52 to 7/12/52, not seen in the New Year (H.R.McK., R.B.S., et al.).

N.Z. DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*).— Parengarenga Harbour, 3-6/4/53, best tally, 100 plus in one flock; a few beginning to colour; one albino, white except for dark spots on tips of wings, a faint shoulder mark, slight speckling scattered under wings, and dark bill with pale tip; flight call typical of species (J.P. et al.). Te Pua, Parengarenga, 16 plus including an albino in early Sept, 1953 (R.B.S.). Aureru Bay, Rangaunu Harb., 23/8/53, two, pale (N.M., H.G.W.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, one pair on territory, four others, pale (J.P. et al.). Tokerau Beach, Doubtless Bay, 24/3/53, one; Tauranga Bay, 26/3/53, five (A.J.G.). Tokerau Beach, 14/2/53, five (H.G.W.). Mangawhai, 1/11/52, c. 12 pairs along beach, not breeding; 7/12/52, 5 pairs; 21/12/52, many about; 27/12/52, many about; 7/3/53, c. 6 pairs; 26/7/53, two pairs, not very red (N.M. et al.). Pakiri, 30/11/52, pairs all along the beach; 24/1/53, some about (N.M. et al.). Port Waikato, 25/1/53, c eight (N.M., H.R.McK., et al.). Ruakaka, 18/4/53, three pale (N.M.). Shakespeare Bay, Whangaparoa, 7/1/53, one: (doubtful two) seen at mouth of creek (S.C.). Karaka, Manukau, 19/4/53, four (R.B.S., H.R.McK.). Kaiua, Firth of Thames, 1952-53, up to six; 27/10/52, one pair had three eggs; 23/11/52, two chicks seen; these chicks were later ringed and one at least survived: it was seen several times up to 18/4/53, when it apparently left the area; 19/7/53, five, apparently two males, three females and a pale young bird (H.R.McK. et al.). Whangapoua, Coromandel Pen., 31/12/52, 21 in groups of 11, 5, and 5; great variety of shading (A.J.G.). Cook's Beach, Mercury Bay, 6/1/53, counted at least 20 amongst the sand dunes (G.W.G., J.C.D.). Te Araroa, East Cape, 1952, Mr O. J. McLachlan, resident since 1900, has seen odd ones on rare occasions (H.R.McK.). Awarua Bay, 13/7/52, three (R.M.R.). Mt. Rakiuhua, Stewart Is., 21/1/53, one with chick on summit (J.W.).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*).— Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, best count, c 80 (J.P. et al.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, 70 plus (J.P., H.G.W. et al.). Tokerau Beach, Doubtless Bay, 24/3/53, six (A.J.G.). Mangawhai, one seen on 17 and 24/1/53 and 7/3/53, three on 22/3/53 (N.M., D.A.U., A. and J.P.). Mt. Maunganui, 28/2/53, a solitary bird seen on the edge of the tide a mile along the beach (M.H.). Manukau, Puketutu Causeway, 25/9/52, eight; 31/12/52, one; 7/1/53, 44, increasing steadily to 350 plus on 22/3/53 and a mid-winter maximum of 450 plus. The full flock was rather unpredictable in its behaviour this winter; e.g., on 28/7/53, Mr and Mrs Prickett reported 400 plus in a

paddock beside Ascot "flash." The usual decrease took place: 9/8/53, 119; 9/9/53, 79; 13 and 20/9/53, 59. Karaka, 3/1/53, 30 plus; 14/2 and 19/4/53, c 330; Firth of Thames, 14/9/52, 50 at Miranda and c 800 at Waitakaruru; at least 19 summered; 18/4/53, full winter flock c 1150; 2/8/53, 950 plus; 13/9/53, 400 plus at Wrybill Reach (R.B.S., H.R.McK., N.M., J.C.D., et al.). Ahuriri Lag., 11/10/53, one on pond behind motor camp (D.H.B.). Palliser Spit, 18/1/53, one (J.M.C.).

LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*).—Karaka, 3/1/53, one (R.B.S. and N.M.). Firth of Thames, two first seen 6/6/53, then repeatedly recorded, still present 13/9/53 (H.R.McK., N.M., R.B.S. et al.). Invercargill Est., 17/5/52, one (R.M.R.).

ASIATIC WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*).—Turanga Creek, Whitford, 12/10/52, one with godwit, clear call; 16/11/52; one feeding with godwit (N.M.). Pakiri, 30/11/52, two (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Clevedon, 13/9/52, two; 27/10/52, one; 24/1/53, one (H.R.McK. et al.). Awapuni Lag., Gisborne, 17/11/52, one (R.H.D.S.).

WHIMBREL (*Numenius phaeopus subsp.?*)—Parengarenga, 4/9/53, one (R.B.S.).

EASTERN BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica baueri*).—Parengarenga Har., 3-6/4/53, best count in one place, 590; estimated total for harbour, c 700; some very red, migration evidently still in progress; 5/4/53, a party of 55 flew past Paua towards the Heads, calling excitedly; time, 10.30 a.m. Mrs. Kaka Wiki, 5/4/53, saw flock of several hundred in wheeling flight very high; they went up out of sight, while bearing somewhat to the south. This may have been a practice flight (J.P. et al.). Parengarenga, c 500 wintered (R.B.S.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, c 2,300 wintering (J.P., H.R.McK., H.G.W. et al.). Manganui Har., Doubtless Bay, 25/3/53, 80 seen (A.J.G.). Waipu Cove, 18/4/53, 10 (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Mangawhai, 21/12/52, several; 27/12/52, three (N.M., D.A.U.). Pakiri, 30/11/52, nine (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Ruakaka, 18/4/53, 12 (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Karaka, 14/2/53, 2,500 plus (N.M., H.R.McK.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 12/10/52, c 500, a few still coloured; 26/10/52, 500 plus, not very coloured; 9/11/52, c 700; 15 and 16/11/52, c 500; 3/1/53, c 1000; 29/3/53, c 220; 14/6/53, nine (N.M. et al.). Tarata Cr., Upper Manukau, c 800 on 16/9/53 (R.B.S.). Manukau Har., 14/6/53, a simultaneous count of all known high tide roosts recorded c 4,830 (H.R.McK., J.C.D., et al.). Clevedon, 1952-53 summer population c 1400 (Fraser Murray, H.R.McK.). Firth of Thames, 2/8/53, complete coverage from Kaiawa to Thames, c 1900 (H.R.McK., J.C.D. et al.). Coromandel, 4/4/53, four flying into Manaia Harb. A.J.G.). Whangapoua Har., Coromandel Pen., 31/12/52, 20 seen (A.J.G.). Lake Rotorua, 3/1/49, flock of eight flying north 100 yards offshore and about 100 feet above water near the mouth of Te Awahou Stream. Observed and recorded to me by J.H.C.; identification confirmed by Maori companion (M.J.S.B.). Tauranga Har., summary of numbers roosting at the Sulphur Point high tide stand; had not increased much above 300 on 2/11/52, during December sudden increase and in February c 700 plus, by early March flock had dwindled to 300-400; 20/4/53, 50-100; early June c 130; between then and 9/8/53, when there was c 100 present, there was an almost complete disappearance; this has been noted in previous years (M.H.). Tauranga Har. North, 14/6/53, c 450 in two groups opposite Bowentown Heads (B.S.). Maketu, Waihi Lagoon, 25/1/53, 71 (R.B.S.). Gisborne, Awapuni Lag., 17/11/52, c 150; Waipaoa, 18/11/52, five (R.H.D.S.), 2/4/53, four (J.M.C., P.J.T.); Wairoa, 21/11/52, c 100 (R.H.D.S.), 28/3/52, north lagoon, 109 including c 17 turning red (J.M.C.). Maungawhio, near Mahia, 19/11/52, 18 (R.H.D.S.); 31/3/53, c 24 (J.M.C.). Tukituki River mouth, 8/11/52, 17 and 60; Tutaekuri, 13; Haumoana Lags., 34; Westshore, 10/11/52, c 100 (R.H.D.S.). Napier Embankment, 27/3/53, 66 (J.M.C.); 4/4/53, c 39; 5/4/53, 30; 6/4/53, 18 (J.M.C., D.H.B.). Ahuriri Lag., 27/9/53, 60 plus (D.H.B.). Porangahau, H.B., winter, 1952, reported 17 wintered (J.M.C.). Kawhia, 9/9/53, 60; Waitotara Estuary, 23/12/53, 10; Wanganui River, 17/9/53, one, still alone there 19/9/53 (H.W.A.). Wanganui, 2/2/53, three flights of c 40

each left; report by Mrs P. B. Anderson (A.G.W.). Manawatu Est., 13/5/53, 20 plus (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Big Lag., Wairau Lags., 26/4/53, 23; Upper Lag., Wairau Lags., 27/9/53, 26 (B.D.B.). Hokitika, 18/10/52, 20-30 feeding on mudflat, about 300 yards from mouth of river, recorded by John Frame (H.S.). Lake Ellesmere, 31/5/53, none seen by D. E. Crockett and myself (C.G.H.). Heathcote-Avon Est., notes for year commencing 1/10/51: 1951, Oct. 1, about 500 birds, first appearance of large flock for season; Oct. 10, about 3000 birds, after which numbers remained fairly constant. 1952, Jan.-March 9, about 2,500 birds; March 13, only one bird seen and it was among pied oystercatchers; March 19, about 150 birds; March 24, about 1100 birds; April 10, over 2,000 birds, this was last appearance of a big flock; May 15, two godwits seen feeding among pied oystercatchers; when godwits are in large numbers they usually keep separate from oystercatchers; May 26, 53 (in non-breeding plumage); Aug. 7, 37; Oct. 1, about 1000 birds, first appearance of flock for season; Nov. 15, about 2000 birds (G.G.). Avon Est., 24/5/53, small distinct flocks total 150 plus, feeding, nervous, very close on sand spit; 2/6/53, ten feeding on mudflats apart from pied oystercatchers; 8/8/53, 200 plus, several with very red plumage, nervously flying when gulls settled beside groups of 50 plus (C.G.H.). Karitane, Otago, 5/10/52, 50, six darker and showing red patches in plumage (L.E.W.). Warrington Beach, Otago, 2/9/53, 41, several with red on breast and wing (L.E.W.). Lagoons, Waikouaiti, mile from sea, 5/4/53, four (Mrs J. A. Moore, D.N.F.C.). Karatane, 10/10/52, 60 plus (I.T.). Blueskin Bay, Waitati, 15/3/53, hundreds (Miss C. S. White, D.N.F.C.). Doctor's Point, Blueskin Bay, 28/4/53, two flocks (M.A.E.B.). Harrington Point, Dunedin, 3/1/53, eleven (J.H.). Invercargill Est., winter, 1952, unusually large number remained; seen well distributed over the area; at Awarua, 6/7/52, flock of over 200 and another of 53; 13/7/52, from Awarua Bay roost to Jeoy's Island (about 4 miles), 400 to 500 (R.M.R.). May-June, 1953, "the usual small mob of godwits which usually winter on the mudflats of Paterson Inlet" (R.T.). Six groups of 50-200 birds in each seen flying up Paterson Inlet towards Freshwater River, Stewart Island, at between 7.30 and 8 p.m. on 19/1/53 (J.W.).

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa limosa haemastica*).—Tarata Cr., Upper Manukau, 23/10/52, one among stilts on edge of pack of bar-tails (R.B.S.). Miranda, Firth of Thames, a puzzling aberrant bird was seen on many occasions between 31/8/52 and 1/3/53 (a detailed account will appear later) (R.B.S., F.M.B., J.C.D., H.R.McK., et al.).

TEREK SANDPIPER (*Xenus cinereus*).—Firth of Thames, the two birds which wintered in 1952 were still present on 15/2/53, and one was found on 18/4/53 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., N.M. et al.).

GREY-TAILED TATTLER (*Heteroscelus incanus brevipes*).—Parengarenga Har., 3-6/4/53, three or more seen, calls heard, one was in summer plumage (J.P. et al.).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*).—Parengarenga Har., N. Auck., 3-6/4/53, flocks of up to 60; estimated total for harbour, 100-200; by their lack of colour they could be staying for the winter (J.P. et al.). Parengarenga, 1-5/9/53, 100 plus (R.B.S.). Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, c 50 wintering (J.P., H.G.W. et al.). Pakiri, 30/11/52, one (N.M., E.G.T., M.C.D.). Mangawhai, 21/12/52, three (N.M., D.A.U., A.B.E.). Kaipara, 19/4/53, four flying (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Manukau, (a) Puketutu causeway, c 36 on 20/2/53, 22/3/53, c 40; 21/4/53, 58; unusual numbers wintered, e.g., 21/5/53, 10, 11/7/53 32, 13/9/53 2; (b) Karaka, 3/1/53, c 61; 19/4/53, c 90; 14/6/53, 30; Firth of Thames, 7/12/52, six; 2/8/53, seven; 13/9/53, nine at Wrybill reach (R.B.S., D.A.U., J.C.D., H.R.McK. et al.). Tauranga Harb., N., 14/6/53, one in flight with godwit at Bowtown Heads (B.S.). Westshore, Napier, 23/11/52, nine (R.H.D.S.). Wairoa, 28/3/53, one in full plumage; White Rock, Wairarapa East coast, 4/1/53, eight; Palliser Spit, 18/1/53, three (J.M.C.).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*).—Parengarenga Har., 3/4/53, c 10, all well coloured; 5/4/53, c 20 (J.P. et al.). Parengarenga, 2/9/53, c 30 (R.B.S.). Rangaunu Har., Northland, 22/8/53, seven (J.P. et al.). Turanga Creek,

12/10/52, one with godwit (N.M.); Manukau, 14/6/53, winter census c 1050 (H.R.McK., J.C.D. et al.). Firth of Thames, 2/8/53, winter census c 400 (R.B.S. et al.). Awapuni Lag., Gisborne, 17/11/52, five (R.H.D.S.). Ahuriri Lag., 27/9/53, three (D.H.B.). Manawatu Est., five on 13/5/53 (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Warrington, 21/5/53, 30 (J.T.B.).

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*).—Miranda pools, 15/2/53, four; 1/3/53, seven (R.B.S., N.M.). Napier, Westshore, 27/3/53, three (J.M.C.); 5/4/53, seven; 6/4/53, six (J.M.C., D.H.B.). Ahuriri Lag., 27/9/53, one (D.H.B.).

AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*).—Miranda pools, 28/9/52, one apparently a new arrival; 22/2/53 and 1/3/53 one (R.B.S., H.R.McK., N.M. et al.).

CURLEW SANDPIPER (*Calidris ferruginea*).—Pakiri, 2/11/52, a small wader believed to be this species seen flying with stilts, down-curved bill seen (N.W.). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 7/12/52, two; 15/2/53, one reddening (N.M., H.R.McK., and R.B.S.).

RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*).—Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, 11 for certain, perhaps 15; some darkish but none red (J.P. et al.). Karaka, Manukau, 14/2 and 19/4/53, two (R.B.S. and N.M.). Firth of Thames, 23/11 and 7/12/52, six; 18/4/53, nine; 2/8/53, four (H.R.McK., N.M., R.B.S. et al.).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*).—Parengarenga Harb., 3-6/4/53, estimate of total for harbour, 200 plus (J.P. et al.). Rangaunu Harb., 18/7/53 c 150; Aurere Beach, 3/4/53, c 40, some young (H.G.W.). Manganui Bluff Beach, Northland, 18/3/53, 28; Tokerau Beach, Doubtless Bay, 24/3/53, 14; Manganui Harb., 25/3/53, 42; Tauranga Bay, 26/3/53, six (A.J.G.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 30/8/52, three; 9/11/52, two immature; 15 and 16/11/52, two; 23/11/52, two; 14/6/53, 106; 1/8/53, 12 (N.M.). Horsham Downs, Hamilton, 1/9/53, three pairs each with four eggs (S.C.). Kennedy Bay, Coromandel Pen., 30/12/52, five seen (A.J.G.). L. Whakaki, Wairoa, H.B., 1-8/5/53, up to 500 seen daily (R.StP.). Gisborne, Waipaoa, 2/4/53, c 51; Awapuni Lagoon, 28 (J.M.C., P.J.T.). Maungawhio, near Mahia, 1/4/53, c 188 (J.M.C.). Wairoa, 28/3/53, north lagoon, 18; Whakaraki Lagoon, 79 (J.M.C.). Napier, Poraiti, 27/3/53, 800-900; 4/4/53, c 630; Tuki Tuki, 4/4/53, c 30 (J.M.C.). Ahuriri Lag., 27/9/53, widely scattered and not counted probably over 100; 11/10/53, pair with two downy chicks (D.H.B.). Wanstead, 26/3/53, 25 including five immature (J.M.C.). Featherston, Lake Reserve, 18/1/53, 176 (J.M.C.). Kawhia, 9/9/53, eight; Waitotara Lagoon, 30/1/53, 17 (H.W.A.). Weggery's Lag., Manawatu, 5/3/53, 17 (B.I.). Glasnevin, North Canterbury, 17/1/53, 25 (T.J.P.). Avon Est. and Linwood Road, 9/1/53, 136 (H.W.A.). Spencer Park, 1/6/53, 26; 6/6/53, 24 (C.G.H.). Heathcote-Avon Estuary, Jan., 1952, numerous; 3/2/52, c 400; 19/3/52, c 150; 26/3/52, 11 (G.G.). Stirling, 5/7/52, 6/7/52, 30/8/52, heard flying dawn; 12/9/52, three fighting high in air (R.V.McL.). Waianakarua Lagoon, Otago, 6/6/53, 24 (S.K.). Purakanui, 6/6/53, 12 (A.G.D.). Lower Portobello, 6/6/53, 8 (A.R.H.). Hooper's Inlet, Otago Pen., 9/8/53, 10 feeding on weed (W.A.W.). Anderson's Bay Inlet, Dunedin, 6/6/53, 27 (W.J.N.). Tomahawk Lagoon, Otago, 15/1/53, distraction display by adults; one young chick took to water, first nesting record over the five years I have kept observations on lagoon (L.E.W.). Miller's Fat, irrigated pasture, 1/9/52, 12 (R.M.J.). Swampy ground near Waikouaiti, 25/10/52, 40 to 50 (R.M.J.). Lake Wanaka, at township, 13-23/1/53, two pairs; Papanui Inlet, 15/11/52, 8; Green Island Swamp, 6/9/52, 100 plus (D.N.F.C.). Karatane and Merton Swamps, 10/10/52, 56; pond near Lake Hayes, 23/1/53, four; Green Island swamps, reported after absence of some weeks, 40-50 appeared on the evening of 3/9/52; next morning 200-300 present (I.T.). Taieri Mouth, 6/6/53, 33 (O.R.C. and I.T.).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*).—Mouth of Waitaki River, Otago, 6/6/53, one seen (J.C.M.).

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).— Mangāwhai, 7/3/53, one found exhausted on beach, later died, skin in Auck. museum (N.M., D.A.U., D.H.B.). Waitemata Harb., single birds seen on 27/9/53 and 10 and 14/4/53 (N.M.). Manly, Whangaparaoa Pen., 18 and 19/1/53, frequently seen off coast, 27/1/53, seen chasing white-fronted terns (S.C.). Firth of Thames, 31/5/53, one, mostly dark, chasing terns (H.R.McK.). Rangitoto Passage, 22/3/53, at least five seen, one of them chasing a white-fronted tern (J.C.D.). Mercury Bay, 23/1/53, three robbing white-fronted terns on the wing (B.S.).

SKUA (*Stercorarius* sp?)—Bay of Plenty, 1/8/53, two near Boat Har., flying east. Very light underparts, slender wings, and one with long narrow tail feathers, trailing behind, suggests *S. longiculus* ? (B.S.).

SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*).—Bird Rock, North Hauraki Gulf, nesting colony, c. 12 nests with red-bills and white-fronted terns (N.M., G.T.H.M. and J.P.). Rangitoto Is., colony, 26/10/52, total nests 549, 1 egg 70, 2 eggs 52, 3 eggs 14, this includes an area of 115 nests not covered last year (G.W.G. and J.C.D.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, sometimes seen in small numbers on the lake, a few breed on Panikeri Bluff (G.E.S.). Wairau Lagoons, 28/8/53 and 27/9/53, about 50 around breeding colony; Long Is. breeding colony, 5/9/53, 20; 10/10/53 about 30 present and nest building in progress (B.D.B.). Quail Is., Lyttelton Harb., 5/12/51, nest, two chicks (G.G.). Eglinton Valley, 17-23/1/52, five was the largest number seen; Lake Wanaka, 13-23/1/53, not more than six seen (D.N.F.C.). Rabbit Is., Bluff Harb., 23/10/52, pair preparing to breed (O.S.).

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*).— Bird Rock, Hauraki Gulf, 27/12/52, c 200 birds nesting on three rocks, chicks and eggs (N.M., G.J.H.M., J.P.). Rock Is., Motuihe, 38 nests counted amongst white-fronted tern colony (S.C.). Rabbit Is., off Spencer's Is., Bluff Harb., 23/10/52, first egg; eight nests 1 and 2 eggs (O.W.).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*).—Clevedon, 24/8/52, four adults and one immature; 28/1/53, one adult (F.M., H.R.McK.). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 22/2/53, 12; 6/4/53, 200 plus; winter maximum c 350 on 2/8/53; none on 13/9/53 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., J.P.). Sulphur Bay, Lake Rotorua, 7/8/53, first contingent c 40 arrived; 1/10/53, c 160 claiming territory near Ward Baths, no attempt at building yet (M.J.S.B.) Gisborne, 17/11/52, one with red-billed gulls; Orakai Lag., Mahia, 19/11/52, c 20; Wairoa River mouth, 21/11/52, c 40; Tukituki River, near mouth, 8/11/52, c 250 (R.H.D.S.). Manawatu Est., 12 plus on 13/5/53 (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Featherston, Lake Reserve, 18/1/53, 10, all appeared to be 1-year-old (J.M.C.). Eglinton River, Eglinton Valley, 7-9/1/53, 26 adults and 22 immatures noted (L.E.W.). On shingle, Mataura River, Otamita, 17/1/52, c 800, dive-bombed observer (I.T.). Cascade Creek Flats, daily numbers never exceeding four; Lower Eglinton, c 80; Lake Te Anau, one flock 65, another larger, and at L. Manapouri a smaller, 18/1/52; Lake Wanaka, from jetty at township c 400 plus; collected on hotel roof at meal hours and in garden when sprinkler operating, 13/1/53 (D.N.F.C.). Pyke Valley, W. Otago, two flying over Four Brothers at approx. 4000 ft (B.W.C.).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida albobristatus*).—Mt. Maunganui, 21/2/53, two were seen some miles along the beach at the edge of a flock of white-fronted terns (M.H.). Thornton-Rangitaiki Est., Bay of Plenty, possibly as many as last year, but more scattered as a result of widespread flooding, 23/4/53, 5; 21/5/53, 15; 26/5/53, 74; 21/7/53, 83; 11/8/53, 23 (B.S.). Wairoa, 28/3/53, two (J.M.C.). Napier, Westshore, 27/3/53, one; 4/4/53, six; 5/4/53, 33 at dusk (J.M.C.). Tukituki, 5/4/53, 27 including 12 immature (J.M.C., D.H.B.). Lake Poukawa, 18/5/53, eight plus feeding over lake; Tukituki Est., 18/5/53, six (M.S.J.B., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Wairau Bar, 10/5/53, 10 resting on shingle; Lake Grassmere, 21/6/53, about 20 (B.D.B.). Lewis Pass, 5/1/52, four, one picking up unidentified food from gravel road; Lake Wanaka, Makarora and Matukituki Valleys, 13-23/1/53, noted in small numbers; a colony with

about 20 young beside the lake (D.N.F.C.). Mataura River, Lintely, 20; Otamita, 30 plus, apparently breeding as dive-bombed observer, 17/1/52 (I.T.). Eglinton riverbed, 7-9/1/53 ternery, young in various stages of growth; one nest with two eggs (L.E.W.).

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*).—Ascot "Flash," Mangere, 14/6-31/8/53, one seen by many observers; Miranda, Firth of Thames, 14/2-18/4/53, one; 1/3/53, two; a detailed account of these will appear later (R.B.S., B.D.H., F.M.B., C.W.G., H.R.McK. et al.).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*).—Rangaunu Harb., Northland, 22/8/53, 100 plus (J.P., H.G.W. et al.). Mangawhai, 1/11/52, 112 nesting on sandhills, eggs and chicks (N.W., L.W.). Turanga Creek, Whitford, 30/8/52, five; 12/10/52, five; 26/10/52, 14; 9/11/52, six; 16/11/52, 14; 23/11/52, two; 29/3/53, 59; 14/6/53, 11; 1/8/53, 20 (N.M.). Whangapoua, Coromandel Pen., 31/12/52, pair on beach with young bird flying, parents very aggressive (A.J.G.). Tauranga Harb., 18/12/52, 130 at Parepare, with young in down (B.S.). Gisborne, Waipaoa, 2/4/53, four (J.M.C., P.J.T.). Wairoa, 28/3/53, eight (J.M.C.). Napier, Embankment, 27/3/53, 22; 5/4/53, 23; Westshore, 4/4/53, three; Tuki Tuki, 4/4/53, two (J.M.C.). Ahuriri Lagoon, 4/10/53, two (D.H.B.). Palliser Spit, 16/11/52, 14 nests with eggs (8 with 1 egg, 6 with 2), several broken; 27/12/52, these nests deserted but 43 nests with eggs in new location (7x1, 30x2, 6x3); 18/1/53, no nests; no chicks were reared this season again (J.M.C.). Kawhia, 9/9/53 one pair; Awakino, 7/9/53, one with black-backed gulls; Waitotara Lagoon, 30/1/53, one pair (H.W.A.). Wairau Bar, 10/5/53, 30 resting on shingle (B.D.B.). Goodwood River mouth, 2/1/53, nest with one egg and one broken egg close by (B.J.M.). Lower Portobello, Otago Harb., 6/6/53, five seen (A.R.H.). Rabbit Is., Bluff Harb., 1-4/10/52, nest made; 5-7/10/52, first egg; 2/11/52, one egg hatched. (O.W.).

ARCTIC TERN (*Sterna paradisaea*).—Waikanae, 28/10/52, 2 birds. Features noted were: About two-thirds the size of the white-fronted tern they were with. The colour was similar except for much greater white on head; legs darker; and one had patchy brown on back of wings. The tarsi were short so that both birds appeared much closer to the ground. Both bills were black and the black line in rectrices of one was noted (M.C.D.).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*).—Ruakaka, 7/9/53, two (R.B.S.); detailed results of inquiry will be published later (N.M.). Waiheke Is., 2/8/53, one in flight pursued by white-fronted terns about four miles west of Waiheke (B.S.).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*).—Whangarei Town Basin 24/8/53, three (J.P. et al.). Mangawhai, 7/2/53, 50 (three immature); 22/3/53, 27 adults, five immature (N.M.). Bird Rocks, Hauraki Gulf, 27/12/52, nesting colony of over 200 birds, eggs, chicks all ages (G.J.H.M., N.M., J.P.). Muriwai, stream mouth, 8/3/53, 33 adults, five immature; 25/4/53, c 108, one immature; 13/6/53, c 30, one immature (N.M., R.B.S., J.C.D.). Cape Colville, 14/3/53, c 350 adults, 30 immature (N.M.). Tauranga Harb., 18/12/52, c 200 at Panepane with young in down; Rurima Rocks, 1/1/53, c 350, Motoki Knoll, with young; Motiti Is., 2/1/53, c 150, a new colony with freshly laid eggs at the Knoll (B.S.). Gisborne, 18/10/52, 700 to 1000 (or more) resting near the breakwater; 21/10/52, 50; 25/10/52, none; 25/4/53, 4 p.m., Wainui Beach, several flocks est. 400 or more (J.D.C.). Waitotara Lag., 30/1/53, 17 (H.W.A.). Waimeha Creek, Manawatu, 28/2/53, c 400; Waikanae Est., 2/3/53, 70; 4/3/53, 100 (B.I.). North of Goose Bay, 26/10/52, 400-500, very noisy (R.M.J.). Taieri Mouth, 6/6/53, well over 100 (O.R.C. and I.T.). Mole, Otago Harb., 22/3/53, 1200-1500 birds, about 20 immatures; in adults 20% had very pale pink on breast and 3% had pale pink breasts (L.E.W.). Rabbit Is., Bluff Harb., colony of 14 nests, first eggs 21/10/52 (O.W.). Charity Island, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island, 18/1/53, solitary pair nesting on south side of island (J.W.).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*).—Great Barrier Is., 27/12/52, seemed plentiful in bush behind Tryphena (A.J.G.):

Minginui, July, 1952-July 1953, scarce, but came in fair numbers in March to feed on tawa fruit and some partly-ripe miro; April, tawa, konini and wineberry; May, scarce again, on miro. In May and June they will move from here along the lower slopes of the Kaimanawa Range, then along the Houhangeroa Range nearly to National Park, where the miro is ripe in July and August (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, a good population considering the large proportion of unsuitable beech country; usually in pairs but flocks of fifteen are not uncommon; birds feed largely on miro berries in the winter and on kowhai leaves in the spring (G.E.S.). Wellington, 28/4/53, one seen in Wellington Terrace (city area) (C.A.F.). Akaroa township, 10/1/53, two; Peel Forest, Canterbury, 31/1/53, six (T.J.P.). Waipiro Gorge, 4/1/52, twelve (J.H. and I.T.). Glenleith, nine in flight, largest number recorded (W.H.D.). Largest count, garden this year, 10. Mr. Aspinall, Mt. Aspiring Station, reported about three dozen pigeons visited his garden during the winter and again ate all green vegetables, 30/7/53 (I.T.). In April, 1953, the hips on an ornamental hawthorn in the Duncdin Botanic Gardens were ripe and the tree was visited by pigeons. D.N.F.C. members gave the following numbers of pigeons seen: 7, 8, 14, 22, the last being reported by the Superintendent, Mr. M. R. Skipworth. Invercargill, 23/6/52, four visited garden to eat cotoneaster berries (R.M.R.).

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*).—Western Chicken Is., 21/3/53, from calls seemed very plentiful (J.C.D.). Tangihua Range, S.W. of Whangarei, 1952, reported often seen and heard (H.R.McK.). Great Barrier Is., 27/12/52, common in bush behind Tryphena, also seen near house on the shore; Whangaparapara, 29/12/53, one flew high over bay (A.J.G.). Puhoi River mouth, 30/12/52, one seen flying in a southerly direction at a high altitude, calling and whistling all the time, first record here (J.C.D.). Auckland, one seen over Remuera 14 and 26/11/52; Hillsborough, Onehunga, two reported for some weeks Dec.-Jan., 1952-53 (R.N.B.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1952, a few heard, but very scarce (J.W.StP.). Waiharoa, Waikato, 1951, one seen in remnant of grove of bush, formerly a resting place for large numbers of kaka flying across valley between Kaimai Ranges and the Maungarakei Range (H.N.B.). Tauranga, 8/6/53, one was recorded for about a week around the town, mainly seen near the old Mission Cemetery (M.H.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, quite plentiful, usually seen singly, but flocks up to twenty are not uncommon (G.E.S.). On Waikare-iti Lake track, 13/11/52, heard six lots (R.H.D.S.). Chalmers St., Oamaru, 27/5/53 to 16/6/53, one seen in private garden feeding in apple tree and in oak tree (S.K.). Mosgiel, end of July, 1952, one seen in private garden (L.E.W.). Observation Rock, Stewart Island, 11/1/53, one seen flying; Ulva Island, Stewart Island, 17/1/53, one in rata tree (J.W.). Calls heard daily Eglinton and Hollyford valleys, 17-23/1/52, occasional birds seen (D.N.F.C.). John o' Groats Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, one seen (J.A.M.).

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*).—Inland Kaikoura Range (Tapuenuku), at 5000ft., 13/5/53, one (R.A.E.). Near Railway Station, Arthur Pass, 9/7/53, two (D.F.C.). Temple Basin (4,500ft.) first week Sept., 1952, exceptionally clear weather and moderate amount of snow; 23 keas around huts the most birds seen for many years here (G.G.). Heard daily Cascade Creek Camp; one to four seen, Eglinton-Hollyford Valleys, 17-23/1/52 (D.N.F.C.). Harris Saddle, W. Otago, 12/5/52, one; Cow Saddle, head of Olivine River, 19/5/53, two; Rockburn Valley, 21/5/53, one (B.W.C.).

EASTERN ROSELLA (*Platycecus eximius eximius*) — Remuera, Auck., 23/4/53, first record for this district, a single bird seen high up in a gum tree in the garden. Later, on 2/7/53, a Mr. Miller, who lives about a quarter of a mile away, caught two birds when they fell down his chimney, presumably in search of a nesting site; he has now got them as pets. A third bird was seen nearby a few days later (J.C.D.). Leith Valley, Dunedin, 9/8/53, flock of 30 in flight; rosella, which for a few years had almost disappeared from this locality, again increasing in numbers (E.M.M.). In Dunedin, 3/2/53, a young bird came down the

chimney of a house near the Town Belt; now in aviary, Botanic Gardens (O.R.C.).

N.Z. PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae novaezelandiae*).—Chicken Is., 21/3/53, the five parakeets definitely identified on the Western and Outer islands were all of this species; had fleeting glimpses of many others (J.C.D.). Alderman Is., 26/1/53, no count, several in flight and feeding (B.S.).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps auriceps*) Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, fairly regular in very small lots; position seems unsatisfactory; feeding on totara fruit in July (R.St.P.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, scattered in fair numbers throughout; usually seen in flocks with whiteheads and silvereyes (G.E.S.). Eglinton Valley, Otago, 7/1/53, six at camp, flew down by caravan to eat Yorkshire fog grass (L.E.W.). Rockburn to Sugarloaf Saddle, W. Otago, 21/5/53, one (B.W.C.).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus lucidus*).—Oruru, one heard often daily from 20/9/52 till 12/1/53; 28/12/52, four together; 23/9/53, first call and daily as last year, going through same routine "beat." (H.G.W.) Remuera, Auck., 3/11/53, 9.45 p.m., two birds calling to each other, calls consisting of 176, 156 and 127 upward notes were heard, together with the more orthodox 16, 20, 21 and 9, no final down slurs (J.C.D.). Howick, 22/9/52, first heard; 4/3/53, two feeding in garden, not singing (N.M.). Clevedon, 28/9/52, first heard; 24/1/53, two young cuckoos being fed by a grey warbler, definitely young birds; they called for food continuously; 27-30/1/53, young cuckoo being fed by grey warbler; 26/2/53, last seen (A.J.G.). Clevedon, 26/9/52, first song; last song, 17/1/53 (M.J.B.). First song, 23/9/52; last song, 19/1/53 (E.St.P.). 11/1/53, last song (B.J.L.). 28/9/52, first song; 25/1/53, last song (H.R.McK.). 15/3/53, Mr. A. Sutherland watched one feeding quietly in a plum tree (H.R.McK.). 29/9/52, first song (J.W.St.P.). Lake Okataina, 6/10/53, first call heard (K.O.B.W.). Minginui, 20/9/52, first song, 28/9/52 two seen, 3/2/53, last of the main lot seen and heard, but one seen later on 26/3/53 (R.St.P.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1952-53, October to February very plentiful; unusually large numbers have been remarked upon by visitors; feeds largely upon hairy caterpillar on ragwort (G.E.S.). Maungaharuru Range, 4/10/53, two seen (D.A.B.). Wanganui, 2/10/53, heard for first time this spring (M.J.G.S.). Lower Hutt, 19/9/52, singing (G.G.). Botanical Gardens, Wellington, 4/10/53, heard repeatedly (A.A.B.) Stirling, 19/10/52, heard early a.m. (R.V.McL.). Dunedin district, 18/9/52, first reported call (Mrs E. A. Campbell, D.N.F.C.). Leith Valley 21/9/52, first calls for this area, 5.45 a.m. (P. L. Moore, D.N.F.C.). Ross Creek Reservoir Reserve, Dunedin, two in different areas giving only final notes, three others giving full calls 3 p.m., 2/10/52; repeated full calls in the same area 15/10/52 (E.M.M. and I.T.). Outram Domain, 29/11/52, calls in five different areas (D.N.F.C.). Garden, Maori Hill, 27/12/52, five birds chasing and calling (J.T.B. and I.T.). North Dunedin garden, one young fed by two grey warblers; heard Botanic Gardens, 7.45 a.m. (O.R.C.). Garden, Roslyn, Dunedin, 16/1/53, one fed by grey warbler (I.T.). Vauxhall, Dunedin, 14/3/53, one young in kowhai tree eating caterpillars; Black Gully, Tapanui, 14/1/53, one young being fed by two grey warblers (L.E.W.).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*).—Remuera, Auck., 3/12/52, heard about six times at 11.45 p.m., sounded as though bird was in flight (J.C.D.). Clevedon, 2 and 5/2/53, night calls heard; Papakura, 26/3/53, one found with stiff legs, dying (H.R.McK.). Matamata, Dec., 1951, one seen in borough for fortnight, soon mostly about 7 a.m. and in evening, vocal objections by other birds, on rare occasions a feint by the cuckoo would make them withdraw; cuckoo appeared to feed on insects on ground, seen several times near compost heap (H.N.B.). Lake Okataina, 5/10/53, first call heard (K.O.B.W.). Rotorua, 2/10/53, one heard at 9.30 p.m., flying south, called four times (M.J.S.B.) Minginui, 16/11/52, first seen; 16/1/53, two, the last seen and heard (R.St.P.). Lake Waikare-

moana area, 1952-53, October to April quite plentiful; can be heard calling at night as well as day (G.E.S.). Lake Waikaremoana, 11/11/52, three in few minutes, raining (R.H.D.S.). Te Araroa, East Cape, 7/10/52, 10.5 p.m., calls heard near shore-line; Cape Runaway, 11/10/52, 9.25 a.m., calls from bush (H.R.McK.). Hastings garden near Cornwall Park, 13/4/52, one seen (W.K.W.). Eglinton Valley, reported to be more plentiful than the shining cuckoo; yellow-heads have been seen feeding a young one; calls heard repeatedly near Lakes Lockie, Fergus and Gunn, 21/1/53 (D.N.F.C.). Vauxhall, Dunedin, 28/9/52, first call heard (L.E.W.). Kidd's Bush, Lake Hawea, 16/12/52, one seen (K.V.F.). Observation Rock, Stewart Island, 24/1/53, one seen in flight (J.W.). Alton Valley, Waiiau River, Southland, end of July, 1953, one heard calling at night (J.A.N.).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaezealandiae novaezealandiae*).—Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, scattered throughout in fair numbers (G.E.S.). Stirling, 19/5/53, heard garden, rare (R.V.McL.). Vauxhall, Dunedin, 21/4/53 and 24/6/53, calls heard (L.E.W.). Garden, Maori Hill, Dunedin recorded 19 times, June 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953; twice seen in daylight, after being scolded by smaller birds took perch high in a gum tree where it remained undisturbed for 20 minutes; August was the month most often heard (I.T.). Heard Queenstown, 11.30 p.m., 10/5/53; Little Homer Saddle, 8 p.m., 14/5/53; Lower Hollyford Valley, 9.30 p.m., 21/5/53 (B.W.C.).

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*).—Stirling, 22/8/52, pair calling "Yow-hoo-hoo-hoo" all day; calls just before first thrush song, and just after last thrush song in dawn and dusk observation (R.V.McL.). Glenleith, Dunedin, 13/11/52, four redpolls on power wire calling excitedly at owl; other redpolls collected until there were 27; bright sunshine, between 9.30 a.m. and 10 a.m. (W.H.D.).

FORK-TAILED SWIFT (*Apus pacificus*).—Adult female, Karamea, 15/12/52, found dead (R.A.F.).

N.Z. KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta vagans*).—Hokianga Harb., Aug. 1953, extremely common along shores (B.J.M.). Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, usual strong breeding population for spring and summer; only one bird known to stay for winter (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, quite common in open country; nest found in a hole in a dead beech tree (G.E.S.). Gisborne, 27/9/53, one chased by a male blackbird (J.D.C.). West side Otago Harb., 23/5/53, count from bus, Ravensbourne to Sawyer's Bay, seven; Sawyer's Bay four; in a mile beyond Port Chalmers three; Akatore, 21/4/53, six (D.N.F.C.).

RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*).—Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, common throughout bush and scrub, usually in pairs or small flocks (G.E.S.). Upper Hodder River, Inland Kaikouras, 14/5/53, at 4,000ft., two (R.A.E.). Peel Forest, Canterbury, 31/1/53, two males and four females in one group (T.J.P.). Peel Forest, 11/1/53, five (H.W.A.). Ross Creek Reservoir Reserve, 2/10/52, a pair flew out of manuka and chased around observer who was almost touched by the birds; in spring, pair searching for a nesting site in the garden where they sometimes nest (E.M.M.). North Taieri, 1/1/53, in willows by roadside, ten plus (I.T.). Eglinton-Hollyford Valleys, 18-22/11/52, noted daily, track to Key Summit and L. Howden, c 21; Lake Gunn to Melita Falls, c seven (D.N.F.C.). Piano Flat, Otago, 11/1/53, calls heard almost constantly, four birds seen (L.E.W.).

ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*).—Mr. R. Jackson, of Grey-mouth, and a member of the West Coast Alpine Club, has informed me that rock wrens with yellow to cream breasts, in company with those having normal colouring, are found near the Harper Rock in the Douglas Valley (seen January, 1952), and on rock faces above the Gulch Glacier, which enters the La Perouse Glacier from the south (seen late December, 1952); head of Shin River, Inland Kaikouras, at 6,000ft., 20/5/53, six plus (R.A.E.).

BUSH WREN (*Xenicus longipes*).—18-22/1/52, Eglinton Valley to Key Summit, three; bush track, Cascade Creek to Lake Gunn, three

(D.N.F.C.). Mr. R. Jackson, Greymouth, records seeing, in October, 1951, several bush wrens in the bush on the ridge leading up to Mount Bowen from the junction of the Dickson and Mikonui rivers (R.A.E.).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*).—Remuera, Auck., last recorded at Sea-view Road in December, 1951 (S.C.). Tauranga, 2/4/53, first song (M.H.). Lake Waikaremoana area, up to 1953, not seen here (G.E.S.). Nelson, 12/4/53 and 26/7/53, heard soaring song, mid-morning (L.G.).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Clevedon South foothills, 23/6/53 and 7/8/53, one black phase seen; it had the usual two white "ear" spots (H.M.M.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, pied form found everywhere, sometimes seen among flocks of whiteheads, feeding on the flying insects that the whiteheads disturb; near Aniwaniwa, Aug., 1953, one black seen; Te Puna, across lake, 1950, up to four or five black seen in a day (G.E.S.). Clifton, Christchurch, in garden, fantails have been away this year (1952) due perhaps to magpies frequenting the area (G.G.). Ross Creek Reservoir Reserve, Dunedin, 4/5/53, at least 18 flying around matipo trees (E.M.M.). Garden, Maori Hill, Dunedin, year's count June 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953, pied 93, black 33; outside garden, pied 68, black 16 (I.T.).

PIED TIT (*Petroica melanocephala toitoi*).—Rotorua, 30/5/49, one bird was in my garden for about half an hour, then flew in direction of Kairau Park, first occurrence noted here during my residence of 20 years (M.J.S.B.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, found everywhere in bush and scrub (G.E.S.).

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*).—Oparara River, West Nelson, 2/1/53, one (T.J.P.). Hodder River, Inland Kaikouras, 11/5/53, one (R.A.E.). Stirling, 5/3/53, male seen in porch (R.V.McL.). Eglinton-Hollyford Valleys, 17-23/1/52, 14 males, 6 females; birds recorded only when seen in different areas; Wanaka records were exceptional in that the birds were always recorded in pairs, five pairs seen, 13-23/1/53; Outram, Dunedin, 29/11/52, three males, two females; Harvey's Flat, via W. Taieri, 18/4/53, seven males, one female (D.N.F.C.). Ross Creek Reservoir Reserve, 1/1/53, early morning, 6.30 a.m. to 8 a.m., nine males (3 young), three females (one young), highest count here for many years (I.T.). Routeburn to Hollyford Valley via Harris Saddle and Deadman's, 17/5/53, five males and one female (B.W.E.). Piano Flat, Otago, 10/1/53, three males and one female seen (L.E.W.). Kidd's Bush, Lake Hawea, 16/12/52, one seen (K.V.F.). Horseshoe Bay, Stewart Island, 25/1/53, two seen (J.W.).

ROBIN (*Petroica (Miro) australis*).—Kauerenga, Thames, 1950, Mr. Buchanan reported one seen (definitely not pied tit) (H.R.McK.). Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, on trips into heavy bush seen in good numbers, does not seem to adapt itself to second growth (R.Stp.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1945, one pair seen at Hopuaruahine; Aniwaniwa, 25/8/53, one pair in full song, others heard, rare here (G.E.S.). Oparara River, West Nelson, 2/1/53, one male (T.J.P.). Mount Mantell, s. of Murchison 25/1/53, eight; Jenkin's Hill, Nelson, 28/1/53, two; Rocks Creek; Upper Pelorus River, 27/1/53, four; Travers Valley and Lake Rototoi, 26/12/52-1/1/53, twelve plus (R.A.E.). Junction Lec Stream and Taieri River, 23/3/53, one (J.T.B.). Cascade Creek Camp, Eglinton Valley, 17-23/1/52 one to three daily and much song early morning; largest count for any one day, 11 (D.N.F.C.). Rockburn Valley, W. Otago, 21/5/53, pair visited camp; Routeburn lunch house, 22/5/53, one ate crumbs from floor in room full of people (B.W.C.). Eglinton Valley, 6-9/1/53, seven seen round camp at one time, came into caravan and fed on floor; last call heard at 9.5 p.m. (L.E.W.). "The Look-Out," Oban, Stewart Island, 16/2/53, one seen (W.A.W.).

FERN BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*).—Track to Rangiputa, Ranganu Harb., 26/9/53, walk of four miles, single birds often heard (H.G.W.). Pawa, 3-6/4/53, frequently heard (N.M., H.R.McK., A. and J.P.). Mangawhai, 18/4/53, two seen very closely, several others heard (N.M., E.T., L.W.). Ruakaka, 18/4/53, some heard (N.W., E.T., L.W.). Whangaroa, 8/5/53, some heard in swampy area (N.M., L.W.). Waverley,

14/3/53, one; Matatara Valley (near Wanganui), 6/2/53, two; on both occasions in company with Mr. J. G. Smart, who identified them for me (H.W.A.).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*).—Up. Hodder River, Inland Kaikouras, 4,000ft., five (R.A.E.). Peel Forest, 11/1/53, one (H.W.A.). Ross Creek Bush, Dunedin, 12/10/52, 10 to 15 (J.T.B.). Summit Haast Pass, 15/1/53, songs and calls indicated flock, four seen; Outram Domain, 29/11/53, heard and seen five localities; Akatore, 21/3/53 recorded two localities; Harvey's Flat, 18/4/53, recorded one locality (D.N.F.C.). Boundary Creek, Eglinton Valley, 6/1/53, twenty noted (L.E.W.). John o' Groats Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, six seen (J.A.M.).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala albicilla*).—Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, plentiful in main bush and coming into second growth at times, especially July (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, not numerous but well distributed, usually seen in flocks with other birds (G.E.S.). Hill between Hick's Bay and Te Araroa, 9-10/10/52, several heard (H.R.McK.). Hatepe, Lake Taupo, 1/3/53, 50 plus seen; probably c 200 altogether in manuka and kowhai (R.W.).

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*).—Eglinton Valley, 7/1/53, seven in trees near camp, fine dawn chorus (L.E.W.). Eglinton Valley, 17-23/1/53, seen and heard daily in flocks of six to 15; Summit Haast Pass, 15/1/53, flock singing in beech trees (D.N.F.C.). Rockburn Valley, W. Otago, 21/5/53, three in beech forest at 3,000ft. (B.W.C.). Lake Alabaster, Sept., 1953, two (O.S.). Kaipo Valley, Fiordland, Feb., 1953, six seen (J.A.M.).

GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*).—Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, usual small numbers; silent in June (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, very common, usually in pairs or small flocks (G.E.S.). Dunedin garden, 8/3/53, unusual sight of warbler alighting on ground (3sec.) to pick up food (I.T.). Piano Flat, Otago, 11/1/53, first song heard 4.20 a.m. (L.E.W.).

SONG THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*).—Clevedon, 26/4/53, first song (A.J.G.). Clevedon, 1/8/53, one flying young seen by Mr. W. T. Duder (M.J.B.). Minginui, July, 1952, not much song; Aug. to January, singing well; Feb., ceased mid-month; March and April, no song; May, started on 15th; June-July, fair amount of song, increasing. It will be noted that the silent period is much longer than 1951 and 1952. (See "Notornis" Vol. 5, No. 3, p. 103) (R.StP.). Kopane, Manawatu, 8/1/52, nest, one egg, two newly-hatched young (E.D.). Nelson, 24/2/53, heard two or three notes of full song, early morning; 23/3/53, heard very weak version of full song, 8 p.m.; no song heard between 24/2/53 and 23/3/53 (L.G.). Stirling, 3/9/52, egg found on ground; 7/9/52, bird sitting on four eggs; 6/10/52, nest begun in climbing rose in full view from dining-room table, 5 eggs laid, 4 incubated, 1st egg hatched 28/10/52; 1/3/53, song heard 7 a.m. and noon; 22/3/53, song 6.20 a.m.; songs in April, May and June (R.V.McL.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*).—Howick, 8/8/53, first song (N.M.). Clevedon, 27/7/52, male challenging another male on ground while holding one, and later two, dead apple leaves in its bill (H.R.McK.). Minginui, July, 1952, no song; Aug., first song on 25th; Sept. to Dec., singing well; Jan., 1953, reducing; Feb., song stopped in first week; March to July, no song (R.StP.). Gisborne, 25/10/52, male with a white crown and several white-tipped feathers around the back of its neck, has been seen continually over the past year in the same area, within 100 yards of the place where first noticed (J.D.C.). Palmerston North, 2/12/51, one-legged adult male in good condition found on roadside, claw and half the tarso-metatarsus of right leg had been lost; stump well healed; the bird had evidently been able to maintain itself for some weeks, though the crop was empty when found (B.L.). Nelson, 4/1/53, heard last song for season, weak and only last phrase of full song given, evening; 4/2/43, sub-song heard first time for year, heard continuously throughout February, beginning of March, and

again in May; 23/7/53, heard first full song for season, quite loud but only first phrase of full song (L.G.). Clifton, Sumner, garden, 4/7/52, pair cock birds fighting (G.G.). Stirling, 20/7/52, short song heard, also 7/8/52; chorus with thrushes from 12/8/52 on; 23/8/52, female carrying nest material; 8/9/52, three females fighting; 20/9/52, nest three eggs; another sitting 3/10/52 on three eggs but abandoned 11/10/52; 23/5/53, first song heard (R.V.McL.). Speed calculated at 50 m.p.h. This bird was flying in a direct line parallel with the southbound Limited Express (15/7/53) and at the same speed, a few miles south of Ashburton. The speed of the train was based on time in seconds between each quarter-mile indicator at side of track (K.J.W-M.).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis occidentalis*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1/8/53, first song (J.W.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, very plentiful, usually breeds in low bushes; seen everywhere, even in deep forest (G.E.S.). Nelson, 14/4/53, very short bursts of song heard, morning; 26/7/53, full song heard, morning (L.G.). Stirling, 5/7/52, first song heard; 20/6/53, first song (R.V.McL.).

NEW ZEALAND PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*).—Blue Lake, Rotorua, 29/1/53, three young left nest (R.B.S.). Minginui, July 1952-July, 1953, usual good numbers on roads and shingle beds; one follows me round at my work of post-splitting and makes such a noise that I have to stop at the nearest log and chop out some grubs to keep it quiet. Last winter my followers for huhu grubs were two pipits, four chaffinches and two hedgesparrows. This winter it is one pipit, six chaffinches, one pied tit and one hedgesparrow (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, very plentiful, breeds freely in open places (G.E.S.). Manapouri, 4-5/1/53, four round camp all the time (L.E.W.). Te Anau to entrance Eglinton Valley, 17/1/52, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., so frequently disturbed on gravelled road impossible to keep count; Akatore, 21/3/53, nine, mostly in pairs; Road, Harvey's Flat, 18/4/53, five (D.N.F.C.).

BELLBIRD (*Anthonis melanura melanura*).—Western Chicken Is., 21/3/53, all over the island in great numbers, much more frequently seen and heard than the tui (J.C.D.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1953, perimeter of occupied area seems to have shrunk, though numbers are still good in the centre (J.W.StP.). Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, plentiful throughout; spring song started 19/8/53 (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, not numerous but well distributed, pairs can be seen feeding on native fuchsia along the Waikare-iti Track in the summer months (G.E.S.). Whakatane to Te Araroa, near East Cape, many heard and some seen all the way (H.R.McK.). Maungaharuni Range, 4/10/53, two seen, one a male in particularly brilliant plumage (D.A.B.). No. 33 Northland Road, Wellington, 5/9/53, one, first recorded in Wellington (A.A.B.). Clyde, an invasion of bellbirds during 1953; these and other native arrivals thought to be result of fires in Western Otago (A.C.P.). Invercargill, winter 1952, numerous in garden (R.M.R.).

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*).—Minginui, July, 1952-July, 1953, fairly plentiful; 19/10/52, started on kowhai flower; 20/11/52, finished the kowhai and went on to fuchsia and cabbage tree (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, plentiful for largely beech country (G.E.S.). Gisborne, 25/10/52, female blackbird chasing a pair of tuis from a bluegum tree where its nest was; 20/11/52, one seen in a tree on the river bank in town; 25/7/53, Grey's Bush, Gisborne, one tried four times to sing but made only three audible notes (J.D.C.). Esson's Valley, Picton, 29-31/10/52, pair carrying food to nest in a black pine, neither bird sang (R.M.J.). Dunedin garden, tui singing in dark from 6.50 p.m. to 7.10 p.m. (E.M.M.). Dunedin garden, best "tui" months, March (3 to 6), April (4 to 11), July (4 to 6), August (4 to 10); largest numbers most constant in August when kowhai blooming (I.T.). Invercargill, winter, 1952, as many as eight feeding at honey pots in garden (R.M.R.).

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*).—Rangiputa, Rangaunu Harbour, 23/8/53, many flocks, some large (N.M., H.G.W.). Moumoukai, Clevedon,

1953, usual good numbers but in smaller flocks (J.W.StP.). Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, a year of strong numbers; flocks started to split up into pairs in September and song began late in October; road tally Minginui to Wairoa, H.B., 30/4/53, 1500; return trip on 12/5/53, 500 (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, seen usually in flocks 40-50 with other birds (G.E.S.). Gisborne, 21/11/52, three young on beech tree, parents searching loquat tree for food for young (J.D.C.). Dunedin, mid-April to May, 1953, before dawn flocks of white-eyes in flight calling (R.M.J.). Hollyford, 14/5/53, flocks moving down the valley (B.W.C.). Burkes, near Dunedin, seen daily in large numbers; no ringed birds seen this year for the first time since ringing ended in 1948 (W.A.W.).

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*).—Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, started song in October; paired in October; still feeding young in February; numbers down this year (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, scattered in small flocks about open country and scrub (G.E.S.) Hawea and Wanaka, a very common bird, though seen in large flocks, numbers still nesting at the end of January, 1953. Also common about Dunedin where berries were stripped from daphne shrubs in autumn (M.L.J.).

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis britannica*).—Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1953, a winter flock of 50; not many this year in the higher country (J.W.StP.). Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, scarce in spring and summer; large flocks on flats in winter, up to 1200 seen in one day in May (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, not noted in breeding season; flocks of 100 plus in winter (G.E.S.). Stirling, several nesting Jan. and Feb., 1953; 30/3/53, adult seen feeding two young (R.V.McL.).

LESSER REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea cabaret*).—Rangiputa, Rangaunu Har., 23/8/53, several small flocks of c 6 each (N.M., H.G.W.). Regularly observed Auckland west coast; Remuera, one on waste land 23/8/53 (R.B.S.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 22/10/52, one pair and three others (H.R.McK.). Kaiiua, Firth of Thames, 19/7/53, flock of c 15 seen (J.C.D., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, again difficult to understand. July 1952, very few; Aug., none; Sept., two small lots; Oct.-Nov, tallies, 150, 2, 300, 3, 100, 3, 30, 200, 2, 1. These were flocks in the breeding season: Dec.-Feb., only odd small lots; March, a flock of 200; April-May, odd lots of up to 70; June-July, none (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, May 1953, a flock of 4000 to 5000 came and fed in grass and weeds in Aniwaniwa Valley. Later broke up into small flocks and can now be seen everywhere in open places; not often noticed here (G.E.S.). Northland, Wellington, three only on 10/9/53, by far the least in six years (A.A.B.).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs gengleri*).—Clevedon, 9/7/53, first song (A.J.G.). Tauranga, 4/8/53, first song (M.H.). Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, started calling in July; first full song, 3/9/52; first flocks after breeding season noted on 30/1/53 (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, in summer, pairs thickly placed; winter, numerous small flocks (G.E.S.). Palmerston North, 6/8/53, singing full song, morning; Wellington, 7/8/53, singing full song, evening; Nelson, 18/7/53, first song for season, first phrase of full song only, morning; 29/7/53, singing general now, still without full volume and repertoire of maximum song (L.G.).

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella citrinella*).—Karaka, 14/2/53, nest with three nestlings, c 4 days old (N.M., H.R.McK.). Clevedon, 14/1/53, nest in Scotch thistle, 2 chicks; 15/1/53, nest in low bracken about 1 foot up, 2 eggs (A.J.G.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1953, a few, less than usual; the decline here may be due to the open country becoming "old," i.e., not providing food because there are no fires to provide fresh growth of weeds and other seed plants; the fern is becoming dominant (J.W.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana area, 1953, scattered breeding pairs in summer; very numerous in winter in flocks of 50-100 (G.E.S.). Opotiki to Te Araroa, East Cape, 5-11/10/52, great numbers, in loose flocks or scattered (H.R.McK.). Hinds, 3/9/53, full song heard, evening (L.G.) Many associated with the pied shag colonies on Whitewash Head, 4/10/52 (C.G.H.). Timaru Creek, Lake Hawea, 18/11/52, nest with five eggs (K.V.F.).

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*).—Symonds St., Auckland City, 29/12/52, one picking up feathers from dead blackbird that had been run over (N.M.). Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, mostly living independently of homesteads; in Jan., birds noted methodically catching moths and cicadas by flying fast and crash landing in the tops of ragwort plants and shaking the insects out (R.StP.). Stirling, 27/7/52, quarrelling began; 22/8/52, female took grass to tree, played, weaving it about, noticed that nine old nests had been removed from a hawthorn tree since July; birds seen throwing down material; only one pair used this tree 1952. 9/9/52, fights frequent; 8/9/52, nest started in a japonica; 24/9/52, female blackbird began building on top of it; sparrows watched it, looking depressed (R.V.McL.). Maori Hill, Dunedin, first young-fed bird-table, 2/11/52; last 10/3/53 (I.T.).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Minginui, July 1952-July 1953, again no large winter flock owing to another small crop of kahikatea fruit (R.StP.). Lake Waikaremoana arā, 1953; very plentiful, breed freely in old trees, seen in flocks of 50-100 (G.E.S.). Dunedin, 16/6/52, starling picked up house sparrow and shook it with five vigorous jerks; when dropped, for several minutes the sparrow lay on the ground stunned with wings outspread (Miss J. Stewart, D.N.F.C.). Stirling, all local birds fly north to roost in conifer plantation at North Balclutha nightly, thousands reported; 17/9/52, 6 p.m., from train; saw three skeins alter course to fly behind train as it approached Balclutha railway bridge; 10/10/52, seen flying with nest material (R.V.McL.).

INDIAN MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*).—Fiji, 21/10/52, one of the most common birds (S.B.Y.). Henderson, 15/8/53, one seen (R.B.S.). Seaview Road, Auckland, first seen 7/11/51, a pair; next 3/5/53, then 30/6/53, 11/7/53, 13/7/53 and 17/7/53, always in pairs (S.C.). Mt. Victoria, Devonport, first reported in this area on 17/12/51 (E.G.T.). Stanley Bay, Auckland, first two birds, reported by Mr. A. G. Fisher on 10/10/52 (E.G.T.). Clevedon, winter of 1953, flock of 200 plus roosting in my trees in the same way as reported for 1952 (P.H.O.). Walton, Rotorua Line, 3/10/53, increasing and are driving out the starlings, which have decreased to a few pairs, building in hollow trees not monopolised by myna (G.V.G.). Rotorua Town, 1/10/53, holding its own; no increase during past two year; 3-4 pairs seeking building sites; are not ousting starlings here (M.J.S.B.). Frankton Junction, 22/10/52, seen in every street; 27/10/52, pair of sparrows attacked mynas, chased them away from hole under roof, sat watching for some time (R.V.McL.). Tauranga, becoming extremely common, 16 seen together in April (M.H.). Tauranga, 20/9/53, eight seen daily in Fraser St.; 11/8/53, 31 on road count from Welcome Bay to Ohinepanea, largest group 15 birds at Papamoa (B.S.). Albino with possibly one or two dark feathers on the wing reliably reported Turuturu, Hawera, 25/5/50 (B.D.H.). Ormondville, 24/11/52, pair carrying food to young in goods shed (E.B.J.).

ROOK (*Corvus frugilegus*).—Stray bird appeared at Batley, Maungaturoto, North Auckland, 14/9/53; specimen (female in first winter plumage) in Auckland Museum, sent by W. B. Linton; was seen chasing small birds and feeding on carrion (E.G.T.).

BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).—Ardkeen, 28/3/53, one (J.M.C.). Masterton, 6/6/53, bird with two large black blobs not quite meeting in middle of back; 2/7/53, one fully black-backed bird seen on several occasions about this time (J.M.C.).

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Highway north of Auckland, 20/12/52, one immature corpse, grey back, still showing some down, on road after fierce gale, other birds found dead on this trip were two thrushes, one goldfinch, one chaffinch and one yellowhammer (N.M. and A. & J.P.). Remuera, Auckland, seen and heard most mornings, June, 1947, and once again July, 1949, at Seaview Road, has not been seen since (S.C.). Green Valley, Otago, 10/7/53, three seen (T.R.B.). Moa Flat, Otago Central, April 1953, one seen for two weeks, first appearance in district (A.J.H.). Nine miles west of Gore, 25 and 27/5/53 (T.G.M.).

NORTH ISLAND KOKAKO (*Callacas cinerea wilsoni*).—Moumoukai Clevedon, 1953, seem to be holding their own; seen and heard in all their usual places (J.W.StP.).

CORRIGENDA—CLASSIFIED NOTES, January, 1953.

Page 90—Not Shoveler but Paradise Duck, at Harania Creek.

Page 95.—Godwit, Puketutu, 2/3/52, c 3500 not 2/5/52.

Page 98—Read Yellow-fronted not red-fronted parakeets.

PROBABLE AUSTRALIAN AVOCET AT CATLINS RIVER.—Late in the afternoon of April 12, 1952, from the road near Jack's Bay, Catlins, I saw a bird that was new to me standing on the sand at the mouth of the Catlins River. It seemed larger than a stilt, the body being chiefly white with some black markings on the wings. The legs were long like a stilt's, but the outstanding feature of the bird was the bright tawny colouring of its head and neck. The bird had its back towards me and I did not note its bill. On arriving back at the Owaka Manse, where I was staying with my son, we together looked up bird references and decided the bird was probably an avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*). When I returned to Dunedin I visited the Museum and recognised the avocet there as the bird I had seen at Catlins.—May E. Moore, Dunedin. (It is a pity that the recorder was unable to observe the bill of the bird reported above, as an indication of an upturned bill, in conjunction with the above description, would have provided conclusive evidence. In reporting rarities such as this, it is advisable for the observer to state the distance from the bird and whether field glasses were used or not, also the conditions of the light at the time of the observation. The utmost care and accuracy are essential in describing rare species, as from a sufficiently detailed and correct description it is often possible to establish the identity of the bird in question. It is 60 years since the avocet was last recorded in New Zealand. The publication of this note may stimulate other observers.—Ed.)

REGIONAL ORGANISERS.—Mr. L. Gurr, c/o the Cawthron Institute, Nelson, has been appointed by council as regional organiser for Nelson. The boundaries of the district are roughly Farewell Spit to Lake Rotoroa, Tophouse, French Pass.

BELLBIRDS IN WELLINGTON CITY.—At about 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, September 5th, 1953, I was astonished to hear the song of a bellbird. I was inside my house at 33 Northland Road, at the time, and, of course, I lost no time in getting outside. I was rewarded by a clear sight of the bird which was on a telephone wire in my front garden. However, my view was very brief as the bird flew away within a minute. I reported the matter to the local papers and a "Dominion" reporter interviewed Dr. R. A. Falla and others. The reporter made quite a feature of the occurrence for his paper and it was stated that two other local reports had been received, also that no known reports of the bird had been made since the turn of the century. It is significant that the recent appearances occurred when many nectar-bearing trees and shrubs are in bloom. My own place had a lot of flowering currant in bloom at the time. A few days later a lady wrote to the "Evening Post" and stated that she had seen the bellbird at Haywards Bush and also near Woburn Station. Her letter appeared to be genuine as she appeared to know both the bellbird and the tui. The bellbird is reasonably common on the bush-covered hills of the eastern bays of Wellington, but its appearance in the city was a real thrill.—A. A. Boulton, Wellington.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.—The society is much indebted to the King's College Bird Club which has donated the cost (about £6) of binding the sets of "The Wilson Bulletin." This is a welcome step and may enable the library to spend some of its small annual grant on the purchase of books. Members are reminded that donations to the library fund are welcomed and gifts of books will be especially appreciated.

WET WEATHER AND STILTS.—On November 9th, 1952, a nest containing two eggs of the pied stilt was found in the thermal area at Whakarewarewa, Rotorua. By November 12 the number of eggs had increased to four and the birds had commenced sitting. The nest was on the ground in the open and within eight feet of a warm lake and a small warm stream. The weather during the nesting period proved to be very wet. Records taken at the Forest Research Institute, only about 300 yards from the nest, show that no less than 10.18 inches of rain fell on 22 out of the 26 days the birds were sitting. Several thunderstorms were also experienced during the period—one on December 7, just as the eggs were hatching, was extremely heavy and the rain was torrential. On one occasion (Nov. 14) there had been so much rain that the lake and stream overflowed their banks and it was only possible to observe the nest by telescope. Water completely surrounded and was lapping the edges of the nest which appeared like a small island. In spite of all this trouble, the birds hatched the four eggs. Chirping was heard from the eggs on December 6 but rain and the thunderstorm prevented observation on the 7th. On December 8 there was no sign of even a piece of eggshell at the nest site, but the parent birds were keeping close to a nearby mingimingi bush. The chicks were seen by telescope on subsequent occasions.—J. Johnson.

SILVEREYES AS FLESH-EATERS.—On June 6, 1953, on the Taieri River Mouth Beach, below high tide mark, was a dead sheep on which, under the overhanging wool on the shoulder of the carcase, were six silver-eyes feeding on the decaying flesh. I approached to within touching distance of the birds. They were very intent on their feast, and one refused to leave until I bent over to watch it more closely. There were no maggots present where they were feeding—O. R. Cartwright, Dunedin.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IRRUPTIONS OF BIRDS.

(To the Editor.)

Sir,—I hope soon to embark upon an investigation into the occasional irruptions in the numbers of birds in New Zealand. The type of thing I will be interested in is, for example, the recent sudden apparent increase of the bellbird throughout the country, the well-known irruptions of the parakeets (cited by Oliver) in 1871, 1877 and 1888, and the apparently sudden changes in the local status of the weka (examples of which have been cited by Myers).

I should be very grateful, therefore, if members of the society (and any others interested) would supply me with any information they might have of any sudden and well-marked temporary increase or decrease in bird species (either native or introduced), the dates at which these occurred, the places and extent of the areas involved, and, of course, the species concerned. Any other information that may be thought of interest in this connection will also be gratefully received and acknowledged. The operative word in this investigation is "sudden." I am not especially interested in the slow increase or decrease occurring over a number of years that is consequent upon the establishment or threatened extinction of a species.—I am, etc., G. R. WILLIAMS.

Wildlife Division, Dept. of Internal Affairs, Wellington.

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