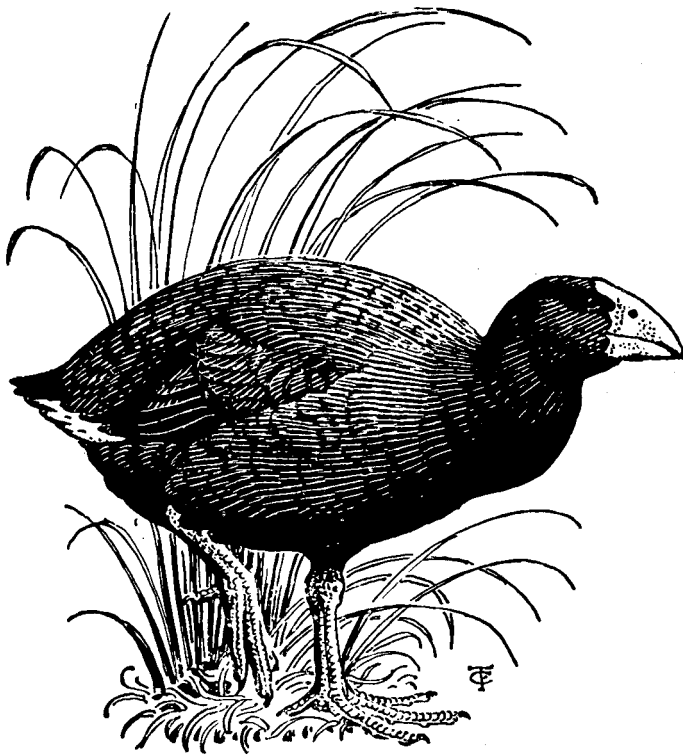


NOTORNIS

*Quarterly Bulletin of
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Volume Seven, Number Three : January 1957

NOTORNIS

In continuation of New Zealand Bird Notes

BULLETIN OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND
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VOLUME SEVEN NUMBER THREE : JANUARY NINETEEN FIFTY-SEVEN

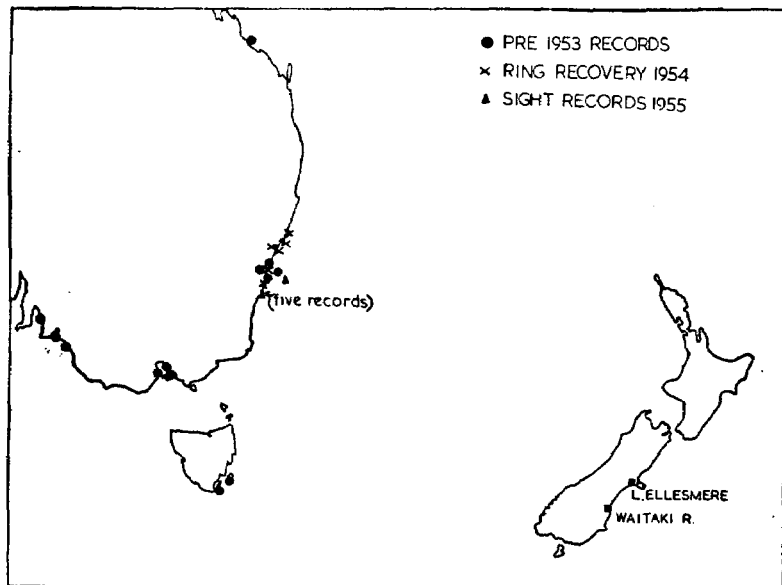
THE TRANS-TASMAN DISPERSAL OF THE WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*, Gm.)

By W. C. CLARK and E. W. DAWSON

Zoology Department, Canterbury University College, Christchurch

It has long been suspected that the White-fronted Tern (*Sterna striata*, Gmelin), which is common on New Zealand coasts and on the outlying islands, migrated to Australia in the winter months. This hypothesis has been well supported circumstantially by Hindwood (1946), and by Hitchcock and Favaloro (1951). Hindwood summarised all previous records of this species in Australia and gave an account of his observations of these birds on Long Reef, Sydney. He gave dates for the first and last of them seen in the 1941 and 1942 seasons, and these were: first records, 25 May 1941 and 3 May 1942; last records, 22 November 1941 and 29 November 1942 (at Cronulla, N.S.W.). He also threw considerable doubt on the supposed breeding of *Sterna striata* on islands in Bass Strait and off other parts of the coast of Tasmania.

Hitchcock and Favaloro recorded observations of three birds present at Williamstown, near Melbourne, Victoria, from 11 July to 4 September 1948, and gave details of a specimen taken.



Map showing sight records and ring recoveries of *Sterna striata* in Australia. The New Zealand ringing stations mentioned in the text are also shown.

To obtain definite data on the movements of White-fronted Terns the species was placed on the ringing list of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand. Small numbers of birds were ringed by various workers during the early years of the ringing scheme, but until 1954 none had been recovered at any distance in excess of 100 miles from the place of ringing. Early in 1954 we ringed 447 White-fronted Tern chicks in a colony at Lake Ellesmere, South Island. Two of these ringed chicks were later recovered dead on the breeding ground. During the following winter six rings were recovered from the New South Wales coast. Details of these are as follows:

7184, ringed 3/1/54: Bird flew on board s.s. *Waipori*, 14/5/54, when ship was near Port Stephens, N.S.W. Bird died the next day; reported by G. R. Finn.

20803, ringed 3/1/54: Caught in hand by fisherman four miles east of Swansea, Lake Macquarie, about 2/6/54. Ring returned by W. Wilson, who also reported, 'Others in vicinity. Birds appear quite tame and can easily be taken by hand. Appear in good condition.'

20789, ringed 3/1/54: Found dead at Bulgo Beach, about 30 miles south of Sydney, on 26/6/54 by R. C. Butt.

20815, ringed 3/1/54: Found in poor condition with both legs broken at 'local beach', Randwick, Sydney, on 28/6/54 by N. Bond. The bird was destroyed.

20735, ringed 3/1/54: Caught on a fishing line at Stockton, N.S.W., on 1/7/54 by R. S. Willis. The ring was removed and the bird released in a healthy condition.

20885, ringed 3/1/54: Found as a corpse on a farm at Tumbi Umbi, on the south side of Tuggerah Lake, about five miles inland and 40 miles north of Sydney, about 23/8/54 by R. Smithers.

1955 Operations

Breeding at the Lake Ellesmere colony was unsuccessful during the 1954-55 season, but 301 chicks were ringed at the Waitaki River mouth, about 100 miles further south. On this occasion 100 birds were ringed with yellow plastic rings as well as with the numbered aluminium rings.

There were no recoveries of ringed White-fronted Terns from Australia during the winter of 1955, but the following sight records, abridged from letters of K. A. Hindwood and D. Gibson, are of considerable interest.

18/9/55: Tom Thumb Lagoon, near Port Kembla (50 miles south of Sydney), one banded *S. striata* amongst c. 60 others resting on the sand. From observer's description the bird was in immature plumage. Ring on left leg. Observer, D. Gibson.

24/9/55: Tom Thumb Lagoon. Another banded *S. striata*, ring on right leg, seen in same circumstances as previously. Observer, D. Gibson.

24/9/55: One banded bird seen resting with about 25 others on outer rocks at Boat Harbour, 10 miles south of Sydney. More birds were seen later in the day three miles north of Cronulla. Observers, E. S. Hoskin, L. Haines and K. A. Hindwood.

3/10/55: Tom Thumb Lagoon. Two banded birds seen together, each with aluminium band on right leg. Observer, A. Sefton.

17/10/55: Same locality. About 60 *S. striata* present. One bird with a ring on each leg, buffy-white (yellow?) band on left, aluminium coloured band on right. Observers, G. Waters, A. Sefton, D. Gibson.

It is interesting to note that in all cases the birds involved were juveniles. After the last observation Mr Gibson noted: 'Even from a fairly close viewpoint both bands were not always visible, depending on lighting and position. In view of this, some of our earlier records of birds with one band could possibly have had two.'

Mr Gibson also mentioned that he has seen a flock of 500 White-fronted Terns on sand flats at the entrance to Lake Illawarra, four miles south of Port Kembla, and that in the past twelve months he has found seven derelict White-fronted Terns on local beaches (all unringed).

On 10 August 1955 one of us (E.W.D.) saw a small party (c. 10-12) of White-fronted Terns fishing well off the coast near Cronulla, N.S.W., and other groups of small terns were seen in the distance.

New Zealand Sight Records and Recoveries

Sight records and recoveries within New Zealand of terns ringed by us have been remarkably few. On 12 November 1955 one of us (W.C.C.) saw a juvenile bird with yellow and aluminium rings in a flock of 48 adult birds at Taumutu, Lake Ellesmere. On 27 November 1955, also at Taumutu, W.C.C. saw a bird with an aluminium ring standing amongst a flock of 64 other terns. This bird was in practically mature plumage except for four or five tiny white flecks in the dark cap.

The only recoveries have been of four birds ringed as chicks at the Waitaki River mouth on 15 January 1955, and are as follows: 6868, trodden on, Waitaki mouth, 3/2/55, M. Tonkin; 6857, found wounded, released when recovered, Oamaru, 26/2/55, G. D. Sutherland; 6887, caught on fishing boat, Moeraki coast, Otago, 28/2/55, S. J. Dodd; 24798, found dead at North Spit, Dunedin, about 23/3/56, J. M. Flannery.

Discussion

These six recoveries (1954) and six sight records of ringed birds (1955) in Australia comprise the first definite evidence to support the theory that White-fronted Terns wintering on the coasts of New South Wales and Victoria are birds of New Zealand origin. The twelve records of ringed birds in Australia all occur along a relatively short stretch of coastline (about 100 miles). When this distribution is compared with previous records of the species in Australia it is seen that it is possible that the birds are not normally restricted to the coast near Sydney. Indeed, it may be that the map records the distribution of observers more accurately than the distribution of terns.

As stated earlier, the White-fronted Tern is widespread and abundant in New Zealand, and, although nesting is notoriously erratic, when it is successful large numbers of young are reared in the colonies. The 1954 Lake Ellesmere colony was estimated at 1500 pairs of breeding birds, and the 1955 colony at the Waitaki River at about 5000 pairs. E. F. Stead (1932) discussed breeding activities in a colony in the Rakaia River, a few miles south of Lake Ellesmere, estimated as containing about 35,000 birds in 1903. Other colonies in various favourable localities may contain many thousands of breeding birds similarly. The usual clutch appears to be one, and often two, which means that a very great number of chicks may be reared in good years, but reports from Australia to date do not indicate adequately large populations to account for all the birds of the year, even assuming a 50 per cent mortality. As the birds reported from Australia are predominantly juveniles, we believe, at the moment, that the normal dispersal of White-fronted Terns to Australia consists, like that of the Gannet (Stein and Wodzicki, 1955), of a small proportion of the birds of the year.

The recovery reports contain interesting notes on behaviour of the birds in Australia. Bird 20803 'caught in hand' and the 'birds appear quite tame and can easily be taken . . .' D. Gibson said, in a letter, 'I find they are invariably easy to approach, standing their ground long after Crested and Little Terns have flown.' K. A. Hindwood was able to approach close enough to see the join in the ring. This is far from typical of their behaviour in New Zealand, where they rise suddenly in flocks if approached very closely other than at nesting time.

It is striking that, while up to 31 March 1955, 1843 White-fronted Terns had been ringed in New Zealand, the only ringed birds seen in Australia

have been from the Waitaki River and Lake Ellesmere. Since we were the only operators on this species in 1955 and all the sight records for the following winter concern juvenile birds it may be assumed at present that these were all birds from the Waitaki River. However, it is too early to say if any special significance is to be attached to this.

Similarly, it is too early to speculate very far as to the actual routes of migration, particularly since counts of gatherings of birds in coastal regions are not always truly indicative of seasonal movements. For example, Fleming (1940), in an endeavour to follow up the suggestion that White-fronted Terns are absent from the Chatham Islands from March to August (Fleming, 1939), made counts of coastal flocks in the Auckland district in the winters of 1939 and 1940. The numbers of birds present showed '... little evidence for migration away from coasts, but indication of more pelagic habits, possibly resting ashore at night.' He concluded that: 'Variation in numbers present on beach seems somewhat dependent on weather conditions.' Wodzicki (1946) presented tables and graphs showing occurrences of White-fronted Terns on the estuary at Waikanae, Wellington west coast, for 1941-42 and 1942-43, and he suggested that these indicate that '... while almost completely absent at the end of the winter and during the nesting period, large numbers, including many immature birds, were seen in summer and later in autumn. . . The explanation of their almost complete disappearance in winter cannot be determined without more observations from other parts. . .' Wodzicki later mentioned that '... it seems likely that a large number of species such as the Banded Dotterel . . . and possibly the Whitefronted . . . Terns migrate regularly every year towards the northern districts of the North Island, whilst some of the birds stay behind or their place is taken by arrivals from the South Island. . .' Sibson (1951) and Falla (1953) have given concise summaries of the known facts about trans-Tasman bird movements, and it appears that the traffic is much greater, as far as numbers of species are concerned, from Australia to New Zealand, as Falla (1955) has pointed out: 'In the New Zealand region today the nearest large land masses lie to the north and west and that is the direction in which a good deal of strong and regular air movement has its origin.' However, the movements of Gannets, Banded Dotterel and White-fronted Terns (probably also Fluttering and Hutton's Shearwaters) show that reverse traffic does regularly occur and may exceed, in numbers of individuals, the traffic of various species straggling to the western coasts of New Zealand. Falla has remarked upon the movements of these three species that: 'It may well be . . . a drift dispersal of immature birds, for the time of the year is the only period at which a south-east or easterly component is regularly dominant in the winds in the area between northern New Zealand and New South Wales.' However, a study of synoptic weather charts for the Tasman Sea over this period, kindly made available by Dr J. F. Gabites, N.Z. Meteorological Service, does not give any evidence of any regular seasonal conditions, particularly for South Island birds, which might be expected to assist such reverse traffic. Stein and Wodzicki (1955) show a possible dispersal route from New Zealand for juvenile Gannets, but we think that those White-fronted Terns which find their way to Australia from colonies in the South Island do not necessarily do so by moving to the North Auckland region first, but perhaps rather by following the coast round either north to Cook Strait (*cf.* movements of Hutton's Shearwater) or south to Foveaux Strait.

Further information leading to the elucidation of the movements of the White-fronted Tern both to and from Australia and within New Zealand would be welcomed, and the following ways, as well as those 'desiderata' given by Stidolph and Fleming (1941) for the Banded Dotterel, are suggested by which this might be achieved: (1) seasonal counts, particularly in relation to weather conditions, similar to those of Fleming (1940) or Wodzicki (1946), at estuaries or other Tern haunts, as well as observations in breeding colonies; (2) random observations in coastal or off-shore regions, the equivalent of road-counts for terrestrial birds (*cf.* Dawson, 1950); (3) trans-Tasman bird-logs

from passengers or crew of ships traversing this region, which may yield valuable information about bird movements in a relatively little known sea; (4) records of apparent departures and arrivals of flocks at breeding colonies, and on coastal sites in April-May and October-November, and finally (5) the prospect of more extensive observations on the Australian coast beyond the Sydney area to see whether the recoveries are an indication of distribution of observers or of birds.

We wish to acknowledge the assistance of those who returned rings, of the Sydney newspapers who gave the work the necessary publicity, and of Mr K. A. Hindwood, of Sydney, and Mr D. Gibson, of Thirroul, N.S.W., who supplied observations and answered many queries; we are especially grateful to the Council of the Royal Society of New Zealand for a grant enabling this work to be carried out.

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A BRIEF SUMMARY OF TAKAHE RESEARCH FOR THE 1955-56 SEASON

By G. R. WILLIAMS and K. H. MIERS
Wildlife Division

There were two periods of study: 5-24 November, when the party consisted of K. H. Miers and G. R. Williams; and 3-15 February, when the party was made up by Professor G. T. Baylis, Mr P. Dorizac (Lands Department Ranger), and G. R. Williams. The general object of the parties was to continue the plan of work already outlined last year (see Kennedy, *this journal* 6: 164-166, 1955) and, in particular, to carry on observations that might throw light on the factors affecting the degree of success of breeding seasons. On the suggestion of the Fauna Protection Council (Takahe Committee) Professor Baylis was invited to make a survey of the vegetation of the area so that a general account might be prepared which would have great value in (among other things) following changes in the plant covering of the main colonies and in assessing the likely value of other localities for takahe intro-

ductions and liberations should the taking of such action ever be thought advisable. In connexion with the vegetation survey, one of us (K.H.M.) is continuing observations on the deer population and the effects it is having on the area. All the biologists would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr Dorizac for his valuable assistance.

DURATION OF THE BREEDING SEASON

Even though observations were begun nearly four weeks earlier than in the 1954-55 season, incubation was already under way in early November in two of the total of six nests found during the whole season. At the head of the Point Burn a nest was found in which laying had probably taken place in January — almost certainly as a result of re-nesting, as later remarks will show. In two other nests hatching occurred on about 13 and 25 November respectively.

LOSSES CAUSED BY DESERTION ETC

In early November a one-egg nest was discovered which when visited again a few days later was found to be deserted and the egg gone; and in February another nest was found in which, apparently, two attempts at incubation had occurred — desertion following each. This was the Point Burn Head nest just referred to. Three eggs were found in its vicinity — one entire, containing an advanced embryo, was in the nest bowl, another also containing an advanced embryo and with a cracked shell lay about a foot away, and a third egg, broken and empty which did not appear ever to have held an embryo, lay about another foot away again. The state of the eggs suggested that the desertions had occurred in December and January at a time when no parties were in the area, and the eggs' dimensions were such that they were probably laid by the one bird. There were no indications that could be taken to suggest that the eggs had been attacked by stoat, kiwi or weka, and it seemed likely that a pair of adult birds were still in the vicinity.

CHICK SURVIVAL

Three of the six nests found hatched successfully and it is certain that a number of nests were not found. Therefore no disquiet need be felt at this apparent lack of success in such a small sample — especially when it is remembered that re-nesting can occur. There is evidence that two chicks were hatched from one two-egg clutch — both eggs held very advanced embryos in late November and the nest had the typical appearance of a successfully hatched one in February. In the other nest in which two eggs were laid one chick hatched successfully and the other egg was later found to be infertile.

BANDING OPERATIONS

(i) *General*: No special efforts were made to band new birds during this season as it was felt, in November, that the disturbance might interfere with breeding behaviour; and in February the birds were in full moult and very silent and retiring, which made easy catching difficult. But two previously banded birds were captured: on one a missing colour band (which had not been cemented shut originally) was replaced and on the other a badly faded band was removed and a new one put in its place. Neither bird showed any signs of suffering any discomfort whatsoever from the bands. From the sight records obtained on other birds it appears that the cement first used for fixing the coloured plastic bands in 1954-55 is proving effective — none so treated seem to have been lost since.

(ii) *Fading experiments*: A selection of the colour bands has been exposed to ultra-violet light in a paint-testing machine. This test has shown that some of the colours are not sunlight-fast, so combinations have since been devised which do not include these colours. Some preliminary experiments have been started, too, on designing a special takahe colour band that is more readily seen than the standard bands and is resistant to fading as well.

(iii) *Breeding age from identification of banded birds*: No new records.

(iv) *Movements*: More information has been obtained on this subject but this

will be fully discussed in the General Survey of Takahe Research 1948-56 which is soon to be begun.

(v) *Pair formation*: More instances of both change of mate between breeding seasons and maintenance of a pair-bond already formed have come to light. Banding has also helped us provisionally to sex 27 out of the 29 birds that bear numbered rings. So far, the method devised by one of us (G.R.W.) for sexing has not given any contradictory results — all identified pairs were male and female when referred to the scheme. With so many birds provisionally sexed, next season's observations should test the method more fully.

Recently, we have sexed by dissection a number of pukekos and then used the same scheme as that being used on the takahe (a combination of culmen length and body weight) to separate the sexes again. Although there were a number of young birds in the sample — a fact which would tend to lessen the accuracy of the method — only two birds out of 38 were sexed incorrectly. All the other usual external body measurements (or combinations of them) did not give satisfactory separations. We are continuing this work on pukekos and hope to report our findings in detail fairly soon.

THE TRAPPING OF LIKELY PREDATORS

A dozen box traps suitable for catching stoats have been taken into the Point Burn and Takahe Valleys and set. The design is such that they may be left set without subjecting ground birds to any risk whatsoever of being caught in them. At the time of a deer study visit by K.H.M. in April of this year the traps had been continuously set for about six months using bait that has been very successful in attracting stoats in the Eglinton Valley. Only three stoats have been caught and this indicates that the population of these animals is not high — an indication borne out to some extent by general observation.

WINTER VISIT

No winter visit has been made to the colony for over six years now. By the time this account appears in print another will have taken place. With our more detailed knowledge of the species such a visit seems advisable. It is planned to make a reconnaissance in the area lasting about two weeks at a time when conditions of life for the takahe should be at their most severe.

KAPITI ISLAND AS A POSSIBLE SANCTUARY FOR TAKAHE

The suggestion has been made by Dr C. A. Fleming that the extensive Taepiro Basin on Kapiti Island, being heavily grassed, might be a suitable place for the eventual liberation of a few birds — especially as the island is free of mustelids and cats. An inspection by one of us (G.R.W.) of the area revealed that the grasses are mainly introduced species — for example, cocksfoot, sweet vernal, browntop, rye grass and Yorkshire fog. This, however, need not necessarily be a disadvantage as one of us (K.H.M.) has observed that the takahe have occasionally cropped, during the winter, the small stand of cocksfoot that has become established near the hut in Takahe Valley. But more serious drawbacks to the possible use of Taepiro Basin are the absence of water over much of the area and the great thickness of the sward, which would probably cause the takahe great difficulty — initially at any rate — in making their way through it.

SOME BIRDS OF THE QUEENSTOWN DISTRICT

WITH NOTES ON THE 1955-56 NESTING SEASON

By M. F. SOPER and D. G. JARDINE

The Queenstown district has been taken to include the cultivated area between Queenstown and Arrowtown plus the immediate vicinity of the lake edge, for 12 miles in either direction from the town.

CRESTED GLEBE. One pair seen on Lake Hayes four years ago.

DABCHICK. Rare. Perhaps seen on Lake Dispute two years ago.

SHAGS. The Black Shag is the only one seen. Seven small rookeries are known in the district (up to 20 birds). The largest rookeries – 70-80 birds – occur in the Nevis and at the head of the lake.

PIED OYSTERCATCHER. Single pairs only (the Black Oystercatcher does not occur). Not present during autumn and winter; leave January-February and return August. Nest on river beds (September) and ploughed fields (October). The river bed chicks are hatching about the time the birds that nest in the ploughed fields begin to lay. No nest made, the birds using a depression in the sand or turn of the plough. Clutch three. Incubation 25 days. A hatching cracked egg seen at 10 a.m. was almost through at 5.30 p.m. Number of nests found this season: five.

BANDED DOTTEREL. Common. Nest on river beds and dry barren scabweed paddocks. October. Clutch three. Incubation 28 days. Chicks leave nest within 12 hours of hatching. Migrate February and return August-September.

PIED STILT. Isolated pairs fairly common (50 pairs in district). The black form does not occur. The nest is always in shallow swampy ground, surrounded by at least a token quantity of water. Clutch four. Incubation 25 days. Ten nests. Colonies do not occur. Chicks leave nest within 12 hours of hatching. Migrate February-March; return end of August.

BLACK-BACKED GULL. Not common. Nests at altitude of 5500-6000 ft on the Remarkables – a few birds. Main nesting colony near here is at the head of the Shotover River – where there are large numbers. A few birds here all the year round.

RED-BILLED GULL. Winters but does not nest here.

BLACK-BILLED GULL. Common, and present all year round. Large nesting colony of some 400 birds on Shotover River bed. (There is a larger one of at least 600 on the Rees River bed at Glenorchy.) The Shotover colony site is changed each year, largely, we suspect, as a result of vandalism, though the distance they move is not great – up to a mile. This season there was a main colony of 242 nests with an outlying colony of 69. There appear to be distinct minor colonies within the main group – nests being aggregated into clusters of 7-12. Average number of eggs, two; 15 per cent, three, and an occasional four. Marked variations in size and shape and colour of eggs, even in the same nest. Incubation 24 days. October-mid November chicks fed by regurgitation on to the ground.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN. This is the only tern seen in this district. Moderately common (about 70 birds). Two nesting colonies known. One on the Shotover River bed of 14 widely separated nests (each approximately 100 yards from its neighbour). This colony was completely cleaned out by small boys. One on the 12-mile creek of 21 nests, more compactly placed, 10-20 yards between nests. However, although they nest 'at arm's length' it was noticed that they will join forces to mob an intruder. But when the intruder has passed on, the owners of the nest then had to drive off the 'helping' birds. One got a distinct impression that these terns would rob an unoccupied and unguarded nest of their own kind. No attempt at nesting material. November, Clutch, invariably two. Incubation and chick behaviour not observed owing to vandalism.

PUKEKO. Common. Nest as often in a rush clump as in raupo. Clutch, 6-8. Very cunning, though once on the nest seem to lose all cares. Young leave nest within 12 hours of hatching and leave in presence of parents. Chicks very rarely seen once leave nest, but if found and disturbed make a hissing noise rather like a ferret.

WHITE HERON. One sighting only. December 1951.

WHITE-FACED HERON. One sighting only – of a pair – April 1956.

BITTERN. Feeding grounds of six pairs known, but nesting grounds still elude us.

PARADISE DUCK. Common, especially during shooting season. Only a few pairs nest in the district. Where the majority disappear to is not known.

GREY DUCK. Very common. Fifty or more nests can be found a season. Mostly 12-20 up in willow trees. The young reach the ground by falling, scrambling and (rarely) being carried. The same nest may be used later by a different pair. Clutch 6-10. Incubation 28 days. Nest September-January.

MALLARD. Fairly common. Seem always to nest on ground at water's edge. November.

BLACK TEAL. Common. Six nests. All 100 yards or more from water, not as it usually stated on water's edge. All under heaps of discarded tree topplings or similar piles of sticks. Clutch 5. Eggs relatively enormous — far bigger than those of Grey, Mallard or Spoonbill ducks. Very quiet on nest and can be lifted and handled. Usually off nest 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SPOONBILL DUCK. Approximately 50 birds. Only two nests seen. Both away from water under a tussock. Nest has a different smell from a Grey's and eggs more pointed.

BLUE DUCK. A few pairs in the tributaries of the Dart River at the head of the lake.

HARRIER. Common. Many nests found, but owing to their extreme touchiness we were unable to 'hide' any of them. And yet a nest with young, discovered while harvesting a crop, can be lifted holus-bolus to the edge of the field, say, 200 yards away, and the adults will continue to feed the young! Attempt a hide, no matter how subtly, and they desert.

FALCON. Four pairs in the district. Others known, especially towards Skippers. Two nests discovered this season (one only followed). Both at approximately 3000 ft. Birds hunt up to 7000 ft on the Remarkables. In this district is a bird of the open mountains. They are not to be found in the bush areas. Nest well constructed of tussock. Clutch 3-4. Incubation 30 days. Female never leaves nest till chicks well grown, except to drive off intruders and to receive her own food. Female does all the feeding of chick. Male does all the hunting — handing over to her to feed the chick. Only time male it at nest is the short 'standing guard' period while the hen is eating food brought. Hen never feeds at nest, always on a rock some distance from nest. They have a variety of calls — of anger, a distinct call to bring in her mate to drive off intruders, a hunger call, and rather nice 'Thank you' noises reminiscent of the whine of an excited puppy, on receiving food. The attack of the female is not as 'willing' as that of the male. With both birds attacking the tone is markedly more aggressive, and in a high wind definitely frightening. At one nest the hen bird was shot by persons unknown when the chick (the only hatch from four eggs) was two weeks old. The male carried on feeding the chick, doing all the hunting in the vicinity of the nest so as to be always on hand. The chick survived.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

Avis Acres, Mrs. Taupo
I. G. Andrew, Palmerston North
J. W. Bain, Gisborne
D. A. Bathgate, Dr, Hastings
B. D. Bell, Blenheim
M. S. Black, Rotorua
A. Blackburn, Gisborne
M. J. Blundell, Mrs, Clevedon
M. J. Blundell, Miss, Clevedon
D. H. Brathwaite, Napier
M. J. Breen, Nelson
W. J. Broun, Wellington
C. R. Buckeridge, Te Matu

P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt
R. N. Buttle, Auckland
B. W. Campbell, Dunedin
B. S. Chambers, Auckland
S. Chambers, Auckland
W. C. Clark, Christchurch
J. Cowern, Kawhia
G. Crawford, Napier
M. P. Daniell, Waerenga
E. d'C. Darby, Takapuna
J. C. Davenport, Auckland
E. Dear, Kopane
H. F. Drake, Mrs, Runanga

Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club
 B. A. Ellis, Invercargill
 M. Fitzgerald, Gisborne
 R. E. W. Fordham, Rotorua
 W. M. Gardner, Rev., Thames
 F. E. Gee, Rotorua
 K. M. P. Gillespie, Miss, Titirangi
 A. J. Goodwin, Miss, Clevedon
 A. G. Gorbey, Wellsford
 E. A. Harbour, Mrs, Waipori Falls
 A. R. Harris, Dunedin
 B. D. Heather, Wellington
 A. C. Hipwell, Auckland
 M. Hodgkins, Tauranga
 J. R. Jackson, Greymouth
 R. M. Jenkins, Mrs, Dunedin
 H. W. Johnson, Seddonville
 King's College Bird Club, Otahuhu
 N. Macdonald, Miss, Howick
 David Medway, New Plymouth
 Donald Merton, Gisborne
 H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon
 C. Moore, Mrs, Dunedin
 K. Paviour-Smith, Miss, Napier
 C. Peart, Raglan
 J. G. Penniket, Barrytown

A. C. Prentice, Mrs, St Kilda
 A. Prickett, Mrs, Auckland
 J. Prickett, Auckland
 M. R. Roberts, Rotorua
 R. M. Royds, Invercargill
 J. W. St Paul, Clevedon
 R. St Paul, Minginui
 M. L. Sansom, Miss, Mangakino
 D. J. Shaw, Clevedon
 H. L. Secker, Wellington
 R. B. Sibson, Auckland
 G. E. Sopp, Waikaremoana
 P. A. Stein, Auckland
 W. S. Sutherland, Kawhia
 C. Tattershall, Rotorua
 E. G. Turbott, Auckland
 D. A. Urquhart, Karaka
 L. W. Walker, Mrs, Dunedin
 M. A. Waller, S. Kaipara
 A. H. Watson, Mt Maunganui
 J. Watt, Dunedin
 W. A. Watters, Wellington
 K. Westerskov, Wellington
 W. A. Williamson, Wellington
 R. A. Wilson, Bulls

N.I. KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*). Mt Egmont, reported to be increasing. (D.M.) 8 heard during five nights in eastern Urewera in heavy beech country 2400-4000 ft, mid-Feb. '56. (A.B.)

LARGE GREY KIWI (*Apteryx haasti*). Fairly common at Canoe Creek and elsewhere near Barrytown, Rough River, Ikamatua, and at the bushline nearby. Sparse near Otira, well up Kelly's, Creek, Taipo River, Twelve Mile Greymouth, and Harold Creek, Hari Hari. (R.J.)

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*). Sandfly Bay, Dunedin, 5/11/55, late p.m., 1 imm. and 6 breeders ashore; 3 nests seen, 2 with 2 eggs, 1 with 1 egg. (B.D.H., R.R.M.) Aramoana, 24/3/56. 2 dead, 1 apparently shot. (D.N.F.C.)

BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). 13/11/55. Many nests on Pourewa I., East Coast and adjacent mainland. (D.M., A.B.) Taranaki coast, fairly common; 5 corpses found December-June. (D.M.)

N.Z. CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes p. pachyrhynchus*). Cape Farewell, 25/11/55, 1 ashore alive. (B.D.H.)

SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus australis*). Reported from several of the quieter lakes in Westland, e.g. Christabel, Wahapo, Ianthe, Mapourika; but not Brunner. (R.J.) Te Anau. 3/4/56. 1 with juv. (B.D.H., N.S.) Head of western arm, L. Manapouri; 24/1/56 (R.M.J.) and 18/2/56. (A.C.P., C.M.)

DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*). L. Rotoiti, made a nest and raised a brood in a boatshed. (A.C.H.) Tangoio, 1/1/55, 1. (D.H.B.) Present throughout volcanic plateau, often on very small lakes. (M.S.B.) Lake Waikareiti, Nov. '54, 2; unnamed lake to north 1 pr. with 3 young, and 3 others. (Per G.E.S.)

WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*). 20/1/56. 1 juv. off Auckland wharves during strong nor'-easter. (N.M., E.d'C.D.)

BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea melanophris*). 31/7/55. Sinclair Hd., Wellington, c. 12 offshore in adult plumage and 1 in intermediate plumage. Island Bay, 3 offshore, adult phase. (H.L.S.)

- GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea chrysostoma*). 7/7/56. 2 juv. ashore at Muriwai. (R.B.S., B.S.C.)
- GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*). Oct.-Dec. '55, odd ones scattered about Hauraki Gulf. (A.J.G.) As usual biggest numbers in Waitemata towards end of winter, 10+ seen several times in Aug. (A.P., J.P.) Muriwai. 3 ashore in early July. (E.d'C.D.)
- CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*). Muriwai. 2 ashore in early July. (R.B.S., E.d'C.D.) 14/1/56, several a few miles off East Coast. (A.B.) New Plymouth. 1 corpse 20/6/56. (D.M.)
- BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila v. vittata*). Bethells. 1 freshly ashore 3/9/56. (R.B.S.)
- LESSER BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila s. salvini*). Muriwai, 4 ashore in early July '56. (R.B.S., E.d'C.D.) New Plymouth, 1954, 1 corpse. (D.M.) Foxton Beach, 9/7/56. 1. (I.G.A.)
- ANTARCTIC PRION (*Pachyptila desolata*). Muriwai, 3 ashore in early July '56. (R.B.S., B.S.C.) 28/8/56. 1. (E.d'C.D.)
- NARROW-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila belcheri*). Muriwai, 3 ashore in early July '56. 28/8/56. 1. (R.B.S., E.d'C.D.) New Plymouth, 1954. 1 corpse. (D.M.)
- FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*). Muriwai. 11/1/56, 3. 7/2/56, 1. 13 ashore in early July '56. 28/8/56, 3. (R.B.S., E.d'C.D.) Bethells. 3/9/56. 1. (R.B.S.) 30/8/56. 1 dead on East Coast road. (D.M.) Mid-Jan. '56, 2 dead near New Plymouth. (D.M.) Foxton Beach. 9/7/56. 1. (I.G.A.) Totoranui, 27/12/55. 2. Cape Farewell, 16/5/56. 1. (M.J.B.)
- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*). Whangarei. Flocks of 20 and 50 working far up harbour, 29/10/55. (O.C., H.M.McK., H.R.McK.) Kaipara. 30/12/55, cyclonic conditions from N.E., 100+ off South Head. (J.C.D., R.B.S.) 14/1/56. Considerable numbers off coast north of Gisborne. (A.B.) Corpses. Muriwai 11/1/54, 4; 15/1/56, 11; 7/2/56, 1; Brown's Bay, 13/1/56, 1. (E.d'C.D.)
- BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*). Off Whangaroa 21/10/55, 2; 23/10/55, c. 50 off Kawau; then in hundreds throughout summer in Kawau-Cape Colville area of Hauraki Gulf. (A.J.G.) 10/1/56, Mission Bay, during a strong easterly, one was seen to pass slowly along the shore, flying low and wave-skipping almost like a Stormy Petrel, with wings held rather stiff, heading into the wind; apparently not in difficulties. (R.B.S.) Kaipara. 30/12/55. 3 off South Head. (J.C.D., R.B.S.) 14/1/56. Several off East Coast. (A.B.) Muriwai. 1 corpse, 14/10/56. (B.D.H.)
- SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*). Greymouth. 3/12/55. Many gathering at dusk off Perpendicular Pt. One in empty burrow beside main road at 12 Mile Bluff. (B.D.H., J.R.J., J.G.P.) Corpses. Muriwai 11/1/56, 8; 15/1/56, 8; 7/2/56, 3. (E.d'C.D.) Bethells 22/4/56. 4 old. Ocean Beach, H.B., 4/12/54. 7. (D.H.B., G.C.) Off Deep Cove, 22/1/56. c. 30. (R.M.J.)
- TASMANIAN MUTTONBIRD (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). Mayor I. Dec. '55. 1 washed ashore. (R.B.S.) Mt Maunganui, single birds found dead 17/12/55 and 29/6/56. (M.H., J.C.D.)
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*). Bethells 22/4/56, hundreds offshore. (R.B.S.) Wellington Harbour, flock present in July '56. (H.L.S.) Corpses. Muriwai 7/7/56, 2. (R.B.S.) Cape Farewell 16/5/56, 1. (M.J.B.)
- ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*). 3 new West Coast records all belong to the small typical form, *assimilis*. Karekare, 29/12/55. (R.B.S.) Muriwai, 15/1/56. (E.d'C.D.) 14/10/56. (B.D.H.)
- WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*). Palliser Bay, 4/12/54, 1 recently ashore. (B.D.H.)

- GREY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*). Off Waiheke I. 17/5/55, 1 picked up alive in sea, wing and leg crippled. (H.R.McK.) Bethells, 7/7/56. 1 corpse. (R.B.S.)
- WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*). Karekare, 29/12/55, 1 old corpse. Muriwai, 15/1/56, 2. (E.d'C.D.) 3 ashore in early July. (R.B.S.)
- KERGUELEN PETREL (*Pterodroma brevirostris*). Awhitu peninsula. 5/11/55, a desiccated corpse, now in the Auckland War Memorial Museum, was found. The bird had probably come ashore in Oct. (V.M.R.) This is the ninth specimen picked up on the Auckland west coast.
- PYCROFT'S PETREL (*Pterodroma longirostris pycrofti*). Mt Maunganui, 22/12/54, 1 freshly dead, sent to Auckland War Memorial Museum. (A.H.W.) 17/12/55, 1 dead, wing 210, culmen 24.3, tarsus 28.5 m.m. (M.H., J.C.D.)
- COOK'S PETREL (*Pterodroma cooki*). Whangaparaoa Pen. 28/1/56, 3 heard at 8.30 p.m. (B.S.C.)
- WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*). Colville-Kawau-Great Barrier, Oct. '55-Jan. '56, up to 50 seen every trip. (A.J.G.) South of Waiheke-Ponui Channel, 11/12/2, 2. (M.J.B.) Off Clevedon River, 18/12/55, 2. (D.J.S.) Long Bay, 1 ashore 10/9/56. (E.d'C.D.)
- DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*). Maori Rock, off Kawau I. 22/10/55. 1100+. (A.J.G.) Corpses. Muriwai 7/7/56, 2 (R.B.S., B.S.C.); Island Bay, Wellington, 22/7/56, 1 (H.L.S.); New Plymouth, 1954, 1 (D.M.); Cape Farewell, 16/5/56, 2 (M.J.B.)
- GANNET (*Sula bassana serrator*). New Plymouth, 8/4/56, 12 diving; 4/6/56, 3. (D.M.) Off Wainui Beach, Gisborne, 7/1/55, many feeding with White-fronted Terns. (M.F.) Titahi Bay, 22/4/56, dead juv., brown dorsal surface flecked with white, buff pigment on head. (H.L.S.) Pelorus Sd., 4/3/56, 1; Motueka est., 24/3/56, 1; Riwaka, 8/4/56, 8; West Haven Inlet, 15/5/56, 12; Fisherman's I. and Marahau, 1/9/56, 12. (M.J.B.) In late December and early January few Gannets appear off the coast of Westland. They are usually well out to sea. In both 1955 and 1956 Gannets were seen off Punakaiki and Greymouth. In early May 1956, 12 remained for several days off Mokihinui feeding on shoaling fish, with other sea-birds. (J.R.J.) Near Doubtful Sound, 28-29/6/56. 1. (W.A.W.)
- BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Young Nick's Head, 29/8/55, 20 nesting. 25/2/56, several dozen at Muriwai, Gisborne. (D.M.) Waikareiti, 28/1/56. 1. (R.B.S.) Taranaki, common along coast and nearby lakes. (D.M.) Hokowhitu lagoon, usually 1 or 2 present. (I.G.A.) L. McKenzie, 11/1/56. 3. (L.E.W.) L. Manapouri, 20/1/56. Several. (R.M.J.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-27/6/56. 1. (W.A.W.)
- PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius*). Muriwai lagoon, Gisborne, 3/4/56. 4. (J.W.B.) New Plymouth, occasionally seen along the coast. (D.M.) Hurunui River mouth, 8/1/56. 5, including 3 juv. (L.E.W.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-27/6/56. 1. (W.A.W.)
- LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*). Pouto pen., Northland, 22/10/55. L. Rototuna 1, L. Waitere 2. (H.R.McK., A.G.G.) Big L. Ohuia, Wairoa, H.B. 1, probably others. (G.E.S., H.R.McK.) Tamaki est., 18/5/56, 70-90, working upstream and feeding in the manner typical of this species. (D.M.)
- LITTLE SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*). McLeod's Bay, Whangarei, 29/10/55, one nearly all white with orange bill. (Mrs O. Cullen, H.M. McK., H.R.McK.) Muriwai lagoon, Gisborne, 7/1/56, 1 with 26 *carbo*. (M.F.) Taranaki. Occurs along the coast and on L. Rotokare. (D.M.) Freeman's Lake, Puponga, 25/11/55, several; Collingwood, Motupipi, Takaka, Pelorus, frequent; Wairau Bar, 8 (1 all black, 1 pied, 3 intermediate); Jed River, Gore Bay, 2 (1 pied); Ashley mouth, 2/5/56, 4 (2

- pie); L. Te Anau, 3/4/56, several (including 1 all black, 1 pied); Fortrose, 30/3/56, 27 (1 pied). (B.D.H.) L. McKenzie, Canterbury, only white-throated phase seen. (L.E.W.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-29/6/56. 2. (W.A.W.) The white-throated phase outnumbers by far the white-bellied phase in Westland. (R.J.)
- SPOTTED SHAG** (*Stictocarbo punctatus*). Waiheke-Ponui Channel, 11/12/55, 20. Not often seen here. (M.J.B., M.J.B.)
- WHITE HERON** (*Egretta alba*). Mahia, H.B., 12/11/55, 1. (G.E.S.) Queen's Garden, Nelson, 21/9/56, 1. (M.J.B.) Takaka River mouth, 23/11/55, 1 with black legs and bright flesh-pink bill. (B.D.H.) Wanganui River mouth, Westland, 10/2/56, 3. Okarito lagoon, 11/12/55, 4. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) Opihi River mouth, Temuka, 22/2/56, 1. (B.D.H.)
- BLUE HERON** (*Egretta sacra*). Three Sisters rocks, Waiheke, 17/12/55, 2 flying young being continually harried by Black-backed Gulls. (M.J.B., M.J.B.) Aotea Harbour, winter '56, 30-40. (C.R.B.) Pourewa I., East Coast, 1 seen and used nest found. (A.B., D.M.) New Plymouth, common along the coast. (D.M.) Mahia Pen., 2/1/55. (D.H.B.) Porirua, 24/1/55, 1. Motupipi mouth, Takaka, 22/11/55, 1. Heathcote-Avon est., 13/10/55, 1. (B.D.H.) Westhaven Inlet, Nelson, 15/5/56, 1. (M.J.B.)
- WHITE-FACED HERON** (*Ardea novaehollandiae*). Kaipara, July 1956, breeding in the Hoteo Valley. (J.P., H.R.McK.) Wayby, 8/9/55, H. J. McKenzie reported one on farm; and a little later two on the next farm; June-July '56, 7 often seen. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 2/7/56, 5 on farm for some days. (G. M. Orum.) Waikato River mouth, 26/5/56, 1. (R.B.S.) Aotea Harbour, June-Sept. '56, up to 5. (C.R.B.) New Plymouth, mid-May '56, 1. (K.C.B.C.) Foxton, 13/8/55, 2. (I.G.A.) 7 together in mid-May. (M.S.B.) L. Hatumu, near Waipukurau, reported present for three or four years and believed to be breeding. (K.C.B.C.) Porirua, 24/1/55, 5; Pauatahanui, 11; Onoke, 18/12/54, 1; 29/1/55, 5; Kumenga, 29/1/55, 6. (B.D.H.) Seen almost daily inside Nelson boulder bank. Well established throughout the Nelson province. (M.J.B.) Westhaven Inlet, 26/11/55, many. Pakawau-Mangarakau, Puponga, Freeman's Flat, 25/11/55, 31. Takaka River mouth, 23/11/55, c. 40. Motupipi, 22/11/55, 5. Ligar Bay, 1. Kaiteriteri, 1. Motueka, 1. Port Motueka-Tasman, 19/11/55, 15; Ruby Bay, 4; Mapua, 1; Waimea River mouth, 10; Monaco Pen., 2; Cable Bay, Nelson, 2; Canvastown, 15/11/55, 4; Havelock, 1; Picton, 12/11/55, 2; Wairau Bay, 1; L. Grassmere, 13/11/55, 1; Orowaiti estuary, Westport, 1/12/55, 1; Cape Foulwind road, 1. (B.D.H.) Canoe Creek lagoon, 1; Taramakau estuary, 10/12/55, 2; Waitaha, 3; Wanganui (Westland), 1; Okarito lagoon, 11/12/55, 4. (B.D.H., J.R.J., J.G.P.) Jed River mouth, Gore Bay, 10/11/55, 2; Waipara, 5; Okuku R., 25/10/55, 1; Ashley est., some always present. (B.D.H., W.C.C.) Heathcote-Avon est., 28/10/55, 7; Teddington, Birling's Flat and L. Forsyth, a few always present (D.E.C.); small numbers noted in all suitable localities southwards to Southland, e.g. Opihi, Washdyke, Fairfield, L. Waihola, Taieri estuary, Waikawa estuary, Haldane estuary; Awarua, 13 seen regularly; Oreti est., 33, probably full population in March. (B.D.H.) L. McKenzie, Canterbury, seen daily, max. 12, 5-12/1/56. (L.E.W.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 23/6/56. (W.A.W.)
- BITTERN** (*Botaurus stellaris poiciloptilus*). Awapuni lagoon, 20/12/55, 1. (J.W.B., M.F.) Webster's Swamp, Gisborne, 24/9/55, 3. (D.M.) L. Rotokare, New Plymouth, 25/4/56, 1. (D.M.) Foxton, 13/8/55, 3 or 4. (I.G.A.) Tangoio, 1/1/55; Ahuriri lagoon, 2 and 10/7/55. (D.H.B.) Pakawau, Golden Bay, 25/11/55, 1; Ashley River mouth, 9/10/55, 1; L. Tuakitoto, Balclutha, 14/4/56, 1; Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, 1. (B.D.H.)
- ROYAL SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucoradia regia*). Manawatu estuary, 1/10/55, 2 (I.G.A.); 10/5/56, 9; 20/5/56, 12 (R.B.S., J.W.S.); 9/7/56, 12 (I.G.A.); Whanganui (Westhaven) Inlet, 26/11/55, 3. (B.D.H.)

- CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*). Kawarua Park, New Plymouth, 8/12/55, 5 flying. (D.M.) Tasman River delta, 25-26/2/56, many hundreds. (B.D.H.)
- MUTE SWAN (*Cygnus olor*). Ashley River mouth, 9/10/55, 6; Woodend Beach lagoon, 25/10/55, 4. (B.D.H.) L. McKenzie, 10/1/56, 2. (L.E.W.)
- BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*). Houhora, Northland, 29/3/56, c. 500. (A.P., J.P.) Big L. Ohuia, Wairoa, H.B., 19/11/55, 59 adult and 33 young on lake of c. 20 acres. (G.E.S., H.R.McK.) Muriwai lagoon, Gisborne, 3/4/56, 68. (J.W.B.) 10/9/55, Patutahi swamp, Gisborne, 14 breeding. (D.M.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-29/6/56, 2. (W.A.W.)
- PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*). L. Rotorua, appearing more often. (M.S.B.) L. Repongaere, Gisborne, 5/2/56, c. 2500; 30/6/56, 40. (A.B.) Minginui, a pair at odd times. (R.StP.) Wairau lagoon, Mahia, 19/11/55, 4 (3 females); L. Whakaki, 28 (4 females); L. Ohuia, 46 in pairs and 3 odd males. (G.E.S., H.R.McK.) L. Whakaki, H.B., 3-17/5/56, best count c. 100. (R.StP.) L. Rotokare, New Plymouth, occasional; Eltham hill country, 16/6/56, 2. (D.M.) Washdyke, 25/5/56, c. 50; Tasman River delta, 25-26/2/56, many hundreds; confluence Shotover and Kawerau Rivers, 8/4/56, 66; L. George, Southland, 23/3/56, 25. (B.D.H.) Conroy River mouth, 15 (7 females). (L.E.W.) Doubtful Sound, 21/1/56, 1 pair. (R.M.J.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-29/6/56, 35-40. (W.A.W.) Common on the open river beds of Westland. In the shooting season dozens feed at the mouth of the Grey River and especially at the abattoirs. (R.J.)
- GREY TEAL (*Anas gibberifrons*). L. Rotomahana, Waimangu estuary, 20/1/56, c. 50. (R.B.S., R.N.B.) L. Rotokawa, Rotorua, 23-25/1/56, 7-9. (R.B.S.) Picnic Pt, 21/8/56, 5. (M.S.B.) 29/5/55, Ahuriri lagoon, 7; 5/6/55, 5. (D.H.B.) Portobello, 31/7/55, 11. (A.R.H.)
- BROWN TEAL (*Anas chlorotis*). Kaeo, Northland, 31/3/56, 60. (A.P., J.P.) Golden Bay, Stewart I., 20/5/56, 2 at dusk. (J.W.)
- SHOVELER (*Anas rhynchos*). L. Repongaere, 30/6/56, c. 90. (A.B.) Hokowhitu lagoon, 22/9/55, 1 pair. (I.G.A.) Volcanic plateau, small numbers noted at L. Okareka, 7 on 8/3/56; Hamurana, c. 10 on 2/3/56; Waimangu, c. 14 on 29/5/56. (M.S.B., F.E.G., W.J.B.) Virginia Water, Wanganui, 10/5/56, 7. (R.B.S.) L. Grassmere, 13/11/55, few; Waipara estuary, 9/11/55, 1 pair; Waipara swamp, several dozen and some with young; Woodend Beach lagoon, 25/10/55, 12; Cooper's lagoon, Taumutu, 30/10/55, 1 pair. (B.D.H.)
- BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchos*). Upper Whirinaki R., 25/3/56, 2, (R.StP.) Aniwanuiwa, Waikaremoana, '55-'56, increased from 2 to 5. (G.E.S.) Junction of Flora and Takaka Rivers, 9/5/54, 1. (M.J.B.) Mica Burn, 19/2/56, 2. (A.C.P., C.M.)
- N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*). L. Rotorua, a summering flock of 17-35 birds was present Nov. '55 - March '56 in Sulphur Bay; L. Rotoiti, 28/7/56, c. 106 at Twin Stream Bay; Hamurana, 28/7/56, c. 150; L. Rotorua, Sulphur Bay, 28/7/56, c. 360 - the biggest flock seen in ten years' watching at this place; L. Okareka, 24/6/56, wintering flock, c. 156; L. Rotoma, 16/8/56, c. 300; 1/9/56, c. 210; 21/9/56, c. 85. (M.S.B., W.J.B., F.E.G., H.R.McK.) Waimangu, L. Rotomahana, 20/1/56, 130+ in two flocks. (R.N.B., R.B.S.) Waikaremoana, 20/11/55, 10 (G.E.S.); 6 on 26/1/56. Waikareiti, 28/1/56, 2 pairs and 26 in a flock. (R.B.S.) L. Tutira, 13/11/54, few. (D.H.B.) Woodend Beach lagoon, 25/10/55, 5; Te Anau, 2/4/56, Eglinton mouth, 12; Te Anau Downs, 170; Te Anau town, 30. (B.D.H.) L. McKenzie, Canterbury, max. seen 9 ad. and 7 young, Jan. '56. (L.E.W.) Manapouri, 20/1/56, 1 with 4 young. (R.M.J.)
- HARRIER (*Circus approximans*). Clevedon, 18/12/55, one carrying eel; 21/1/56, 1 carrying rat. (M.J.B., M.J.B.) Volcanic highlands, much display of aerial acrobatics during last week of August and first half of September.

- (M.R.R., M.S.B.) Ngatapu, Gisborne, 9/1/56, nest with 3 fledged young; skeleton of Weka and torn-up skins of hedgehogs nearby. (M.F.) Taranaki, common. (D.M.)
- N.Z. FALCON** (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). Rotorua, not infrequent visitor to town; one reported to have killed a bantam; one seen chasing sparrows. (M.S.B.) Horehore track, East Coast, 29/1/56, 2 pairs together. (A.B.) Mangapapa, Gisborne, 16/4/56, 1. Minginui, '55-'56, usually 1 or 2 about. (R.St.P.) Waikaremoana, 15/11/55, one came down closely in bush to imitation of its chatter with cork on bottle. (H.R.McK.) L. Rotokare, New Plymouth, May '55, 1 chasing Fantails; Rugby Park, 4/6/55, 1 chasing Yellowhammers. (D.M.) Not uncommon in the beech forest of Westland, as at Paringa, or along the coast road to Westport. They sometimes fly well out to sea for no obvious reason. 18/5/56, 1 flew in from half a mile out to sea at Mokohinui estuary. (R.J.) Waiau River, Te Anau, 1/4/56, 1. (B.D.H.) O.T.C. hut, Silver Peaks. (B.W.C.)
- BROWN QUAIL** (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*). Rotorua, a few noted. Mihi Hot Springs, Waikato, 9/9/56, 12. (F.E.G., M.S.B.)
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL** (*Lophortyx californica*). Poutu Pen., 23/10/55, the biggest flock seen contained 35 birds. (J.P., A.P.) Clevedon, 1955, 3 nests of 16, 16 and 12 eggs deserted owing to weed cutting. (H.R.McK.) Minginui, 1955-56, first tiny chicks on 2 Jan.; broods of 12, 12, 13, 8, 4, seen in Jan. In May flocks of 30-150; up to 500 in one day; fewer later. (R.St.P.) New Plymouth, decreasing. (D.M.) Fagan's Creek, Barrytown, a few remain. (J.G.P.) Burke's, Dunedin, 11/11/35, 3—the only record. (W.A.W.)
- BANDED RAIL** (*Rallus philippensis*). Remuera, Shore Road, 28/11/54. (B.S.C.)
- N.I. WEKA** (*Gallirallus australis greyi*). Gisborne, abundant in parts and showing signs of increasing their restricted range. (A.B.) 18/1/56, 1 seen wading in water up to breast; 24/1/56, 1 attacked by Mynas, but not perturbed. (M.F.)
- WESTERN WEKA** (*Gallirallus australis australis*). Golden Bay, November 1955, common in pakiti and scrub. (B.D.H.) Common in the beech forest from the Grey north to Golden Bay, especially about Reefton. Reported from Arahura, Whataroa and Okarito, but scarce there. Plentiful up Kurangarua Valley in 1952, especially on Welcome Flat and Carsell's Flat. In Jan. '55 they had become scarce, but were still at Douglas Hut, Copland River. (J.R.J.) Helena Falls, Wilmot Pass, Doubtful Sound, several. (R.M.J., A.C.P., C.M.)
- PUKEKO** (*Porphyrio melanotus*). Volcanic plateau, every sizeable area of swamp has its quota (M.S.B.); on the golf links at Sulphur Pt, L. Rotorua, 25-35 feeding is a common sight (M.S.B.). Napier, Ahuriri lagoon, not common, but reliably reported to breed. (D.H.B.)
- MARSH CRAKE** (*Porzana pusilla affinis*). Matawhero railway station, Gisborne, 1 killed by dog, second victim. (D.M.)
- SPOTLESS CRAKE** (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*). Ardmore, 2/8/56, 1 brought by cat to Mrs C. E. A. Stokes. It was well enough to be released. (H.R.McK.)
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*). S. Kaipara Heads, 11/12/55, c. 40 summering. (R.B.S.) Tangaihi, 23/10/55, 44+ on old wharf. (J.P. et al.) 11/3/56, 23. (J.C.D., B.S.C.) Ruakaka, 31/3/56, 4. (A.P., J.P.) Batley, Kaipara, 10/9/55, 45. (H.R.McK.) Mataitai, Clevedon, 20/8/55, 9; the biggest count here. (A.J.G.) Thames, old wharf, 25/7/56, 111; 4/8/56, 119; 8/8/56, 50. (W.M.G.) Aotea Harbour, c. 40. (C.R.B.) Kawhia Harbour, census July '56, 270. (W.S.S., J.C.) Manawatu estuary, 23/1/55, 8. (B.D.H.) 20/5/56, 6. (R.B.S.) Motueka estuary, 24-25/3/56, 200+; Marahau estuary, 2/9/56,

400+; Nelson Haven, 7/10/56, 300+. (M.J.B.) Golden Bay, 22-28/11/55, Collingwood, several hundred; Puponga, 26; Nelson, 30. Wairau Bar lagoon, 12/11/55, 10; L. Grassmere, 13/11/55, 2; Conway River, 10/11/55, several pairs; Waipara estuary, 18/10/55, 500+; 9/11/55, 40. Okuku R., 25/10/55, breeding. Ashley River mouth, 9/10/55, 19; 22/10/55, 5; 14/12/55, 278; 19/2/56, 500+; 2/5/56, c. 3000. Waimakariri, 3/5/56, 200. (B.D.H.) Heathcote-Avon estuary, 13/10/55-28/10/55, 550. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Teddington, 11/10/55, 23. Orowaiti, Westport, 1/12/55, 40. (B.D.H.) Much less common in Westland than the Black Oystercatcher; Mikonui, 24/1/56, 2; Okarito, 10/12/55, 17; Fox River mouth, 21/1/56, 1. (J.R.J.) Dunedin Harbour mole, 6/11/55, c. 100. (B.D.H.) Upper Otago Harbour, 24/2/56, 24, stayed for some months. (W.A.W.) Taieri mouth, 14/4/56, 104. L. Tuakitoto, Balclutha, 14/4/56, 3. Waikawa, 30/3/56, 320. Haldane est.; 30/3/56, 1. Fortrose, 30/3/56, 100+. Riverton, 23/3/56, 300+. (B.D.H.) Doubtful Sound, 19/2/56. (A.C.P., C.M.)

NORTHERN (VARIABLE) OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor reischeki*). Ruakaka, 31/3/56, 16 smudgy and 19 black. (A.P., J.P.) Tangaihi, 23/10/55, 3. (J.P. et al.) 11/3/56, 40. (J.C.D., B.S.C.) South Kaipara Heads, 11/12/56, 2. Waikato est., 26/5/56, 2. Manawatu est., 20/5/56, 5 smudgy and 6 black. Waimeha, Waikanae, 14/5/56, 1 smudgy and 3 black. (R.B.S.) Ohau, 23/1/55, 2. (B.D.H.) Himatangi, 11/2/56, 1 apparently juv. smudgy was following two black. (I.G.A.)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor*). Muriwai lagoon, Gisborne, 9/10/55, 2. Pourewa I., 7/11/55, nest in driftwood; pair seen with full-grown young on 13/1/56. (A.B., D.M.) Gisborne, 30/12/55, 4. (J.W.B., M.F.) Ocean Beach, 4/12/54, nest destroyed by high tide; Mahia Pen., 1-2/1/55, 1 on reef. (D.H.B.) Cape Farewell, 28/11/55, 8. Nelson Harbour, 20/11/55, 2. (B.D.H.) Morueka and Marahau estuaries, some. (M.J.B.) There are pairs at the mouths of most rivers from Karamea to Big Bay. The lagoons may have several pairs. They breed on the Ahaura River bed at Kopara. (J.R.J.) Okarito, 11/12/55, 7. (B.D.H.) Ashley est., 2/5/56, 2. Taieri mouth, 14/4/56, 27. Akatere mouth, 15. Waikawa, 30/3/56, 7. Haldane est., 30/3/56, 4. Waituna lagoon, 31/3/56, 2. Riverton, 23/3/56, 2. Colac Bay, 23/3/56, 7. Lake George, 23/3/56, 1. (B.D.H.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21-29/6/56, 4. (W.A.W.) Stewart I., 2/1/56. The territory threat display that I described in *Notornis*, 6, p. 175, was seen for a second time. But on this occasion the display took place on a boulder-and stone-strewn beach, and because of this the movements were rather less synchronised, though otherwise identical with those described before. (J.W.)

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*). Near Fortrose, 30/3/56, 4 in ploughed paddock. Near Waituna lagoon, 31/3/56, 4. Oreti est., Awarua, March '56, 5 regularly. L. George, 23/3/56, 9. (B.D.H.) L. Manapouri, 17/1/56, 5. (M.J.B.)

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus fulvus*). Awapuni lagoon, Gisborne, 9/10/55, 9. (A.B., D.M.) Muriwai lagoon, 30/12/55, 8. (J.W.B., M.F.) Ngamotu lagoon, Wairoa, H.B., 19/11/55, 18. (G.E.S., H.R.McK.) Ahuriri lagoon, 31/3/55, 3+; 19/2/55, c. 9; 27/2/55, c. 11; 6/3/55, 12+. (D.H.B.) Freeman's Flat, Puponga, 25/11/55, 1. Wairau Bar, 12/11/55, 2. (B.D.H.) Okarito, 11/12/55, 4. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) Greenpark, Ellesmere, 16/10/55, 3. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Near Fortrose, 30/3/56, 16 in ploughed paddock (6 in breeding dress). Waituna lagoon; 31/3/56, 10 (3 in breeding dress). Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, 1. (B.D.H.)

RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius alexandrinus ruficapillus*). Waipara mouth, 18/10/55, 1 female. 9/11/55, not seen there; but 1 female at Ashley River mouth on 9-22/10/55 and 14/12/55; very excited and aggressive in October, though apparently unmated. None on 19/2/56 and 2/5/56. (W.C.C., B.D.H.)

- BANDED DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius bicinctus*). Tamaki est., 10-19/5/56, 60-90 daily. (D.M.) Waikato est., 26/5/56, 17. Manawatu est., 20/5/56, c. 50. (R.B.S.) Ohau, 23/1/55, 70. (B.D.H.) Otaki, 1/1/56, 25. (H.L.S.) Waikanae, mid-May, 3. (R.B.S.) Gisborne, 20/12/55, Awapuni lagoon, 1 pair with fully-fledged young. (M.F.) Muriwai lagoon, 31/12/55, 12; 7/1/56, 20; 3/4/56, 15. (J.W.B., M.F.) L. Whakaki, H.B., May '56, max. 120. (R.StP.) Ahuriri lagoon, 19/2/55, c. 8. June-July, max. 4. (D.H.B., G.C.) Onoke, 29/1/55, 39. (B.D.H.) Hutt River est., 16/4/56, 13; 6/5/56, 12. Pauatahanui, 26 on 20/5/56. A flock of c. 20 has been seen in this locality during the winter months of the last four years. (P.C.B.) Wairau Bar, 12/11/55, abundant. Scarce in N.W. of S.I. 12-27/11/55: 2 at Puponga; Orowaiti est., Westport, several, including flying young. (B.D.H.) Nelson, Nov. '55, 3. (M.J.B.) Breeds at most Westland estuaries from Canoe Creek to Okarito. April-August, feeds in paddocks: sometimes 200 on Recreation Ground, Greymouth. (J.R.J.) Conway River bed, 10/11/55, numerous; Waipara, 9/1/55, many flying young; Ashley, 9/10/55, numerous; 14/12/55, very numerous; 19/2/56, almost all without bands; 2/5/56, 70. (W.C.C., B.D.H.) Oct. '55, recorded at: Okuku R.; Greenpark; Timber Yard Pt and Taumutu, Ellesmere; Cooper's lagoon; Birdling's Flat; Raikaia. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Washdyke, 4/11/55, 22/2/56, 1/3/56, numerous; 25/5/56, some dozens. L. Tuakitoto, Balclutha, 14/4/56, 2. Fortrose and Haldane est., 30/3/56, several; Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, numerous; Waituna lagoon, 31/3/56, 2; Oreti est., Awarua, March '56, max. 30. (B.D.H.) Conroy est., 11/1/56, 10. (L.E.W.)
- RED-BREASTED (N.Z.) DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius obscurus*). Owhiti Bay, Waiheke I., 2. (A.J.G.) S. Kaipara Heads, 11/12/55, 1 pair; Waikato est., 26/5/56, 1. (R.B.S.) Tauranga, 6/7/56, 4, the first record for Otumotai tidal flats; since then 2 or 3 frequently seen; 2 on 1/10/56. (M.H.) 6-31/3/56, Oreti est., Awarua, 4 the most together; Oreti Beach, 22/3/56, 5. (B.D.H., R.M.R.)
- WRYBILL** (*Anarhynchus frontalis*). Tamaki est., 19/5/56, 10. (D.M.) Manawatu est., 20/5/56, 1. (R.B.S.) Onoke, 29/1/55, 1. Waipara mouth, 18/10/55, 3+; 9/11/55, 2. (B.D.H.) Ashley mouth, 9/10/55, 45; 22/10/55, 33; 14/12/55 and 19/2/56, none; 2/5/56, 1. (W.C.C., B.D.H.) Waimakariri est., 9/10/55, 28; Selwyn est., 15/10/55, 5; Taumutu, 41. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Washdyke, 4/11/55, 4. (B.D.H.)
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW** (*Numenius madagascariensis*). Pauatahanui Inlet, 23/10/55, 1 with a Godwit and 2 Stilts. (P.C.B.) Okarito, 11/12/55, 2. (B.D.H., J.R.J.)
- ASIATIC WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus variegatus*). Ashley River mouth, 14/12/55, 2. (W.C.C., B.D.H.)
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica baueri*). S. Kaipara Heads, 11/12/55, c. 4000. (R.B.S.) Tauranga, 30/9/55, 300-400, first big flock seen for some months; 4/10/55, c. 500 at Sulphur Pt; summer flock numbered c. 600; c. 400 on 14/3/56; none seen during winter months till 3/9/56, when c. 30 were back. (M.H.) Gisborne, Awapuni lagoon, Oct-Dec. '55, c. 40; Muriwai lagoon, 7/1/56, 15; 25/2/56, 4. (J.W.B., M.F., D.M.) Wairoa est. lagoons, 1/1/55, c. 110; Mahia Pen., c. 6; Ahuriri lagoon, 27/2/55, 12. (D.H.B.) 15/10/55, c. 150. (G.C.) 19/10/55, c. 400 in several flocks. (W.A.W.) Raglan, summer '55-56, 30; winter '56, none. (C.P.) Aotea, 2/9/56, 150-200. (C.R.B.) Kawhia, census July '56, 50-60. (W.S.S., J.C.) Rangitikei est., 23/1/55, c. 100; Manawatu est., 23/1/55, c. 200. (B.D.H.) 1/10/55, c. 70. (I.G.A.) 20/5/56, 8. (R.B.S.) Pauatahanui, 23/10/55, 1. (P.C.B.) Onoke, 29/1/55, 6. (B.D.H.) Nelson Haven, 20/3/56, 800+, have been in locality most of summer; Riwaka, 24/3/56, 20; Puponga, 13/5/56, several groups of 15-20 birds. (M.J.B.) Whanganui (Westhaven) Inlet, 26/11/55, c. 450; Golden Bay, Nov. '55, 'inestimable'; Takaka mouth, 23/11/55, c. 200; Nelson, 20/11/55, 100+; Wairau Bar lagoon, 12/11/55, 200+; L. Grasmere, 13/11/55, 13.

- Orowaiti est., 1/12/55, 2. (B.D.H.) Wanganui est., Westland, 10/12/55, 12; Okarito lagoon, 11/12/55, 100+. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) 15/2/56, 8 at Greymouth abattoirs; said to occur in Sept. and Oct. sometimes in some numbers at Taramakau est. (J.R.J.) Ashley mouth, 9/10/55, 93; 22/10/55, 81; 14/12/55, 44; 19/2/56, 50; 2/5/56, 11. (W.C.C., B.D.H.) Waimakariri, 3/5/56, 12; Heathcote-Avon est., 13-28/10/55, 800+; Taumutu, 30/10/55, 5. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Washdyke, 4/11/55, 4. Dunedin Harbour, 6/11/55, c. 650; Waikawa, 30/3/56, 30; Fortrose, 20; Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, 82; Riverton, 23/3/56, 9; Oreti est., Awarua, March '56, max. 500; Oreti Beach, large numbers visit it. (B.D.H.)
- TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). S. Kaipara Heads, 11/12/55, 12. (R.B.S.) Kaikoura, 6/5/56, 12+. (B.D.B.) Ashley, 19/2/56, 1. (W.C.C., B.D.H.) Taumutu, Ellesmere, 15/10/55, 20 (2 in breeding dress); 30/10/55, 2. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Fortrose, 30/3/56, 26; Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, 16; Oreti est., Awarua, 6-31/3/56, always in big numbers, 200+ the biggest flock seen; Riverton, 23/3/56, 10. (B.D.H., B.A.E., R.M.R.)
- KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). S. Kaipara Heads, 11/12/55, 1000+. (R.B.S.) Golden Bay, Nov. '55, many hundreds; L. Grasmere, 13/11/55, 3; Taumutu, 15/10/55, 50; Oreti est., Awarua, March '56, several hundreds. (B.D.H.) Okarito, 11/12/55, 1. (B.D.H., J.R.J.)
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*). Ahuriri lagoon, 6/3/55, 4 (?). (D.H.B.) L. Hawkins, Invercargill, 13-25/3/56, up to 10 during high tides in Oreti est. (B.D.H.)
- AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*). L. Grasmere, 13/11/55, 3; Waipara River mouth, 18/10/55, 1. (B.D.H.)
- PIED STILT (*Himantopus l. leucocephalus*). Raglan Harbour, May '56, 200. (C.P.) Kawhia, census July '56, 200. (W.S.S., J.C.) Waerenga, spread over country here by mid-June, three weeks earlier than usual. (M.P.D.) Galatea, B.O.P., Nov. '55, reports of c. 200 on old lagoon, many nesting. (R.StP.) Gisborne, best count at Awapuni lagoon, c. 150 on 20/12/55; Sponge Bay, 18/12/55, 15. (M.F.) Several nests near abattoirs. (D.M.) L. Whakaki, H.B., 3-17/5/56, best count 400. (R.StP.) New Plymouth, Paritutu Beach, 3/12/55, 2. (D.M.) Palmerston North, Dec. '55-March '56, up to 24. (I.G.A.) Head of L. Wairarapa, 29/1/55, 400+; Onoke, 29/1/55, 18. (B.D.H.) Hutt R. est., 16/4/56, 4; 6/5/56, 3. Pauatahanui, 23/10/55, 2. (P.C.B.) Porirua, 12/8/56, 1. (H.L.S.) Totaranui lagoon, 27/12/55, 8. (M.J.B.) 12-28/11/55, none seen Wairau Bar - Westport, save 6 at Motupipi, Takaka, on 22/11/55. (B.D.H.) Kakepotahi, 10/12/55, 9 on Waitaha River bed; otherwise none seen Westport to Okarito lagoon, where there were 2 on 11/12/55. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) Reported in the Poerua swamp. Winter population (1950-1956) c. 12 at Greymouth. (J.R.J.) Wairau Bar lagoon, 12/11/55, 40+; L. Grasmere, 13/11/55, 106. Conway R., 10/11/55, 3 pairs on riverbed. Jed River mouth, Gore Bay, 10/11/55, 1. Waipara mouth, 9/11/55, 4; Ashley and Waimakariri 23; 19/2/56, 24; 2/5/56, 55. (W.C.C., B.D.H.) Waimakariri mouth, mouths, 9/10/55, none. (B.D.H.) Ashley mouth, 22/10/55, 40; 14/12/55, 3/5/56, 16. Okuku R., 25/10/55, 3. (B.D.H.) Heathcote-Avon estuary, 28/10/55, 10. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Selwyn mouth, 15/10/55, 9; Birdling's Flat, 29/10/55, 5; L. Forsyth, 29/10/55, 40; Cooper's lagoon, Taumutu, 30/10/55, 7; Washdyke lagoon, 4/11/55, 28; 1/3/56, 90; Saltwater Creek, Timaru, 4/11/55, 33; 22/2/56, 8; Waitaki est., 30/6/56, 4; L. Waihola, 14/4/56, 36; Taieri, 14/4/56, 5; L. Tuakitoto, Balclutha, 14/4/56, 140; Fortrose, 30/3/56, several; Haldane est., 30/3/56, 2; Waituna lagoon, 31/3/56, 18; Awarua Bay, 8/3/56, 14; Oreti est., Awarua, March '56, 90 max.; L. George, 23/3/56, 13. (B.D.H.)
- BLACK STILT (*Himantopus novaezealandiae*). Kawhia Harbour, May '54, 6; 25/5/55, census 2; 22/7/55, census 10; July '56, census 9. (W.S.S., J.C.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*). Gisborne, Muriwai lagoon, 100+ nests in sandhills. (M.F., J.W.B.)

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novae-hollandiae scopulinus*). Three Sisters, Waiheke I, 6/11/55, 1 nest; 13/11/55, several nests; 17/12/56, all gone. (M.J.B., M.J.B.) Mt Maunganui, 21/1/56, 2 seen eating ripe coprosma berries. (A.H.W.) Nesting colonies on seaward side of Motuaroi I, near Tolaga Bay, and at Moutara Pt. (A.B.) New Plymouth, Sugarloaves: Pararaki, 9/1/55, c. 200 pairs; Moto-o-tamatea, eastern face, 9/1/55, 15 nests; 10/1/56, 9 nests; western face, 13/1/56, 42 nests. (D.M.) Waipara mouth, 9/11/55, several; Birdling's Flat, 29/10/55, 40. (B.D.H.) Nelson Boulder Bank, Nov. '55, c. 150 birds nesting. (M.J.B.) Rare in Westland; 6 nests at Okarito. (J.R.J.) Blanket Bay, Fiordland, 22/1/56, 1 nest with 2 eggs; many chicks at all stages. (R.M.J.)

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*). Thames town, winter '56, up to 6. (W.M.G.) Clevedon, 20/8/55, 1 imm. (A.J.G.) Manawatu est., May '56, several. (R.B.S.) Head of L. Wairarapa, 29/1/55, 51; Onoke, 18/12/54, 1. (B.D.H.) Okarito lagoon, 160 nests. (J.R.J.) Waipara mouth, 18/10/55, few; 9/11/55, 50; Ashley mouth, 9/10/55, c. 100; 22/10/55, few; 19/2/56, 200+; 2/5/56, c. 400. Selwyn mouth, 15/10/55, plentiful; Birdling's Flat, 14/10/55, few; 29/10/55, 60; L. Forsythe, 29/10/55, 25; Washdyke lagoon, 4/11/55, 30; 22/2/56, numerous; Saltwater Creek, Timaru, 22/2/56, 200; Tekapo, 25/2/56, 12; Balmoral army camp, Tekapo, 200; Alexandra, 18/4/56, several on Clutha; L. Tuakitoto, Balclutha, 14/4/56, 30; Fortrose, 30/3/56, 60 in paddock. (B.D.H.)

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida albostratus*). Waikanae, 19/5/56, 34. (R.B.S.) Porirua, 12/8/56, 1. (H.L.S.) Westport-Okarito, 1-11/12/55, none seen on rivers or at river mouths. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) Fabian's Valley, Marlborough, 15/11/55, 3 over paddock; Waiiau R., 12/12/55; Lewis Pass-Hammer, seen; Conway R., 10/11/55, colony near breeding *L. bulleri*, 1 nest 2 eggs, 9 young in water together; Okuku R., 25/10/55, up to 6 hawking at once, one aggressive to *H. o. finschi*. Waipara mouth, 18/10/55, several; Ashley mouth, 9 and 22/1/55, none; 2/5/56, 50; Waimakariri mouth, 3/5/56, 60; Taieri, 14/4/56, 4; Dacre, 5/4/56, 5; Southland 6-31/3/56, frequent inland over paddocks, particularly near big rivers, e.g. Mataura, Winton, Thornbury; less common in coastal areas, e.g. Fortrose, Awarua Bay, L. Hawkins, Riverton. (B.D.H.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Gisborne, Muriwai lagoon, 7/1/56. (M.F., J.W.B.) Ahuriri lagoon, 31/1/54, 14; 16/7/55, 3. (D.H.B.) Manawatu est., 1/10/55, 13. (I.G.A.) River mouths of Wellington west coast, Jan. '55, a few at each; Porirua, 7; Pauatahanui, 24/1/55, 11. Onoke, 29/1/55, 1. (B.D.H.) Nelson, 9/2/56, 2; Pelorus Sound, 4/3/56, 2; Riwaka, 25/3/56, 2. (M.J.B.) Whanganui (Westhaven) Inlet, 26/11/55, 10. Ligar Bay, 22/11/55, 1; Nelson Boulder Bank, 20/11/55, 1 pair with 2 chicks in Red-billed Gull colony; Wairau Bar, 12/11/55, 5 without nests in colony of White-fronted Terns and Red-billed Gulls. (B.D.H.) Most of the larger Westland estuaries have odd breeding pairs. Okarito, 11/12/55, 1 pair with 2 chicks in colony of White-fronted Terns. (B.D.H., J.R.J.) Ashley mouth, 9/10/55, 4; 2/5/56, 4; L. Forsythe, 29/10/55, 1. Taumutu, 30/10/55, 4. (D.E.C., B.D.H.) Waitaki mouth, 30/6/56, 2. (B.D.H.) Karitane, 9/10/55, 3. (L.E.W.)

TERN (species?). Gisborne, Muriwai lagoon, 7/1/56 and 20/1/56, 2 believed to be Fairy Terns (*S. nereis*). (M.F., J.W.B.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*). Three Sisters, Waiheke I., 13/11/55, c. 40 nests with eggs; 4/12/55, 34 eggs, 12 chicks; 17/12/55, all gone. (M.J.B., M.J.B.) Thames town, winter '56, up to 300. (W.M.G.) Waikato est., 26/5/56, 200+. (R.B.S.) New Plymouth, Jan. '56, substantial colonies on Moto-o-tamatea and Pararaki. (D.M.) Himatangi Beach, 11/2/56, c. 100. (I.G.A.) Waikanae, 22/1/55, c. 1100. (B.D.H.)

- 11/5/56, 100+. (R.B.S.) Ligar Bar, Takaka, 22/11/55, some close inshore, otherwise not seen in Golden Bay. (B.D.H.) Nelson Boulder Bank, Nov. '55, 50 nesting, chicks numerous; Pelorus Sound, 4/3/56, 9. (M.J.B.) Waipara mouth, 18/10/55, c. 150, noisy, carrying fish; 9/11/55, c. 80, in full display, no nests. (B.D.H.) Ashley mouth, 9/10/55, 2; 19/2/56, 50; 2/5/56, 260. (B.D.H., W.C.C.) Waimakariri mouth, 3/5/56, 80. Diamond Harbour, 17/10/55, none at usual breeding site. Birdling's Flat, 14 and 29/10/55, 200, not displaying. Selwyn mouth, 15/10/55, in small aggressive groups. Taumutu, 15/10/55 and 30/10/55, c. 200, much display. Dunedin Harbour mole, 6/11/55, c. 200, much display. Porpoise Bay, Waikawa, 30/3/56, several. (B.D.H.) Upper Otago Harbour, 25/2/56, 3 (only record) on sand flats. (W.A.W.)
- N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Auckland, 1 present in Seaview Rd from April to Sept. '56; associating closely with some Homing Pigeons; consumed guavas while available; later its staple food was puriri berries. (B.S.C., S.C.) Clevedon, 24/7/56, unusual sight of 24 flying over bush reserve. (H.R.McK.) Waerenga, '56, increasing in odd patches of bush in settled country. (M.P.D.) Rotorua district, a few on Ngongotaha Mt, generally scarce. (M.S.B.) Minginui, '55-'56, up to 18 daily, often scarce; food - Sept.-Dec., houhere leaves, also May-July; Nov. and July, kohia (passion vine) leaves; Jan., fuchsia and coprosma fruit; February, fuchsia and green miro; March-April, miro; 14/3/56, one on hawthorn fruit. (R.St.P.) Waikaremoana, '55-'56, more plentiful than at any time since 1936; even present in spring; numerous till autumn; left at end of June; seen to feed on a gall or fungus on *Nothofagus menziesii*. (G.E.S.) 4/1/56, 14 in one flock. (A.B.) Pehiri valley, Gisborne, increasing. (A.B.) New Plymouth, marked increase over recent years. (D.M.) Westland, scarce in the pure beech forest, well distributed elsewhere; Karamea, 30+ reported together; big flock feeding in neinei on the Balfour Range. (J.R.J.) O.T.C. hut, Silver Peaks, 20/11/55, 1 or 2 in beech. (B.W.C.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 21/1/56, 13 together in flight. (R.M.J.) 21-29/6/56, a few seen. (W.A.W.) School Creek, Dunedin, 10/5/56, 6-8. (D.N.F.C.)
- KAKAPO (*Strigops habroptilus*). Manapouri-Doubtful Sound track, fresh tracks reported recently by R. Pauli in high level forest between First Arm and Crooked Arm, Doubtful Sound. (W.A.W.)
- N.I. KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*). Port Fitzroy, Great Barrier, 21/1/56, seen and heard. (A.J.G.) Ponui I., '55, P. Chamberlin reports that they are sometimes heard flying over at dusk. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 15/5/56, L. P. Sladdin reported one in his garden; it bit through stalks of tree tomatoes, dropped the fruit to the ground and went down to eat it. (H.R.McK.) L. Pupuke, Takapuna, 1 present all winter. (A.C.H., R.B.S.) Auckland, Cornwall Park, 2 in Sept. (J.C.D.) Awhitu, 2/8/56, 1 stayed four days. (V.M.R.) Rotorua, 14/11/54, 1 in oak near Sulphur Pt. (A.C.H.) Waimangu, 31/3/56 - 20/5/56, 4 feeding on apples at the tea-rooms. (W.J.B., M.S.B.) Taupo, 4 in gardens, most of the winter. (A.A.) Minginui, '55-'56, Aug.-April, up to 10; May-July, odd ones; noisy on damp days. (R.St.P.) Waikaremoana, '55-'56, increasing. (G.E.S.) Seen daily and heard frequently. (A.B.) Nuhaka, one reported in school grounds for a fortnight. (A.B.) Roundaway Station, near Purerere Beach, H.B., May '55, one present for some time reported by Mr Robin Bell. (D.H.B.)
- S.I. KAKA (*Nestor m. meridionalis*). Totaranui-Wainui Saddle, 1/1/56, 23 flying by groups from beech to rata forests, noisy. (M.J.B.) Westland, widely distributed. (J.R.J.) Takitimu Mts, Elmwood Ck, 3/12/55, 1 in beech at 2000 ft. (B.W.C.) Head of Wilmot Pass, Doubtful Sound, Deep Cove, odd ones seen and heard Jan. '56. (M.J.B., R.M.J., A.C.P., C.M.)
- KEA (*Nestor notabilis*). Occasionally visits Greymouth and Blackball; uncommon in the Paparoas. (J.R.J.) Wilmot Pass and Deep Cove, Jan. '56, a few. (W.A.W.)

RED-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*). Waikaremoana, '53, 2 feeding on coprosma berries; red crowns clearly seen at 7 feet. Only the plentiful Yellow-crowned seen here before. (G.E.S.) Seddonville, reported occasionally from Charming and Chasm Creeks. (J.R.J.)

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*). Minginui, '55-'56, up to 6; but fewer in winter. (R.StP.) Waikaremoana, prefers feeding on younger beech trees on edge of forest; often flocks of up to 20; increasing. (G.E.S.) Comparatively common around Reefton and on the floor of the Grey Valley on the poorest land in silver pine-mountain beech forest. (J.R.J.)

PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus* species?). Mamaku, 25/6/56, 1 answered lure call. (H.R.McK.) Spey R., 21/1/56, heard in the top of beech. (M.J.B.)

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*). First seen or heard: Ponui I., 25/9/55 (P. Chamberlin); Clevedon, 6/10/55 (A.J.G.), 7/10/55 (M.J.B., Miss Waters), 8/10/55 (A. R. Browne); Hunua, 6/9/55 (D. Warren); Moumoukai, 29/9/55 (J.W.StP.); Minginui, 26/9/55 (R.StP.); Aotea, 9/10/55 (C.R.B.); New Plymouth, 13/8/55 (D.M.); Henley, 18/9/55 (L.E.W.). Last song: Moumoukai, 8/1/56; Minginui, end of January (R.StP.); Waikaremoana, 31/1/56 (R.B.S.); North Egmont Hostel, 22/1/56 (D.M.). Rotorua, apparently prefers exotic to native forest. (M.S.B.) Minginui, 2 seen on 28/3/56 feeding on small caterpillars on kohia. (R.StP.) Vauxhall, Dunedin, 18/3/56, 1 juv. in kowhai. (L.E.W.) Casual records: Ngaruroro River bed, 21/11/54. (D.H.B., G.C.) Takaka, 23/11/55; Murchison, 29/11/55; Gore Bay, Cheviot, 10/11/55. (B.D.H.) Pukeiti Rhododendron Trust, 22/12/55, 5. (D.M.)

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*). Mt Hobson, Remuera, 19/2/56, 1. (A.C.H.) Clevedon, 19/12/55, 2110 hrs., 3 calls pass from N.E. to S.W. (H.R.McK., H.M.McK.) Minginui, first call 23/10/55; calls ceased 28/1/56; last seen 6/2/56; but on upper Whirinaki, 2 on 3/3/56. (R.StP.) Kaingaroa, 21/11/55, 1 five miles inside pine forest. (H.R.McK.) Gisborne, Kaiti, 19/10/55, 1. (J.W.B.) Pukeiti, 22/12/55, 2. (D.M.) Spey River, 18/1/56, 1 sitting in a tree near 4 Yellowheads. (M.J.B.) Doubtful Sound, 19/2/56. (A.C.P., C.M.)

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 26/6/56. (W.A.W.)

LAUGHING OWL (*Sceloglaux albifacies*). c. 1939 one believed seen 200 ft below summit of Mt Maud, Aniseed Valley, Nelson, among the limestone bluffs. (J.R.J.)

LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*). Lawrence, 19/4/56. (B.D.H.)

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta vagans*). Clevedon, April '56, 1 pecking at crickets in cracks in ground; 6/7/56, 1 carrying food hotly pursued by another, squawking. (H.R.McK.) Papatoetoe. Dr G. Nicholls saw a Kingfisher fly down from a tree and pick up a live mouse from some tall grass. Back on the branch, it battered the mouse to death. (J.C.D.) Minginui, arrived 16/9/55; up to 10 per day in summer; March-July, odd ones. 16/11/55, a nesting pair diving at a stoat which was coming out of a knot-hole in a dead maire after robbing their nest. (R.StP.) Waikaremoana, nests mostly in dead *Nothofagus menziesii*, facing south. (G.E.S.) Ngatapa, Gisborne, numerous. (M.F.) Westland, many breed along the streams in heavy bush; and return in March to their coastal haunts. (J.R.J.) Doubtful Sound. Commonly seen. (W.A.W., A.C.P., C.M.)

KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gigas*). At least one has been present in Auckland for some time. (E.G.T.)

DOLLAR BIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis pacificus*). Tikitiki, East Coast, 20/5/56, 1 reported; identification 'fairly certain'. (A.B.)

N.I. RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris granti*). Waikaremoana, 4/1/56, 8 nests found, one containing young recently hatched. (A.B.) Mt Egmont, not as common as on the adjacent Pouakai Ranges. (D.M.)

- S.I. RIFLEMAN** (*Acanthisitta c. chloris*). Occasional in Greymouth gardens; sparse in Westland lowland forest; abundant in beech forest. (J.R.J.) Queenstown, common in remnant beech forest. (B.D.H.) Silver Peaks, Manapouri, Wilmot Pass, Doubtful Sound. (B.W.C., R.M.J., A.C.P., C.M., W.A.W.)
- ROCK WREN** (*Xenicus gilviventris*). Takitimu Mts, 3/12/55, above bush-line on rock at 4,000 ft, 1 seen. (B.W.C.)
- FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Minginui, nest started 2.30 p.m. 26/11/55 completed by 9 a.m. 28/11/55. (R.St.P.) Mt Egmont, Pouakai and Kaitoke Ranges, common to 3,000 ft. (D.M.) Wedge Hill, Picton, 3 of 6 seen were black; Whatamango to Port Underwood, only 2 of 20 seen were black. (H.L.S.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, common. (W.A.W.)
- PIED TIT** (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*). Minginui, seldom seen or heard in breeding season. (R.St.P.) Kuripapango, singing in second growth manuka all along Kaweka track to Tutaekuri R.; Maungaharuru Range, inland from Tutira, 13/11/54. (D.H.B., G.C.) Mt Egmont, up to 4,000 ft. (D.M.) Wilton's Bush, Wellington, 20/9/55, 1 calling; the last record for this spot is 18/10/24 by R.H.D.S. Rimutaka Range, present in scrub on summit, 27/12/55; Maungakotukutuku stream, Paraparaumu, 12/8/56, one calling. (H.L.S.)
- YELLOW BREASTED TIT** (*Petroica m. macrocephala*). Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, common. (W.A.W.)
- N.I. ROBIN** (*Petroica australis longipes*). Minginui, usually present; up to 9 up the river; 'one very tame, shares my lunch'. (R.St.P.) Waikaremoana, '54, 1 in new place, 5 miles from others known; '55, 1, 3 miles north; '56, seen at Lake House after some years' absence. (G.E.S.)
- S.I. ROBIN** (*Petroica a. australis*). Flora Hut, Mt Arthur, 30/5/56; Whangamoia Saddle, 3/8/56, 1. (M.J.B.) Westland, unevenly distributed throughout the beech forest and with occasional groups in the lowland forest. (J.R.J.) Eglinton valley, 2/4/56. (B.D.H.)
- FERN BIRD** (*Bowdleria punctata*). Westland, occurs in the patches of scrub on most pakihis proper. Near Seddonville a fire has much reduced them, where for 50 years they had been known as common. Recently recorded from Charleston, the coastal side of the Paparoas, and Okarito. (J.R.J.) L. Waiholo, 24/1/56, 1. (L.E.W.)
- BROWN CREEPER** (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*). Westland, sparsely distributed. Barrytown, Rewanui, Haupiri, Whataroa, Waitangi, Copland. (J.R.J.) Goulard Downs, 2,500 ft, Heaphy track, 1/4/56, 3 in isolated patch of bush; Leathem valley, 28/8/56, a few; Wilmot Pass, 18/1/56, 2. (M.J.B.)
- WHITEHEAD** (*Mohoua ochrocephala albicilla*). Minginui, up to 200 daily in spring, decreasing later; August-May, noisy; June-July, quieter. (R.St.P.) Waikaremoana, Jan. '56, plentiful; present on Ngamoko trig, 3,644 ft. (R.B.S.) Maungaharuru Range, inland from Tutira, seen and heard. (D.H.B., G.C.)
- YELLOWHEAD** (*Mohoua o. ochrocephala*). Westland, uncommon; almost always found in the beech forest often with Parakeets. Reported from Charming Creek; Seddonville; Reefton; Ahaura valley; Tutaekuri; Mt Elliott; Hot Springs Creek, Hari Hari; they are more numerous in the beech of S. Westland. (J.R.J.) Spey River, 18/1/56, 8 in 2 groups, 4-4; Wilmot Pass, 21/1/56, 9 in 2 groups, 4-5 (M.J.B.); 24/1/56, a pair called down by 'cork and bottle'. (R.M.J.)
- GREY WARBLER** (*Gerygone igata*). Waikaremoana, '53, seen feeding young in nest which had fallen two feet from a bush; a new hole had been made as the original one was against the ground. (G.E.S.) Mt Egmont, up to 5,000 ft. (D.M.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, occasional singing 21-29/6/56. (W.A.W.) Blanket Bay, 22/1/56, 1 on Red-billed Gulls' breeding island. (R.M.J.)

- PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Miranda, 8/10/55, nest 3 eggs being incubated on edge of road only few inches above tidal mud. (H.R.McK.) Clevedon, 4/11/55, fledgling seen; 27/2/56, nest 1 egg. (A.J.G.) Taranaki, common along coast; up to 5,500 ft on Mt Egmont. (D.M.) L. McKenzie, 11/1/56, nest 4 eggs under tussock; 12/1/56, nest empty. (L.E.W.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 23/6/56, 2. (W.A.W.)
- STITCHBIRD (*Notiomystis cincta*). Little Barrier, '56, one female, while feeding, repeatedly made the sound described as a low warble. The same sound was heard also from a male and other female in addition to the typical 'stitch' call. (K. M. P. Gillespie.)
- BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). Gisborne, Ngatapa, 4/9/55, 3 on fruit blossom; uncommon here. (M.F.) 31/8/55, 2, first known report in Gisborne town. (A.B.) Rotorua, increasing. (M.S.B., M.R.R.) Minginui, '55-'56, Aug.-Sept. up to 25; Oct.-April up to 60; May-June up to 8; food same as tu's, with totara fruit added. Song faded mid-May - July. (R.StP.) Palmerston North Esplanade, 10/5/56, first seen for year; max. 3 on any day. (I.G.A.) Kuripapango, 14/5/55, 1. (D.H.B., G.C.) New Plymouth, increasing; Mt Egmont, common up to 4,000 ft. (D.M.) Waipori Falls, none seen this winter, though food was plentiful. (E.A.H.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, common in mid-winter. (W.A.W.)
- TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*). Gisborne, up to 12 in town, Aug.-Sept. '55. (A.B.) Rotorua, only an occasional visitor to the town; nowhere really common in the district and possibly declining. (M.S.B., R.E.W.F.) Minginui, '55-'56, Aug.-April up to 45 daily; May-July scarce; food, fruit of puta-puta-weta, whau-whau-paku, fuchsia, coprosma, wineberry, hawthorn, and flowers of fuchsia and kowhai. (R.StP.) Palmerston North Esplanade, present nearly all year except March; commonest July-Aug., up to 20. (I.G.A.) New Plymouth, plentiful in parks and patches of bush; Mt Egmont, up to 4,000 ft. (D.M.) Cable Bay, Nelson, 19/11/55, 1 with right central tail feather completely white. (R.D.H.) School Creek, Dunedin, 10/5/56, 1. (D.N.F.C.)
- SILVEREYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Ngatapa, Gisborne, large flocks during winter. (M.F.) Minginui, '55-'56, numbers fluctuate; April up to 300 daily; July none; Feb., feeding on wineberry and kaikomako. (R.StP.) Taranaki, abundant; high on Mt Egmont even in mid-winter, e.g. common but silent 23/6/56, at 3,000-4,000 ft. (D.M.) Westland, abundant, except in pure beech forest. (J.R.J.)
- LESSER REDPOLL (*Carduelis flammea cabaret*). Mt Maunganui, 14/10/56, 15 - the first recorded in 15 years. (A.H.W.) Minginui, '55-'56, flocks again in breeding season, e.g. 250 in Sept., 300 in Oct. on a shingle bed, 40 in Nov., and many odd birds. Dec.-July, smaller flocks. (R.StP.) Aniwanui, Waikaremoana, June '56, flocks totalling 2,000 to 3,000 birds arrived; noted that flocks of small birds here tend to move north. (G.E.S.) L. Whakaki, H.B., 3-17/5/56, up to 40 daily. (R.StP.) Mt Egmont, common above 3,000 ft in sub-alpine scrub. (D.M.)
- YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Minginui, very scarce. (R.StP.) Karori, Wellington, 19/9/56, c. 100 in public park; birds singing incessantly in the flock. (H.L.S.) Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, 2, mid-winter '56. (W.A.W.)
- MYNA (*Acridotheres tristis*), Arran Bay, Waiheke I., 4/1/56 and later, 2; second record for Waiheke, the first being in May '44 when a single bird was seen for a day after an easterly storm. (P.A.S.S., J.C.D.) Ponui I., '55, 2 reported by P. Chamberlin. (H.R.McK.) Volcanic plateau, steadily increasing, flocks of 5-12 noted in winter. (F.E.G., M.S.B.)
- WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). Gisborne, 10/6/56, 3 attacked and killed hen pheasant. (A.B.) Tuai, Waikaremoana, 2 in 1940, now c. 200. (G.E.S.) Puketuru, Putaruru, A. Christmas reports 2 in '55, later 4. (H.R.McK.) Taranaki, gradually spreading. (D.M.) Westland, some near Cass; common at Craigieburn. (J.R.J.)

S.I. KOKAKO (*Callaeas c. cinerea*). Reported as heard on the ridge between Two-mile and Three-mile Creeks, Mokihinui. (H.W.J.)

ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

MIRANDA COAST, FIRTH OF THAMES

Christmas, 1955, was followed by three weeks of strong easterly and north-easterly winds; on result of which was that more 'tubenoses' than usual were found ashore in the Firth of Thames.

FAIRY PRION. 1 juv. freshly dead 15/1/56. 2 fragmentary on 25/2/56.

BULLER'S SEARWATER. 1 dead on 15/1/56, 1 dead on 12/7/56.

SOOTY SHEARWATER. 1 dead on 12/2/56.

TASMANIAN MUTTONBIRD. 1 dead on 12/2/56.

WHITE-FACED HERON. One or two birds have been present throughout the year. It is expected that this heron will soon be breeding, if it has not done so already. Sample records, 2 on 2/12/55 and 2 on 27/12/55, 2 on 17/6/56.

BLACK SWAN. Not common. 27 on 17/6/56 is the biggest count so far.

SHOVELER. 2 males on 8/10/55; 2 on 27/2/56 on the pools and a pair on Waitakaruru Creek on 17/6/56.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. 122 on 25/8/55; 40+ on 25/10/55; 58 on 4/12/55 was probably the total of summerers. As in Manukau the first migrants are back by the New Year. 99 on 3/1/56; c. 240 on 15/1/56; c. 500 on 19/2/56. A peak of c. 830 was reached in mid-March; but some of these evidently moved on, for the wintering total was c. 600.

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER. One between 25/10/55 and 27/2/56; two between 21/4/56 and 9/9/56.

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER. This does not appear to be a regular summer visitor to the Miranda Coast. None was recorded during the 1955-56 season; but N.M. found two early return-migrants on 8/9/56.

BANDED DOTTEREL. On the Kaiua-Miranda coast, where a few years ago 20-25 pairs bred, it is now doubtful if there are 10 breeding pairs. 25/8/55, 9 birds seen, one nest with one egg found; 8/10/55, 6 pairs located, 5 'loose' birds, 1 chick seen; 4/12/55, census 29 birds, 2 pairs still nesting; 18/12/55, 2 small and 1 large chick ringed; new nest at Miranda creek; 27/12/55, a flock of 51 including 26 young of the season; one nest with 3 eggs; 2/1/56, not plentiful, those seen being young and 2 pairs of late-breeders with chicks; 15/1/56, c. 20 on the Waitakaruru mudflats; 27/2/56, 143 on Miranda lagoon; c. 60 on 31/3/56 near Waitakaruru; 18/3/56, 18; 21/4/56, c. 20 in lush waterlogged grass; 6/5/56, Kaiua-Miranda, none.

N.Z. DOTTEREL. 25/8/55, 1 pair at Kaiua and 1 pair at White Bridge; 8/10/55, 5 at Kaiua; during the summer odd unmated birds moved up and down the coast; no successful breeding reported; but on 18/3/56, 6 at Kaiua and 1 at Miranda; 17/6/56, 5 (3 coloured) at Kaiua.

WRYBILL. 303 on 8/10/55. Most of these evidently left, so that only 40-50 summered, e.g. 38+ on 25/10/55, 54 on 6/11/55 and 43 on 4/12/55, 108 on 27/12/55. By 2/1/56 they had increased to c. 330, and by 15/1/56 to 1,150+. 2,000+ on 27/2/56. Winter census, c. 2,600 all in one flock, checked by several observers on 17/6/56. 850+ on 26/8/56; c. 500 on 9/9/56; c. 330 on 13/10/56.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW. 2 on 4/12/55, 18/12/55 and 27/12/55; 3 on 2/1/56; 4 on 18/3/56; 2 on 31/3/56; 2 on 13/6/56.

- ASIATIC WHIMBREL. 1 on 4/12/55; 10 on Miranda lagoon on 2/1/56, believed to be the biggest flock so far recorded in New Zealand; 1 on 13/6/56; 3 on 9/9/56.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT. Some thousands throughout the summer. Census, 6,000+ on 4/12/55. Only c. 150 were present when a winter census was taken on 17/6/56.
- ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (v. *Notornis*, 6, 24-242 and 7, 58-59). Additional sighting, 1 in winter plumage on 21/4/56.
- TURNSTONE. 2 on 8/10/55; 7 on 25/10/55; 15 on 2/1/56; 16 on 3/1/56 and 8/1/56; the biggest flock so far recorded on the Miranda coast, 12 on 15/1/56; 2 on 21/4/56; 1 wintered with Wrybills, with which it was seen on 17/6/56, 26/8/56 and 9/9/56.
- KNOT. Between early October and March there were perhaps 8,000 on this coast; and on 31/3/56 there were still 2,000+, of which very few were not red or reddening, wholly grey birds being hard to find. There were still 1,000+ on 21/4/56, but among them were very few deeply red birds. Wintering numbers were unusually small — 19 on 17/6/56, 42 on 12/7/56, c. 30 on 26/8/56, c. 32 on 9/9/56.
- SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER. 3 (?5) on 9/10/55; 6 on 25/10/55; 18 on 4/12/55; 16 on 21/12/55; 17 on 27/12/55; 19 on 15/1/56; 8 on 19/2/56; 10 on 27/2/56; 7 on 18/3/56.
- AMERICAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER. 1 on 21/4/56 with Wrybills near Waitakaruru. None identified for certain this summer on the usual pools, though one was suspected on 25/10/55 before it flew away, and two were suspected on 15/1/56.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER. 1 on 25/10/55, still showing distinct signs of red nuptial plumage; 5 on 4/12/55, 2/1/56, 15/1/56 and 19/2/56, when 3 were still pale, one was reddening and one well reddened; one in grey on 21/4/56.
- RED-NECKED STINT. 1 on 8/10/55; 3 on 4/12/55, 2/1/56 and 15/1/56; 5 on 19/2/56; 4 on 21/4/56, all assuming breeding dress and one with a very red neck.
- PIED STILT. Winter census 26/6/55, 1,971. 8/10/55, 11 nests seen; but c. 340 birds were counted, non-breeders by far outnumbering breeders. 21/4/56, few Stilts on mudflats or beaches; but 1,000+ in lush flooded paddocks. April rainfall was more than ten inches. Census 17/6/56, 1,557. 12/7/56, exceptionally early nesting at Miranda, nests found with 4, 3 and 2 eggs, also 4 empty nests. 9/9/56, some young already strong on the wing.
- [POMARINE SKUA. On 18/3/56 a dark skua, with a white and yellow collar, frightened the gulls and chased a Caspian Tern over the shellspit at the mouth of Miranda Creek. Hardly any white showed in the wing. The tail, which was well seen, had neither the pointed central feathers of *parasiticus*, nor the characteristic twisted feathers of *pomarinus*, in breeding plumage. It was a robustly built skua; and if an example of *parasiticus*, must have been a very large one. It is safest to leave it in square brackets.]
- ARCTIC SKUA. One or two are often present when the White-fronted Terns are nesting. Late dates: 1 on 6/5/56, 1 on 17/6/56 (v. *Notornis*, 7, p. 63).
- BLACK-BACKED GULL. C. 50 pairs breed, viz. 21 nests, no eggs at Kaiaua, 25/10/55; 26 nests with eggs at Wrybill Reach, 4/12/55; 3 isolated pairs nested at Miranda.
- BLACK-BILLED GULL. 350+ on 25/8/55; c. 200 on 8/10/55; none to be seen by 25/10/55; c. 50 had returned by 19/2/56; 262 on 6/2/56; c. 400 on 12/7/56.

CASPIAN TERN. Not known to breed; but there is an influx after the breeding season. Winter census figures: 123 on 26/6/55, 128 on 17/6/56.

TERN (species?). During recent years very small Terns have been frequenting the Firth of Thames, but, as far as is known, not breeding. They do not appear to be Fairy Terns (*S. nereis*) as none has yet been seen with a wholly yellow beak. A detailed account will be published in a future issue of *Notornis*. Sample records: 5 on 4/12/55; 13 on 2/1/56; 11 on 21/4/56; 1 on 17/6/56.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN. Seldom numerous in winter. Census, 51 on 26/6/55; by October some birds may be prospecting past nesting places, e.g. 20 at Wrybill Reach on 8/10/55 and c. 1,000 at Kaiua on 13/10/56. The '55-'56 breeding season was disastrous. Two shellbanks were chosen as nesting places: (a) Finschi Spit, 4/12/55, c. 460 birds and c. 170 eggs. 18/12/55, colony washed out, c. 400 birds and c. 20 new eggs; most of these were also washed out by the exceptionally high tides about the New Year. (b) Wrybill Reach. 4/12/55, 8 birds present. 27/12/55, c. 400 pairs, all but four nests contained single eggs. 15/1/56, Not a single Tern present; colony washed out. 19/2/56, in a group of 80 birds there was only one juvenile; c. 250 on 6/5/56 was a big increase on most autumn counts.

MANUKAU (a) UPPER MANUKAU

GANNET. 28/6/56. 5 above the bridge.

PIED SHAG. Usually a few near the bridge.

REEF HERON. 28/6/56. 1 in Puhea Ck.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. Summering at Tararata Ck. was proved for the third successive year, after numbers had steadily declined in the spring, e.g. 72 on 8/9/55; 42 on 24/9/55; 24 on 7/10/55; 17 on 21/10/55; 15 on 8/11/55; 16 on 24/12/55. Apparently missing in autumn and most of winter. 64 on 22/8/56; 50 on 13/9/56.

WRYBILL. Some appear at Harania Ck. after mid-summer, e.g. 4 on 4/1/56, 15 on 12/1/56, 23 on 6/2/56. A big flock of 450+ on 27/4/56 had almost certainly come from Puketutu. 1 on 9/8/56.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. As usual few if any Godwits were present during the winter; c. 300 at Tararata Ck. on 24/9/55 may have been recent arrivals; c. 2,000 on 2/12/55. 2,400+ on 4/1/56. Most had gone by the end of March; c. 20 on 27/4/56. On 14/9/56 some hundreds of Godwits suddenly appeared in the evening at Harania Ck. and flew round excitedly, but would not settle. They may have been returning migrants.

KNOT. Some were often present with Godwits between November and March, c. 1,000 on 4/1/56. None throughout winter. A few on 14/9/56.

TURNSTONE. 1 on 27/4/56, at Harania Ck., the first record for this area.

STILT. c. 1,200 at Harania Ck. on 11/8/55 was an unusually big number for the season; 300+ on 24/9/55; c. 30 on 13/10/55; c. 60 on 29/11/55; c. 600 on 29/12/55; 1,000+ on 4/1/56; 1,500+ on 6/2/56. Winter census of whole area 2,340 on 8/7/56. A nearly black Stilt, but with some white on the face and belly, was seen near the bridge on 31/3/56.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN. On 28/12/55 after an interval of nine months a W.W.B.T. in eclipse plumage was again found at Harania Ck., and it stayed in this locality throughout the autumn and winter of 1956, being reported two or three times every month by several observers till 9 August. By 6/2/56 it was obviously assuming nuptial dress, and by 16/2/56 this moult was nearly completed. It was still in magnificent plumage in August, though the upper wing surface was noticeably paling, and the moult into eclipse plumage had evidently begun. This is evidently the same bird as was reported in Upper Manukau in 1954 (*Notornis*, 6, 159-160).

CASPIAN TERN. This area benefits from the general influx into Manukau which occurs after mid-summer. Tararata beach is the main roost, but at very big tides some birds will resort to the grass of Waikaraka Park.

MANUKAU (b) PUKETUTU

The tidal flats of Puketutu have become part of the new Auckland sewage disposal scheme, and the current year has seen the start of works which will radically alter the character of what has been for many years a well-known haunt of waders.

BLUE HERON. 2 on 30/5/56.

WHITE-FACED HERON. 2 on 25/4/56. 1 on 1/5/56.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. C. 170 had settled in by 20/3/56 and a flock of 190-200 wintered and were still present on 2/8/56.

BANDED DOTTEREL. These appear to be decreasing in this area. 1 juv. was seen on 24/12/55; c. 50 in Ascot paddocks on 7/2/56 and c. 90 on 30/5/56.

WRYBILL. 52 on 9/9/55 and 41 still left on 22/9/55. There was then the usual blank period of about three months. 10, all adults in frayed plumage, but still with good bands, had returned by 24/12/55; after which numbers increased till on 26/2/56 there were about 510. On 23/3/56 there may have been c. 600 present; but the wintering flock numbered c. 500. By mid-August numbers had dropped to c. 400 and by 26/8/56 to c. 250. 106 on 13/9/56; c. 30 on 28/9/56.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT. No very big flocks recorded this year; 1,000+ on 20/3/56, of which so high a proportion were red birds that one had the impression that in this flock small red males easily outnumbered the larger and duller females. 500-600 wintered in 1956.

KNOT. c. 1,100, mostly in red plumage, on 20/3/56. Only a few stragglers in winter.

TURNSTONE. 8 on 12/1/56. 40 on 7/2/56. 47 on 21/2/56. 25+ on 20/3/56. 11 on 19/4/56, when pairs frequently broke away and would fly round calling excitedly. 3 on 13/9/56.

PIED STILT. After an interval of five months, 2 had reappeared on 12/1/56. Most of the winter population of c. 400 had settled in by the end of February. The numbers were much reduced by 2/8/56 and not one could be found on 14/8/56.

CASPIAN TERN. Only 8 on 11/10/55; but the post-breeding influx was well under way by 24/12/55 when 64 were counted. 90 on 26/2/56. 120+ on 14/6/56. Only a few left by the end of September.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN. Rarely recorded here; some heard but not seen on 7/2/56.

MANUKAU (c) KARAKA - PUHINUI

LESSER BROAD-BILLED PRION. 27/6/56, 1 picked up inland at Manurewa.

GANNET. 8/9/56, 61+ fishing off Seagrove.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG. Up to three reported several times in small creek at Weymouth.

WHITE HERON. 28/8/55, 2 seen by B. Smith at Oaklands Rd., Karaka.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. c. 200 on 5/11/55 at Puhinui were evidently summering. Winter census figures were 1,092 on 24/7/55 and 1,025 on 8/7/56 for the south Manukau coast. This wet winter they resorted in hundreds to flooded low-lying paddocks.

- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER.** 1 on 5/11/55 at Puhinui; 1 at Karaka on 8/9/56.
- ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER.** 19 on 5/11/55; 36 on 25/2/56; 48 on 4/3/56; all at Karaka. 4 in Higham's marsh on 23/9/56 were still showing much nuptial black and appeared to have arrived very recently.
- BANDED DOTTEREL.** 5/11/55, 2 males at shellbank. 24/2/56, 81 in paddocks. 8/7/56, 35. 12/8/56, c. 120, mostly in fine plumage. 8/9/56 and 23/9/56, none.
- RED-BREADED DOTTEREL.** 2 on 4/3/56.
- WRYBILL.** 350+ on 3/9/55; c. 130 on 2/10/55; 24 on 5/11/55 were evidently summering; 600+ on 25/2/56; 850+ on 4/3/56; c. 1,500 estimated on a census on 8/7/56 probably included the Puketutu flock. 270+ on 8/9/56; c. 120 on 23/9/56. At high tides this winter considerable numbers resorted to Higham's paddocks, which they seemed to prefer to the shellbank.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW.** 1 at Puhinui on 5/11/55. Probably the same bird at Karaka on 8/7/56 and 8/9/56.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT.** 24/7/55. Census 1,815. 3/9/55, c. 3,000 and 6,000+ on 2/10/55 on Karaka shellbank. 5/11/55, 4,000+ at Puhinui. Winter census 8/7/56, 4,575. 23/9/56, 7,000+.
- GREENSHANK.** 25/2/56, one seen on the ground and in flight; white rump noted; call heard.
- GREY-TAILED TATTLER.** The bird reported (*Notornis*, 6, 243) was seen again on 3/12/55.
- TURNSTONE.** 11 on 3/9/55; 42 on 2/10/55; 132 on 3/12/55; c. 120 on 25/2/56 and 4/3/56. 50+ wintering on 8/7/56.
- KNOT.** Winter census, 8/7/56, c. 800.
- RED-NECKED STINT.** 1 on 5/11/55; 2 on 25/2/56 and 4/3/56; 1 on 12/8/56 and 23/9/56.
- PIED STILT.** Plentiful as usual in winter, e.g. c. 1,500 in the Karaka-Puhinui area, when censuses taken over most of Manukau showed 5,091 on 24/7/55 and 5,621 on 8/7/56. On 12/8/56 there were still plenty of Stilts scattered about the flooded paddocks; but not one could be seen on the Karaka coast on 8/9/56. On 23/9/56 there were two on Yates' dam, where a pair or two may occasionally breed.
- CASPIAN TERN.** A few non-breeders during the nesting season. 180+ on 25/2/56; ~~105 on 8/7/56~~; 20 on 23/9/56.
- WHITE-FRONTED TERN.** ~~10+ on 25/2/56 at Karaka. 12 on 4/3/56 in Seagrove Ck. and 20 at Karaka; 12 on 8/7/56 at Clark's Bay.~~
- HARRIER.** A nest found at Puhinui on 14/10/56 contained 4 eggs, all of which had hatched on 5/11/56, one youngster being very small.
- FERN BIRD.** At least seven pairs located at Puhinui on 5/11/56 in a belt of salt-marsh scrub.

NOTICE

NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Members are asked to forward records for the 1956-57 season to the Organiser, Mr H. L. Secker, by 28/2/57.

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