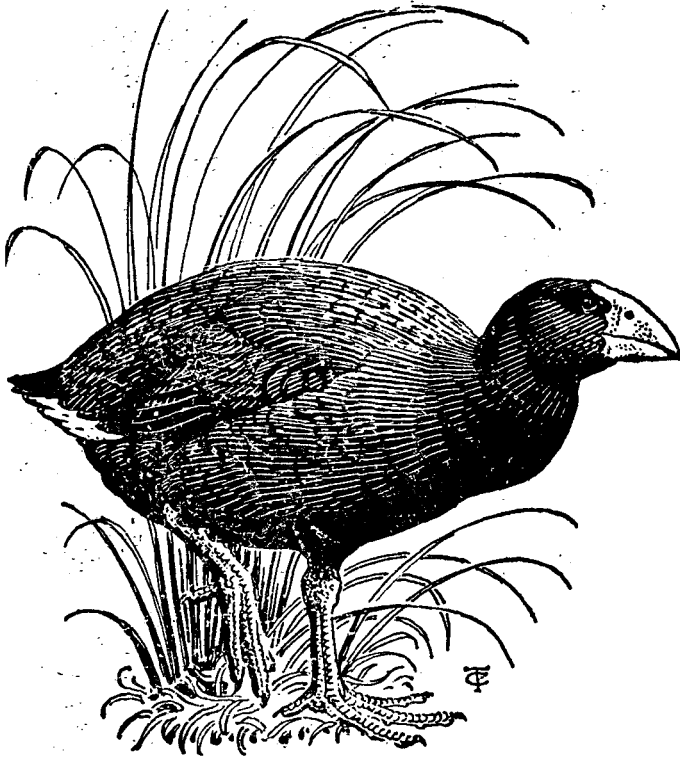


NOTORNIS



QUARTERLY BULLETIN

of the

Ornithological Society of New Zealand

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Volume Eight, Number Three: January, 1959

NOTORNIS

In continuation of New Zealand Bird Notes

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NOTORNIS

VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER THREE - JANUARY NINETEEN FIFTY-NINE

WELCOME SWALLOWS NESTING IN NORTHLAND — A NEW BREEDING BIRD FOR NEW ZEALAND

By ROSS H. MICHIE

Two pairs of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) have been found nesting in Northland, one pair at Awanui and the other a few miles away at Paparore.

On 22/10/58 I received a message from a fisherman, Mr. P. Shean of Awanui, who was working on his launch which was moored in the river about forty yards below the bridge. For several days he had observed a pair of birds with swallow tails flying in and out from under the bridge; and on investigating, he found that they had a mud-and-straw nest stuck to the vertical edge of the inner stringer and in it were newly hatched chicks.

As the Welcome Swallow has been reported to me from several localities near here over the past few years, I thought that it would probably be these birds, and so it proved to be. Away back in the 1920's I myself had a Welcome Swallow under observation at intervals for more than a week, and about the same time one was shot at Herekino, about fifteen miles from here, the wings being displayed in the office window of the local press, which at that time was "The Northlander."

On October 23rd I visited the nest which Mr. Shean had reported, looked at the chicks and watched the parents for some time as they fed their young. The nest was placed within six feet of the end of the bridge, and about seven feet from the ground. It was only a matter of stepping out of the car and walking under the bridge to see it. Although this is a busy main highway, carrying a lot of heavy motor traffic, the birds do not take the slightest notice of it. At one stage one of the birds was sitting preening itself on a wire a few feet off the edge of the bridge when a heavy cream-lorry, laden with cans and making plenty of noise, rattled over the bridge; but the bird took no notice. As the bridge is a wooden structure, when heavy vehicles pass over it there is considerable vibration, which must go on all day. It is therefore somewhat puzzling how the birds were able to get the mud to 'stay put.' There are signs that they first attempted to build about two feet from the present nest. Apparently they chose the end of the bridge in preference to any other part because the vibration there was less. Nearer the middle the nest would have been over the water and safe from interference.

After I was first shown the nest, I made periodic visits. On November 3rd, the three chicks had grown like mushrooms and fully

taxed the nest accommodation. They were covered with blue-black pin feathers, with some of the usual earlier downy portion still remaining. The parents were catching fairly high-flying insects and visiting the nest frequently.

The three young took their first flight on or about November 7th, but returned to the nest to rest. On the morning of November 10th, when I visited the bridge, they exploded from the nest and flew confidently with their parents, before resting to preen on nearby wires. The fledging period was therefore 17 or 18 days.

On the evening of 3/11/58 I had a ring from Mr. C. McConnel, the schoolmaster at Paparore, whose school is situated near L. Ngatu, a pool beside the road between Waipapakauri and the Ninety Mile Beach.

About a chain and a half from the lake-edge is a small wooden platform 15' x 8' used by boatmen, a rickety structure three to four feet above the water. In mid-October, while some of the children who use the platform a lot were bathing, they noticed two strange birds flying in and out under the platform; and when they looked closer, they found a nest containing one egg, which one of the boys promptly took. Next day he returned to the nest and found that another egg had been laid. This he also took, but in reaching up out of the water he detached the nest. Fortunately, he had not broken either of the eggs and the nest, too, was undamaged. Both eggs and nest were given to Mr. McConnel, who gladly passed them on to me.

On November 3rd the youngsters were again bathing and noticed that the swallows were building again in the same place. When I visited the spot at 9 a.m. on November 4th, I was able to watch both birds at close range for more than half an hour. Both were working hard. They were gathering mud from the lake-edge, flying to the same place each time, hovering for a few seconds three feet or so above the ground, then diving down without alighting and scooping a mouthful of mud, after which they returned to the site of the nest. After several trips they flew further afield and out of my sight either to get a snack or to gather grass-straw to mix with the mud. On these trips they would be away four or five minutes; and as their flight is so rapid, I could not see whether they carried any straw or not. I am not at all optimistic about their second nest and doubt whether it has a better chance of success than the first. The children have been asked not to interfere with it nor to loiter about the platform too long. A flock of Red-billed Gulls frequents the lake. Mrs. McConnel has seen some of them chasing the swallows, without apparently upsetting them very much.

The nest and eggs from L. Ngatu have been placed in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The eggs, which measure 17.5 x 14 m.m., are white, peppered with dark spots most thickly above the widest part.

PHOTOGRAPHING THE STEWART ISLAND KIWI

By M. F. SOPER

Through the kindness of Mr. Roy Traill, I was able to spend four nights in August near the nest of a Stewart Island Kiwi (*Apteryx australis lawryi*) which he had discovered, and to take some photographs, most of which unfortunately were spoiled in the darkroom.

The nesting burrow was on a slope in a very open piece of bush. There were two main tracks leading to it, which had been kept clear of all fallen twigs and larger leaves. The burrow was about 12 feet long with an angle of 135° about 8 feet from the entrance. It started at the roots of a small tree-fern and except for its size looked like the mouth of a rabbit hole. According to Mr. Traill, the single egg was still unhatched the week before we arrived; so we estimate that the chick was 5-10 days old when we saw it.

Just at dusk, when it was almost but not quite too dark to see, the off-nest bird would come galloping through the bush, making the ground tremble with its heavy feet. It would stop about 12 feet from the burrow and call. This bird, from its call, I judged to be the male each night. As it did not always come from the same direction, it presumably had two or more lairs for holing up during the daytime. At any rate this bird did not occupy the burrow with the other parent (female?) and the chick. The bird in the burrow would come out and answer; and they would both depart into the darkness. One of the birds would return about every three quarters of an hour and enter the burrow, remaining inside for about half an hour. No food was seen in its bill. It should be said that we had a low-power electric torch with a red bulb suspended over the entrance to the burrow.

The chick was seen on two nights. It would come and probe about the entrance and scuttle back at the slightest noise. If the red light was too bright it would not come out at all, but come to the edge of the light circle and no further.

One night a third kiwi appeared just at dusk at the start of the night's activity. The off-nest parent (male?) called. Then this third kiwi appeared from the opposite direction, ran down the main track and tried to enter the burrow, just as the parent on the nest was emerging. What followed was dramatic in its violence and suddenness. There was a most horrifying spitting sound of anger, exactly like an irate opossum. The two kiwis exploded out of the burrow, crashed into one of the tripods, shot past my legs and vanished into the bush, swearing profusely! We presumed last year's chick had returned home, only to be driven away because of the arrival of the new baby.

The accompanying photograph (v. p. 77) does not show the bird in a very attractive position. The Kiwi has its hackles up, either from fear, which I doubt, or from annoyance, which I think far more likely, as these kiwis were remarkably unconcerned and would walk round our legs and between the tripods.

[We are grateful to Dr. Soper for this account of his observations on a pair of Stewart Island Kiwis, the first since those of Guthrie-Smith,

recounted in *Muttonbirds and Other Birds* pp. 84-98. The identification of the sex of nimble kiwis at the nest in the night is not easy. Robson, Turbott and Wightman (*Notornis* VI. 150-152) have shown that in the North Island, the incubation after the first few days is the task solely of the male; and Oliver (*N.Z. Birds* II. 50) remarks that 'the young chick always stays with the male parent.' Does the Stewart Island subspecies behave differently? Ed.]

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CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Avis Acres, Mrs., Levin | H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon |
| I. G. Andrew, Palmerston North | M. E. McKenzie, Mrs., Clevedon |
| L. Angus, Greymouth | C. W. McLatchie, Mrs., Oamaru |
| M. L. Barlow, Mrs., Invercargill | R. V. McClintock, Mrs., Tauranga |
| B. D. Bell, Blenheim | D. V. Merton, Wellington |
| M. S. Black, Rotorua | R. H. Michie, Kaitaia |
| A. Blackburn, Gisborne | K. H. Miers, Wellington |
| C. D. Blomfield, Rotorua | G. J. Moon, Warkworth |
| M. Breen, Okato | Otago University Biological Society |
| W. J. Broun, Wellington | C. F. Parsonson, Kawau I. |
| C. R. Buckeridge, Aotea | J. H. Pennycook, Mrs., Timaru |
| P. C. Bull, Lower Hutt | W. T. Popplewell, Dunedin |
| C. N. Challies, Wellington | A. Prickett, Mrs., Birkenhead |
| M. A. Chapman, Dunedin | J. Prickett, Birkenhead |
| P. Child, Geraldine | W. W. Renouf, Clevedon |
| D. Crockett, Christchurch | A. R. Ringer, Auckland |
| O. Cullen, Mrs., Whangarei | A. Roberts, Mrs., Rotorua |
| M. P. Daniel, Waerenga | M. R. Roberts, Rotorua |
| J. C. Davenport, Auckland | J. W. St. Paul, Moumoukai |
| H. F. Drake, Runanga | R. St. Paul, Minginui |
| B. A. Ellis, Dunedin | O. Sansom, Mrs., Invercargill |
| D. Galey, Atiamuri | H. L. Secker, Wellington |
| J. Gardner, Miss, Dunedin | Rae Shanks, Miss, Tamaki |
| P. Gay, New Brighton | D. J. Shaw, Clevedon |
| R. Gillett, Lumsden | T. Shout, Raetihi |
| A. J. Goodwin, Miss, Clevedon | R. B. Sibson, Auckland |
| A. G. Gorby, Wellsford | R. P. Stoddart, Mrs., Clevedon |
| J. Haldane, Bainham | C. Tattersall, Rotorua |
| B. D. Heather, Auckland | B. Todd, Leithfield |
| A. J. Hodgkin, Moa Flat | L. E. Walker, Mrs., Dunedin |
| M. Hodgkins, Tauranga | A. Watson, Mt. Maunganui |
| F. P. Hudson, Kaipara Flats | J. Watt, Dunedin |
| J. R. Jackson, Christchurch | K. Watts, New Brighton |
| King's College Bird Club, Otahuhu | J. C. Yaldwyn, Wellington |
| F. C. Kinsky, Wellington | S. Chamberlin, Motuora I. |
| P. M. Lewis, Miss, Puketitiri | S. Chambers, Auckland |
| C. J. Lindsay, Wellington | P. Morrison, Wellington |
| N. Macdonald, Miss, Howick | J. W. Bain, Gisborne |
| G. K. McKenzie, Clevedon | M. Fitzgerald, Gisborne |
| H. M. McKenzie, Mrs., Clevedon | |

- N. I. KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) — Sometimes heard on Ferny Ridge, Kaweka foothills, H.B. (P.M.L.).
- S.I. KIWI (*Apteryx a. australis*) — Several calls heard at Boulder Lake c. 3000 ft., Nelson, on 28/12/56 (M.B.).
- YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*) — Pukerua Bay, 22/9/57, one dead; Makara, 18/5/58, one dead (C.N.C.). St. Clair, Dunedin, up to 10 seen May-July, '58, in afternoons; 14/8/58, 17 left for sea, c. 8 a.m. (W.T.P.).
- CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus australis*) — 2 on L. Gunn, Eglinton Valley, on 19/1/58 (L.E.W.).
- DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*) — Volcanic lakes carry fair numbers, especially Rotoiti, Rotorua, Okareka and Rotomahana; winter flock of up to 40 birds have been counted in 1958 (M.R.R., M.S.B., W.J.B.). 16 together, 28/8/57, on Rotoiti (M.B.). L. Kuru, Karioi, south of Ruapehu, 7 on 12/7/58; only odd ones seen in last 20 years (T.S.).
- WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*) — Tiri passage, 7/6/58, 1 juv.; Cape Brett, 8/6/58, 1 adult (A. J. G.). 29/9/58, not recorded on this date or several days later between Wellington and Tory Channel (H.L.S.).
- ROYAL ALBATROSS (*Diomedea epomophora*) — 29/9/58, not recorded on this date or several days later between Wellington and Tory Channel (H.L.S.).
- BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea melanophris*) — 1 off C. Brett on 8/6/58 (A.J.G.). 29/9/58, 1 seen between Wellington and Tory Channel (H.L.S.).
- GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea chrysostoma*) — Ruakaka, 1 corpse (juv.) winter '58 (B.D.H.).
- YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea chlororhynchus*) — 1 between Hen I. and Poor Knights on 4/8/58 (B.D.B.) confirmed by R.A.F. and J.M. The rarest of the Mollymawks in N.Z. waters
- BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea bulleri*) — 29/9/58, 1 seen in Cook St. (H.L.S.).
- WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea c. cauta*) — 29/9/58, 1 in Cook St., not recorded several days later. *D. c. salvini* absent on both dates (H.L.S.). Bayley's Gorge, Dargaville, 1 recently dead, 6/1/58 (R.B.S.).
- GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*) — 9/2/58, 6 off Kawau (A.G.G.). Motuora I., Hauraki Gulf, 14 feasting off a dead Blackfish (*Globicephalus melas*) in early Oct., '58 (S.C.). 29/9/58, c. 50 between Wellington and Tory Channel (H.L.S.). Albino at Tory Channel Whaling Station late July, '57 (J.C.Y.). Bluff, 2 on 25/12/57 (O.S.).
- CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*) — Hundreds frequent the whaling station in Tory Channel during the catching season (F.C.K.). 29/9/58, 10 in Cook St. (H.L.S.). Tomahawk, Dunedin, 14/6/58, 10+ beyond surf line (O.U.B.S.). Otaki beach, 2 corpses 31/8/58 (P.C.B.).
- BLUE PETREL (*Halobaena caerulea*) — 1 found on 30/8/58 at Otaki, may have come ashore in July, '58 (P.C.B.).

- BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila v. vittata*) — Pukerua Bay, 1 dead on 22/9/57; 1 on 10/5/58 (C.N.C.). 1 on 24/5/58 (P.C.B.).
- ST. PAUL ISLAND PRION (*Pachyptila vittata macgillivrayi*) — Pukerua Bay, 1 dead on 25/5/58; skin in Dominion Museum; identified by R.A.F., an addition to the N.Z. list (C.N.C.).
- LESSER-BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila s. salvini*) — Muriwai, 1 just dead on 1/6/58 (R.B.S.).
- CROZET ISLAND PRION (*Pachyptila salvini crozeti*) — Pukerua Bay, 31/5/58, one dead (C.N.C.). Ninety-mile Beach, near Waipapakauri, 1 on 13/9/58, which appears to be of this race (R.B.S., J.C.D.).
- ANTARCTIC PRION (*Pachyptila desolata*) — Muriwai, 1/6/58, 1 dead (R.B.S.).
- NARROW-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila belcheri*) — Kawa-Kawa Bay. Clevedon, 19/7/58, 1 nearly dead after gale from N.E. (D.J.S., J.C.D.). Otaki, 1 freshly ashore 4/9/58 (P.C.B.).
- FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*) — Bethells, 1 dead on 30/11/57; Muriwai 1/6/58, 1 perhaps more; few petrels were reported storm-wrecked at Muriwai in the winter of '58; but on this date, 7 prions, of which four were reduced to wings and breastbone by hungry gulls, were found over two miles. At least three species were represented. Otaki-Levin, 11 freshly ashore 30/8/58 - 2/9/58 (P.C.B.).
- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*) — 29/9/58, 2 in Cook St. (H.L.S.).
- BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*) — 29/3/58 Cape Colville, 1 close inshore (H.R.McK.). Muriwai, 1 just dead on 1/6/58 (R.B.S.). Pukerua Bay, 1 dead on 23/2/58; 2 on 11/5/58 (C.N.C.). Mt. Maunganui, 1 dead on 4/4/58 (M.H.).
- SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) — 14/3/58, S.E. of Little Barrier, 1 with many Buller's and Flutterers (A.J.G.). Numerous casualties on the west coast again during the return migration, e.g. Bethells, 5 dead on 30/11/57. Muriwai, odd birds ashore in summer and autumn (R.B.S.). Tumbledown Bay, Bank's Pen., Nov. '57, 8 corpses; some occupied burrows (R.J.). Petone, 18/5/58, one just dead (P.C.B.).
- TASMANIAN MUTTONBIRD (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) — Pukerua Bay, corpses, 1 on 7/12/57, 2 on 11/5/58, 1 on 25/5/58 (C.N.C.).
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*) — Odd birds may be found ashore dead at any season, B. of Plenty, Auckland and Wellington west coasts (M.H., R.B.S., C.N.C.).
- HUTTON'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus huttoni*) — Tumbledown Bay, Bank's Pen., 1/12/57, in the same burrow 'trumpeting together' a Sooty Shearwater with an egg and a Hutton's Shearwater. Each had its own nest cup, one foot apart. On 26/12/57 the Hutton's Shearwater had disappeared (R.J.). The breeding place of this rare and local shearwater has not yet been found. Pukerua Bay, corpses, 1 on 7/10/57; 1 on 3/11/57 (C.N.C.).
- ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*) — Pukerua Bay, corpses. 1 on 24/11/57; 1 on 7/12/57; 2 a little later (C.N.C.).

- GREY PETREL (*Procellaria cinerea*) — Pukerua Bay, 22/9/57, one pair wings.
- WESTLAND BLACK PETREL (*Procellaria westlandica*) — Several corpses on Barrytown Beach, Dec. '57, and at the same season most years (L.A.). 30/8/57, unemployed birds moulting in burrows during day (R.J.).
- WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*) — Pukerua Bay, 7/10/57, one just dead (C.N.C.). Ninety-mile Beach, Waipapakauri, 1 corpse 9/1/58 (R.B.S.). Otaki, 1 old corpse on 30/8/58 (P.C.B.).
- MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) — Pukerua Bay, 24/11/57, one corpse (C.N.C.).
- KERGUELEN PETREL (*Pterodroma brevirostris*) — 1/9/58, Otaki, one old corpse; Hokio Beach, one fresh (P.C.B.).
- COOK'S PETREL (*Pterodroma cooki*) — Little Barrier, a few birds back and calling before the end of August, '58 (B.D.H.). Corpses. Bayley's Gorge, Dargaville, 6/1/58, 1 (R.B.S.); Pukerua Bay, 13/1/58, 1 (C.N.C.). A petrel, believed to be of this species, called several times over Remuera on the night of 18/11/57, the weather being steamy and overcast (R.B.S.). Sandringham, Auckland, 24/3/58, a young bird with wisps of down on its head was picked up. After a week in captivity it flew away, apparently strongly, weight 220 grams (A.R.R.).
- GANNET (*Sula bassana serrator*) — Pukerua Bay, one corpse in immature plumage, 4/5/58 (C.N.C.). Stirling Point, Bluff, 25/12/57, 1 (O.S.). Paterson Inlet, Stewart I., 1 on 8/1/57 (J.W.).
- BROWN BOOBY (*Sula leucogaster plotus*) — Otaki, one found just dead, 18/5/57 (P.C.B.).
- LARGE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo novaehollandiae*) — Upper Waipakahi R., Kaimanawas, March '57, 12 (F.P.H.).
- PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax v. varius*) — Breeding continues all the year at the very successful fresh water colony on L. Pupuke, Takapuna (R.B.S.).
- LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) — Well distributed in the far north, viz Kaimaumau, 2 on 12/1/58; Houhora, 1 on 10/9/58; L. Waiparera, c. 30 on 13/9/58, fishing in the way characteristic of this species; Ruakaka, 1 on 14/9/58; L. Pupuke, usually some, e.g., 10+ on 12/7/58; Lower Nihotupu dam, 1 on 17/11/57 (R.B.S.).
- LITTLE SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) — The white-throated form is the commonest shag in Tauranga harbour (M.H.). Little Waihi, Maketu, 28/5/58, of c. 50 Little Shags, 75% were pied or mottled (H.R.McK.). L. McKellar, head of Greenstone R., 19/2/58, 1 (D.M.). Flocks of up to 20, Farewell Spit, March '58 (B.D.B.).
- SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*) — Paraparamu, 30/8/58, 2 offshore (B.D.B.). Westland, colonies north of Whataroa mouth and north of Karangarua mouth (R.J.). Anderson's Bay Inlet, 15/4/58, 5 (L.E.W.).
- LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)
- WHITE EGRET (*Egretta alba*)
- { Widespread records of these two egrets from Northland to Southland are being incorporated in a special report.

- BLUE HERON** (*Egretta sacra*) — Still the dominant heron at Mangonui and Parengarenga, Sept. '58 (R.B.S.). Kawau I., up to 8 or 10 at a time (C.F.P.).
- WHITE-FACED HERON** (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) — Mangonui, 14/1/58, 1 (R.B.S.). Increasing rapidly in Northland and breeding freely around Kaipara. Autumn and winter flocks of 5, 16, 18 seen up various creeks (J.P.). Sept.-Oct., 3 nests known near Kaiwaka per K.C.B.C.; 2 nests at Warkworth (G.J.M.). Mahurangi R., 15+ on 23/7/58 (S.C.). Whau estuary, Avondale, up to 5 frequently (J.P.). Tamaki estuary, 8/7/58, 1 (R.B.S.). Whitford, 22/6/58, 24 in Turanga Creek (K.C.B.C.). Clevedon, 24/5/58, 10 (G.K.McK.). Waikato estuary, usually odd ones (J.P., R.B.S.). Not yet numerous in Bay of Plenty Matata lagoon and Tarawera estuary, usually one; Bledisloe Park, usually 2 (W.J.B., C.D.B., M.S.B.). Kawhia, 1 on 22/5/58 (B.D.H.). Horowhenua, 8 on 3/8/58 (A.A.). Havelock-Nelson, estimated to outnumber Blue Heron 5 to 1 (R.S.). Easily the commonest heron now in Southland; 43 together in one paddock, Lower Matura, on 9/5/58 (O.S.).
- BITTERN** (*Botaurus stellaris poiciloptilus*) — Okahukura, mid-Kaipara, 9 on 29/12/57 (A.G.G.). L. Rotoma, 1/11/57, nest with 3 eggs (M.S.B.). L. Whakamaru, 20/8/58, 9; 19 in Sept.; 4 nests found, one with three well grown young, one with 6 eggs, 1 with 4 eggs and on 28/9/58, one with 2 newly hatched young (D.G.). Moa Flat, small numbers reported (A.J.H.). Most suitable habitats in Southland are occupied (O.S.).
- GLOSSY IBIS** (*Plegadis falcinellus peregrinus*) — One present at Matata lagoon or the Tarawera estuary for many months, at least from 13/9/57 - 28/3/58 (D.M., M.R.R., M.S.B., et. al.).
- ROYAL SPOONBILL** (*Platalea leucorodia regia*) — Parengarenga, 2 in Dec, '57 (J.P., B.D.B.). Rangaunu Bay, 6 during summer '57-'58, later 5 (R.H.M.). Okahukura, mid Kaipara, 3 from 9/3/58 - 20/4/58 at the least (J.P., G.J.M., A.G.G., R.B.S.). Manawatu estuary, maximum 18 in early May, 17 on 24/5/58 (I.G.A.). Farewell Spit, 1 half-way up, mid-March, '58 (B.D.B.). West Haven, Nelson, 7 on 28/12/57 (M.B.).
- BLACK SWAN** (*Cygnus atratus*) — L. Whakamaru, '57-'58, a few visitors only (D.G.). L. Whakaki, H.B., 2/5/58, 6000+ (R. St. P.).
- PARADISE DUCK** (*Tadorna variegata*) — Clevedon, 24/5/58, 5 (G.K.McK.). L. Rotorua, 2 on 16/2/58; L. Rotomahana, 17 in flight on 10/5/58; recent settlement has reduced the population on the volcanic plateau (W.J.B., M.R.R., M.S.B.). Minginui, '57-'58, 1 pair living in valley (R.St.P.). Upper Waipakihi R., Kaimanawas, 1 pair, March '57; hundreds to east of range; March '58, mostly gone, because of scouring of streams by big floods (F.P.H.). *26/4/58, c. 250 on L. Ratapika, Taranaki (D.M.). 25+ Horseshoe Lake, Otane, on 8/5/57 (B.D.B.). 17/1/58, 12 at Bluffs, Eglinton Valley (L.E.W.). Washdyke Lagoon, 400+ on 18/3/58 (A.G.G.).
- GREY TEAL** (*Anas gibberifrons*) — Apparently increasing and spreading in the North Island. L. Whangape, 220+ (K.H.M.). L. Rotorua, 35 on 18/5/58; Hamurana, 9 so far the biggest number seen (M.R.R., W.J.B., M.S.B.); 2/10/57, brood of six ducklings seen on L. Rotorua

- (D.M.). Horseshoe L, Otane, 25 on 7/5/57; L Grasmere, 27 on 20/8/57 (B.D.B.).
- BROWN TEAL (*Anas chlorotis*) — Kaeo, c. 90 on 15/1/58; only 4 visible on 14/9/58 when the river was in flood (R.B.S.).
- SHOVELER (*Anas rhynchotis*) — L. Whakamaru, 15 on 4/9/58 (D.G.). Volcanic Plateau, occurs in all suitable habitats; Hamurana, 8/5/58, 280+ (H.R.McK., W.J.B., M.S.B.). L. Rotomahana, c. 40 on 6/12/57 (D.M.). Horseshoe L., Otane, 100+ on 7/5/57 (B.D.B.). Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, at least 2 males on 14/6/58 (O.U.B.S.).
- BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacothynchos*) — Ngongotaha, regularly at nights during the winter of 1957, a drake visited two caged ducks at the game farm (D.M.). Upper Ongarue R., King Country, 4 swimming together on 11/1/58 (H.R.McK.). Kaimanawas, early March '57, several pairs well spaced out along streams. Active and noisy at night. March '58, none seen or heard, even where they had kept us awake at night last year; streams all scoured out and wrecked by floods (F.P.H.). L. Fergus, 1 on 19/1/58 (L.E.W.). Quinten Pass to Milford Sound, Jan. '58, 12 seen (M.P.D.). Flora R., 1 on 19/4/57 (M.B.).
- N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) — Hora Hora Br. L. Karapiro, 8 on 12/1/58 (H.R.McK.). L. Whakamaru, 31/8/58, 37; 28/9/58, 22 (D.G.). Hamurana, max. 600 on 21/8/58 (J.P., A.P.). Sulphur Bay, L. Rotorua, May-July, c. 400 (W.J.B., M.S.B.). L. Rotomahana, c. 310 on 6/12/57 (D.M.). Horseshoe L., Otane, 150+ on 7/5/57 (B.D.B.). L. Whakatipu, brood of 5 on 22/2/58 (D.M.). L. Rotorua, Nelson, 1 on 23/1/57 (M.B.). L. Kaniere, c. 24 (R.S.).
- HARRIER (*Circus approximans*) — L. Rotorua, nest 4 eggs, Oct. '57 (M.R.R., F.C.K.).
- BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) — Rotorua, one frequently seen perched on a tree top at High School (M.R.R.). Kaimanawas, 2 seen March '57; one playfully teased a Black Shag, pulling out a feather and making the shag croak; March '58, 1 (F.P.H.). Upper Hutt, '57-'58, occasional visitor to built up area (H.L.S.). Mt. Avalanche, 2 at 6000 ft., 26/1/58 (R.J.).
- BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*) — Minginui, '57-'58, 4 seen together three times; Parahaki R., 1; Waiau R., 1 (R.St.P.).
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californica*) — Minginui, 1957-58, good numbers maintained. Jan. 30th, 6 broods, 12, 6, 2, 4, 6, 8; Jan. 31st, 4 broods, 6, 3, 4, 8; Feb. 23rd, 20 chicks in one lot about sparrow size, on sawdust heap; Feb. 17th, on Waiau River, many miles in bush, 4 coveys and 2 broods, 10, 12, "bumble-bee" size (R.St.P.). Queenstown, 23/1/58, 1 and 7 chicks (L.E.W.). Signal Hill, Dunedin, present up to 1955 (J.W.).
- CHUKOR (*Alectoris graeca*) — Northburn, Cromwell, 2 coveys of 18 and 9, on 20/4/58 (D.M.).
- BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*) — Whangamata, 4 on 27/6/58 (B.D.B.); not uncommon among the mangroves of the north (R.B.S.). Picton, one found dead in a water tank, Nov. '55 (B.D.B.).
- WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*) — Farewell Spit, common right to the tip (B.D.B.).

- MARSH CRAKE** (*Porzana pusilla affinis*) — Recent records in Southland from Wainiatuku, Pukerau, Monowai, Kapuka, Greenhills (O.S.).
- SPOTLESS CRAKE** (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*) — Kohika Swamp, Matata, several seen, 7/5/58 (D.M.). Tomahawk lagoon, Dunedin, believed present; identification needs to be confirmed (B.A.E.).
- COOT** (*Fulica atra*) — L. Pupuke, Takapuna, 2 on 4/5/58 and throughout winter; frequently seen by caretaker of pumping station; still present 26/8/58 (J.C.D.). Marlborough, 1 shot, May '57 (B.D.B.).
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*) — Kaimaumau, Rangaunu Bay, c. 25 on 12/1/58 (R.B.S.). Marsden Pt., Whangarei harbour, c. 50 on 31/5/58 (J. & A.P.). Ruakaka, 16 on 21/1/58; 34 on 2/2/58; 16 on 24-27/10/58 (B.D.H., R.B.S.). Tangaihi, Pouto Pen., c. 15 on 7/1/58 (R.B.S.), 14 on 18/1/58 (H.R.McK.). Okahukura, mid-Kaipara, c. 200 on 23/2/58; c. 500 on 9/3/58; c. 700 on 4/4/58 (A.P., R.B.S., A.G.G.). Whitford, 7 on 22/6/58 (K.C.B.C.), Clevedon, 10 on 8/6/58; Tairua, 1 on 30/3/58; Maketu, 2 on 25 & 28/5/58 (H.R.McK.). Foxton beach, 24 on 8/6/58 (A.A.). Farewell Spit, March '58, 400-500 (B.D.B.). Aramoana, Otago harbour, 2000+, including a partial albino, on 4/4/58 (L.E.W.). Blueskin Bay, 27/7/58, c. 200 (O.U.B.S.). Moa Flat, '57, a pair nested successfully in a cultivated paddock; absent during winter like stilts, re-appearing mid-August (A.J.H.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 4 on 21/1/58 (L.E.W.). Invercargill estuary and airfield, c. 100 in March and April '58 (M.L.B.). Bluff, 40+ in flight on 25/12/57 (O.S.).
- N.I. (VARIABLE) OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus unicolor reischeki*) — Ahipara, 1 pr. on 11/1/58; Kaimaumau, c. 12 (2 black) on 12/1/58 (R.B.S.). Ruakaka, 4 on 21/1/58; 7 on 4-7/4/58 (2 black) (R.B.S., B.D.H.). Tangaihi jetty, 2 on 7/1/57 (R.B.S.); 10 on 18/1/58 (H.R.McK.). Tairua, 30/3/58, 14 in flock with 19 black; Maketu, 4 with 18 black on 25 & 28/5/58 (H.R.McK. et. al.). Paraparaumu, 4 (3 black) on 30/8/58 (B.D.B.).
- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER** (*Haematopus u. unicolor*) — Muriwai beach, Gisborne, nest with 3 eggs on 26/12/57 (A.B., D.M.). c. 30 scattered along Farewell Spit in March '58 (B.D.B.).
- SPUR-WINGED PLOVER** (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) — L. Hawkins, Invercargill, 20+ on 7/4/58 (M.L.B.).
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** (*Charadrius dominicus fulvus*) — Okahukura, mid-Kaipara, 13 on 9/3/58 (R.B.S.). Manakau beach, Wellington, several on 16/12/57 (P.M.M.). Farewell Spit, 2 nearing full breeding plumage, March '58 (B.D.B.). Invercargill estuary, 1 on 1/3/58 (M.L.B.).
- BANDED DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius bicinctus*) — Spirit's Bay, 9 adults in loose flock on 10/1/58; Houhora, 12, all adults (R.B.S.). Ruakaka, 6+ (1 juv.) on 19/12/57 (B.D.B.); 9, all adults, on 21/1/58 (R.B.S.). 16 on 2/2/58; 12+ 4-7/4/58; 1, 24-27/10/58 (B.D.H.). Mid-Kaipara, c. 50 on 23/2/58; Bethells, 30/11/57, 1 pr. in very worn plumage (R.B.S.). 12/9/58, 2 (B.D.H.). Clevedon, c. 100 on 24/5/58 (G.K.McK.). Waikato estuary, 28/6/58, 6 in flock and 1 pr. apparently occupying territory (R.B.S.). L. Whakaki, H.B., c. 400 on 2/5/58, c. 100 more than seen last year (R.St.P.). Farewell Spit, 50+ mid-March '58 (B.D.B.). Warrington Beach, Otago, 60+ on 5/4/58

- (L.E.W.). Invercargill estuary, 50+ on 1/3/58; L. Hawkins, 34 on 13/4/58 (M.L.B.).
- RED-BREASTED (N.Z.) DOTTEREL** (*Charadrius obscurus*) — Spirits Bay, 12 in flock on 10/1/58; Kaimaumau, 15+ including 2 pairs with small running young, 12/1/58; Ocean Beach, Whangarei Heads, 2 pairs on 20/1/58; Ruakaka, 30+ on 21/1/58, 16 squatting in loose sand; odd pair agitated, rodent-run and screaming (R.B.S.). 34 on 2/2/58; 4-7/4/58, 30+; 14 on 24-27/10/58 (B.D.H.). Mid-Kaipara, 20+ on 9/3/58 (R.B.S.). Whitford, 6 on 22/6/58, one being extraordinarily red (K.C.B.C.). Waikato estuary, 5 on 28/6/58 (R.B.S.). Little Waihi, B.o.P., 3 on 25-28/5/58. Rangitaiki estuary, 3 (H.R.McK. et. al.). Otumoetai, Tauranga, up to 4, May '58 (M.H.). Farewell Spit, 1 pair in mid-March (B.D.B.).
- WRYBILL** (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) — Ruakaka, 1 on 2/2/58; 2 on 7/4/58 (B.D.H.). Mid-Kaipara, 20+ on 23/2/58; 25 on 9/3/58 (J.P., G.J.M., R.B.S.). Tairua, 8 on 30/3/58 (H.R.McK.), Raglan, 6 on 24/5/58; Kawhia, 23/5/58, c. 50 small waders believed to be Wrybills, seen from distance to land and roost on Motu I. Washdyke, Timaru, 1 on 16/4/58 (J.H.P.). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, 2 on 31/12/57 (J.W.B.).
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW** (*Numenius madagascariensis*) — Whangaparaoa, 1 on 9/10/58, flying along the beach at Manly, calling (S.C.). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, 1 on 30/12/57 (J.W.B.).
- WHIMBREL** (*Numenius phaeopus*) — Farewell Spit, 1 disturbed from creek on mudflats, mid-March '58 (B.D.B.).
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT** (*Limosa lapponica baueri*) — Kaimaumau, 3000+ on 12/1/58. Ruakaka c. 200 on 21/1/58 (R.B.S.); 64 on 2/2/58; 4-7/4/58, 9, 9, 112, 82, on successive days; 24-27/10/58, 105 (B.D.H.). Mid-Kaipara, c. 8000 on 23/2/58; 8000+ on 9/3/58 (R.B.S., J.P., G.J.M.). Pouto Pen., 18/1/58, 8 at Tangaihi, 34 at Kelly's Beach (H.R.McK.). Kawau I., March '58, some feeding in estuary at low tide (C.F.P.). Whitford, c. 80 on 22/6/58 (K.C.B.C.). Tairua, 43 on 30/3/58 (H.R.McK.). Sulphur Pt., Tauranga, 9/1/57, 400+; Rat I., 12/3/58, c. 70 (R.V.McL.). Otumoetai, up to 25 between 13/4/58 and 26/6/58; wintering Godwits do not use the sandbank at Sulphur Pt. as a high-tide roost (M.H.). Ohiwa, 60+ on 12/5/58 (D.M.). Aotea harbour, summer population, '57-'58, of several hundreds (C.R.B.). Foxton Beach, 17 on 19/5/58 (I.G.A.). Farewell Spit, mid-March, 1000+, only 10% in advanced breeding dress. Warrington beach, Otago, 60 on 5/4/58 (L.E.W.). Invercargill aerodrome, c. 200 on 12/4/58 (M.L.B.).
- TURSTONE** (*Arenaria interpres*) — Ruakaka, 1 on 21/1/58 (R.B.S.) and 5/4/58 (B.H.D.). Okahukura, 32+ on 23/2/58; 50+ on 9/3/58 (A.G.G., R.B.S.). Tamaki estuary, 1 on 19/9/55 (R.S.), Invercargill estuary, c. 30 on 1/3/58 and 24/3/58 (M.L.B.).
- KNOT** (*Calidris canutus*) — Ruakaka, 20+ on 19/12/57 (B.D.B.). c. 50 on 21/1/58 (R.B.S.). 32 on 4/4/58; 50+ on 7/4/58 (B.D.H.). 8 on 14/9/58 (R.B.S.). Okahukura, hundreds on 23/2/58; some on 9/3/58 (R.B.S.). Farewell Spit, 1000+ in mid-March '58, 50% being in advanced breeding dress (B.D.B.). Invercargill estuary, 6 on 1/3/58 (M.L.B.).
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER** (*Calidris acuminata*) — L. Hawkins, Invercargill, 4 on 7/4/58; 2 on 13/4/58 (M.L.B.). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, 1 on 31/12/57 (J.W.B. and M.F.).

- RED-NECKED STINT (*Caldris ruficollis*) — Ruakaka, 1 on 19/12/57 (B.D.B.) and 14/9/58 (R.B.S.). Okahukura, 3 on 23/2/58 and 9/3/58 (R.B.S., A.P.). Farewell Spit, 4 in mid-March (B.D.B.).
- PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) — Ruakaka, 4 pairs breeding in a flooded paddock, Oct. '58 (B.D.H.). In Tauranga harbour, Rat I. and Sulphur Pt. are high-tide rests in winter (R.V.McL.). Kawau I., 12 during May '58 (C.F.P.). Ardmore, 1/8/57, 3 flying young, from eggs laid in late May or early June; a further instance of successful winter breeding (W.W.R.). L. Whakaki, H.B., c. 2000 on 2/5/58 (R.St.P.). Foxton beach, c. 60 on 19/5/58 (I.G.A.). Farewell Spit, mid-March, several small parties on mudflats (B.D.B.). Washdyke, c. 40 on 16/4/58 (J.H.P.).
- ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — Mangonui harbour, 2 on 31/1/58; 25/10/58, 1 off Mission Bay, Auckland (R.B.S.). Pukerua Bay, 1 corpse, 23/11/57 (C.N.C.). Puponga, 1 harassing Red-billed Gulls in March (B.D.B.).
- BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) — Mt. Maunganui, in May and June '58, an albino haunted the beach and, being fed regularly, was not shy (A.W.). Dalethorpe Valley, a few mid-March '58 (D.C.). Arthur's Pass, 31/1/58, 22 at deer carcase (R.J.).
- RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novae-hollandiae scopulinus*) — Kaimaumu, 12/1/58, c. 20 pairs breeding with young at various stages on shellbank in Rangaunu Bay (R.B.S.). Whitianga, 18/1/58, two small colonies with young on high rocks. Tauranga, 19/2/58, one with only one foot returned to garden which it has now visited in autumn and winter for nine years (R.V.McL.). Rotorua, Aug. '58, big influx of apparent breeders from sea-coast (M.S.B.). 2/10/57, laying just started at L Rotorua, while Black-billed Gulls were still building (D.M.).
- BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*) — Rotorua, winter population 20-40; c. 60 on 26/7/58; 18/8/58, c. 200 at evening roost (M.S.B.). Foxton beach, 20+ on 8/6/58 (A.A.). Farewell Spit, a few at the base of the Spit in mid-March (B.D.B.). Moa Flat, uncommon fifteen years ago, now frequently seen in large numbers (A.J.H.).
- BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albostratus*) — Tarawera estuary, B.o.P., 12+ on 28/3/58; Pongakawa, 2 on 28/5/58 (M.S.B., C.D.B., H.R.McK.). Foxton beach, 100+ on 19/5/58 (I.G.A.). Washdyke, 22 on 22/4/58 (J.H.P.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 23 on 18/1/58 (L.E.W.).
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) — Himatangi beach, 1 in eclipse or juvenile plumage on 26/1/57 (I.G.A.).
- CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — Kaimaumu, successful colony on shellbank in Rangaunu Bay, c. 150 well-feathered chicks, nearly flying on 12/1/58; Whangaroa harbour, 20+ at high tide roost on 14/9/58; Ruakaka, breeding colony, c. 40 well grown young, 19/12/57 (B.D.B.). c. 60 on 14/9/58 (R.B.S.). 27/10/58, 25, 1 pair with 1 egg (B.D.H.). Upper Hutt, '57-'58, up to 5 on the river (H.L.S.). Farewell Spit, well distributed; 1 group of 26 (B.D.B.). Warrington beach, Otago, 5 on 5/4/58 (L.E.W.). Invercargill, 1 on 1/3/58 (M.L.B.).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*) — A few pairs between Pakiri and Whangarei harbour; two young known to have reached flying stage (N.M., A.P., J.P., B.D.B., B.D.H.).

TERN (Sp.? *nereis/albifrons*) — 3 in Awanui harbour seen resting on mud near waders, spring '57 (R.H.M.). Kaimaumau, 1 black-billed on 12/1/58 (R.B.S.).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*) — Spirit's Bay, 27 (4 mottled juv.) on 10/1/58. Waipapakauri, evening drift of perhaps a few hundred over the sandhills battling into a strong S.S.W. wind, evidently to a roost on the Ninety-mile Beach. Kaimaumau, breeding colony on shellbank of c. 100 pairs with young at all stages from downy chicks to fliers, 12/1/58. Bay of Islands, only c. 60 seen on the "Cream Launch" trip, 17/1/58 (R.B.S.). Ruakaka, 19/12/57, eggs just hatching in a colony of 50+ pairs (B.D.B.). Tauranga harbour, few in autumn at Otumoetai beach; only occasionally do these terns come inside the harbour (M.H.). Foxton beach, c. 20 on 19/5/58 (I.G.A.). Farewell Spit, scattered flocks of up to 25 birds in mid-March (B.D.B.). Washdyke, 4 on 16/4/58 (J.H.P.). Stirling Pt., Bluff, 17 on 25/12/57 (O.S.).

SOOTY TERN (*Sterna fuscata*) — Pukerua Bay, one corpse 4/5/58 (C.N.C.).

N.Z. PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) — Kaipara Flats, more than for 25 years; 13 in April feeding on kahikatea (F.P.H.); Mamaku and Paeroa ranges, fair numbers; now scarce on Mt. Ngongotaha (M.S.B.). Minginui, '57-'58, Aug.-Jan., scarce; Feb.-June, plentiful; July, decreased. Food: Aug., last of miro dried fruits; Sept.-Dec., mostly lace-bark and other leaves; Jan.-Feb., konini, then tawa; March, tawa, miro, matai; Apr.-July, mainly miro (R.St.P.). Kaimanawhas, early March '57, only 2 seen; early March, '58, 10 (F.P.H.). Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri, up to 20 a day; in spring eating willow leaves and buds (P.M.L.). Dunedin, increasing (J.G.).

MALAY SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*) — Appears to be slowly spreading around Auckland. Has reached North Shore at Birkenhead (A.P.) and is sighted much more frequently at Middlemore (R.B.S.).

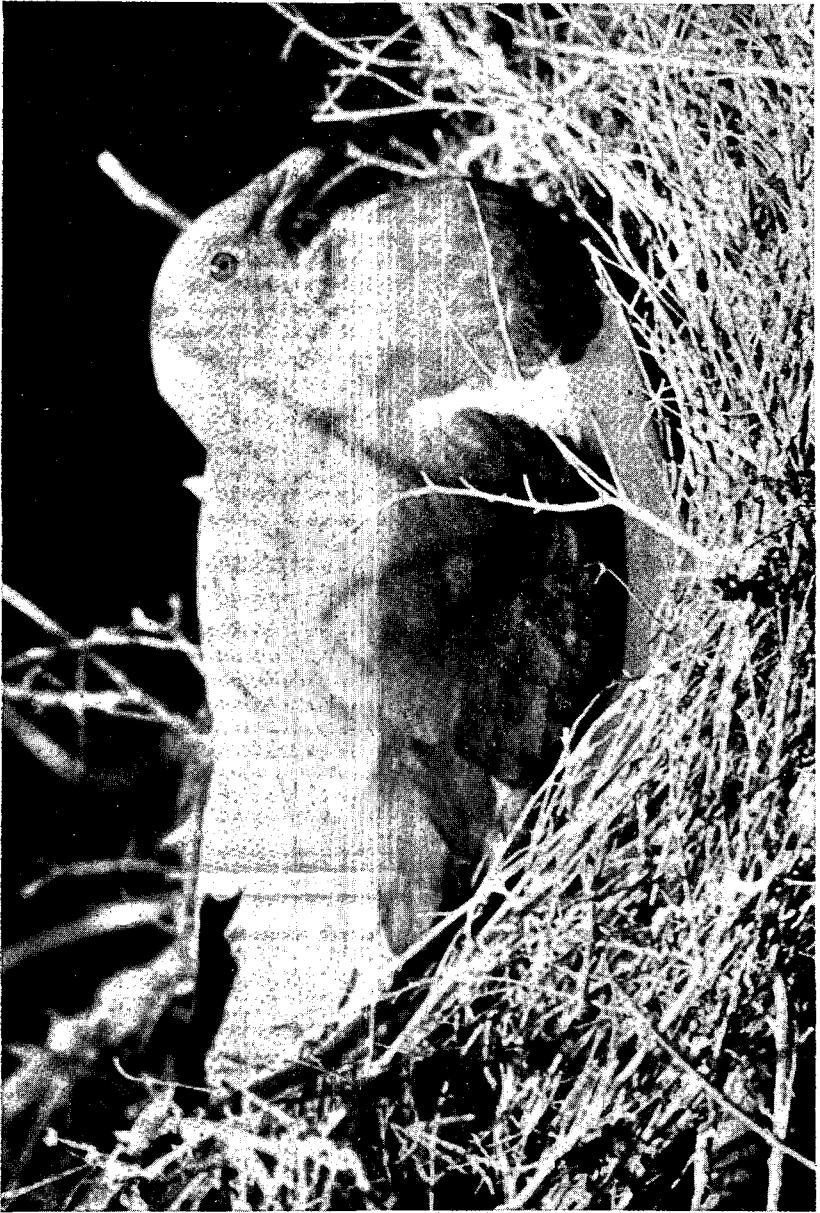
N.I. KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis septentrionalis*) — Clevedon, 22/11/57, 1 flying high, apparently chased by scolding tui (A.J.G.). Moumoukai, only a few, but reports of a summer visit of some numbers in beech country towards coast (J.W. St.P.). Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel, up to a dozen at times reported by Mr. C. McCall; noisy when pohutukawas are flowering (H.R.McK.). Minginui, '57-'58, up to 15 in a day; numbers vary greatly; food, makaroa grubs from wineberry and huhu grubs from prostrate rimu, matai, miro in October; grubs and miro fruit in June (R.St.P.). Kaimanawhas, March '58, c. 12 seen (F.P.H.). Waituhi reserve, 1 in totara beside main road, 28/10/57 (M.B.). Mt. Pirongia, 26/4/58, heard from summit (P.R.M.).

S.I. KAKA (*Nestor m. meridionalis*) — L. Rotoroa, Nelson, frequently seen and heard, 23-25/1/57; Upper Anatoki, noted every day late Jan. and early Feb. '57 (M.B.). Flocks of up to 20, L. Poteriteri, Southland, Jan. '58 (P.G.). Kelly's, Otira, 21/1/58, 6 (R.J.). L. Manapouri, 1 on 16/1/58 (L.E.W.).

- KEA (*Nestor notabilis*) — D'Urville river, seen at upper bush-levels every day late Jan. '57 (M.B.). Greenstone and Caples rivers, Feb. '58, groups of up to 5 (D.M.).
- WHITE COCKATOO (*Kakatoe galerita*) — Mt. Curl, Marton, 6/4/58, 8-10 (D.C.).
- PARAKEET (Sp.?) — Waituhi Reserve, east Taumarunui, 2 in flight, 28/10/57 (M.B.).
- YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*) — Minginui, '57-'58, pairs and small lots up to 6; Aug. already examining holes in matai for nesting; habitually follow flocks of whiteheads; July, seeking food in bark on living trees (R.St.P.). Kaimanawas, March '58, dozens in flight; some watched at a few feet in low growth (F.P.H.). D'Urville river, Jan. '57, flocks of 5-7 rather common. Three parakeets examined through binoculars in top of a red beech were thought to be *malherbi* (M.B.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 2 on 17/1/58 (L.E.W.).
- SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*) — First song, Whangarei. 24/9/57 (O. Cullen); Remuera, 1/10/57 (R.B.S.); Clevedon, Moumoukai, 27/9/57 (J.St.P.); Minginui, 29/9/57 (R.St.P.); 25/9/57. Ohuka, Waikaremoana (D.M.). Late song, 3 & 7/2/58, Remuera; 10/1/58, Moumoukai (J.W.St.P.); Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel, 30/3/58 (per H.R.McK.); Minginui, 4/2/58 (R.St.P.). In Nov., up to 17 seen in one day; last seen 28/2/58 (R.St.P.). Waimiha hill, King Country, 11/1/58, several heard (H.R.McK.).
- LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*) — Minginui, first seen 2/11/57; last noted 19/2/58; more than over last two years; Feb., common in beech country (R.St.P.). Upper Hutt, heard nocturnally in Jan. each year (H.L.S.).
- MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) — Upper Hutt, March-April '57, up to 12 calling (H.L.S.).
- LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*) — Rotorua, July-Aug. '58, 1 seen and heard on several nights, Utahina bridge; 1/8/58, dazzled by light, one flew against window (C.T., M.S.B.).
- KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sancta vagans*) — Minginui, scarce in winter; first arrival for nesting noted 6/9/57; then up to 8 seen daily, very noisy; mid-Feb., mostly gone (R.St.P.).
- N.I. RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris granti*) — Kaimanawas, common in high bush, March '57 and '58 (F.P.H.).
- S.I. RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta c. chloris*) — D'Urville R., numerous throughout valley, Jan. '57 (M.B.). Feb. '58, by far the most abundant bird in the Greenstone/Caples watershed (D.M.). Evansdale, 2 on 27/7/58 (O.U.B.S.). Hook Bush, near Waimate, one fledgling with parents, 29/12/56 (B.A.E.).
- ROCK WREN (*Xenicus gilviventris*) — Anatoki, c. 4800ft., 1 on 2/2/57 moving among broken rocks; 1 also c. 5200ft. (M.B.). Quinten Pass, 2 at 3400ft. in Jan. '58 (M.P.D.).
- SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*) — Clevedon, song all year except March 6-April 11 and July 2-21 (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.).



IX. IMMATURE AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS at Royal Bush,
Southland on 14/9/'57.
(v. Notornis VIII, 31)



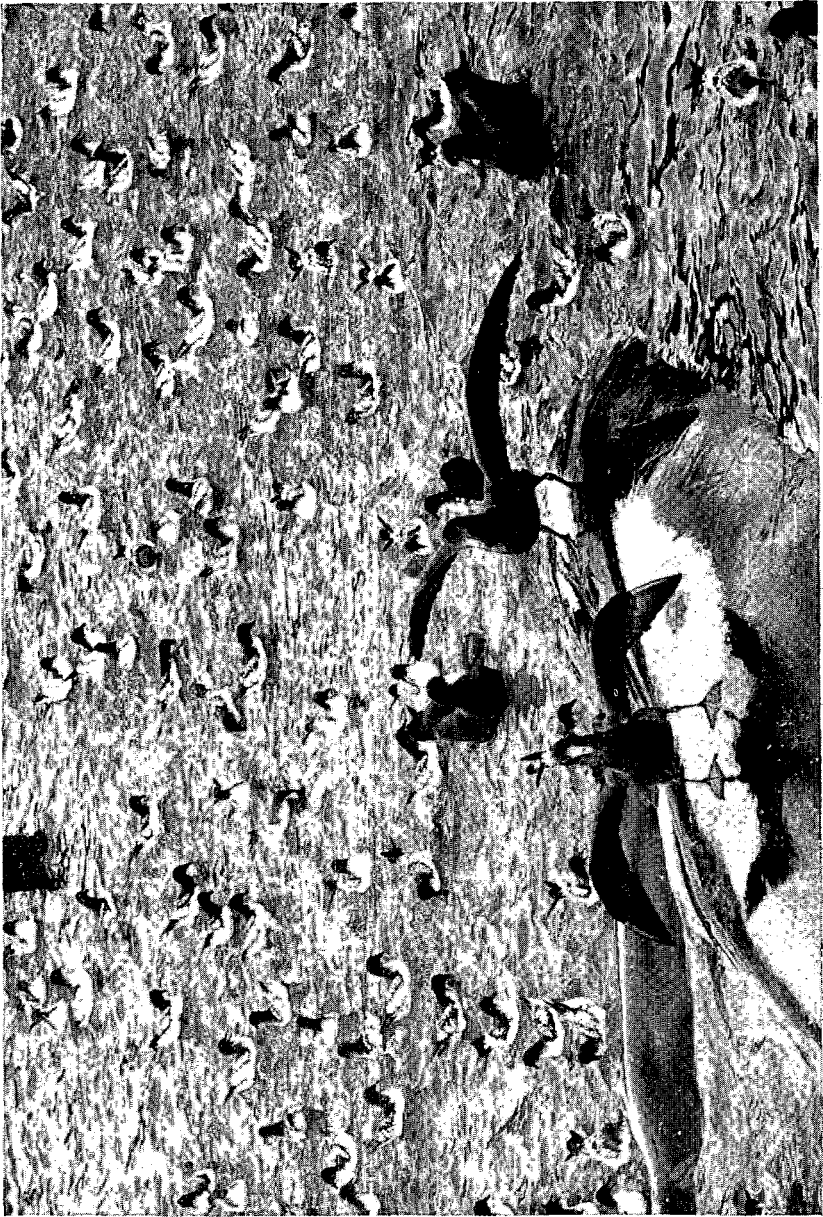
[Photograph by P. Morrison

X. NATIVE PIGEON ON NEST, Kapiti Island.
(v. p. 87).



[Photograph by Dr. M. F. Soper

- XI. STEWART ISLAND KIWI photographed by flashlight near entrance to nest-burrow. The bird's hackles are raised probably in annoyance.
(v. p. 63).



[Photograph by F. C. Kinsky

XII. CAPE PIGEONS and GIANT PETRELS at the Whaling Station in Tory Channel, July, 1958.

- FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) — Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel, Mr. C. McCall reports that the black form is quite common in the high country, possibly up to 25%, but not on lower levels (H.R.McK.). Minginui, 17/10/57, first flying young; Jan. '58, half the population were juv. (R.St.P.). Edwards Valley, Arthur's Pass, 1/3/58, moulting parents feeding late brood (R.J.).
- PIED TIT** (*Petroica m. toitoi*) — Whangamata pine forest, 30/3/58, male heard (H.R.McK.). Minginui, Jan. '58, young birds form half the population (R.St.P.). Aniwanuiwa, 20/9/57, nest with one egg, 10ft. from last year's nest (D.M.). Upper Ongarue R., 11/1/58, numerous for this species, even in odd patches of bush in fern country (H.R.McK.). Kaimanawas, c. 10 in climb of last 800ft. of bush, March '57 (F.P.H.). Exotic forests of volcanic plateau, reported common and increasing (M.S.B.). Tutamoc, Tolaga Bay, 1 on 3/9/58 (J.W.B.).
- YELLOW-BREASTED TIT** (*Petroica m. macrocephala*) — Arthur's Pass, 1/3/58, moulting parents feeding fledglings (R.J.). Whare Flat, Dunedin, 13/9/58, 20 noted, including female with nesting material (J.G.). Tirohanga, West Taieri, 1 male, 3/8/57 (J.W.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 2 males on 17/1/58; Milford Sound, one seen 19/1/58 (L.E.W.).
- N.I. ROBIN** (*Petroica a. longipes*) — Mamaku bush, widely distributed (M.R.R., M.S.B.). Kaimanawas, March '57, only 2 seen in several days; other years c. 12; March '58, c. 20 (F.P.H.). Waituhi Reserve, 28/10/57, 1 singing (M.B.). Minginui, little song in June; first full song on July 31 (R.St.P.).
- S.I. ROBIN** (*Petroica a. australis*) — D'Urville R., 11+ birds noted 23-25/1/57; heard singing in every area of the valley visited (M.B.). Crooked River, where it flows into L. Brunner, Jan. '56, 1 in willow (H.F.D.). R.J. comments that this is of interest, as it is the only recent record in this district, where Smith, Trans. N.Z. I (c. 1888) mentions Robins as present. Dunedin, 27/9/58 (J.G.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 6 on 17/1/58; apparently more numerous than on last visit in 1953 (L.E.W.). Greenstone/Caples valleys, Feb. '58, frequently noted in beech forest (D.M.).
- FERNBIRD** (*Bowdleria punctata*) — Tauranga harbour, Fincham's Creek and (M.H.) in shore reeds and scrub, calling freely all winter (R.V.McL.). L. Whakamaru, Waikato, Sept. '58, at least 2 pairs; nest with 3 eggs (D.G.). Kaweka foothills and north of Ball's Clearing, possibly increasing (P.M.L.). Cedar Ridge, Aorere R., 28/12/57, 2 (M.B.).
- BROWN CREEPER** (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*) — Duntrack, Nelson, 8 in beech tops, 17/12/58 (M.B.). Te Oka Road, Banks Pen., 10/11/57; Arthur's Pass, 7/4/58, fledgling constantly calling and begging in flock of 12 (R.J.). Flagstaff, Dunedin, July '58, numbers in pine plantations on S.W. slopes (J.W.). Cascade Creek, Eglinton Valley, small flock on 17/1/58 (L.E.W.).
- WHITEHEAD** (*Mohoua o. albicilla*) — Mt. Pirongia, 27/4/58 (B.D.H.). Minginui '57-'58, numbers regular, up to 40 seen some days; small feeding flocks followed by fantails and parakeets (R.St.P.). Waituhi Reserve, several in totaras, 28/10/57 (M.B.).

- YELLOWHEAD** (*Mohoua o. ochrocephala*) — D'Urville R., 1 seen and others heard across river, 24/1/57 (M.B.). Bluffs, Eglinton Valley, 2 on 16/1/58; calling at dawn (L.E.W.).
- GREY WARBLER** (*Gerygone igata*) — Clevedon, 14/10/57, 3 flying young, just out of nest, being fed by parents; 23/10/57, feeding themselves; 6/11/57, one of them giving feeble trill of song (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). Rotorua, 18/8/58, one gathering lichen from old peach tree (M.S.B.).
- SONG THRUSH** (*Turdus ericetorum*) — Clevedon, 13/1/58, last song; 17/4/58, first song, weak up to 6/5/58, then strong (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). Minginui, song ended 7/2/58; song started 15/5/58 (R.St.P.). Tauranga, song heard 28/3/58 (R.V.McL.).
- BLACKBIRD** (*Turdus merula*) — Clevedon, 19/12/57, last song; odd songs from June 6, increasing end of July; full daytime song Aug. 21 (H.M.McK.), H.R.McK.). Minginui, 1/9/57, first song; 7/2/58, last song (R.St.P.).
- PIPIT** (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) — Open tops of Kaimanawas, c. 5000ft., excluding peaks, early March '57, hundreds, spaced about two to the acre (F.P.H.). Upper Dalethorpe Valley, c. 10, March '58 (D.C.). Temple Basin, trapped in visitor's hut, where it had taken shelter, by 4ft. of snow, 5/10/58 (R.J.). Muriwai Lagoon, Gisborne, nest with eggs 21/1/58 (M.F.).
- BELL-BIRD** (*Anthornis melanura*) — Moumoukai, 31/8/58, not seen or heard for about six months (J.W.St.P.). Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel Pen., 29/3/58, reported by Mr. C. McCall as increasing over last two years (H.R.McK.). Minginui, many seen on trips up river valleys, Aug., up to 20 daily; Sept.-Jan., up to 30 or 40; Feb., up to 80; March-May, 170; mid-June, 60; later 28; July, 16. Food: Aug., whau-whau flower; Sept., examining fuchsia buds; Oct.-Dec., fuchsia flower; Jan.-Feb., konini, cicada, wineberry (R.St.P.). Waimiha, King Country, 11/1/58, plentiful, even in fairly open country (H.R.McK.). Volcanic plateau, after Silvereye, the commonest bush bird; definitely increasing (M.R.R., M.S.B.). Kaimanawas, March '57, few seen, many heard (F.H.P.). Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri, 4-8 heard daily; increasing since '52-'53; seen in pairs attacking sparrows (P.M.L.). D'Urville R., numerous about 2000ft., Jan. '57 (M.B.). Arthur's Pass, 1/3/58, adults silent, young learning to sing (R.J.). Waimate S., in garden 1955 (C.W.McL.).
- TUI** (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) — Tauranga, winter '58, a few in suburban gardens, seen on kowhai, puriri, red-hot pokers, gums, abutilons, camellias (R.V.McL.). Volcanic plateau, widely but sparsely distributed; apparently not increasing (M.S.B.). Minginui, Aug.-Sept., increasing; Oct.-June, many; July, rapid decrease. Food: Aug.-Sept., whau-whau-paku flower; Oct.-Dec., fuchsia and kowhai; Jan.-Feb., fuchsia and cicada, eaten whole (R.St.P.). D'Urville R., plentiful along river flats, Jan. '57 (M.B.).
- SILVEREYE** (*Zosterops lateralis*) — Clevedon, '57-'58, plentiful all year; there appears to be no regular song season (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). Moumoukai, May-July, hardly any, though plentiful in lower country; Aug., a few small flocks (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, Aug., odd small lots; Sept.-Oct., none; Nov.-early Feb., odd small lots; Feb., up to 200 in a day; July, down to odd lots up to 10 (R.St.P.).

- YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*) — Clevedon, 6/9/57, first song (A.J.G.). Minginui, a few throughout year; some died of cold in June (R.St.P.).
- STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — Clevedon, '57, nest made in one season filling 6 feet of a four-inch downpipe, composed almost entirely of dry kowhai seed pods (R.P.S.). Minginui, March, up to 200 feeding on the rimu crop (R.St.P.). Waimapu estuary, Tauranga, huge roost in clump of pussy willows used nightly most of the year (M.H.).
- MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*) — Clevedon, 9/11/57, one rummaging in occupied sparrow's nest (H.M.McK.). Otumoetai mudflats, Tauranga, 5/5/58, c. 50 feeding (M.H.). Volcanic plateau, rapidly increasing; winter flocks up to 200 (M.R.R., M.S.B.). Seatoun, 1 seen on 17/8/58 and 18/10/58 (C.J.L.).
- MAGPIE** (*Gymnorhina* sp?) — Arthur's Pass township, 26/7/58 (R.J.). Craigieburn Ski Club hut, March '58 (R.G.). Five Rivers, 2 reported by T. Catherill; Queen's Park, Invercargill, Dec. '57-Jan. '58, one (O.S.).
- KOKAKO** (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) — Moumoukai, Clevedon '57-'58, usual numbers (J.W.St.P.). Above Papa Aroha Bay, Coromandel Pen., c. 1700-1800ft., reported by C. McCall (H.R.McK.). Upper Tutaenui, Marton, reliably reported June '57 (M.B.).



ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

FIRTH OF THAMES

- WHITE-FACED HERON** — Apparently now resident near Miranda, but breeding not yet proved. 6 the biggest number seen together, 8/6/58.
- SHOVELLER** — 3 on pools, 26/10/57; 3 pairs offshore, 3/7/58.
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER** — By 31/8/57 numbers were reduced to c. 100; more birds moved away in Sept., c. 44 summered. The numbers had begun to increase again before the end of the year, e.g., 66 on 30/12/57; hundreds arrived in January; c. 630 on 9/2/58, some of these evidently being birds heading further north; c. 700 on 10/5/58; 550+ on 26/7/58.
- N.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER** — 2 on 31/8/57 and 29/9/57; 1 on 15/12/57, 25/1/58 and 9/3/58.
- BLACK OYSTERCATCHER** — 4 at Kaiua late Aug. and throughout Sept., 1957; up to 3 during winter 1958; occasionally one at Miranda.
- PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER** — 1 on 28/10/57 at Kairito Ck., showing much broken black; 1 on 25/1/58 at Miranda. A capricious and unpredictable migrant in the Firth of Thames.
- BANDED DOTTEREL** — 21 birds were scattered over breeding grounds on 29/9/57, when two nests with eggs (3 & 2) were found; but half the birds present did not seem interested in breeding. 15/12/57, 3 pairs still on territory, 1 tiny chick found; flock of 20+ on Miranda lagoon. 30/12/57, c. 50, predominantly adults in flock; 25/1/58,

- 105+ (70% adults); 9/2/58, 80+; 9/3/58, 60+. Few in winter; 3 on 10/5/58; c. 20 on 5/7/58; c. 30 in very wet paddock on 3/8/58; 31/8/58, none noted.
- N.Z. DOTTEREL** — 29/9/57, 1 pair in shelly marsh, 300yds. inland from beach. Wandering juveniles come and go.
- WRYBILL** — The pattern of migration was similar to that of other recent years. c. 85 on 28/10/57 were probably summering, though only 10 were found on 15/12/57 and 40 on 30/12/57. c. 800 on 9/2/58; 2500+ on 10/3/58 and 7/4/58. c. 2000 on 3/8/58.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW** — 1 on 29/9/57; 2 from 26/10-15/12/57. In December and up to the end of January, 12, the biggest flock yet recorded in N.Z., stayed on the southwest mudflats between Thames and Parawai (M.P.D.), after which they seem to have gradually come across to the Miranda-Waitakaruru side; 4 on 9/2/58; 7 on 10/3/58; 10 on several dates between 7/4/58 and 8/6/58 near the mouth of Pukorokoro Ck.; 3 on 16/7/58.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT** — Only one, Kaiua-Miranda, 31/8/57; c. 1500 on 29/9/57; c. 5000 on 9/2/58; and probably more on 9/3/58; c. 50 only on 25/4/58 and c. 80 on 10/5/58; if a larger number wintered, they must have favoured the Piako-Waitakaruru stretch. None seen on the 'normal beat' 3/8/58 and 26/8/58.
- ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** — One was present over the summer at least from 24/10/57 to 9/3/58. From October to February it was usually to be found on the 'Sandpiper Pools,' feeding or resting among Pied Stilts. When first seen in October its plumage was showing much nuptial red. This faded away during November. The very white underwing and the distinct white altar bar were easily discernible when this godwit was in flight.
- TEREK SANDPIPER** — One was found among Wrybills on 9/2/58, when it called frequently as it ran about among them. The call was usually a rippling triple whistle, not to be confused with the call of any other wader in N.Z. It was seen again on 9/3/58. The last record of a Terek at Miranda was on 27/12/54.
- TURNSTONE** — More were recorded than ever before. 26 on 29/9/57; 35-36 from 28/10/57-9/2/58; 7 on 10/3/58; 14 on 7/4/58.
- KNOT** — 1500+ on 29/9/57; 3000+ on 25/1/58; 5000+ on 9/3/58; c. 50 on 8/6/58.
- SIBERIAN PECTORAL SANDPIPER** — 9 on 26/10/57; 8+ over summer; apparent influx of northbound migrants in early autumn, viz 21 on 9/3/58 and 28 on 7/4/58, this last being the largest flock so far recorded on this coast or indeed in N.Z.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER** — 5+ on 26/10/57 and 28/11/57; 9 on 15/12/57; 1 on 25/1/58; 2 on 9/3/58.
- RED-NECKED STINT** — More were recorded than ever before and most of them remained over the winter of 1958; probably an indication of immaturity. 12 on 26/10/57; 19 on 15/12/57; 12+ on 10/3/58; 20 on 5/7/58 with Wrybills (A. Todd, B. D. Bell).
- PIED STILT** — Nesting was in full progress on 31/8/57; on 29/9/57, non-breeders in flocks numbered some hundreds, certainly 500+, A dusky stilt, but not wholly black, was seen on 9/5/58 and 26/7/58.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — Most stretches of beach now have one or two breeding pairs. They are strongly suspected of drastically reducing the numbers of breeding pairs of Banded Dotterels. At the Kairito Ck. colony of c. 40 pairs, only two nests had clutches of three eggs on 28/10/57; a few had two eggs and several one egg. 28/11/57 was the peak of hatching.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — c. 90 on 29/9/57; 34 on 28/10/57; none noted summering; 60+ including several juv. back on 4/7/58; c. 215 on 8/6/58; 600+ on 26/7/58, some being in a sodden marsh with Red-billed; and later 150+ flew down from inland. This is the first time that Black-billed Gulls have been seen away from the shore on this stretch of coast where hundreds normally winter.

CASPIAN TERN — Only a few summered; no evidence of breeding. 120+ on 25/4/58.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 28/10/57, some hundreds up and down the Firth. None known to have bred successfully. c. 40 birds present at Kairito shellbank on 28/11/57; and six nests each with one egg. On 30/12/57 this colony was quite abandoned. On 7/4/58 these terns were thinly scattered all along the coast; 220+ on 10/5/58; 8/6/58, c. 175 at Kaiaua.

TERN (*Sp?* *albifrons/nereis*) — Small dark-billed terns as described in *Notornis VII* 174-182 were again recorded on several occasions, viz. 1 on 6/7/57 (N.M.) and 28/10/57 off Kairito Ck.; 2 on 28/11/57; 9 on 30/12/57; 4 on 25/4/58, one showing some yellow in the bill; 4 on 19/10/58 at Waitakaruru. These small terns clearly prefer the muddy Kairito-Waitakaruru reach to the more easily watched Kaiaua-Miranda coast.

— R.B.S., H.R.McK.

MANUKAU — (a) UPPER MANUKAU

BLUE HERON — Puhea Ck. is a regular haunt. 3 on 4/5/58 near the bridge.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 23 at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Normal numbers during the summer, e.g. 2000+ at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57; 1500+ at Harania Ck. on 2/1/58.

KNOT — 7 at Harania Ck. on 26/9/57; c. 200 on 16/11/57 was the biggest flock noted during the summer.

TURNSTONE — 1 at Tararata Ck. on 16/11/57.

STILT — Many non-breeders as usual, were present during the breeding season. The winter population numbered thousands.

CASPIAN TERN — At dusk on 13/11/57, six passed low over Middlemore, having flown up the Tamaki and heading for Harania Ck. into a strong westerly. Caspian Terns also cross the isthmus by a route which takes them from Orakei and Hobson Bay over Remuera to Upper Manukau.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — One, conspicuous in breeding dress, was found at Harania Ck. on 13/2/58; where it was subsequently watched again on 26/2/58; 5/3/58 and 25/3/58. This is the fourth successive summer that a White-winged Black Tern has assumed nuptial plumage in Upper Manukau. It is presumably the same individual.

— R.B.S.

MANUKAU — (b) PUKETUTU-IHUMATAO

Work on the Auckland sewage scheme has continued in this area; and with the consolidation of a new causeway and sea-wall which links Farm Point with Puketutu Island, a large shallow lake has been formed. In November, 1957, as the flats which were formerly covered twice daily by the tides dried out, the strong stench of dying shellfish and other marine organisms filled the air. During the summer the water-level in the lake sank very low, but eleven inches of rain in February produced conditions which were ideal for many wading birds. The deeper water of the main channel evidently teemed with trapped fish, which attracted large numbers of shags and Caspian Terns.

The number of waders frequenting this corner of Manukau has, if anything, increased; and the changed ecological conditions have been followed by changes in behaviour in some species. The many acres of shell at Chinky Spit are now permanently above water-level, so that the resting places of the waders are no longer dictated by the height of the tides. On some shellbanks a vigorous growth of farm weeds has already begun; but Chinky Spit still remains comparatively bare, and as it is rather inaccessible huge flocks of waders have used it for resting in absolute security. The extensive shallows round the edge of the lake have become a rich feeding ground, independent of the tides. The formation of this lake seems to have made the Wrybills even lazier than they were before in their search for food. During the winter a mixed company of 2000-3000 waders, Stilts, Wrybills, S.I. Oystercatchers, Godwits and Knots, was often scattered around the shallow fringes of the new lake busily feeding; and as the tide ebbed outside the new sea-wall, they were slow to move away. Formerly this corner of Manukau was deserted by Stilts during the spring and up to midsummer; now they are present in hundreds, non-breeders, probably lured away from their traditional summer quarters in upper Manukau.

At the time of writing, another causeway from Puketutu Island towards Ihumatao is nearing completion, so that another square mile of tidal flats will soon be drying out on the south side of the old Puketutu causeway, and the main channel of Oruarangi Creek will become a second temporary lake.

SOOTY SHEARWATER — 1 dead on 15/11/57; 1 juv. dead on 8/5/58 with wing (272 m.m.) not fully grown.

GANNET — 4 on 2/6/58 riding out a gale in the middle of the new lake under the lee of Puketutu I.

BLACK SHAG — c. 70 on the new lake on 2/6/58 and c. 80 on 8/7/58.

PIED SHAG — c. 30 on 2/6/58 and 20+ on 8/7/58, many being juv. Flight-lines point to frequent traffic between the new lake and the breeding colony at L. Pupuke, 12 miles away.

LITTLE SHAG — The new lake attracted many.

BLUE HERON — 1 on 15/11/57; 2 on 2/6/58 on the lake; 1 on 5/7/58 at Ihumatao Pt.

WHITE-FACED HERON — 12+ at Ihumatao Pt. on 8/5/58 and 22 on 21/6/58. 1 on the new lake on 2/6/58.

BLACK SWAN — 3000+ in mid-May off Ihumatao Pt. On 27/3/58, 2 had come on to the new lake, where numbers increased to c. 50 during August.

- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — The number wintering far exceeded anything recorded before. c. 260 on 12/2/58; c. 500 on 4/5/58; 600+ on 2/6/58; c. 800 on 5/7/58; all beside the new lake. c. 300 off Ihumatao Pt. on 22/8/58.
- BANDED DOTTERELL — c. 200 on 20/2/58; c. 12 on 9/4/58; 11 on 31/5/58.
- WRYBILL — 107 on 4/1/58; c. 520 on 22/1/58; 580+ on 27/2/58; c. 650 on 27/3/58; c. 530 on 9/4/58; 520+ on 2/6/58; winter counts were difficult because 'Chinky Spit' is now high and dry and no tides cover it to drive the Wrybills off.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Some hundreds throughout the summer with 3000+ in February and early March, 1000+ on 27/3/58. Some hundreds wintered, viz., 700+ on 2/6/58; c. 900 on 5/7/58.
- TURNSTONE — 30 on 12/3/58 and 32 on 9/4/58.
- KNOT — c. 2000 on 5/2/58; 3000+ on 12/2/58 and 12/3/58; 3000-4000 on 27/3/58; Hundreds wintered, viz., 700+ on 4/5/58; 8/5/58; 5/7/58 and 8/7/58.
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — 1 on 22/1/58 and 9/4/58, when it was well streaked on the flanks.
- CURLEW SANDPIPER — 1 on 22/1/58 and 27/2/58, a grey bird with Wrybills.
- PIED STILT — The dammed explosion crater and new lake are proving an irresistible all-year-round attraction for Stilts. c. 50 on 15/11/57 in the explosion crater. 100+ on the lake on 5/2/58; 500+ on 27/3/58; 800+ on 4/5/58. During winter many gather at full tide at Ihumatao Pt., e.g. c.150 on 8/5/58. 200+ on 21/6/58; c. 500 on 5/7/58. On 13/8/58, c. 200 had returned to the explosion crater, where the shallow water was green with a lush growth of alga.
- CASPIAN TERN — c. 40 non-breeders on 15/11/58 was a big flock for the time of the year in this area. c. 80 on 4/1/58; c. 200 on 5/2/58; 180+ on 4/5/58. They gather beside the new lake and usually many are fishing over it. Another regular roost is at Ihumatao Pt., viz., c. 40 on 8/5/58 and 21/6/58.
- WHITE-FRONTED TERN — A rare visitor to this part of Manukau. 2 over the new lake on 4/1/58.
- WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — 1 feeding over the teeming ooze of the explosion crater on 8 and 11/10/58, an adult in worn breeding dress still black on the belly, probably the bird from Harania Ck.
- PIPIT — The Pipit is such a rare bird in this district that the arrival of a pair is worth recording. They were first noted on 4/5/58 on the earthworks at the end of the old causeway and were still there on 24/7/58.

— R.B.S.

MANUKAU — (c) KARAKA - PUHINUI

GANNET — 12 off Seagrove on 17/8/58.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG — Numerous in winter between Weymouth and Hingaia; biggest count 74.

BLUE HERON — 1 on the old jetty at Kidd's on 22/6/58.

LITTLE EGRET — 27/8/58, Mr. G. H. Smith evidently saw one at Karaka.

WHITE HERON — 2 on Karaka shellbank on 29/10/57, transients.

WHITE-FACED HERON — 6 on 12/4/58; odd birds may be found now at any time along the shore; one flying inland on 11/10/58 at Puhinui evidently to a nest in one of the many groups of pines or gums in this locality.

ROYAL SPOONBILL — 3 which had wintered (1957) in Pahurehure inlet, with its many long winding arms, evidently summered also. They were seen frequently between Weymouth and Tironui during November and December; after which they appear to have moved up the secluded Hingaia River towards Drury, where Ruth and David Trower found them on 19/4/58. On 13/5/58, Mrs. C. R. Moffat reported 6 at Weymouth. These were frequently seen during the winter of 1958 and were still present in mid-October. It is possible that a seventh bird was present for a short while.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 400+ on 24/11/57 were evidently immature non-breeders; 600+ on 3/2/58; c. 1000 on 23/3/58 and 5/4/58. Many hundreds throughout winter.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER — 2 on 28/9/57; 18 on 3/2/58, the only waders in Higham's marsh to-day; 26 on 23/2/58, only the odd one not showing some black and more than half in well-developed nuptial dress.

BANDED DOTTEREL — 3 on 28/9/57; 49 on 27/1/58; c. 70 on 22/2/58; 116 on 11/3/58; c. 200 on 23/3/58; 50-60 on 5 & 6/4/58; c. 170 on 22/6/58, the majority being in breeding dress; 220+ at Seagrove on 6/7/58; c. 70 on 17/8/58; 2 on Karaka shellbank on 28/9/58.

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL — 2 on 23/3/58; 4 on 5/4/58 in Kidd's marsh; 8, in a sodden paddock of short lush grass, well back from the beach at Seagrove on 6/7/58, an unusual place to find this species. Three were reddening.

WRYBILL — c. 350 on 28/9/57; 20 on 29/10/57; 8 on 24/11/57 and 8/12/57; c. 1100 on 27/1/58; c. 900 on 22/3/58; 600+ throughout winter; c. 400 on 17/8/58; c. 105 on 28/9/58.

LONG-BILLED CURLEW — 1 at Karaka during March; 4 at Seagrove on 1/6/58, 22/6/58 and 6/7/58; 2 on Karaka shellbank on 28/9/58.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — 6000+ on 28/9/57; 6000+ on 22/2/58; c. 5000 on 11/3/58; c. 1000 on 23/3/58, of which few were red; some hundreds on 6/4/58, red birds being scarcely 1%. c. 190 on 6/7/58; 500+ on 17/8/58; c. 3000 on 28/9/58.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT — 1 on 5/4/58. With its conspicuously dark axillaries and sooty underwing, it was quite distinct from Asiatic Black-tailed Godwits recently seen in the Firth of Thames (J.C.D., R.B.S.).

TEREK SANDPIPER — The single bird which wintered in Manukau in 1957 was present in the Karaka coast till March 1958, when it was joined by a second bird. The two, one distinctly larger than the other, were seen on a number of occasions between 11/3/58 and 20/4/58. The 'shoulder tabs' of the larger bird were more strongly marked. The two often came into Kidd's marsh with Wrybills.

GREY-TAILED TATTLER — A single bird was recorded on numerous occasions between 29/10/57 and 20/4/58. At full tide, if it was not on a fence post, it often resorted to a piece of driftwood which formed an arch, on which it would run up and down.

TURNSTONE — 196+ on 3/2/58; c. 300 on 11/3/58; 200+ on 23/3/58; c. 300 on 6/4/58; 40 on 6/7/58, 7 of which were away from the shore in a waterlogged paddock at Seagrove with Banded and Red-breasted Dotterels; c. 60 on 17/8/58; c. 100 on 28/9/58.

KNOT — Scarce at Karaka in the spring, viz., 2 on 28/9/57, none on 24/11/57 or 8/12/57; c. 6500 on 22/2/58; c. 6000 on 11/3/58; 500+ on 6/4/58. Many wintered, viz., 1000+ at Karaka on 22/6/58, many being fully red and most showing some red; and at Seagrove on 6/7/58, 1200+. 500+ on 17/8/58.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — One on 29/10/57, and 3/2/58.

RED-NECKED STINT — 5 on 29/10/57; 8 on 8/12/57; 9 on 27/1/58; 10 on 22/3/58; 11 on 5 & 6/4/58; the largest flock so far recorded in Manukau, one very red on head and neck, another showing some colour, but nine looking like gray yearlings. 9 on 20/4/58; 4 on 6/7/58 and 17/8/58; 10 on 28/9/58.

PIED STILT — Oaklands Rd., 2 nests with eggs 28/10/57 and 7/11/57. Usually some non-breeders linger up the creeks, e.g., c. 50 at Whangūmaire on 14/9/57; but the open Karaka coast is virtually deserted in spring and early summer, viz., 2 on 28/9/57, none on 24/11/57; but 200+ on 6/4/58; 800+ on 1/6/58 between Seagrove and Papakura; hundreds on 17/8/58; 4 on 28/9/58.

CASPIAN TERN — Very few on 24/11/57; plentiful from January to August, e.g., 150 on 3/2/58.

WHITEFRONTED TERN — c. 40 on the old jetty on 5/4/58; c. 80 on 10/4/58.

TERN (Sp.?) — 2 small terns (*albifrons/nercis*) were present from February to April, sometimes resting on the old jetty, sometimes among waders, especially Wrybills.

HARRIER — Nest with 4 eggs at Puhinui on 11/10/58.

— R.B.S., H.R.McK.

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SHORT NOTES

NESTING OF NEW ZEALAND PIGEON

"On 10/1/58 I was able to find a nest of the N.Z. Pigeon. This nest was roughly 9 feet from the ground in a well shaded position, in low bush and about 300 yards from the caretaker's house on Kapiti Island. It was approximately 100 yards from the edge of the bush.

I observed the nest every day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. until the 16th January and during these periods a pigeon was continually on the nest. I could not tell whether it was always the same pigeon. The bird or birds were very tame and I had to approach within touching distance on the 10th before the sitting bird raised itself sufficiently for me to see the egg.

I returned to Kapiti on 5th February and immediately went to the nest. A bird was sitting and I again had to approach within touching distance before the bird lifted sufficiently for me to see that the egg had hatched. From the appearance of the chick I assumed that the hatching had been very recent.

Resuming my morning observations I again did not see the parent bird off the nest until 10th February. During these four days my only sight of the young bird was a fleeting glimpse when the parent occasionally shifted its position.

On the 10th I went to the nest at 8.30 a.m. to find the chick unattended. I noticed that its eyes were still closed. At 9 a.m., when the parent bird returned to the nest and re-commenced brooding, the chick gave no sign of requiring food. Until noon I saw the chick only occasionally as it moved under the parent bird, which was sitting perfectly still except for an adjustment when the chick moved and occasional convulsive movements in its throat. A few minutes before noon the parent bird picked up and swallowed several small objects from the nest. At a few minutes after twelve it stood up and commenced to feed the chick. It reached down and took the young bird's bill in the side of its own and by convulsive movements of its throat and crop appeared to be forcing food into the chick. This feeding went on for about five minutes at intervals of roughly half a minute. The chick eventually appeared satisfied — although at no stage was actually demanding — and refused further feeding although the parent attempted to give it more. The young bird then crept under the parent and was still there when I left at 1 p.m.

I continued observing the nest until the 16th for shorter periods but did not see the parent bird at the nest again. The young bird was obviously being fed at some time and spent most of the day sleeping, literally "flat out." On the 12th, I noticed that its eyes were open.

At various times I tied foliage back to allow sunlight to reach the nest for photographic purposes and this made the young bird very restless, it struggled around the nest looking for shade and I was forced to curtail these periods. When the nest was shaded again the chick settled down quite happily."

P. MORRISON

★

KIWI NEAR WHAKATANE

A Kiwi (*Apteryx mantelli*) was found walking among the sheep at 4 p.m. on 14/8/58 in a farm paddock five miles south of Taneatua in the Whakatane River Valley, the weather being overcast at the time. It had apparently come from the bush about half a mile away, and was picked up without difficulty. The fact that it was in open country in daylight suggested that it was unwell and, despite all efforts, it died early on the morning of 16th August, when it was collected by the Ranger for the Department of Internal Affairs, Rotorua.

The bird was an excellent specimen, unmarked and with brown plumage quite free of bare patches. From the measurements (length 64, bill 13.5, tarsus 8 cm., weight 1.39 kg.) it would appear to be a nearly full grown female. The legs were swollen, and the ranger thought this probably indicated disease.

W. T. PARHAM

THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE KIWI IN THE
EAST COAST REGION

During the years 1955-1958, I have recorded, mainly by hearing, Kiwis (*A. australis*) in a number of localities in the East Coast region of the North Island.

- 4/4/55 Kapua range, Waiapu County, E.C.: alt. 2600-3000'. Single call heard.
- 21/1/56 Mokakoere Stream, tributary of Waioecka River, Waikohu County: alt. 1650-1750'. Solitary bird heard (3 calls).
- 22/2/56 Mokakoere Stream, Opotiki County, alt. 2000'. Bird heard, close to camp; 3 calls during 20 mins.
- 23/2/56 Same place and camp as last; 2 birds heard, one call and another in reply repeated.
- 24/2/56 Upper creek of Pukakaho Stream, Waikohu County, tributary of Ruakituri River; alt. 2900-3000'. Hen heard, and young bird in reply — several times, close to camp.
- 25/2/56 Anini clearing, Anini Stream; tributary of Ruakituri River, alt. 2543', Waikohu County: one or two birds heard, repeated two or three times.
- 12/4/57 Whakapunake Mt., Cook County; alt. 2900', time 9.30 p.m. and 5.40 a.m. on 22nd. Solitary calls heard.
- 6/1/58 Mokamokanui Stream (Napier-Taupo M.H.), East Taupo County: Solitary bird heard, alt. 2200-2280'.

The localities are of beech forest, with the exception of that of 22/2/56, which is tawa-tawhero-rimu bush.

I can only suggest the survival of the Kiwi in the beech forest as being due, perhaps, to the absence of wild pigs there, owing to the absence of food and to the steepness of the hill-sides.

R. A. CRESWELL

★

NEW MEMBERS

22/8/58

- Barlow, C., 152 Lewis Street, Invercargill
- Behrent, F. W., No. 2 Line Road R.D., Wanganui
- Francis, K., Greenmeadows Game Farm, Napier
- Gilpin, B., 7 Rolleston Avenue, Christchurch C.1
- Hall, A. G., Internal Affairs Dept., 45 Alexander Avenue, Whakatane
- Hodgson, D. W., Waiuku
- Hodgson, Mrs. D. W., Waiuku
- Huntley, C., C/o Whaling Station, Tory Channel, P.B., Picton
- I. Pan Eugeniusz Nowak, Zoologisch Museum, 43 Invaliden Strasse, Berlin N.1, Eastern Germany
- Kikkawa Jiro, Dept. of Zoology, University of Otago, Dunedin
- Kirkbride, Matthew, Ihumatao Road, Mangere, Auckland S.E.5
- McKay, J. H., Otoko R.D., Te Karaka, Gisborne
- Maxwell, Wayne, Sec. 2, R.D. 1, Pokeno
- O'Leary, Francis, 95B Overtoun Terrace, Hataitai, Wellington E.2
- Parham, W. T., 31 Pohutu Street, Whakatane
- Reid, Mrs. H. M., 21 Marshlands Road, Christchurch
- Rucoft, Miss V. A., 65a Goulstone Road, Whakatane
- Skegg, Peter D. G., 28 Ventnor Road, Remuera, Auckland S.E.2
- Somers, Miss B. A., Botany Div., D.S.I.R., Box 2015, Christchurch, C.1
- Stenhouse, David, Lincoln College, Christchurch

AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS NEAR INVERCARGILL, 1958

On 23/5/58, with Mr. George Moffett, I visited the Borstal Farm at Invercargill, in response to a report from Mr. Christie, the Farm manager, of the presence of a strange bird. Mr. Christie, in his telephoned report, said he had "seen pictures of similar birds in Biblical books; it has a long bill, curved like a scimitar." This description partially prepared us for the exotic sight of an Australian White Ibis, which seemed the more improbable for its association with a group of mundane domestic geese. Mr. Christie told us that the bird had been with his geese since 14/5/58, and in fact it remained in the vicinity of the house, and never far from the geese, until 3rd June, since when it has not been seen. Ground conditions throughout this period were very wet. The ibis fed voraciously during the first two weeks, sometimes stabbing its strong, dark bill full length into marshy places where it fed. It seemed to be in good fettle, and stepped briskly from one feeding spot to another. During the latter part of its stay it did not feed so avidly, and could often be seen swaying precariously on branches of nearby macrocarpa trees, or flying with unhurried, majestic mien, over the nearby water — a small lagoon, packed at this time with gun-wise ducks.

All who studied the bird during its stay were able to get excellent views at close range. When approached, the geese would move before the ibis did.

This is the only White Ibis reported in this area this year.

MAIDA L. BARLOW

★

LETTER

Sir,

On behalf of the President, Mr. P. C. Bull, and all who so greatly enjoyed the Field Study Week-end at Blenheim, 25-27/10/58, I wish to express warm thanks to Mr. Brian D. Bell, who so ably and pleasantly organised the function; to the members of the N.Z. Deerstalkers' Osn. (Marlborough Branch) and the Marlborough O.S.N.Z. members who provided billeting, entertainment and transport, and made the occasion so enjoyable and successful. Hearty thanks are tendered also to those who made donations.

It seems that a report on the financial side of the venture may give helpful information to future organisers.

Fees, Visitors, at £2	---	---	---	---	---	£61	0	0
Donations (car expenses and launch hire)	---	---	---	---	---	33	15	0
						£94	15	0

Printing, Stamps, Stationery, Sundries	---	---	---	---	---	11	15	0
Launch hire £12/10/- Dinghy £1	---	---	---	---	---	13	10	0
Car Expenses at 5d. per mile (usual rate is about 8d.)	---	---	---	---	---	48	5	0
Balance in hand	---	---	---	---	---	21	5	0
						£94	15	0

— H. R. McKENZIE.
Hon. Treasurer, O.S.N.Z.

FIELD STUDY WEEK-END, MARLBOROUGH 1958

A Field Study Week-end was held for the first time by the Ornithological Society over Labour Week-end, 25th-27th October, 1958. This was an experiment, run on behalf of the Society by the Blenheim members, and it was acclaimed a success. On the days prior to the week-end thirty-one members gathered, some from as far as North Auckland and South Otago. Most of the visitors were billeted by local members and members of the Marlborough Deerstalkers' Association. Seven local people took part in the field excursions.

On Friday evening members gathered at P. C. Macnab's home to learn the arrangements for the week-end. W. A. Hood showed slides of Sutherland and Charles Sounds to complete the evening and a light supper was served.

Saturday morning saw members gathering in town for an early start to Picton, where the launch left shortly after 8 a.m. for the outer Queen Charlotte Sound. The weather was not encouraging, with heavy cloud and rain, and further down the sound a strong wind whipped the sea into big waves. It was obvious that the White Rocks (King Shag colony) would have to be foregone; so the launch put in to Ship Cove for respite and the members had lunch. The turbulent wind made conditions ideal for the Fluttering Shearwaters, which were in large numbers. Several shags, penguins and other birds were seen and at Ship Cove the party was greeted by a pair of Black Oystercatchers.

After lunch the party put out again into the rough seas and sufficient shelter was found behind Motuara Island to enable several groups to be landed to examine parts of the island for petrel burrows. Much excitement resulted from the discovery of nesting Blue Penguins and Sooty Shearwaters and some of the observers' hands suffered considerably. From Motuara Island the launch steamed out by Kokomohua Island, where big seas were encountered and several oceanic species were noted — prions (*P. turtur?*), Salvin's Mollymawk — and also odd King Shags were seen. Shelter was again found behind Long Island and the party went ashore to visit the colony of Fluttering Shearwaters. Many were seen and also more nesting Blue Penguins.

From Long Island the launch returned to Picton, calling at a shag colony on Blumine Island, where Pied and White-throated Shags were well forward with breeding. All visitors returned to their billets tired and happy notwithstanding the adverse weather.

A later start was made on Sunday morning and all travelled to the Pilot Station at the Wairau Bar, where J. R. Eyles and his friends ferried us across the river to the Boulder Bank. Here the party visited the Moa Hunters' Camp and its discoverer, J. Eyles, told of the history and the finds made in the area. Small groups of Godwit and South Island Pied Oystercatchers were seen and large numbers of Black Swans. Banded Dotterel were breeding in good numbers on the Boulder Bank.

During lunch the writer spoke on the importance of field study particularly on the more common species, which are more readily

available, yet little is known of their habits. He also gave a summary of the birds recorded from the Wairau Lagoons. The return journey was made along the Wairau River via the Tuamarina Track. At the bridge across the Wairau River on the Nelson-Blenheim Highway about twenty Black-fronted Terns were seen feeding over the rapids and others were seen feeding over ploughed paddocks at Woodbourne.

In the evening the party had a feast of slides showing native and introduced birds, by J. Prickett and M. F. Soper, and Fair Isle, Scotland, by J. Kikkawa. The President, P. C. Bull, spoke briefly, thanking the local members and friends for their hospitality and again drew attention to the need of study on the more common species by individual and team effort.

Monday morning saw the party headed for Kaikoura and many introduced finches were seen en route. High winds made conditions difficult at the Kaikoura Peninsula, but half the party braved the wade through the channel to the Red-billed Gull Colony on the rockshelf, where hundreds of gulls were covering eggs. Here also at least 45 Turnstones were feeding. At the same time others observed Godwits, Oystercatchers and Stilts at another spot on the Peninsula. Several large seals could be seen resting on the rocks further offshore.

The party drove through to the Kowhai River, south of Kaikoura, to find sufficient shelter from the gale to have lunch. During lunch the group was visited by a Pied Fantail with three young, two of which were of the black phase. The writer spoke on the three permanent schemes of the Society (Ringing, Nest Records, Beach Patrol) and stressed the need for the co-operation of members, particularly as regards the keeping of nest records of common species. He also briefly covered the birds of the Kaikoura Lakes.

After lunch all returned to the Peninsula, where the main body moved around to the southern side to observe the huge concentration of c. 5000 nesting White-fronted Terns. Offshore Giant Petrels, Fluttering Shearwaters, Sooty and possibly Flesh-footed Shearwaters were numerous and at least two dark Arctic Skuas were seen. Two corpses of Hutton's Shearwater were collected at the Peninsula. One Golden Plover and a Reef Heron were also seen and numerous gulls and shags. The party returned to Blenheim and en route detoured via the Solar Salt Works at Lake Grassmere, where Caspian Terns and Red-billed Gulls were nesting on some small islets.

The evening was spent at P. C. MacNab's home with some 8m.m. movies shown by K. Rowe of Dotterel and other birds and slides of Little Barrier Island by L. Wintle until those leaving by the midnight ferry were taxed to Picton.

The week-end experiment had been very worthwhile and although many of the projects planned had to be abandoned owing to the inclement weather and the non-co-operation of the birds, all left with a much stimulated interest in bird study. The Society will no doubt benefit from their increased knowledge and desire to organise and conduct local bird study. The universal query on departure was, "Where will the next one be held?"

— BRIAN D. BELL

NOTICES

BACK NUMBERS OF "NOTORNIS"

Members are reminded that back numbers of *Notornis* and the earlier *N.Z. Bird Notes* are obtainable from the Society. Enquiries about costs and the parts still held in stock should be made to:— J. C. Davenport, 5 Belfast Street, Hillsborough, Auckland S.E.5.

Other publications available are: *Checklist of New Zealand Birds, 1953* (10/6); *The Takahē* (5/-); *Gannet Census* (5/-); *Measurements of Birds* (6d.); *Identification of Albatrosses* (1/-); *Reports and Bulletins, 1939-1942*, with Index (12/-), Index alone (1/6). These precede Vol. 1 of *N.Z. Bird Notes* and record the first three years of the Society's work.

NEST RECORDS SCHEME

Members are requested to send records for the current nesting season to the Organiser, Mr. H. L. Secker, 14 Clyma Street, Upper Hutt, by 28th February, 1959.

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