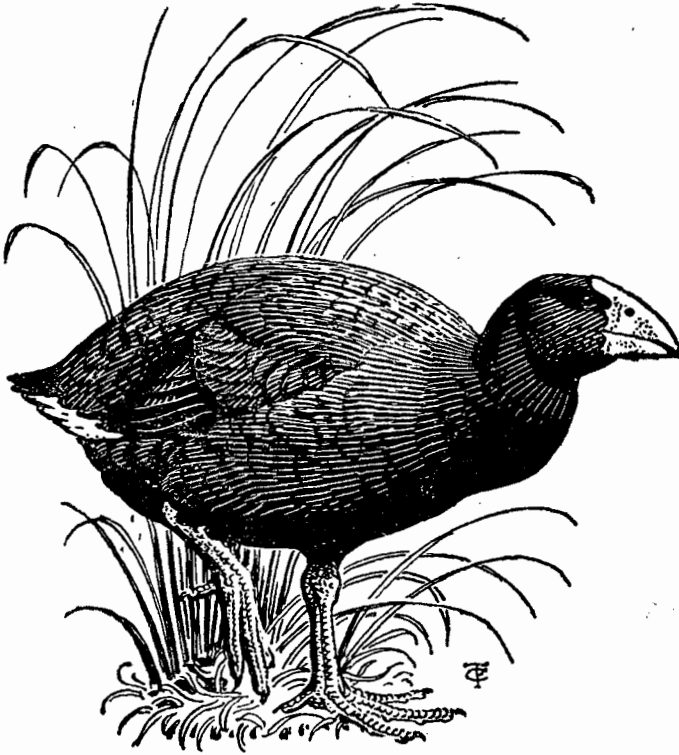


# NOTORNIS



QUARTERLY BULLETIN  
of the  
Ornithological Society of New Zealand



Volume Eight, Number Six: October, 1959

# NOTORNIS

*In continuation of New Zealand Bird Notes*

BULLETIN OF THE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND  
(Incorporated)

Registered with the G.P.O., Wellington, as a Magazine.

Edited by R. B. SIBSON, King's College, Auckland S.E.7

Annual Subscription, 10/-; Endowment Membership, £1;

Life Membership, £10 (for members over thirty years of age)

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# NOTORNIS

VOLUME EIGHT, NUMBER SIX

OCTOBER NINETEEN FIFTY-NINE

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## FURTHER NOTES ON WELCOME SWALLOWS IN NORTHLAND

By ROSS H. MICHIE

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Following my report (*Notornis* VIII, 61-62) on the nesting of two pairs of Welcome Swallows (*H. neoxena*) near Awanui during the spring of 1958, I made further notes on these two pairs and learnt that Welcome Swallows had been seen in other localities.

An untimely fate befell the brood of three which left the nest under the Awanui bridge about November 10th. These young birds often used to sit on the wires at the edge of the bridge till an irresponsible youth found nothing better to do than to shoot them with an air-rifle. However, the parent birds got busy again and laid eggs in the old nest. By this time most people in the district knew of the existence of the nest; and before the incubation period was reached, someone removed it. When I visited the bridge a day or two later the birds were flying about but seemed distressed. They made no further attempt to rebuild, although they remained for several days in the vicinity.

The pair at L. Ngatu rebuilt and laid three eggs. Although the children from the Paparore school bathed at the spot daily, they did not molest them and everything was going well till the school broke up for the Christmas holidays. Then this nest suffered the same fate as the one at Awanui. I made several visits to the spot later, but there was no sign of any further breeding activity by the swallows.

As a result of publicity in the press, Mr. H. McPherson, who has a timber mill at Kaingaroa, five miles east of Awanui, sent me another report. During the summer when he was getting pine logs from a plantation at Aurere, some three miles further east from Kaingaroa, he observed a pair of Welcome Swallows nesting under a concrete bridge over a tidal stream on the Aurere flat. Fortunately the nest was situated over the water and escaped interference. One observer later reported that he had seen seven swallows sitting on a telegraph wire near here during a rainy period; so it is reasonable to suppose that this pair raised one brood of five or two smaller broods.

It is satisfactory to be able to report that the Welcome Swallows which are evidently attempting to establish themselves in Northland were not wiped out or blown away by the cyclone which struck Northern New Zealand in March. In early May two friends observed swallows skimming over the water and catching insects over what remains of L. Tangonge near Kaitaia. A single bird was noticed by Mr. H. Kirtlan, and two days later three were seen by Mr. N. Matthews.

From another locality Welcome Swallows were reported by Mr. A. Stewart of Kaitaia, who had accompanied me on one occasion to watch the Awanui nest. Subsequently, while he was travelling by car to Auckland, he stopped for a few minutes at Waimeo, about three

miles south of Kawakawa\*, and to his surprise saw a pair of Welcome Swallows flying about in pursuit of insects. In April I took a hurried run to Auckland and on the way stopped at the big concrete bridge over the Waimeo stream, half expecting to find some evidence that Welcome Swallows had nested there. But though the situation was ideal, I was disappointed.

It appears that during the summer of 1958-1959 there was a fair sprinkling of Welcome Swallows in Northland. Breeding is known to have taken place in three localities and possibly in a fourth. One pair is known to have succeeded. Another pair was robbed of success when all seemed well and its young were already on the wing. The evidence indicates that but for human interference the Welcome Swallow would now be firmly established as a breeding bird in Northland. In Australia some populations of Welcome Swallows are resident and non-migratory; and the winter-climate of northern New Zealand should not prove too severe for this useful insect-catching bird, which could become a charming addition to our small list of breeding passerines.

\*[Two Welcome Swallows were seen here again on 10/8/59 by Mr. A. Blackburn. They flew across the main road.—Ed.]



## NESTING HABITATS ON THE SHOTOVER RIVERBED

By *M. F. SOPER*

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A casual glance at a South Island riverbed rather gives the impression of "just a lot of shingle"; but it is surprising, when one starts to look at it through the eyes of a nesting bird, how many variations there are in surface, contour, texture and shelter. The Shotover River is typical of many South Island rivers in that it runs through alternate gorges and shingle flats, the final flat differing only in being smaller than most (3 miles by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile). This river flat has the usual elements; large stones (2ft. across) through shingle and gravel to fine sand; areas covered with short, coarse grasses and lichens; patches of willows, of gorse and broom; but 90% of it is shingle and it is in these areas that the four common river-bed birds nest: Banded Dotterel, S.I. Pied Oystercatcher, Black-billed Gull and Black-fronted Tern. This expanse of shingle is not all of the same consistency. As a result of the "throw" of the river as it swings from one side of the river bed to the other the shingle tends to get sorted into areas of different sizes — banks of big stones, flat areas of sand, areas of round stones, areas of flat stones, areas of continual change and areas that stay much the same year after year. Each bird has its own niche in this variable shingly expanse.

When a Banded Dotterel makes its nest it first hollows out a hemispherical cup rather like half a tennis ball let into the ground. I have been lucky enough to find a nest at this stage, when it is a very neat and accurate piece of work. To do this the consistency of the river

beach must be just right — too sandy and the sides fall in; stones too big and the dotterel, a small bird, is unable to excavate with precision, if at all. Stones  $\frac{1}{4}$  in. -  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. average size are needed, preferably with a growth of stunted grass and lichen on the surface to bind the edges and aid camouflage. The eggs are then laid daily for three days, and as they are laid tiny stones are packed carefully round them, the nest being finished off after the laying of the third egg with a layer of lichen. At this stage the nest is about half filled with "filling." A week later the filling is flush with the surface of the ground, only a small part of the eggs is showing, and if one gets down and squints across the nest the eggs barely dimple above the surface. This then is the actual nest site and material — but the dotterel likes a reasonably large area of it. A square yard of such habitat in amongst large boulders will not be used. The Banded Dotterel likes to be able to run about not too encumbered by large stones, and it likes to have an unobstructed view from its nest. It does not therefore nest in a bouldery area or in a spot too cluttered with drift and growth or near trees. On the other hand this flat open exposed area must also be sheltered. This sounds impossible but it is not. The dotterel is an expert at finding those places on the beach where, through the lie of the land, the wind is deflected just sufficiently high off the ground for them to sit in a howling north-wester with hardly a feather fluffing up in the eddies. Dotterel pairs keep their distance from one another. Seventy-five yards seems to be about average. This may partly be due to the patchy nature of suitable beach. Finally their nests are rarely near the river. This I think is a direct result of their habitat demands. Dotterel beach can only be formed with time, in those areas of river-bed undisturbed by scouring and floods when stunted lichens can take root and grow.

The Oystercatcher uses far more of the beach than the Banded Dotterel does. It uses the areas undisturbed by the river (in which case they may use the identical site two or more years running) and also the changing shingle and sand-banks of the centre. Two factors seem to be invariable. They need sand and they nest in the lee of a piece of driftwood, rarely a large stone. They will use plain sand, or sandy gravel, or sand and tussock. They do not use typical dotterel country nor the type of beach the gulls use, but they will nest in the same type of habitat as terns, though rarely. The area they select is seldom flat like a dotterel's, it is usually more humpy. They keep clear of the willow trees. Their nests are more exposed than a dotterel's and more widely spaced — a good 200 yards as a minimum. Some nests are quite close to the river, but strategically placed and it takes a freak flood to catch them.

The Black-billed Gulls use the centre of the river-bed, the area of change. They choose a very definite type of shingle. They like to be able to walk about without watching their feet, so they will not use large round boulders — though they will use largish (12in. across) flat ones. They will not use sand. They will not use an area that is growing lichens or grass or other vegetation. They choose a flat area at least 100 yards x 50 yards, with no banks or humps, composed of flat stones 3in.-12in. across with a minimum of silt and round projecting stones, liberally scattered with driftwood and preferably on an island between two streams if they can get it. If the site is otherwise perfect but lacking

driftwood, they will not use it. They will tolerate willow trees and wind and they get caught by "freshes" of the river more often than any of the others. The nests, which are made of grass, drift and general rubbish, are grouped round the clumps of driftwood. The size of the piece of drift determines the number of nests, which are usually 1-2 feet apart in any given cluster. There will be odd lone nests on the bare stones. These are always in the centre of the colony. Stragglers outwards follow the driftwood. The Shotover colony has so far always been in two sections, usually separated by a small stream. The smaller lays one week later than the larger. These gulls have never yet used the same site two years running though they always congregate on last year's site at the beginning of each breeding season. Generally the site has become unsatisfactory because it has been swept clear of driftwood without the river depositing more. Occasionally the shingle bank has been scoured out to an entirely different gravel structure.

The Black-fronted Tern uses one habitat and one habitat only — large round stones set in silt and sand; sand, to make a scrape like the Oystercatcher; large round stones, probably for camouflage and shelter. They drop onto their nests and walk reluctantly so that unlike the gulls, dotterels and oystercatchers, beach is not needed. The fact that tern habitat is usually free of drift is I think accidental. Large round bouldery stones seem to be found only on the inside curve of a big sweep of the main river. These shingle banks usually have quite a hump and slope steeply to the water. The driftwood tends to get thrown outwards and deposited on the beach beyond the outside curve which is at a lower level and often forms good oystercatcher habitat. Although the Black-fronted Terns use the changing area of the river-bed and are close to the river, they do not get caught by rising water to the extent that the gulls do, as the bouldery shingle banks are by nature higher than the rest of the beach. Terns space their nests 10-20 yards apart or more, so that the colony straggles well down the beach. They associate with the gulls only by chance proximity of suitable beach.

These then are the main habitats on the Shotover river-bed. Stilts do use it — isolated pairs — close to water and in stony areas, with a pebble size larger than dotterel prefer but smaller than a gull's, and free of silt. But not enough stilts use it to form any conclusions. Stilts in this district are generally swamp nesting birds.

Whether these habitats hold good on other river-beds I do not know, but on the Shotover, over the last five years, they have remained remarkably constant. Variations occur of course — a blurring round the edges as it were — but no drastic variations from the norm have as yet been seen.

## ASIATIC AND AMERICAN BLACK-TAILED GODWITS IN MANUKAU

By R. B. SIBSON

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On 2/11/58 accompanied by Tim Ledgard and Peter Law, I had very satisfactory views of an American Black-tailed or Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) both in flight and standing near one of the pools on the partially reclaimed Puketutu flats. On the ground it obligingly kept near the edge of a big gathering of Knots and Bar-tailed Godwits, and three or four times raised its wings to reveal the dark underlining and black axillaries.

Some eleven inches of rain spread over December and January freshened the pools, so that when I revisited the once tidal flats near Puketutu on 2/2/59, there were many acres of shallow water which provided perfect conditions for waders. After a quick glimpse around, I made my way towards one of the larger pools in which many Pied Stilts were feeding and beside which a flock of godwits was resting. When the godwits rose at my approach, I noticed among them a single black-tailed godwit with a very conspicuous white alar bar and a white underwing which did not fit the description of the bird seen in November. Fortunately the flock quickly settled not far away and I was able to approach again and to locate on the edge of the flock a small, trim, grayish godwit which looked especially dusky on the breast. I flushed the flock deliberately, keeping my glasses on this bird, which from the duskiness of its underwing, the sootiness of its axillaries and the faintness of its alar bar, was obviously an Hudsonian Godwit, almost certainly the same bird as seen on 2/11/58. The flock resettled across the pool. I was still not quite convinced that there were two distinct forms of black-tailed godwit attached to the flock of Bar-tails, as I had not been able to see the two at once and there is always the chance that the light has been playing tricks.

I decided, therefore, to take a stroll to another part of the reclaimed area and to return after the birds had had time to quieten down. This simple plan worked very well. When I returned some twenty minutes later a single gray-breasted godwit — both forms of black-tailed godwits in non-breeding dress usually have noticeably gray breasts — was standing among Pied Stilts in open water. The Stilts were not timid and flew just a few yards, taking the black-tailed godwit with them. But the flight was long enough for me to see that this godwit did indeed have the conspicuous wing-bar and white underwing of the Asiatic form (*L. melanuroides*), which has not previously been recorded from Manukau Harbour.

Leaving this godwit, whose identity was now satisfactorily proved, among the Stilts, I turned my attention to the resting flock; and when they rose, it was not difficult to spot among them the Hudsonian Godwit with its dark axillaries. From its small size I judged it to be a male.

This is the first time that the two forms of black-tailed godwit

which visit New Zealand have been seen in close proximity. They showed no sign of associating together, though the flock of Bar-tails to which they were attached was not a big one. In fact the Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit readily left the Bar-tails and rested among Pied Stilts, an association which has been noted on several occasions in recent years in the Firth of Thames.

Three days later on a brief visit in the evening, Peter Skegg and I found the same two birds at the same pool. The Asiatic Black-tail was again standing in shallow water among scattered Stilts. Nearby on a shelly spit was a group of Bar-tails; and when we put them up, it was quite easy to discern among them the Hudsonian Godwit, as it showed the characteristic pattern of its dark underwing. Meanwhile the Asiatic Black-tail was still resting unperturbed among the Stilts. Just to make sure, we walked it up and noted the differences, which for purposes of field identification are entirely in the wing.

Six weeks later on 15/3/59, I was able to show the Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit to Mrs. Avis Acres when she was sketching waders near the same pool. Once again it stayed quietly behind among the Stilts after all other godwits had flown away, so that we were able to study it in good light at a distance of little more than a chain. On 18/4/58 Julian Bell and I watched it for some time in the evening, after it had temporarily deserted a big pack of Bar-tails to settle among Stilts.

About this time another Asiatic Black-tailed Godwit, or, as seems more likely, a pair, appeared at the same pools. On 25/4/59 not only was an Hudsonian Godwit present; but also first a single Asiatic Black-tail was watched in flight and seen to settle among Stilts, and then a pair flew past from a different direction and were checked on the ground. These birds were watched at a distance of less than fifty yards by Mrs. L. Fooks, Miss M. C. R. McIntyre, Miss N. Macdonald, A. C. Hipwell, N. M. Gleeson and myself, all Auckland members of the O.S.N.Z.

On the wet squally afternoon of 29/4/59 under appalling conditions Mr. E. G. Turbott and I were lucky to find the two Asiatic Blacktails which keep very much together. They flew in to join hundreds of Stilts and Bartails which were feeding eagerly on an oozing patch of cotula in the lee of close-growing mangroves. Since they showed no real sign of the development of red nuptial dress, it could be assumed that they were immature non-breeders and that they would be staying in New Zealand over the winter.

This forecast was justified. On 13/5/59 Peter Skegg and I spent part of the afternoon examining a variety of waders near Puketutu Island. Two separate Hudsonian Godwits had already been located, but not together, among different groups of Bar-tails, when we noticed among some Stilts standing in shallow water four trim godwits which had the grayish appearance of 'black-tails.' When flushed they flew along the shore together, all four showing the characteristic markings, as we expected not of Hudsonian but of Asiatic Black-tailed Godwits. Although this race of *Limosa limosa* is not included in the 1953 Checklist, recent observations in the Firth of Thames and Manukau Harbour may indicate that it is reaching New Zealand in increasing numbers.



## SHORT NOTES

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### BLACK STILTS NESTING ON SWAMPY GROUND

In *New Zealand Birds, 1955*, Oliver tends to give the impression that the Black Stilt (*H. novaezealandiae*) nests only on riverbeds. That they may also use swampy ground is shown by two nests found near Omarama on 10/11/58.

Six Black Stilts were seen among a colony of twenty Pied Stilts in a long narrow swampy area winding through the tussock. All the stilts were concentrated in an area of no more than two acres. Of the Black Stilts one pair had a nest with four eggs; another pair had two recently hatched chicks estimated to be about 24 hours old; the third pair definitely had no nest. They may have had a grown chick or chicks but I do not think so. Five nests belonging to Pied Stilts were found. There may have been others; but having finally sorted out the Black Stilts, we did not search further.

A hide was erected at the nest of the Black Stilts (v. Plates XXVI and XXVII). Both birds incubated, changing over in sweltering heat about every 1½ hours. It really was hot. The Black Stilts just sat and panted with tongue hanging out and every feather lifted to let a little air reach the skin. Not far distant a pair of Pied Stilts had a nest, but the sitting bird here did not appear to be nearly so uncomfortably hot.

The Black Stilt is a more nicely proportioned bird than the Pied Stilt and with its bright red eye looks very handsome indeed. Voice and distraction display in the two species seem to be much the same; but these Black Stilts were considerably tamer than the usual run of Pied Stilts.

M. F. SOPER



### TINY TERNS IN THE SOUTH ISLAND

On 15/11/58, a day of sunny but boisterous weather with a strong wind from the sea, I visited the north side of the Taramakau rivermouth, Westland, and found two very small terns such as I had never seen before. They would hover with quickly-beating wings before diving for food. From their flight and shape they looked like miniature Caspian Terns (*H. caspia*). Their tails were so short that they gave the impression of being sawn off. Their underparts were white except for dark towards the wing-tips. The forehead and the top of the head was white and when seen head-on this white area was most conspicuous. Below it was a black band, going round the nape and forward to the bill through the eye. The bill was black. They made a thin "teeth-whistle" call.

On the next day when I visited the rivermouth again, only one of them was seen; but I was able to confirm the notes which I had made when I first found them. These notes were submitted first to Mr. E. G. Turbott and then to Messrs. H. R. McKenzie and R. B. Sibson, all of whom agree that these small terns must belong to the *albifrons/neréis* group and that their plumage is that of immature birds or else adults in eclipse.

P. GRANT

## WRYBILL IN NORTH-WEST NELSON

There are curiously few reports of the Wry-billed Plover (*A. frontalis*) in the northern parts of the South Island, through or over which these birds must pass on their seasonal migrations between the Canterbury river-beds where they breed and the northern coast of the North Island where most of them spend the autumn and winter. The following record therefore is of some interest, especially as it seems to be the first report of a Wrybill actually on the west coast of the South Island.

On 20/1/59 after visiting the big West Wanganui Inlet in north-west Nelson, I reached the open sea-coast at the mouth of the shallow Paturau river. Here among the stones was a small flock of eight Banded Dotterels (*C. binctus*) which but for their quiet calls might have escaped notice. With them was a single much greyer bird, which on closer inspection — to approach within ten yards of it was not difficult — proved to be a Wrybill. It looked leggy and slender; and as it lacked a black pectoral band, it was evidently a young bird of the current season.

It would be interesting to know the destination of these Banded Dotterels which were obviously on passage. There passed through my mind the thought that a 'lost' Wrybill which got caught up with a flock of migrating Banded Dotterels in this part of New Zealand, might well reach south-east Australia which is the autumn destination of many of these dotterels, though the route which they take is still a matter of conjecture.

At one time or another the beaches and tidal flats of Farewell Spit have been visited by several of New Zealand's leading ornithologists (v. Stidolph 1948. *N.Z. Bird Notes* III. 64-67); yet none of them has reported the Wrybill from this most likely area. When I mentioned the finding of a Wrybill at Putarau to Mr. B. D. Bell, who has been collecting data on the birds of Marlborough and Nelson, he informed me that he had seen two Wrybills on 2/1/59 at L. Grassmere, but he knew of no other occurrences in the northern region of the South Island.

R. B. SIBSON

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## UNUSUAL SITE FOR A BUSH HAWK'S NEST

My sons have a farm at Okure Bay near French Pass; and as they came up their hillside road one day in October they were surprised to see a Bush Hawk (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) diving rapidly at their truck. They stopped and got out to face a violent onslaught from a pair of Bush Hawks. At first they could not resist ducking as the angry birds struck at them. Deciding that there was a nest not far away, the boys searched and found it under a heap of stacked posts right beside the road. The nest was well made of sticks and feathers but there were no eggs.

In due course three eggs were laid at the beginning of November; but after incubation had lasted more than a fortnight the nest came to grief. The eggs were found outside the nest with their sides broken away and the contents gone. Perhaps a stoat or polecat was the culprit. The farm dogs would not go near the nest.

NELLIE M. YOUNG

## SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO AT KAIPARA HEADS

On the afternoon of 26/5/59 I saw a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*) near the coast at the South Head of the Kaipara Harbour. It was being blown before a strong westerly wind. The bird was moving from one group of trees to another calling. At the time the strength of the wind was such that it would have been difficult for a bird of this type to do anything but fly downwind. This and the closeness to the coast led me to believe that this cockatoo may have been blown across the Tasman Sea from Australia.

Inquiries from the weather office revealed that over the period May 24th-26th, low level winds between Australia and New Zealand had been consistently strong and mainly from directions between west and south-west. The occurrence of a Sulphur-crested Cockatoo on the west coast under these conditions leads one to wonder if some of the localised colonies of these birds in New Zealand may not have been partly established by genuine wind-assisted immigrants as well as by birds which have escaped from captivity or been released.

M. A. WALLER

[The biggest local population of these cockatoos in New Zealand is in the limestone country just south of the Waikato estuary. The coast here could well be the landfall for tired birds which had been carried by strong westerly winds across the Tasman Sea.—Ed.]



## SMALL TERN AT WAIRAU RIVER BAR

On 14/1/59 we spent some hours near the mouth of the Wairau River below Blenheim. As the tide fell a mudbank was exposed not far from the now famous site of the Moa-hunters' settlement. As the muddy islet grew bigger, a variety of gulls and terns which had been feeding over the lagoons, dropped down to rest and a few waders appeared and started to feed along the edge of the receding water. For a while we were able to see four species of terns at once, namely, several Caspians (*H. caspia*), a single White-fronted (*S. striata*), six Black-fronted (*C. albobristatus*) and one very small tern which was quite dwarfed even by the Black-fronted Terns near which it was squatting.

The following details were noted:— bill, black or very dark; legs, dark brown, with perhaps a hint of yellow; forehead and fore-top of crown, white; back of crown and nape black; a black streak running forward from nape through eye virtually to the bill; fore-edge and tips of primaries very dark grey or black. This small tern seemed to be identical with terns which have been frequently recorded in recent years in the Firth of Thames. Its unmottled plumage was that of a sub-adult or of an adult in non-breeding winter dress; and we incline to the view that it was a specimen of *S. albifrons* rather than *S. nereis*.

B. D. BELL

R. B. SIBSON

## LOCAL BLACKBIRD MOVEMENTS

When I went on holiday on 25/2/57 the Blackbirds (*T. merula*) about my home at Kaipara Flats were plentiful as usual. A shot fired in the orchard would send thirty or forty to the shelter of totara trees. On my return on 10/3/57, their absence was complete. The first again seen or heard was on 2/4/57 and by 10/4/57 there were a few. About 18/4/57 they appeared to be back in perhaps half their usual numbers, but were quiet and subdued. By early June they had returned to full strength. Some eighty year old grape vines along a creek bank are usually stripped of their fruit but that year they were untouched. One drought year, 1954, the same thing happened. There was no evidence of the local birds dying and I can think of no special source of food elsewhere to which they would be attracted. Water was not short and fruit was available. This year, 1958, I saw no evidence of the population being diminished during the autumn.

F. P. HUDSON



## PETRELS OVER THE NORTH AUCKLAND MAINLAND

Every year during the summer the calls of petrels are heard soon after dark as they come in from the Tasman Sea and fly over my farm at Kaipara Flats. During the spring of 1957 I listened carefully for the first calls, but did not hear any till 7.55 p.m. on November 17th. After 8 p.m. the calls became much more frequent and till 8.25 p.m. the sky was full of them. Never have I heard so many before, but by 8.30 p.m. only the odd call could be heard. The last came at 8.40 p.m. On the following night only two calls were heard about five minutes apart and on the next night there were none. After that they increased to what seems to be normal for the time of the year, a call indicating a petrel passing every few minutes. After the New Year, few calls are heard and on some nights none. As far as I can tell, all these 'kek-kek-kek' petrels are travelling on the same course, roughly north-east.

F. P. HUDSON

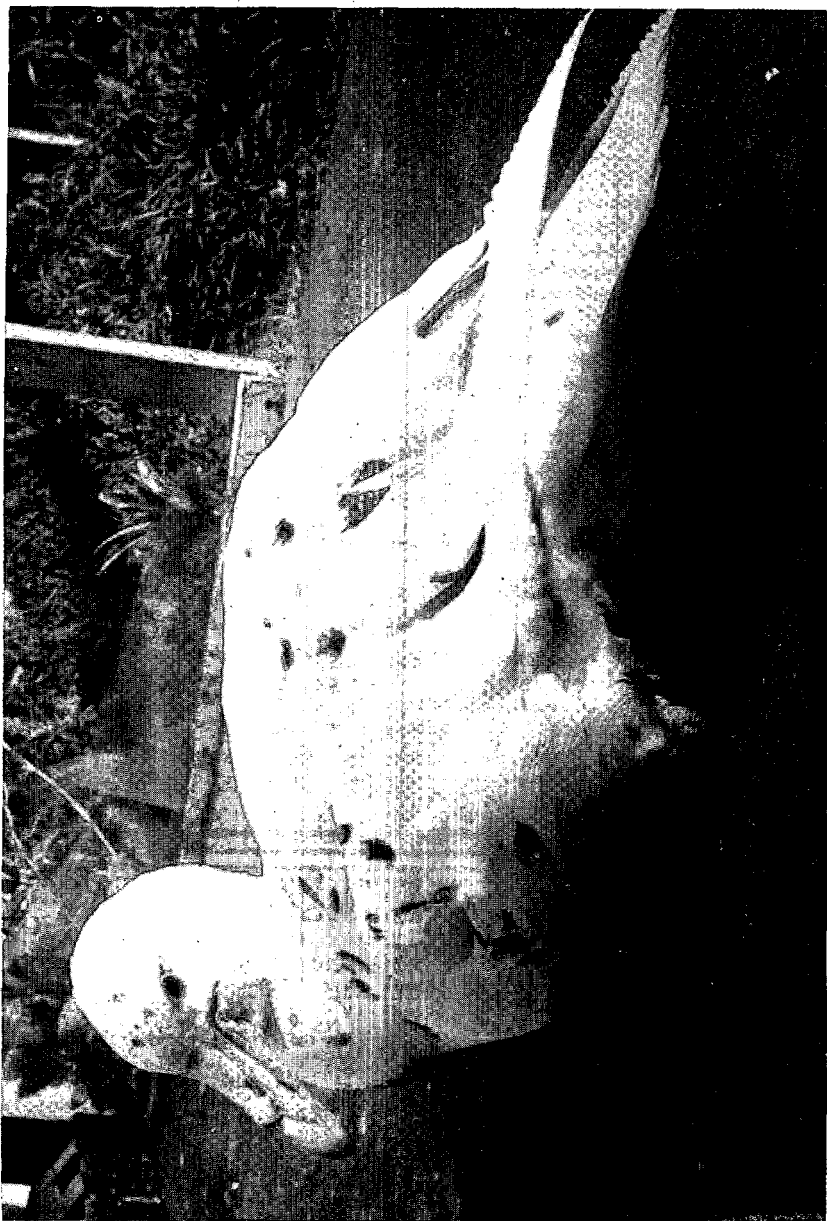
[C. A. Fleming (*N.Z. Bird Notes I, 1944, pp. 58-59*) has discussed the petrel calls which are heard over North Auckland on summer nights. They are believed to come from Cook's Petrels (*Pt. cooki*) which are heading for Little Barrier, but the suggestion has been made that Cook's or Mottled (*Pt. inexpectata*) Petrels or both may still breed on the ridges of Tamahunga (1380 ft.), The Dome (1037 ft.) or near Mt. Flat Top (800 ft.). This is a worthwhile matter for investigation.

At Little Barrier in mid-December, the first 'kek-kek' calls of incoming Cook's Petrels are heard about 8.5 p.m. (*R. B. Sibson, N.Z. Bird Notes II, 1947, p. 137*). B. D. Heather has noted a few Cook's Petrels back and calling over Little Barrier before the end of August. According to S. C. Rutherford, these petrels are often heard in summer at Orua Bay, Manukau Heads, where they pass over on a bearing which would take them to Little Barrier.—Ed.]



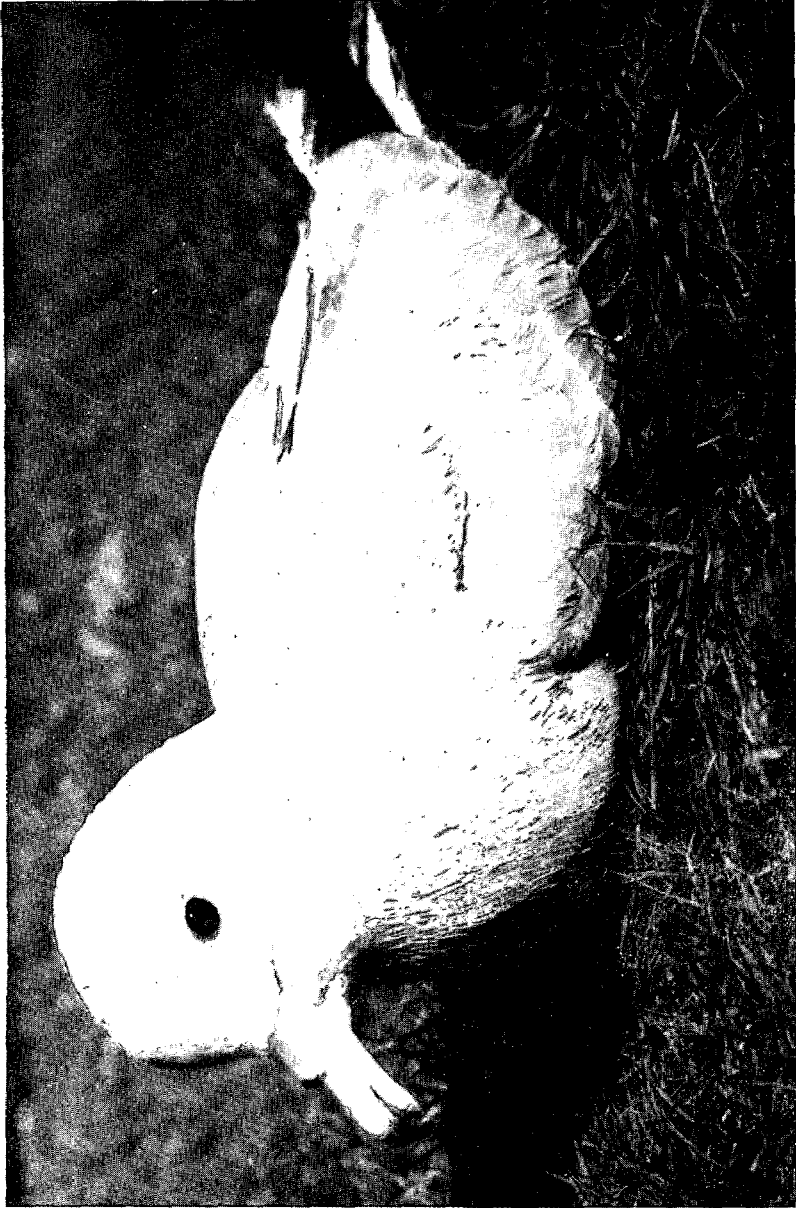
[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

XXI GRAY-FACED PETREL (*Pterodroma macroptera*), also known as the Great-winged Petrel, emerging from burrow on Motuora Island, Hauraki Gulf.



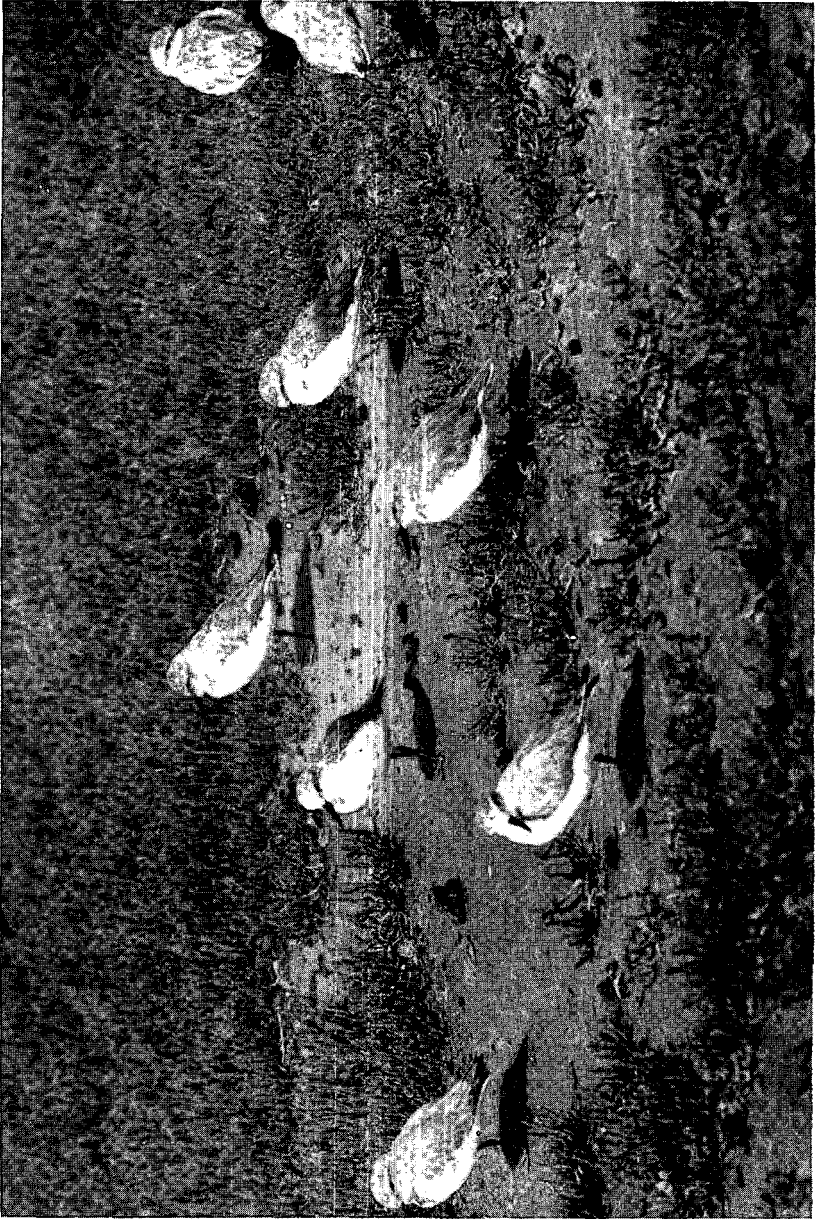
[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

XXII The white form of the GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*) occasionally reaches the northern waters of New Zealand. This specimen came ashore on 20/4/59 at Waitarere, two miles south of the Manawatu estuary, and was released on 2/5/59, when it swam strongly out to sea.



[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

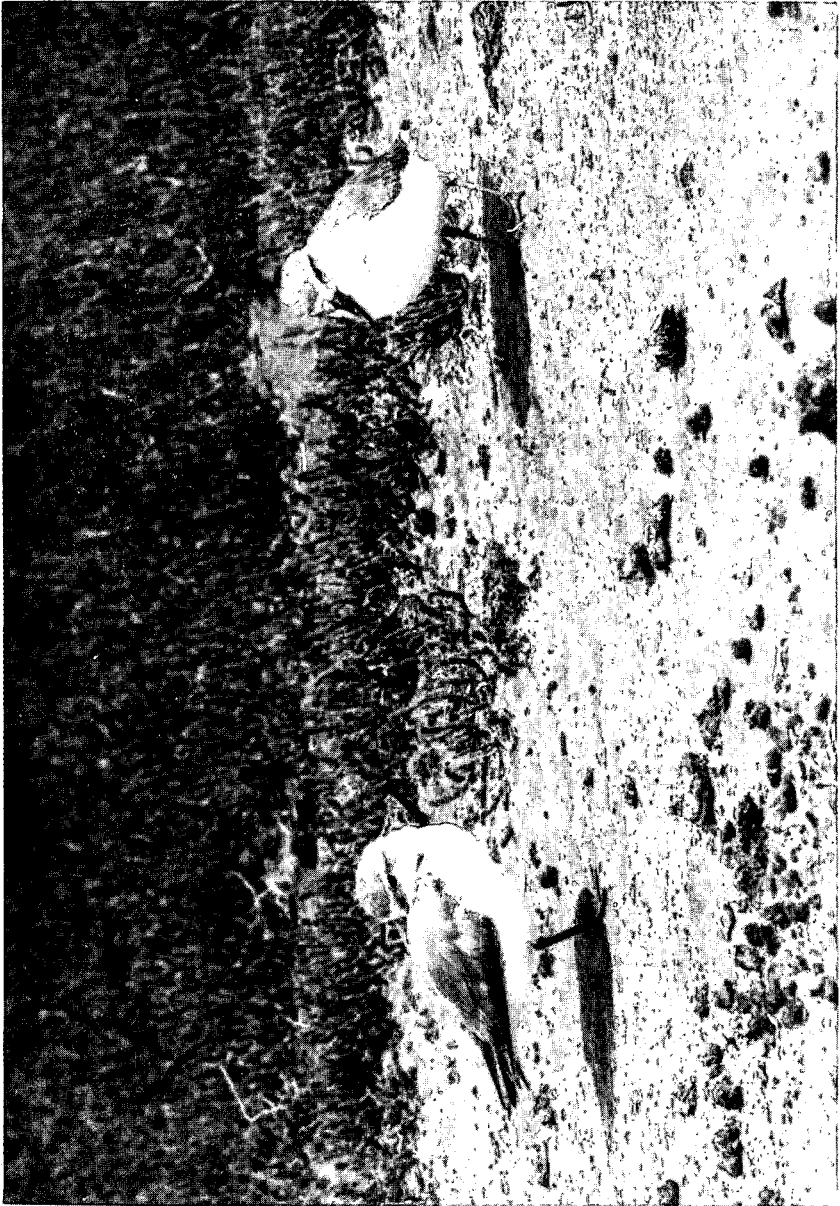
XXIII On 25/5/59 a SILVER-GREY FULMAR (*Fulmarus glacialisoides*) was picked up alive at Waitarere beach. It was released again on 1/6/59 in perfect condition. There are fewer than twenty records in New Zealand of this fulmar, which breeds on the coast and islands of Antarctica. During the winter of 1959 other specimens came ashore at Gisborne and Muriwai, Auckland.



[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

XXIV WRYBILLS (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) resting among stunted glasswort (*Salicornia australis*) on a sandy patch not yet grassed on reclaimed saltings at Karaka. When the nesting season is over and the Wrybills have come north for the winter, they frequently resort to such sterile areas where the vegetation is thin.





[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

XXV Although Wrybills in flocks at their winter-quarters are the tamest of waders, local photographers have experienced great difficulty in obtaining satisfactory photographs against a background of sandy mud and shells. Wrybills avoid any but the shortest vegetation. The less fertile areas of the seaside paddocks at Higham's and Kidd's, along the south coast of Manukau, have offered a solution.



[Photo by F. C. Kinsky

XXVI BLACK STILT (*Himantopus novaezealandiae*) approaching its nest and eggs. (v. note on page 163).



[Photo by M. F. Soper

XXVII Black Stilt incubating. The bird is panting from the heat.



[Photo by M. F. Soper

XXVIII · Although Motuora Island is a farm, a colony of Gray-faced Petrels continues to flourish, most of the burrows being among the roots of gorse and exotic pines which fringe the top of the eastern cliffs.

NAME CHANGES IN THE MOA GENUS *DINORNIS*

In Opinion 299, published 21st April, 1954, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature has ruled that the trivial names *novaezealandiae* Owen, 1843, and *struthoides* Owen, 1844, as published in the combinations *Dinornis novaezealandiae* and *Dinornis struthoides* are to be accepted and has placed these names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*. The Commission has further ruled that the trivial name *ingens* Owen, 1844, as published in the combination *Dinornis ingens* is to be rejected as a junior objective synonym of *Dinornis novaezealandiae* Owen, 1843, and has placed this name on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology*.

This decision, made in response to an application lodged before 1941 by Gilbert Archey and R. S. Allan, answers a problem explained in detail by Archey in his monograph on "The Moa (1941, *Bull. Auckland Mus.* 1, pp. 8 & 63) and has the effect of reversing the alternative adopted by Archey, and followed by Oliver without comment, pending the Commission's decision. Consequently throughout the monographs of both Archey and Oliver (*The Moas of New Zealand and Australia, Dominion Mus. Bull.* 15, 1949), and throughout the moa section of Oliver's *New Zealand Birds* 2nd Edition (1955) the name *Dinornis novaezealandiae* should be used for the species referred to as *D. ingens* and the name *Dinornis struthoides* for the species referred to as *D. novaezealandiae*.

J. C. YALDWYN

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## BIRD COUNTS WITH A CAMERA

Aerial photographs have long been accepted as a useful means of securing counts of nests on sites inaccessible by surface approach, such as colonies established on isolated rock stacks which are exposed to rough seas and may be unclimbable. Ornithologists are only too well aware of the difficulty of making an accurate count of sea birds when, for example, a gannet breeding station is disturbed by observers and hundreds or even thousands fly off within a few seconds.

There is a simple solution to this problem by the use of a 35 mm camera and the normal projector used for colour slides. As an illustration, Pied Stilts have a favourite feeding ground on an island shell-spit in Ohiwa Harbour. The approach is without natural cover, and even if by the aid of a hide one can get fairly close, the constant coming and going of the birds makes visual counting a poor proposition.

The easier method is to advance with the camera set for instant use, and when the stilts are flushed to take one or two snapshots as soon as all are in the air. The resulting "count exposures" are then projected, either as filmstrip or as single slides by temporarily inserting in glass covers, on to a large sheet of paper (preferably squared) in place of the usual screen. Providing the projector is blower-cooled to avoid overheating the film, one can then make a pencil stroke over every bird in the picture, counting at the same time. On taking down the paper, which is now a chart of the flight pattern, a recount can be taken as a check, crossing each stroke. The above stilt counts have been

206 and 231, whilst as an instance of greater numbers, 940 Red-billed Gulls feeding in a paddock have been counted in this way.

It will be seen that the only possibility of error in this method is when one bird is directly behind another, and so is obscured from the camera, but in practice this is a small margin which would have the effect of slightly increasing the numbers.

It is not, of course, essential to use expensive colour film for this work, and black and white negatives will reduce the cost to about 2¼d. for a count exposure, printing being unnecessary. At this price one can afford to make complete records, and the fact that light and shade are transposed when the negative is projected does not affect its efficiency for this purpose. A further advantage of black and white is the much higher shutter speed which can be used, resulting in sharper definition for moving subjects. Since these are usually far enough away for the focus to be set at infinity, one can employ large stops and speeds of 1/125th to 1/300th second. The former gives quite satisfactory results.

I have found this technique both simple and effective. It can naturally be used for counts of nests in thickly populated breeding colonies as well. The actual counting is tedious, but at least it can be carried out in the comfort of one's home, and there is the consolation of knowing that the tally is virtually correct.

W. T. PARHAM

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#### ERYTHRISTIC STILTS, IN MANUKAU

During the autumn of 1957 aberrant erythristic Stilts (*H. leucocephalus*) were found in two localities a few miles apart in upper Manukau and it appears that the sightings were of two distinct birds.

On 10/1/57 when Mr. A. C. Hipwell and I paid a visit to Harania Creek, many Pied Stilts were feeding in the tidal shallows of what, because it runs below a dump of old iron near the Otahuhu railway workshops, local bird-watchers call Scrap-iron Creek. One of the stilts attracted our notice because of its unusual colouring. Its crown was not clear white but brownish or a pale creamy orange; face, throat and breast were of a rich, rusty red, but the lower belly and undertail coverts were almost the normal white. The areas normally black were black.

At first we wondered if the reddish marks were the result of some sort of iron staining such as may sometimes be seen on the heads and necks of Mute Swans (*C. olor*), when they have been feeding in dirty water. But for a number of reasons this proposition seemed to us untenable. The water in which the Stilts were feeding was tidal and despite the proximity of heaps of rusty iron on the bank above, there were no stagnant pools of rusty water. No other Stilts in the vicinity were stained, but all were typically immaculate and the underparts of the reddish bird were almost white. Lastly, Stilts do not normally feed by dipping the head under the water. We concluded, therefore, that the bird we were watching was a genuine colour sport, an interesting example of erythristism. There is no mention by Buller or Oliver of any such colour variety in Stilts. Some weeks later on 20/2/57, T. G. Ledgard saw this 'reddish' Stilt again in the same creek. From notes made on the spot, A.C.H. subsequently made a charming colour-sketch of this unusual bird.

On 18/4/57 about 400 Pied Stilts with other waders had gathered at full-tide on the dry mud bottom of the explosion crater below Mangere Mountain. On the edge of them was a partially erythristic stilt quite differently marked from the earlier specimen. It had the gray smudgy markings on the head which are typical of many young Stilts in their first autumn. The reddishness began on the lower neck and was darkest on the belly where it seemed to be about the same shade as the lower band of a male Banded Dotterel (*C. bicinctus*), a rich, deep chestnut. This bird was not seen to be molested by the other Pied Stilts, but it stood apart near the edge of the flock where it was most conspicuous.

If it is permissible to speculate on the occurrence of stilts with reddish markings, one interesting thought which arises is whether there may be a latent tendency towards the development of red feathering in the non-black areas of the tall black-and-white waders. In Australia the Banded Stilt (*Gladorhynchus leucocephalus*) has a broad, reddish chest band and the Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*), which seems to have attempted to establish itself in New Zealand in the nineteenth century, has a chestnut-coloured head and neck, while in the American Avocet (*R. americana*) these parts are pale rufous or cinnamon.

R. B. SIBSON



#### KOKAKO IN LAWSON'S CYPRESSES

Waitekauri, an old mining settlement in the Colville Range, ends in half a mile of rough track two miles beyond Golden Cross. Where the heavy bush begins, there is a derelict farm-house with a row of *Cupressus lawsoniana* on the upper side of the track. On 6/6/59 Mr. A. Blackburn and I first heard clicking and sucking notes above us in the cypresses and then a tui-like whistle. After considerable movement of the foliage a single Kokako (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) planed from the trees to the deep gully. No details of plumage could be noted.

On the following day we had better luck when just before noon two Kokako made their way from the gully and remained in close view for about five minutes. Both birds flew across the track, a distance of about thirty feet, with a heavy laboured flight. The first made a very bad landing in a makomako, the second landed more neatly. While under observation the Kokako were seen to feed on the leaves of tawhero, mahoe and possibly kotukutuku. On both days the weather was dull and overcast with intermittent rain and cold winds.

N. HAMERTON



#### KOKAKO REPORTED FROM WILKIN VALLEY, LAKE WANAKA

On 15/2/58, while I was tramping with two companions down the Wilkin Valley at the head of L. Wanaka, I saw a bird with a dark blue, glossy body colour and a patch of orange below the eye. The bird was on the ground. As we approached, it first fluttered onto a dead trunk about four feet high, and then flew clumsily up the valley at a height of only six feet or so above the ground. The flight was very poor and we thought at first the bird must have been a fledgling.

This incident occurred in the first patch of bush, which was mixed

beech forest on the Wanaka side of the valley, and on the track which follows the river. None of us had ever seen a similar bird before, although we have all done a considerable amount of tramping and climbing in this type of bush country. We had just spent a fortnight in the valley and two of us had also been there in the previous May. It was particularly surprising to see the Orange-wattled Crow (*Callaeas c. cinerea*) where we did, just at the bush-end and where there were only patches of forest with open flats between, with numerous cattle and deer; and not in the dense undisturbed forest at the head of the valley.

On my return to Dunedin I described the bird independently to Dr. R. R. Forster and to Mr. James Watt, who both immediately confirmed my diagnosis as Kokako. I feel that there can be no doubt about the correctness of our identification.

ANN CHAPMAN



#### SOME INSTANCES OF ANTING BY STARLINGS AND MYNAS

On 27/3/55 I saw two Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) strutting about on the lawn of my Wellington garden about ten yards from the window in a most peculiar manner. At first I thought they were displaying in some way. They seemed to be walking round each other in a small circle, but I soon noticed that they would peck at the ground and then thrust the beak under the wing. I called my wife and she said at once, "They are picking something up from the ground and putting it under their wings." After we had watched them for another seven minutes I went out and examined the ground, and, as I expected, there were ants running about on the spot where the Starlings had been. During the actual process, the birds stood rather upright and lifted the wing without actually spreading it.

On 23/10/55 I again noticed a Starling 'anting' on my lawn in the same place.

E. B. JONES



I was puzzled one day in January when I saw two Starlings acting strangely on the path. They appeared to be preening but in a different way from usual. Then I realised that they were 'anting' and that I was watching something that had been reported in other countries. One bird tried to chase the other away, but it did not move far, only side-stepped and went back to that part of the path where ants were most plentiful. Both birds then 'anted' vigorously for some minutes.

A. PRICKETT



After reading an article about 'anting' by birds in the National Geographic Magazine (July, 1956) I was able to understand the antics of two Mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) in a Tauranga garden on 31/10/58. They stood facing each other with beaks almost touching, on the grass by a concrete path, and alternately pecked something off the wet grass and rubbed it from below the wing down the thigh. There were usually many ants at that part of the path. The Mynas were not eating the material which they picked up.

R. V. McLINTOCK



## LITTLE EGRET AT MERTON, OTAGO

Having heard reports that a "small" white heron had been seen around the mudflats at Merton, we visited the area on 12/7/59.

It was a clear calm morning and it was not long before we came on two herons feeding close to the road. One was a White-faced Heron (*N. novaehollandiae*) and the other was the bird for which we were looking.

This bird appeared to be, if anything, slightly smaller than the White-faced Heron and had a "leggy" appearance. Its plumage was pure white and dorsal plumes projected about three inches beyond the tail. The breast and the crown of the head seemed, at certain angles, to be covered in down. This we took to be plumes; they were exquisitely filmy. The bill was black and the skin on the face at the base of the bill was yellow. The legs and feet were black but we did not note any yellow on the feet, when the bird flew.

While we remained in the car watching through binoculars, the bird approached to about fifty feet. At intervals, during feedings, it agitated the water with its feet. As it moved farther away, we endeavoured to get a better angle for photography but the bird became alarmed and took off. It had the usual heron flight except that the wing beats were slightly faster than those of the white-faced species.

The bird was much smaller than *Egretta alba* and there seems to be no doubt that it was a Little Egret (*E. garzetta*).

On 2/8/59 when we visited the area again, a White Heron (*E. alba*) was in full view as it fed near a bridge. Shortly after, some Red-billed Gulls were seen to be harassing another bird which proved to be the Little Egret. When it landed, the gulls left it alone. Gradually it made its way towards the larger egret and fed nearby for some time. The filo-plumes on its head and breast appeared much more prominent than they were three weeks before. The bird itself was very wary and the slightest movement made it fly. After a while the gulls began annoying it again and every time a gull flew over, the egret ducked its head. We last saw it flying up the river with some gulls in pursuit.

L. E. & J. G. WALKER

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## ROYAL SPOONBILLS AT WAITANGI-ROTO CREEK, OKARITO

When visiting this spot on 27/11/58 in performance of official duties for the Department of Internal Affairs, I was pleased to see thirteen Royal Spoonbills (*P. regia*). The birds were evidently nesting, as pieces of straw were protruding from the deep forks of kahikateas. There were four nests in one tree, and possibly one in another, built at varying heights above the ground of approximately 50ft.-70ft. All the nests were much exposed to wind, but enjoyed partial protection because of their position in the trees' forks. For purposes of future reference, the nest sites were downstream two chains from where the White Herons (*E. alba*) nest opposite old kowhai trees. During an hour's visit adults were present, perching on the kahikateas singly and in pairs. According to information later supplied by the Department of Lands and Survey which administers the area, four young were reared.

A. B. MUNDEN

## OBITUARY — PROFESSOR E. PERCIVAL

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Professor Edward Percival, who occupied the chair of Zoology in the University of Canterbury, died on July 15, 1959, at the age of 66.

Although he would never have claimed to be an ornithologist, nor, for that matter, to be an "expert" in any branch of Natural History, Professor Percival held a great sympathy for the study of bird life and for the use of birds as material for biological research and observation. His paper on the juvenile plumage of birds forms an unusual and worthy contribution to ornithology and shows something of where his interests led him.

He was one of the first members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and, although not an active worker in this field, he encouraged others to pursue their studies and he provided the necessary stimulus from his own extensive experiences and from his own particular philosophy of animal observation.

Professor Percival was born in Yorkshire in 1893 and came to Canterbury University College, as it was then called, in 1929 to take the chair of Biology. Prior to this he had taken the National Diploma in Agriculture, served on the "Lower Deck" as he was proud to say, during the first World War, and had been assistant to the late Professor Walter Garstang as lecturer in Zoology at Leeds University. Garstang, it will be remembered, was greatly interested in bird song, its origins and meaning, and from his field associations with Garstang, Percival was able to bring some of this outlook to his students in New Zealand.

Much could be said of his influence and friendship by those who knew him well, and the memories of days in the field and in the laboratory will long remain very vividly with them.

His main interests were in the fields of freshwater and marine ecology so that it might not seem easy to show exactly how his teaching and stimulating discussions directly assisted in the furthering of the study of birds and their surroundings in New Zealand. But this they undoubtedly did.

The Society has lost a valuable member; and many students, teachers and amateur naturalists have lost a great teacher and friend.

E.W.D.

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## LETTER

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Sir,

New Greenfinch Feeding Habit in New Zealand

In Britain, the Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris* L.) has discovered a new source of food, the large seeds of that delightful early-flowering shrub, *Daphne mezereum* L. Two or more birds will strip the small bush of its hundreds of large seeds, usually while the fruits are still green. The husks are left strewn on the ground. This annual feast of the Daphne seeds is commonly in June. The habit originated in the Pennine region of northern England, probably between one and two

centuries ago. It is still commoner in urban than rural gardens, and may well be an indirect consequence of the industrial revolution and its urbanisation.

The habit has gradually spread by cultural diffusion, but has not yet reached Cornwall, Norfolk, or north of Inverness. It reached Belfast, from Scotland, by 1946, and Dublin by 1950. But it is still unrecorded from the European mainland, where both bird and plant have lived together for thousands of years. Longer accounts will appear shortly in *British Birds*, *Bird Study*, and *J. Roy. Hort. Soc.*

The Greenfinch was brought to New Zealand as a cage-bird, and has become naturalised since about 1862. It also occurs to some extent in southern Australia. The shrub is now grown in gardens in both countries; but does better in cooler regions.

Rather surprisingly, the identical phenomenon of despoliation has been observed at Dunedin since about 1939. Does this represent an independent discovery of the food source in New Zealand? Or did some Greenfinch from Britain last century help to introduce the habit as well?

It is intended to make a study of the occurrence and spread of this habit in the Southern Hemisphere also. Information would be gratefully received, by the first-named author, from so far as possible *all* gardens containing a *Daphne mezereum*, as to:— (a) location; (b) number of years since the bush has been fruiting; (c) whether *or not* the fruits are stripped when green, or not long ripe, say Nov.-Feb.; (d) what colour the fruit was when taken; (e) what bird, if any, is seen doing it; (f) date of attack; (g) number of days taken to clear bush(es); (h) how many adult and juvenile Greenfinches take part in the feast; and (i) what other birds use the fruit. In Britain, for instance, this succulent fruit used to be dispersed, properly, by Blackbirds and sometimes Thrushes (*Turdus* spp.).

But any clues as to the origin of the habit in this country — as from old family memories — would be especially valuable.

EDNA SUTHERLAND

64 Royal Crescent,  
Dunedin, S2, N.Z.

MAX PETTERSSON

Linnean Society,  
Piccadilly,  
London, W.1, U.K.

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## REVIEWS

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*Voices of the Wild*, by Eric Simms, Putman & Co. Ltd., London, 21/-: Many books have been written relating the experiences of bird and animal photographers; here is one about the even more exciting adventure of recording bird and animal voices. Following on the pioneer work of Ludwig Koch, Mr. Simms has, on the testimony of Peter Scott in his foreword, "developed the technique with great invention and skill" and produced some wonderful recordings. As director of the B.B.C.'s natural history recording work, Mr. Simms has had a varied experience in his fascinating occupation and this he writes about with understanding and enthusiasm, in which his great love of wild life is apparent. It is a delight to read this book and glean some of the glamour of the author's successes in the field of recording.—R.H.D.S.

*Bird Islands of New Zealand*, by Major R. A. Wilson, D.S.O., Whitcombe and Tombs Ltd., 1959, 25/-: This is a personal and intimate book of the sort which nowadays only too rarely sees the light of publication. The author, who is now without doubt the reigning Grand Old Man of New Zealand ornithology, recounts his experiences in searching for many of our rarer birds and exploring the outlying islands from the sub-antarctic Aucklands to the sub-tropical Three Kings. Bob Wilson made his first trip as a schoolboy in 1891 and his memories go back more than sixty years to the days when specimens of Merganser and Pio-pio could easily be collected without fear of their becoming extinct.

On his trips to the southern islands the author was usually accompanied by Edgar Stead; later when he visited the northern islands Geoffrey Buddle was his constant companion. For both, he has the highest admiration, and he dedicates his book to them in affectionate remembrance. The first two chapters are 'profiles' of these two fine photographer-naturalists. Both of them produced books on New Zealand birds and it is good to know that their 'henchman' as he modestly calls himself, has found time to make his own contribution to the ornithological literature of this country. The study of birds in New Zealand owes much to the skill and enterprise of these three adventurous amateurs and it is important that a new generation should be trained to follow in their footsteps and carry on the work which they began.

'*Bird Islands of New Zealand*' is no mere biological or geographical treatise. Rather it is something much more precious; a charming farrago with comments not only on the finding of rare birds but also on a variety of allied topics e.g., sealing, muttonbirding, the food of petrels, shipwrecks, the botany of the offshore islands and the hazards of landing on them. All readers of this book — and there will be many — will realise much more vividly the imperative need for conserving the islands round the coast of New Zealand as wildlife refuges for such rarities as Saddleback, Stitchbird, Snipe and a host of petrels and shearwaters which, if they are to survive, must have immunity from cats and rats.

The book is profusely illustrated with significant photographs taken by the author and his friends. It is an obvious answer to the prayer of anyone who is wondering what to give a naturalist-friend for Christmas.—R.B.S.

*I Name This Parrot*, by Arthur A. Prestwich, 1958 (Published by the Author, 61 Chase Road, Oakwood, London, N.14; 5/6), 86 pp.

Parrots are among the most spectacular of birds both from an aesthetic and from a scientific point of view. It is not surprising, therefore, to find many great names in the history of ornithology linked with the names of many species of parrot. This little book, compiled and published by the Secretary of the Avicultural Society, has a welcome place in the literature of birds and should be of use to those interested in the more romantic aspects of the discovery and the naming of the many different kinds of parrots.

Short biographies of John Byron, Lear, Rothschild, Finsch, Forbes, Latham, Meyer, Salvin, Sclater, Stresemann, Tristram, and others are included, and comments, which may be new to many New Zealand ornithologists, are made on a number of New Zealand species. How many of us know how, for example, the Orange-fronted Parakeet, *Cyanoramphus malherbi* (Souance, 1857), came to be so named? By browsing through this book, Alfred Malherbe and Baron Charles de Souance become known to us and the question is solved. So it is for *Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae cooki* of Norfolk Island (p. 16), *C. auriceps forbesi* of the Chatham Islands (p. 28), and *C. novaezelandiae hochstetteri* of Antipodes Island (p. 40).

The biography of William Swainson (pp. 74-5), "undoubtedly one of the greatest English naturalists of the nineteenth century," who emigrated to New Zealand in 1840 and died at Fern Grove in the Hutt in 1855, itself makes this book of interest to those concerned with the little-known aspects of New Zealand history. In the same connection, I was especially pleased to see that Henry Ogg Forbes, Director of the Canterbury Museum from 1889 to 1892, is given the credit due to him as a pioneer in New Zealand ornithology (pp. 28-9).—E.W.D.

*The Waders of Sydney*, by K. A. Hindwood and E. S. Hoskin, reprinted from *Emu*, Vol. 54, 1954, pp. 217-255.

For comparative purposes and for help in identifying rare stragglers this pamphlet is likely to prove most useful to all who watch waders in New Zealand. The authors discuss the status of 44 species which have occurred near Sydney. Of these, 15 breed in Australia, 28 are trans-equatorial migrants from New Zealand, flocks of fifty or more being not uncommon.

The notes on this species are of especial interest to New Zealanders. The first Banded Dotterels appear near Sydney about the end of January. The moult into breeding plumage is evident in the field towards the end of April. Most birds are fully plumaged by mid-August, just prior to their departure. Laggards may remain throughout September. Their presence in October or November is exceptional but the few that have been seen have been in breeding plumage.

A perusal of the Sydney list shows that although in recent years several arctic waders have been recorded for the first time in New Zealand, the possibilities are by no means exhausted. Sooner or later Mongolian Dotterel, Great Knot, Common, Wood and Broad-billed Sandpipers may be found in New Zealand. Long-billed Curlews, Gray-tailed Tattlers, Japanese Snipe, Curlew Sandpipers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-

necked Stints occur near Sydney in impressive numbers, but the biggest flocks of Bar-tailed Godwits (c. 200) and Knots (c. 50) are very modest by New Zealand standards. The authors remark that the biggest flocks of Bar-tailed Godwits occur in winter.

The information about the plovers and dotterels which breed in Australia makes interesting reading. Red-capped and Black-fronted Dotterels are plentiful in south-eastern Australia. Will they do as the Spur-winged Plover has done in recent years and colonise New Zealand? Local observers will do well to keep an alert eye open for their appearance.

A long and historic list of references gives added value to this admirable account of the waders of Sydney (County of Cumberland), which, incidentally, is in the same latitude as New Zealand's 'far north.'

— R.B.S.



## LIBRARY

The Library is now receiving regularly the following journals:—*Alauda* (France), *Aquila* (Hungary), *Ardeola* (Spain), *Audubon* (U.S.A.), *Auk* (U.S.A.), *Bird Banding* (U.S.A.), *Bird Study* (G.B.), *British Birds* (G.B.), *Condor* (U.S.A.), *Dansk Ornithologisk Forenings Tidsskrift* (Denmark), *Elepaio* (Hawaii), *Emu* (Australia), *Ibis* (G.B.), *Journal für Ornithologie* (Germany), *L' Oiseau* (France), *Der Ornithologische Beobachter* (Germany), *Ornithologische Mitteilungen* (Germany), *Ostrich* (South Africa), *Postilla* (U.S.A.), *Sarawak Museum Journal* (Sarawak), *South Australian Ornithologist*, *Sterna* (Norway), *Tori* (Japan), *Var Fagelvarld* (Sweden), *Die Vogelwarte* (Germany), *Die Vogelwelt* (Germany), *Acta Ornithologica* (Poland), *Wilson Bulletin* (U.S.A.).

Some volumes are incomplete because individual parts have been borrowed and not returned; e.g. to mention only a few, *Condor* 1952, 6; 1956, 2, 3, 5; 1957, 4; *Ibis* 1956, 4 and 1958, 1; *Wilson Bulletin*, 1955, 4. Members who have any missing parts are asked to return them at once.

Because of the reorganisation which is taking place at the Auckland War Memorial Museum, the lending of books and periodicals from the O.S.N.Z. Library will cease till the end of November.



### NEW MEMBERS up to 30/6/'59

Atkinson, H., Shelley Street, Leamington, Cambridge  
 Attwell, R. F., 27 Pompallier Terrace, Auckland, W.1.  
 Baker, R. T., 97 Seddon Street, Nae Nae  
 Blanshard, R. H., Little Barrier Island, C/o Naval Base, Devonport, Auck.  
 Bond, K. R., 211 St. George Street, Papatoetoe  
 Brown, H. L. W., 14 Vernon Terrace, St. Martins, Christchurch, S.E.2  
 Caughley, Graeme, Animal Research Section, Forest Service, Wellington  
 Cormack, Miss A. M., C/o Girls' High School, Whangarei  
 de Haas, C., 89 Marsden Avenue, Mt. Eden, Auckland, S.1  
 Gunson, Wallace, 17 Arney Road, Remuera, Auckland, S.E.2  
 Hall-Jones, Dr. J., 69 Don Street, Invercargill  
 Houston, R., Gorge Road P.O., Southland  
 Linscott, O. J., Thornbury, R.D. 8, Invercargill  
 School, Lake Coleridge  
 Saville, Dr. J. E., Box 15, Little River, Canterbury  
 Stephenson, T. A., 20 Douglas McLean Avenue, Mārewa, Napier  
 Thorn, Alastair, Tomarata, R.D. 4, Wellsford  
 Walker, J. G., 15 Cornwall Street, Vauxhall, Dunedin E.1  
 Wright, Alan, Cape Egmont Lighthouse, P.O., Pungarehu, via New Ply.

## 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 Takahe* (5/-); *Identification of Albatrosses* (1/-); *Reports and Bulletins, 1939-1942*, with Index (12/-), Index Alone 1/6. These precede Vol. I of *N.Z. Bird Notes* and record the first three years of the Society's work.

### CHRISTMAS CARDS

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