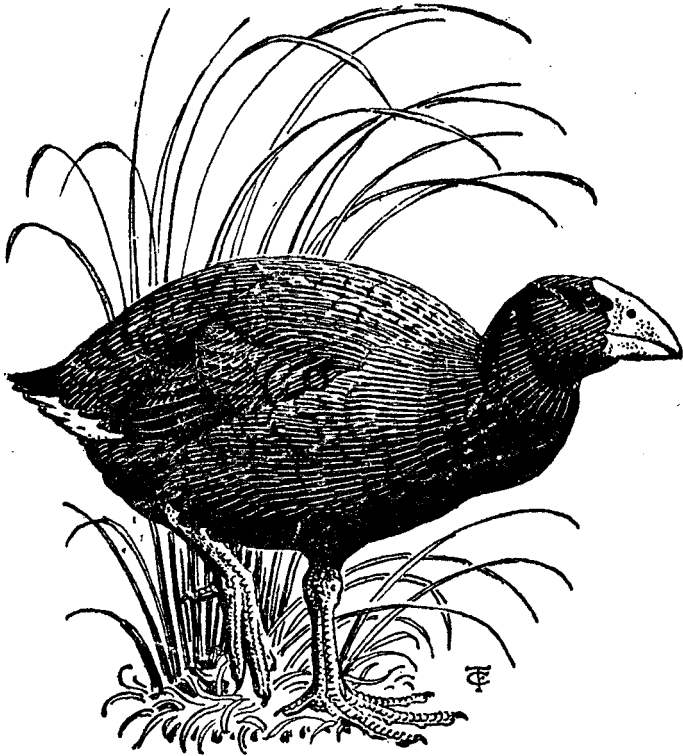


NOTORNIS



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Ornithological Society of New Zealand

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Volume Nine, Number Seven, December, 1961

NOTORNIS

In continuation of New Zealand Bird Notes

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NOTORNIS

VOLUME NINE, NUMBER SEVEN - DECEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTY-ONE

SEABIRDS FOUND DEAD IN NEW ZEALAND IN 1960

Compiled by P. C. BULL* and B. W. BOESON

ABSTRACT

Beach patrols in New Zealand during 1960 covered a total distance of 638 miles and yielded 1,121 dead birds (44 species). Albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters constituted 80 per cent. of the total specimens, the most abundant species being *Pachyptila turtur* (307 specimens), *Puffinus gavia* (158) and *Puffinus griseus* (129). The finding of four Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) was unusual. Highest seabird mortalities were recorded during the period August to December, and rates of mortality were higher on the west coast of the North Island than elsewhere.

INTRODUCTION

This summary of records of birds found dead on New Zealand beaches during 1960 replaces the interim report already published (Bull, 1961). The totals given below include records from a few cards that were received too late for inclusion in the interim report. A re-examination of all the cards was also undertaken, and this revealed that the number of Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) found in New Zealand during 1960 was only four and not six as reported earlier.

The total number of beach patrol cards received was 235, and these record the finding of 1,121 birds (44 species) during patrols covering a total of 638 miles; 24 members took part in the work. The geographic and seasonal distribution of patrols and of the specimens reported are presented below.

GEOGRAPHIC AND SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION OF PATROLS

The length of beach examined in each district is shown in Table 1 where the patrols have been grouped in six two-month periods running from January-February (J-F) to November-December (N-D). Districts where patrols for the year totalled less than 20 miles have been grouped together as miscellaneous. These districts are: Gisborne (3 miles), Hawke's Bay (15), Wairarapa (11), Marlborough (11), and Banks Peninsula (2 miles). The Marlborough records include several birds from Brothers Island.

Most of the patrols took place on the Auckland or Wellington West Coasts (167 and 275 miles respectively). In the Wellington area at least eight miles of beach were examined every month; on the Auckland West Coast, on the other hand, the months of January, July and August together account for 77 per cent. of the total miles patrolled, and there are no patrols at all for the months of February, March, September, November and December. The relatively low

milage reported from other districts is due to a lack of regular patrols (Auckland East and Wellington South Coasts) or to the initiation of such patrols about the middle of the year (Taranaki and Otago).

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TABLE 1: Miles patrolled and birds found on different coasts

| Coastline | 2-Month Periods January to December | | | | | | Total Miles | Total Birds | Birds per Mile |
|----------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|----------------|----------------------|
| | J-F | M-A | M-J | J-A | S-O | N-D | | | |
| Auckland East | 10 | 8 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 34 | 38 | 1.1 |
| Auckland West | 35 | 17 | 6 | 94 | 15 | - | 167 | 478 | 2.9 |
| Taranaki | - | - | 14 | 5 | 12 | 4 | 35 | 9 | 0.3 |
| Wgtn. West | 25 | 18 | 50 | 66 | 42 | 74 | 275 | 483 | 1.8 |
| Wgtn. South | 3 | 2 | 20 | 9 | 3 | 5 | 42 | 61 | 1.5 |
| Otago | - | - | 10 | 6 | 12 | 15 | 43 | 19 | 0.4 |
| Miscellaneous | - | 7 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 17 | 42 | 33 | 0.8 |
| Total Miles | 73 | 52 | 112 | 184 | 98 | 119 | 638 | | |
| Total Birds | 58 | 33 | 74 | 524 | 215 | 217 | | 1121 | |
| Birds per Mile | 0.8 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 2.8 | 2.2 | 1.8 | | | 1.8 |

NUMBERS OF BIRDS FOUND

Data on geographic and seasonal variations in the number of birds recorded have been expressed in terms of birds per mile of beach examined (Table 1). All the specimens have been grouped together irrespective of species, but some indication of the main species represented in each two-month period is provided in Table 2. Before giving further consideration to Table 1, it may be useful to record monthly variations in mortality on the Wellington West Coast since this is the only area which provides data for every month of the year.

The monthly averages for birds per mile on the Wellington West Coast from January to December were: 1.1, 3.9, 0.4, 0.9, 1.3, 0.6, 0.7, 2.3, 2.4, 1.8, 1.7 and 3.4. Allowing for the fact that only eight or nine miles of beach were examined in some months, the above figures are fairly uniform, although there is a suggestion that rates of mortality tended to be lower from March to July (less than one bird per mile except in May) than during the rest of the year. The highest numbers of birds found per mile on individual patrols were 12 per mile in November (one mile covered), nine in October (one mile) and 7.5 in December (three miles).

Returning now to a consideration of the bottom line of Table 1, it is apparent that the pooled data from all districts also indicate that

seabird mortality was lower in the first half of the year than in later months. Monthly patrols on the Wellington West Coast suggested that the change to higher mortalities took place between July (0.7 birds per mile) and August (2.3). Analysis of the July-August records from the Auckland West Coast showed that mortality there rose from 0.6 birds per mile in July to 8.1 in August. The greatest number of birds found during an individual patrol on this coast was 12.8 birds per mile over a distance of 15 miles on 23rd August. It appears then that in 1960 seabird mortality was fairly low until August when it rose to a high level, particularly on the Auckland West Coast, and remained comparatively high for the rest of the year.

The right hand column of Table 1 suggests that birds were more numerous on beaches in the vicinity of Auckland and Wellington than on those in the other districts that were patrolled. The figures are influenced of course by the fact that the number of birds recorded depends on when the patrols were made as well as on where they were made, and the several districts vary with regard to the months in which most of the patrols were carried out. On a few occasions, patrols of nine miles or more were made during the same month on each of the Auckland and Wellington West Coasts, and these patrols provide the best data available to illustrate differences in the abundance of dead birds on beaches in the two areas. The numbers of birds found per mile in the two areas (Wellington figures in brackets) were: January 0.1 (1.1), April 0.7 (0.9), July 0.6 (0.7), August 8.1 (2.3), and October 5.3 (1.8). In January the Wellington figure is higher than the Auckland one, in April and July the figures are substantially the same in both areas, and in August and October they are very much higher at Auckland than at Wellington. Thus although both districts showed increased mortality after July, this increase was much more marked on Auckland west coast beaches than on Wellington ones.

KINDS OF BIRDS FOUND

Species of penguins, albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters found during 1960 are listed in Table 2 which also shows the frequency of occurrence in each two-month period. Birds found in the Auckland and Wellington areas are listed in the two right hand columns of the Table; the total number of specimens from other districts can be obtained by subtracting the sum of the Auckland and Wellington numbers (columns A and W) from the total specimens (first column of figures). Birds belonging to groups other than the above are grouped together in the table as "miscellaneous species" and are discussed further in a subsequent paragraph. Prions (Genus *Pachyptila*) constitute 52 per cent. of the records of penguins, albatrosses, petrels and shearwaters and these last groups together account for 86 per cent. of the total records. The three most abundant species were *Pachyptila turtur* (307 specimens), *Puffinus gavia* subspp. (158) and *P. griseus* (129).

The Auckland records in Table 2 include specimens from both East and West Coasts, but the former constitute only seven per cent. of the total. Except for the inclusion of *Puffinus carneipes* (3 specimens), *P. tenuirostris* (2) and *Eudyptula minor* (21) column A in the Table may be regarded as applying to the west coast. Likewise the Wellington records (column W) include specimens from both west

TABLE 2: List of Species Found

| Species | Total Spec- imens | When Found (2-month periods) | | | | | | Where Found | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|
| | | J-F | M-A | M-J | J-A | S-O | N-D | A | W |
| <i>Eudyptula minor</i> | 61 | 2 | | 4 | 20 | 18 | 17 | 32 | 28 |
| <i>E. albosignata</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | | | — | — |
| <i>Eudyptes p. pachyrhynchus</i> | 1 | | | | | | 1 | — | 1 |
| <i>Diomedea chrysostoma</i> | 4 | | | | 3 | | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| <i>D. bulleri</i> | 3 | | | 1 | 2 | | | 2 | 1 |
| <i>D. cauta</i> | 7 | | 1 | 1 | | 3 | 2 | 2 | 5 |
| <i>Diomedea sp.*</i> | 3 | | 1 | | 2 | | | 2 | 1 |
| <i>Phoebastria palpebrata</i> | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Macronectes giganteus</i> | 2 | | | | | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| <i>Daption capensis</i> | 11 | | | | 7 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 2 |
| <i>Halobaena caerulea</i> | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Pachyptila vittata</i> | 16 | 4 | | | 8 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 9 |
| <i>P. salvini</i> | 34 | | | 1 | 32 | 1 | | 29 | 5 |
| <i>P. desolata</i> | 18 | | | | 16 | 2 | | 13 | 5 |
| <i>P. belcheri</i> | 74 | | | | 70 | 4 | | 55 | 19 |
| <i>P. turtur</i> | 307 | 6 | | 5 | 174 | 69 | 53 | 170 | 130 |
| <i>Pachyptila sp.*</i> | 52 | 5 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 9 | 42 |
| <i>Puffinus carneipes</i> | 4 | 2 | 1 | | | | 1 | 3 | — |
| <i>P. bulleri</i> | 18 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6 | 1 | 10 | 8 |
| <i>P. griseus</i> | 129 | 18 | 8 | 17 | 13 | 12 | 61 | 28 | 97 |
| <i>P. tenuirostris</i> | 8 | 2 | | 4 | | | 2 | 2 | 6 |
| <i>P. g. gavia</i> | 145 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 87 | 43 | 5 | 98 | 41 |
| <i>P. g. huttoni</i> | 13 | | | | | | 13 | — | 12 |
| <i>P. assimilis</i> | 2 | | | | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| <i>Procellaria cinerea</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | — |
| <i>P. westlandica</i> | 1 | | | | 1 | | | 1 | — |
| <i>Pterodroma macroptera</i> | 2 | | | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| <i>P. lessoni</i> | 5 | | 1 | | | 2 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| <i>P. inexpectata</i> | 1 | | 1 | | | | | 1 | — |
| <i>Pelecanoides urinatrix</i> | 38 | | 1 | 6 | 15 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 28 |
| Miscellaneous species† | 156 | 11 | 10 | 28 | 53 | 20 | 34 | 28 | 95 |
| TOTALS | 1121 | 58 | 33 | 74 | 524 | 215 | 217 | 516 | 544 |

* Too fragmentary to allow specific identification.

† Other than petrels or penguins.

A—Auckland East & West Coasts.
W—Wellington West & South

Coasts

and south coasts, but the latter constitute only 11 per cent. of the total. *Diomedea bulleri* was found on the south coast only, but the other species from this coast were recorded in larger numbers from the west coast. The distribution of species in districts other than Auckland and Wellington was as follows: *Eudyptula minor* Marlborough (1); *E. albosignata*, Banks Peninsula (1); *Macronectes giganteus*, Wairarapa (1), Dunedin (1); *Daption capensis*, Marlborough (1); *Pachyptila vittata*, Marlborough (1); *P. turtur*, Taranaki (1), Marlborough (4), Dunedin (2); *Puffinus carneipes*, Hawke's Bay (1); *P. griseus*, Taranaki (1), Marlborough (1), Otago (2); *P. g. gavia*, Taranaki (1), Marlborough (4), Dunedin (1); *P. g. huttoni*, Taranaki (1); and *Pelecanoides urinatrix*, Taranaki (1), Marlborough (1).

The "miscellaneous species" in Table 2 consist of the following (total numbers of specimens in brackets): *Sula bassana* (20), *Phalacrocorax* spp. (8), *Larus dominicanus* (97), *L. novaehollandiae* (14), *L. bulleri* (1), *Hydroprogne caspia* (1), *Sterna striata* (2), *S. fuscata* (4) and six other species not regarded as seabirds (9). The occurrence of four Sooty Terns (*Sterna fuscata*) is of particular interest since there were only seven previous records of this tropical species in New Zealand. The 1960 specimens all came ashore in August and were found at Muriwai, Bethells, Foxton and Waitarere (Levin).

DISCUSSION

With the exception of birds collected at Muriwai in August, seabird mortality was not particularly high in 1960 in comparison with some of the wrecks that have occurred in earlier years. The impressive total of 1,121 specimens recorded during 1960 reflects increased patrolling activity rather than heavy mortality. For instance, until 1960, the Ornithological Society held 266 beach patrol cards that recorded the length of beach examined (647 miles in all), but the past year has added a further 230 cards covering 638 miles of beach. Records of the Blue Petrel (*Halobaena caerulea*) also illustrate the magnitude of the increase in patrolling activity during recent years. Dell (1952) was able to find only 21 records of this species from New Zealand, but the total now stands at 60.

While this increase in the patrolling of beaches is providing a great deal of useful information, it is also involving a formidable amount of clerical work. It is important that this work be as productive as possible. It takes as long or longer to register an inadequately completed card as it does for a good one. The records of Black-backed Gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) will serve to illustrate the point. The distribution of this common species can be studied better by observing living birds than by collecting dead specimens, but the latter can give valuable information on seasonal variations in mortality provided the cards show clearly whether or not this species is included. Some observers record gulls while others appear to ignore them. In general all specimens, even fragmentary ones, should be included on the beach patrol cards, but if this is not done the fact should be noted because otherwise all the cards become suspect with regard to this particular species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following members took part in beach patrols during 1960 and credit is due to them for collecting the information summarised above: I. G. Andrew, B. W. Boeson, P. C. Bull, J. R. Chaproniere, D. G. Fenwick, N. M. Gleeson, P. C. Harper, M. Hodgkins, M. J. Hogg, M. J. Imber, J. R. Jackson, S. R. Kennington, N. J. Ledgard, Mrs. M. McGrath, D. McGrath, Mrs. R. V. McLintock, R. J. Nilsson, W. T. Poppelwell, R. B. Sibson, P. D. G. Skegg, D. A. Urquhart, M. Williams, C. H. Witters and A. Wright.

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 Dell, R. K., 1952: The Blue Petrel in Australasian Waters; *Emu* 52: 147-154.



NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF THE UPPER HOLLYFORD VALLEY, FIORDLAND

By J. W. WINTER

A party of about thirty-five science students of the University of Otago spent seven days, from May 14th to 21st, 1960, at Murray Gunn's Camp in the Hollyford Valley. The following are mainly the results of my personal observations during the trip, but also include relevant information obtained by other members of the party.

The valley in the region of the camp is up to a mile wide on its floor, and averages about 500 ft. above sea level. The vegetation of a mixed Beech and Podocarp type, in which Silver Beech (*Nothofagus menziesii*) is dominant, densely covers the valley and extends up to about 3,000 ft. The only clearings consist of extensive shingle banks and small tussock flats along the river.

Methods and Results

Five bird counts were made in the following way. All birds either seen or heard were recorded over a period of one hour, while walking at a moderate pace. The distance covered varied according to the terrain but would be in the region of one and a-half to three miles. In the case of birds not seen, only one individual was recorded, except for White-eyes which were recorded two to four at a time according to the amount of noise. In some cases this was obviously inadequate, as flocks of up to dozen birds were seen.

The main drawback of the method is that while Song Thrushes and Bellbirds can be heard from a considerable distance Riflemen and Tits can only be heard when fairly close. Thus a distorted picture of relative abundance is inevitable. However, the method is useful for obtaining a general picture of the bird population and for comparing it between different areas.

The results are shown in the table:

| <i>Count</i> | I | II | III | IV | V |
|---------------------|----|----|-----|----|---|
| White-eye | 15 | 41 | 16 | 8 | 5 |
| Paradise Duck | 15 | — | — | — | — |
| Bellbird | 12 | 16 | 5 | 2 | 2 |
| Yellow-breasted Tit | 8 | 18 | 6 | 10 | 5 |
| Song Thrush | 5 | 8 | — | — | — |
| Rifleman | 3 | 7 | 7 | 1 | 3 |
| Fantail | 3 | 2 | — | — | — |
| Grey Warbler | 1 | 2 | 4 | 1 | — |
| N.Z. Pigeon | — | — | 1 | 2 | — |
| Chaffinch | 4 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Blackbird | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Dunnock | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Kea | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Unidentified | 6 | 3 | 2 | — | 1 |

Count I — was taken along the road northwards from the camp. Light steady rain was falling, but the birds still seemed to be fairly active. Song Thrushes were in full song, Bellbirds noisy and the White-eyes very active. The river was plainly visible for part of the time and the Paradise Ducks recorded. Time 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Count II — was taken along the road southwards from the camp; between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. It had been a brilliant sunny day, but the valley by this time was in deep shadow. Far more birds were heard and seen in this count than in any of the others. Probably because it was the only evening count taken. Possibly, also due to the fine day after a spell of bad weather.

Count III — was taken from the road on the saddle between the Hollyford and Eglinton; along the Howden track to the Key Summit turn-off, which is a little below bush line. The bush was very quiet with only an occasional Bellbird calling. The small birds were more often heard than seen. The day was bright and sunny with no wind. Time 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

Count IV — was taken from the Marion swing bridge along the L. Marion track. The bush was quiet. The Kea heard was well up amongst the crags. The day was dull and overcast. Time 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m.

Count V — was a continuation of IV and ended at the bush line overlooking Lake Marion. The unidentified record was probably a Redpoll, as on the way back we came across a flock of them in much the same place. Time 10.30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Notes on the Species

BLACK SHAG — One pair seen flying down stream over the river. Another single bird was reported.

PARADISE DUCK — Were very common along the river, either in pairs of a male and female, or small groups of three or four. One flock of fourteen and one of nine were seen. A solitary bird was reported on Lake Marion.

BLUE DUCK — One was floating on a patch of smooth water in the main river. When we approached it merely ambled up onto some shingle by the water's edge. Also reported from Moraine Creek.

HARRIER — Three separate sightings of a solitary bird, so they could have been the same one. Only seen on the valley floor and usually over the river flats, once being disturbed as it glided down to a deer carcass. I was rather surprised to see it here, as the open ground consists of shingle banks and small grassy flats which are neither large nor numerous.

NEW ZEALAND PIGEON — Only recorded in two of the counts, but were seen scattered throughout the bush. Never more than two together and usually seen when flying above the bush. Often performing swooping glides.

SOUTH ISLAND KAKA — Was frequently heard or seen in the higher half of the bush, singly or in twos.

KEA — Recorded in one count from bluffs well above the bush. From various reports they are fairly well distributed but not in any great numbers.

MOREPORK — Heard only once at night.

KINGFISHER — Was seen once near the Marion swing bridge.

RIFLEMAN — Found in small numbers throughout the bush, usually in parties of two or three.

FANTAIL — Appeared to be confined to the lower bush and valley floor, and always where the bush was thin or on the edge of clearings. One evening two groups, six in one (all pied) and three in the other (one black) were looking for insects over a still flat stretch of water of a small creek.

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT — Was seen throughout the bush and more males than females. Always solitary except occasionally a male and a female would be together. I would say this is the abundant bird, after the White-eye. On three days when we were studying a mapped area of three chains square, a female tit was a constant visitor. We presumed it to be the same bird. Only once did we see a male during those three days.

BROWN CREEPER — One small flock of six passed through the bush, very close to me, continually calling and searching for food on the bark of branches and saplings.

GREY WARBLER — Sparsely distributed throughout the bush, and more often heard than seen. Never more than one heard or seen at a time.

SONG THRUSHES — Were heard in full song from the bush on the valley floor but not any higher up the valley sides. Only one or two were seen as they were very shy.

BLACKBIRD — Again only seen and heard on the valley floor. The only indication of them was their subdued alarm note from the undergrowth beside the road except for one seen flying low across the road, and a group of six which burst from under a litter of dead branches at my feet. The latter were near Eel Creek between High and Hidden Falls.

- DUNNOCK** — Was seen only a few times on the roadside near the camp.
- PIPIT** — A flock of eight to ten birds was seen on Gertrude Saddle which is well above the bush line.
- BELLBIRD** — Found throughout the bush, but judging from the counts they are more numerous on the valley floor. Usually in ones or twos, but two small flocks of seven birds and of about a dozen were reported seen on the flax plants near Key Summit.
- TUI** — A probable sighting of one flying high over the bush at Gunn's Camp. Two reported at Hidden Falls feeding on Miro berries.
- LESSER REDPOLL** — One small flock was seen in the bush near Lake Marion.
- CHAFFINCH** — Widely distributed in the bush but only in small numbers. The most seen together was four, and usually only one or two.
- HOUSE SPARROW** — A few were constantly seen around the camp, but nowhere else.
- BUSH HAWK** — A fleeting glimpse caught as one flew low along the road, and struck a branch where a House Sparrow had just landed. There was a distinct clap, and a feather drifted down, but the fate of the sparrow was not ascertained.
- WHITE-EYE** — This is probably the most abundant bird in the bush occurring in small flocks of between three and a dozen birds. They were more often heard than seen and usually occupied the canopy layer of the bush, though coming down low along its edges. Their distribution appears to be throughout the bush.

No Kiwis or Wekas were seen and, according to Murray Gunn, they were thought to have been wiped out by stoats in the nineteen thirties. One stoat was caught in a live trap in the bush well away from any buildings. Mr. P. K. Dorizac, Chief Ranger Fiordland N.P., tells me that Kiwis are still plentiful in the Cleddau Valley, which is through the Homer Tunnel from the Hollyford.



BIRDS OBSERVED ON THE WAY UP TO, AND AT, BOULDER LAKE, HAUPIRI RANGE, NELSON PROVINCE

By C. McCANN

On 18th March, 1961, a party consisting of Messrs. Frank Soper of Puramahoe, S. Northcote-Bade, A. Sears, B. Durant and the author visited the Boulder Lake area. We returned over the same route on the 20th.

We camped at the site of the newly constructed hut of the Golden Bay Alpine Club. Mr. Soper was largely responsible for the construction of this hut, which is situated beside a small waterfall, on

the southerly shore of Boulder Lake. The lake lies in an amphitheatre of high ridges and peaks rising another thousand or more feet above the lake. The lake itself is 3,224ft. above sea level.

We ascended by way of Bainham, passing through The Castles, and up the Brown Cow Ridge, sidling the peak at about 4000ft., finally dropping down through tussock to the level of the lake. The following birds were noted during the trip:

GREAT SPOTTED KIWI — No birds were seen, but, occasionally, during the night the call was heard in the forests adjacent to the lake, 3,200ft. It is presumed to be this species as it is known to inhabit this area (c.f. *Notornis* VIII, 237).

PARADISE DUCK — A pair was seen on the borders of the lake by Mr. Northcote-Bade. Apparently, the birds were moulting at the time for feathers were seen and one was collected.

SCAUP — A drake and two ducks were seen on the lake in the early morning of the 20th. So long as the observer stood still the birds would approach but any movement sent them away again.

BLACK SHAG — A single bird haunted the lake during the whole period of our stay. It was very shy and would not allow approach.

KAKA — Frequently heard in the beech forests skirting the slopes below 3000ft., occasionally, at higher levels in the vicinity of the lake as they flew over.

KEA — Keas were seen and heard calling as they flew over the lake and along the ridges bordering the lake.

MOREPORK — Several birds were seen in the forests on the way up to the lake. Others were seen and heard frequently after dusk in the patches of forest skirting the lake.

RIFLEMAN — Some birds seen and heard in the beech forest in the vicinity of the camp site.

ROCK WREN — Not seen by any of the party during the trip, but Mr. Keath Marshall of Puramahoe had a coloured slide of one taken in the area.

FANTAIL — Fantails were frequent in the forests on the way up to the lake and at the camp-site. They were often absurdly 'tame,' approaching within a few inches of one's face. No specimens of the melanic form were observed.

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT — Several specimens of this bird were seen between 2-3000ft. in the forests. Some were quite 'tame' and approached to about a yard. The yellow breast was distinctly visible. They appeared to move about in the low shrubs only a few feet from the ground.

Several birds with white breasts were seen within the same range as that of the Yellow-breasted Tit, but appeared to be more frequent where the ground cover was less and 'broad-leaved' trees were more common. The black and white of the breast was sharply demarcated. They had exactly the appearance and manners of the North Island representatives. They appeared to be more 'fluffed up' than the

Yellow-breasted Tit, making them appear very slightly larger than that bird. Incidentally, the Yellow-breasted Tit appeared to hold its feathers more tightly.

FERNBIRD — This bird appeared to be fairly plentiful in an area known as Beetham's Clear — an open grassy area, which in wet weather seems to be marshy, with scattered *manuka* bushes dotted around. The birds haunted the shrubs and tall grass and their clicking notes could be heard all round. If the observer were still the birds would emerge cautiously to the periphery of the bush and approach to within three or four feet to investigate the stranger. Any movement on the part of the observer sent the bird back to cover. The chestnut colouring of the crown was very distinct and the striae of black on the breast were well-defined. No birds were seen outside this circumscribed area.

GREY WARBLER — The Grey Warbler was frequent in the bush almost all the way up. It appeared in the forest around the camp site also.

BELLBIRD — The Bellbirds were plentiful and were, perhaps, the commonest birds in the forests all the way up — they were very vociferous. In the beech forest round the lake they were also numerous, but not so plentiful as in the lower forest between 1,500 and 3000ft. They appeared to be feeding on insects among the branches. (The South Island Rata was in flower at the time.) Some birds were quite 'tame' and would approach within three or four feet of the observer (if still). Others appeared to follow us down the path and come quite low to investigate. They would have a look at us and then burst into song. I have never seen nor heard so many Bellbirds together. Incidentally, no Tuis were seen during the trip.

WHITE-EYE — Small parties of White-eyes were frequently seen, even around the lake — sometimes flying quite high (4000ft.).

PIPIT — The Pipit was very common on the lower grasslands and along the roads, but absent from the bush areas. It reappeared in open grassland higher up. A pair was seen on the shore of Boulder Lake on the morning of the 20th.

WESTERN WEKA — Wekas were seen on the way up moving about in the forest at about 2-2500ft. and again in the forest adjoining the lake. They were heard calling after dark around the camp site.

PUKEKO — Some birds were seen along the streams and in hedgerows on the lower levels.

HARRIER — Several Harriers were seen over the lower hills and on the plains.

BLACKBIRDS — Blackbirds were seen on the plains and on the lower slopes. None were observed at the lake.

SONG THRUSH — Common in the low country, especially around cultivation.

GOLDFINCH — Small parties of Goldfinches were seen on the plains and on the lowest slopes only.

CLASSIFIED SUMMARISED NOTES

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| <p>I. G. Andrew, Wellington Dr. J. S. Armstrong, Taupo B. D. Bell, Blenheim M. S. Black, Rotorua A. Blackburn, Gisborne R. H. Blanshard, Little Barrier Mrs. M. J. Blundell, Clevedon D. F. Booth, Auckland C. D. Blomfield, Rotorua D. H. Brathwaite, Christchurch W. J. Broun, Rotorua C. N. Challies, Lower Hutt J. E. Coulthard, Manukau Heads E. W. Crack, Ashburton D. E. Crockett, Wanganui Mrs. O. Cullen, Whangarei D. Dawson, Christchurch M. Day, Christchurch E. Dear, Kopane P. Densem, Bay of Plenty M. G. Dill, Kaipara Flats A. T. Edgar, Titirangi M. E. Fitzgerald, Bay of Plenty Miss A. J. Goodwin, Clevedon P. Grant, Greymouth T. Hartley-Smith, Westland J. S. Heighway, Poukawa M. Hodgkins, Tauranga M. J. Hogg, Auckland F. P. Hudson, Kaipara Flats M. J. Imber, Hawera D. B. Jenner, Morrinsville J. L. Kendrick, Cambridge C. W. Kokich, Whangarei N. J. Ledgard, Titirangi</p> | <p>D. N. Lilburne, Papakura C. J. Lindsay, Wellington R. W. MacDonald, Wanganui Mrs. H. M. McKenzie, Clevedon H. R. McKenzie, Clevedon Mrs. R. V. McLintock, Tauranga J. Martin D. V. Merton, Gisborne P. M. Morrison, Wellington R. Mueller, Hamilton A. B. Munden, Westland W. L. Moisley, Clevedon A. Nuttall, Oamaru Mrs. G. M. Orum, Clevedon Mrs. J. H. Pennycock, Makarora W. T. Popplewell, Dunedin N. Potts, Opotiki Mrs. A. Prickett, Birkenhead J. Prickett, Birkenhead I. S. Robinson, Rotorua M. Ross, Kaikohe J. W. St. Paul, Clevedon R. St. Paul, Minginui Mrs. M. A. Scott, Tauranga R. B. Sibson, Auckland P. D. G. Skegg, Auckland W. S. Sutherland, Kawhia C. Tattershall, Rotorua A. Todd, Miranda B. J. Tucker, Wanganui D. A. Urquhart, Karaka J. G. Walker, Dunedin Mrs. L. E. Walker, Dunedin R. R. Wiblin, Pukerua Bay A. Wright, Brothers</p> |
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N.I. KIWI (*Apteryx australis mantelli*) — Moerangi, east of Taumarunui, one heard, June '61 (F.P.H.).

YELLOW-EYED PENGUIN (*Megadyptes antipodes*) — Wakanui Beach, Ashburton estuary, 1 on 17/3/61, with injured foot; tended by S.P.C.A. and a few days later swam away (E.W.C.). Cape Wanbrow, Oamaru, a few pairs attempt to nest (A.N.). Otago Peninsula, Forbury Head, 11 on 1/8/60; 8 on 18/10/60; 9 on 25/4/61; 12 on 28/5/61; Sandfly Bay, 4 on 1/9/60; Wickliffe Bay, 2 on 14/5/61.

ROYAL PENGUIN (*Eudyptes chrysolophus schlegeli*) — Karitane, 24/2/57, one juv. in moult (L.E. & J.G.W.).

N.Z. CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes p. pachyrhynchus*) — Greymouth, 1 alive on beach, 6/10/60 (P.G.).

ERECT-CRESTED PENGUIN (*Eudyptes p. sclateri*) — Wakanui beach 1 adult, injured, on 21/3/60; died subsequently (E.W.C.).

- SOUTHERN CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus australis*) — Ashburton county — 2 on L. Heron, 1 on L. Camp, 3 on L. Clearwater on 28/5/60 (E.W.C.). Westland. L. Ianthe, 18/1/61, at least four pairs, probably five. L. Wahapo, 1 pr. (R.B.S.).
- DABCHICK (*Podiceps rufopectus*) — 1 on pond on Northland College farm, Kaikohe, winter '61 (M.R.). Tabora, 3 on small weedy pool, 19/2/61; Kawerau, B. o. P., 3 prs. on small lake on 22/10/60; Hora Hora bridge, L. Karapiro, 1 on 4/7/61; L. Rotongaio, Taupo, 9, very shy, on 12/7/61; Hatepe R., 9 on Taupo hydro dam on 13/7/61 (H.R.McK., H.M.McK.). Volcanic plateau, widespread, visiting most ponds and lakelets; winter flocks up to 40; 29 on L. Rotorua on 10/6/60 (M.S.B. et al). Tokaanu, c. 10 near jetty, 3/1/61 (R.B.S.). Masterton Gardens, 1 among ducks, May '60 (A.T.E.).
- WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*) — 5+ on 31/1/61 between Tory Channel and Wellington (M.J.I., R.B.S.). 2 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.). Greymouth, 1 seen offshore during storm 3/2/61 (P.G.).
- ROYAL ALBATROSS (*Diomedea epomophora*) — 1 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.).
- BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea melanophris*) — 1 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.).
- BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea bulleri*) — 1 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.). Numerous in summer in Foveaux St.; not uncommon in winter off Otago Peninsula and out from Oamaru (W.T.P., J.G.).
- WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea cauta*) — Cook St., 4 on 31/1/61; also 1 diagnosed as *salvini* (M.J.I., R.B.S.); 2 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.). Sometimes in numbers around fishing boats, Paterson Inlet and Foxeaux St.; but *salvini* is the most common mollymawk there. Both forms may be seen fairly commonly off Otago Peninsula (W.T.P., L.E.W.).
- GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*) — Several in Cook St., 31/1/61 (M.J.I., R.B.S.). 4 in Foveaux St. on 4/1/61; 5 at Taieri Beach on 19/2/61 (W.T.P.).
- BROAD-BILLED PRION (*Pachyptila vittata*) — Many seen alive in Manawatu 29 & 30/6/61, blown inland by strong south-west winds which wrecked thousands of this species alone in this area. Single birds seen drifting over Massey College, 23 miles inland, on 29 & 30/6/61 (M.J.I.).
- CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*) — 4 between Mana and Kapiti on 3/7/61 (E.D.). Lawyer's Head, 22 on 20/9/60; 85 on 5/11/60; 84 on 4/12/60; 7 on 11/4/61; 30 on 25/5/61 (W.T.P., L.E.W.). Half-moon Bay, Stewart I., 6 on 18/1/61; Foveaux St., 6 on 23/1/61 (W.T.P.).
- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*) — Auckland-Kawau and back, none 3-5/10/60 (A.J.G.). A few still 5-7/5/61 (R.B.S.). N. of Little Barrier, 250+ on 2/1/61 with other petrels (A.J.G.). Cook St., only one seen on 31/1/61 (M.J.I., R.B.S.).

- BULLER'S SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus bulleri*) — Ngunguru, 26/1/61, c. 600 passed southwards, evenly spaced, during forty minutes soon after sunrise. N. of Little Barrier, 2/1/61, 450+ (A.J.G.). Several near Tiri and Kawau on 7/5/61 (R.B.S.). Wellington-Picton, 6 on 18/1/61 (H.R.McK.).
- SOOTY SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus griseus*) — Cook St., 4+ on 31/1/61 (M.J.I., R.B.S.). Off Otago Peninsula, first seen, 12 on 1/10/60; thousands on 29/10/60; passing at 32 per min. (av. of 8 counts) on 31/1/61; 41 per min. (4 counts) on 23/3/61; 70 and 99 per min. on 11/4/61; 20 per min. all day on 22/4/61 (W.T.P.).
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER** (*Puffinus gavia*) — New Plymouth, several offshore 19/9/60 (D.V.M.). Ohau estuary, c. 15 close inshore on 15/1/61; Waitarere, 12+ offshore on 30/4/61. Tory Channel, hundreds on 31/1/61, but few in Cook St. (M.J.I.). Tauranga Bay, Westport, 2 at dusk on 19/1/61 (R.B.S.).
- WESTLAND BLACK PETREL** (*Procellaria westlandica*) — Greymouth, 20/12/60, one walked into a house (P.G.).
- GRAY-FACED PETREL** (*Pterodroma macroptera*) — Cuvier I., hundreds of occupied burrows, July '61 (D.V.M.).
- COOK'S PETREL** (*Pterodroma cooki*) — Little Barrier, first heard coming in at 8.15 p.m. on 7/9/60; many coming in on 9/9/60 (R.H.B.).
- WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL** (*Pelagodroma marina*) — Maria I., Noises, 26/11/60, many burrows with fresh eggs (D.V.M.).
- DIVING PETREL** (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*) — c. 200 off Red Head, B.o.I., on 26/1/61 (A.J.G.). Tory Channel, 1 on 18/1/61 (H.R.McK.). Foveaux St., 2 on 23/1/61 (W.T.P.).
- GANNET** (*Sula bassana serratator*) — Clevedon, 6/12/60, one flew up Wairoa river to the very last of the brackish water. North Taranaki, 140+ off Mokau on 28/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Picton-Wellington, 6 on 31/1/61 (M.J.I., R.B.S.). Waitarere, c. 20 offshore on 30/4/61 (M.J.I.). Birdlings Flat, 2 offshore on 20/5/61; Ashburton river-mouth, 1 on 22/5/60 (E.W.C.). Otago Peninsula, usually odd ones; 2 adults and 2 juv. at Brighton on 19/4/61 (W.T.P.). Greymouth, several sightings between 2/3/61 and 14/5/61 (P.G.).
- PIED SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax varius*) — Little Barrier, 26 nests, August '60; small young 12/9/60 (R.H.B.). Tangitiki, Pouto Pen., 12 nests and 20+ birds in a single tree on 13/10/60 (M.R.). L. Pupuke, colony continues to flourish (R.B.S.). A few about Dunedin (W.T.P.). 9 on beach at Goose Bay on 15/1/61 (J.G., L.E.W.). Stewart Island, 7 and 15 at nests on Ulva on 17/1/61 (W.T.P.).
- LITTLE BLACK SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*) — Volcanic Plateau, visits all lakes, normally in small flocks (M.S.B.). Picnic Point, Rotorua, 60+ on 13/5/61 (H.R.McK.).
- LITTLE SHAG** (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*) — Koi Rock, Waiheke, 11 nests on 22/10/60 (P.D.G.S.). L. Karapiro, 9, all white-throated, at Hora Hora bridge; Taupo waterfront, 5/7/61, 15 (1 pied); West-shore, 7/7/61, 50+ (1 pied); L. Rotongaio, 45+ (4 pied) (H.R.McK. et al.). Wanganui estuary, up to 40 (D.E.C.). Dunedin,

always a few; L. Waipori, 9 on 8/2/61; pied phase well represented (W.T.P.).

STEWART ISLAND SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carunculatus chalconotus*) — Aramoana, hundreds in sight and many carrying nesting material on 1/10/60. Stewart I., c. 50 pied phase to 32 bronze, Jan, '61 (W.T.P.).

SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*) — Ward Island; Wellington Harbour, 3 on 24/6/61 (C.J.L.). Puketerahi, c. 50 nests on 24/10/60 (W.T.P.). Gillespie Pt., Westland, 1 on 15/1/61 (R.B.S.).

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*) — Hoteo estuary, Kaipara, 2 on 20/9/61 (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Whau estuary, up to four during winter, still present on 12/11/61 (K.C.B.C. et al). Clevedon, one for one day only on flood water 25/8/61 (H.R.McK.). Welcome Bay, Tauranga, 1 on 2/8/60 (R.V.McL.), 2 reported in September (P.D.G.S.). Cape Runaway, 3 during July '61 (I.S.R.). Port Waikato, 1 on 18/7/61 (A. & J.P., H.R.McK.). Little Waihi, Maketu, 5 on 11/6/61 (M.A.S.). Wairau Lagoons, Blenheim, c. 5 on 24/6/61 (B.D.B.). L. Ellesmere, Selwyn rivermouth, 1 on 8/1/61 (E.W.C.). 15/5/61, one at Waitati Creek and one at Merton, Otago (L.E.W.). June '61, two spent some days on the Leith at Woodhaugh, Dunedin; one killed by flying into power lines (T.R.B.). Green I. lagoon, 1 on 25/4/61; Evansdale, 1 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.). Greymouth, 1 near Cobden Bridge on 3/8/61; 2 at rivermouth on 5/8/61 (E.W.C.). Whataroa, 1 on 11/7/61 (E.W.C.). 1 on L. Mapourika on 18/1/61 (R.B.S.).

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) — Port Albert, Kaipara, 1 on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.). Hamurana, L. Rotorua, 13/5/61, 1 harried by a White-faced Heron (M.L.T., J.L.K., H.R.McK.). 1 at Waikouaiti lagoon or Karitane, repeatedly seen between 16/4/61 and 25/5/61 (J.G. & L.E.W., A.B., W.T.P.). Karamea, 1 on 30/5/61 (T.H.S.). Greymouth, 1, 5/6/60-17/11/60 (P.G.).

BLUE REEF HERON (*Egretta sacra*) — Koi Rock, Waiheke, 22/10/60, 2 nests, 1 with 3 eggs (P.D.G.S.). 27/11/60, 4 nests with eggs (D.V.M.). Waikato estuary, 3 on 18/7/61 (A. & J.P., H.R.McK.). Ohiwa, 23/10/60, 3 nests on islet with 1, 0 & 3 eggs (R.V.McL.). Tongaporutu, 1 on 28/2/61; Patea, 1 on 25/2/61 (H.R.McK., H.M.McK.). Monck's Bay, Sumner, 1 on 14/5/60 (E.W.C.). Dowlings Bay, Otago Harbour, 1 on 2/4/61 (L.E.W.).

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) — 5 seen daily in early Feb. '61 at Paua, Parengarenga (D.V.M.). Titoki, Northland, 2/4/61, first report for the area (H.R.McK., J.R.McK.). Kaipara Flats, 11/12/60, 2 young found walking about in a pine tree, when another tree was felled into it. A third youngster had fallen from the nest into a swamp and had been reared there (M.G.D.). Wattle Bay, Waikato Heads, 1959, 2 young in big trees (J.E.C.). Port Waikato, 5, May '61 (P.D.G.S.). Tauranga Harbour, now regularly seen; 30 reported (M.H., M.E.F.). L. Waikare, Waikato, 11/5/61, one in north-east corner (H.R.McK.). L. Rotorua, 1 in May '61, the first record for this lake (H.R.McK. et al). Little Waihi lagoon, 6+ on 28/5/61 (M.S.B. et al). Taupo, L. Rotongaio, 2 on 11/7/61, 5 reported (H.R.McK.). Wanstead Swamp, Waipukurau, 15 on 3/4/61

- (J.S.H.). Wanganui estuary, 4 in swampy area (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Waikanae, 6 on 15/1/61; L. Forsyth, c. 40 on 8/1/61; Coldstream, c. 15 on 3/2/60; South Hinds R. near Surrey Hills, 17 on 8/2/60; Greenstreet, near Ashburton, 9 on 15/6/60 (E.W.C.). Karitane, 20+ on 16/4/61 (L.E.W.). L. Waipori, 11 on 8/2/61; Purakanui, 8 on 2/5/61; Waitati lagoons, 18 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.).
- BITTERN** (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) — Widely reported: Tapora, mid Kaipara; Woodcocks; Otumoetai; Volcanic Plateau, where it wanders locally; Kawerau (5 together); L. Rotongaio, Taupo (5); Tokaanu; Waitotara; Waikanae; Surrey Hills; L. Clearwater; Tomahawk Lagoon; Green Island Lagoon.
- AUSTRALIAN WHITE IBIS** (*Threskiornis strictipennis*) — Westport, 1 on 16/8/68 & 17/10/60 (T.H.S.).
- ROYAL SPOONBILL** (*Platalea regia*) — Cape Runaway, 1 seen closely in July '61 (I.S.R.). Waiaua R., east of Opotiki, 2 watched feeding and resting on 7/10/61 (N.P.). Wanstead Swamp, 1 on 3/4/61 (J.S.H.). Karamea, 1 on 30/5/61 (T.H.S.).
- CANADA GOOSE** (*Branta canadensis*) — Reported from Barrytown and L. Brunner (P.G.). Head of Dart R., Otago, 10+ in flight, 13/5/61 (C.N.C.).
- MUTE SWAN** (*Cygnus olor*) — Well established on L. Pupuke (R.B.S.). Tomahawk Lagoon, 17 on 11/8/60 & 13/3/61 (W.T.P.).
- BLACK SWAN** (*Cygnus atratus*) — Plentiful on lakes and lagoons around Dunedin (W.T.P.).
- PARADISE DUCK** (*Tadorna variegata*) — Volcanic Plateau, marked decrease in recent years; Rotomahana and Rerewhakaitu are still a stronghold. Casual on L. Rotorua; 2 at Hamurana Aug. '60; 4 at Matata Lagoon 28/5/61 (W.J.B., M.S.B., et al). Aramoho, 1 pr. on 15/10/60 (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Rangiotu, Palmerston North, 1 pr. on 30/4/61 (M.J.I.). c. 30, Wanstead Swamp, on 3/4/61 (J.S.H.). Numerous in lagoon at Gillespies' Point, S. Westland (R.B.S.).
- GREY TEAL** (*Anas gibberifrons*) — 1 pr. on large new pond of North Shore Drainage Board, Albany, on 3/11/61 (R.B.S.). Volcanic Plateau, generally increasing; 30 at Mokoia on 18/10/60; c. 40 at Hamurana on 14/5/61; 25+ at Waimangu on 1/6/61; 10-15 usually frequent the lake edge at Rotorua (M.S.B., et al); 55 at Wanstead swamp on 3/4/61 (J.S.H.). Woodcnd Lagoon, 40 on 13/8/61 (D.B.). Ashburton rivermouth, 2 on 22/5/60 (E.W.C.). 3 at L. Elterwater, Marlborough, on 14/1/61; 6+ at Waikouaiti, Otago, on 16/4/61 (L.E.W., J.G.W.).
- BROWN TEAL** (*Anas chlorotis*) — Little Barrier I., 1 with 2 half-grown young in creek, 12/6/60; 1 in Tirikakawa stream on 27/11/60 (R.H.B.). Waipu, only a few could be found on Waihoihoi R. on 2/2/61 & 10/8/61 (B.D.B., D.V.M.). Deep Bay, Stewart I., 2 on 13/1/61 (W.T.P.).
- SHOVELLER** (*Anas rhynchotis*) — Port Waikato, 100+ on 18/7/61 (A. & J.P., H.R.McK.). Most favoured lakes on Volcanic Plateau are Rotorua, Rotomahana and Rerewhakaitu; c. 50 on 14/5/61 at Humarana; c. 150 on 28/5/61 at Matata (W.J.B., M.S.B.). 7 pr. on

- Wanstead swamp on 3/4/61 (J.S.H.). Waitotara, c. 6 on 5/11/60; c. 60 on 5/2/61 (M.J.I.). Waikouaiti, 40+ on 25/5/61 (W.T.P.). Tomahawk Lagoon, c. 400 on 18/5/60 (E.W.C.).
- BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*) — Patutu, upper Waikato, 1 in flight, 22-24/10/60; but the usual haunt in the gorge not visited (J.L.K.). Waihoou, near Desert Road, 20/4/61, several reported by deerstalkers (F.P.H.).
- N.Z. SCAUP (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*) — Volcanic Plateau, numbers well maintained; 400+ wintered in Sulphur Bay, L. Rotorua (M.S.B., W.J.B.). c. 20 on L. Kaniere on 12/1/61; 2 females with broods of 6 & 7 on L. Wahapo on 13/1/61; 3 on L. Paringa on 16/1/61 (R.B.S.).
- HARRIER (*Circus approximans*) — Clevedon, 17/9/61, early nest with two dead young, partly feathered; apparently drowned by high spring tide (G.M.O.). Aerial courtship display by a single bird at Runanga on 18/8/61 (E.W.C.). Lake Waipori, 19 on 8/2/61 (W.T.P.).
- BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) — Rotorua, 2 seen indulging in aerial acrobatics over race-course (C.T.). Mamaku, 9/10/60, 1 high over the forest (A.T.E.). 1 at Mt. Creighton, L. Whakatipu, chasing a Harrier and later a hare on 27/8/61 (R.M.). Makarora Station (J.H.P.).
- BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*) — Volcanic Plateau, widely spread and not as scarce as generally supposed; 8 near Hamurana on 8/3/59 (W.J.B., M.S.B.). Seen at northern end of Desert Road, 4/1/61 (R.B.S.).
- BANDED RAIL (*Rallus philippensis*) — One seen just south of Tata-pouri on 28/8/61 (J.M.). Little Waihi and Maketu lagoons, often heard or seen (M.S.B.).
- WEKA (*Gallirallus australis*) — Inangahua Junction, 5/1/61, 1 on main highway (J.G. & L.E.W.). Ulva I., 4 widely separated on 17/1/61 (W.T.P.).
- MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla affinis*) — Widely reported around Rotorua (M.S.B.).
- SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis plumbea*) — Atiamuri, 24/5/61, 1 killed by cat (M.S.B.).
- PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*) — Thriving in most marshy places, especially in the north.
- COOT (*Fulica atra australis*) — L. Tutira, 19/10/60, 2 swimming quietly in a backwater, fringed by raupo and overhung by willows; they continually dabbed their beaks vertically into the water (A.T.E.). Tinwald Domain, Ashburton, 1 on 17/9/60 (E.W.C.).
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ostralegus finschi*) — Marsden Bay, Whangarei Hr., 70 on 15/2/61 (O.C.). Mid-Kaipara, 600+ on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). c. 1200 on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.). Waikanae, 7 on 15/1/61; 6 on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Heathcote-Avon estuary, 1000+ on 10/1/61 (R.B.S.). Aramoana, 300 on 1/10/60; 200 on 4/2/61; 550 on 13/5/61; Hooper's Inlet, 342 on 1/9/60; Taieri rivermouth, c. 100 on 8/10/60; 203 on 19/2/61; Pura-kanui, 172 on 2/5/61; Waitati Lagoon, 510 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.).

At Aramoana on 17/5/60, a partial albino, light fawn where normally black, tail completely white (E.W.C.). L. Lyndon, 1 pr. on 11/1/61; Okarito rivermouth, c. 90 on 18/1/61 (R.B.S.).

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus unicolor reischeki*) — Ninety-mile Beach, 27 on 9/2/61, mostly in one flock on rocks at the Bluff; Spirits' Bay, 2 on 7/2/61; Te Pua, Parengarenga, 17 on 8/2/61; Kaimaumau, 12 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Mimiwhangata, 1 pr. on 21/8/61 (B.D.B., D.V.M.). Mid-Kaipara, 1 on 16/4/61 (R.B.S.). Kawhia, 1, May '61 (W.S.S.). Reported in B.o.P. from Otumoetai, one with godwits; Maketu, 4; Little Waihi, 4; Ohiwa, mating pair; Waiaua estuary, E. of Opotiki, 10 on 7/10/61 (M.H., R.V.McL., M.A.S., N.P.). Waitotara, 1 pr. (black) with chick on 3/12/60; Ohau, 1 on 15/1/61; Waikanae, 7 on 15/1/61; 17 on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Gillespies Pt., S. Westland, 1 pr. of typical smudgy pied *reischeki* with downy running chick on 17/1/61 (R.B.S.).

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus v. unicolor*) — Palliser Spit, nest 2 eggs on 5/11/60 (C.N.C.). Katiki Beach, 5 on 19/5/60 (E.W.C.). A pr. in many bays of Otago Peninsula; 12 at Taieri on 19/2/61; Stewart I., nest with 2 eggs on Ocean Beach on 14/1/61; Ulva, 3 and a pr. with chick on 17/1/61; Iona I., nest with 2 eggs on 22/1/61 (W.T.P.). Okarito rivermouth, a few on 18/1/61; Gillespies' Beach, 2 prs., 1 with hidden young, 1 not breeding, 15/1/61 (R.B.S.).

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) — Makarora Station, up to 5 on areas of surface water (J.H.P.).

GRAY PLOVER (*Charadrius squatarola*) — Mid-Kaipara, 1 feeding among Pied Stilts on a sandy flat on 16/4/61; no sign of assuming nuptial plumage; the third recorded in N.Z. in 1961 (v. Notornis IX, 151 & 172) (R.B.S., D.A.U.).

PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER (*Charadrius dominicus fulvus*) — Houhora-Kaimaumau, 28 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Waitotara, 4 on 5/11/60; 1 on 3/12/60; 5 on 5/2/61 (M.J.I.). L. Ellesmere, Greenpark Huts, 85 on 11/3/61; 1 on 25/3/61 (D.H.B., D.E.C.).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*) — Spirits' Bay, 6 on 7/2/61; Kaimaumau, c. 70 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.); mid-Kaipara, c. 80 some already in breeding dress, on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., D.A.U., H.R.McK.). Volcanic Plateau, breeds Silica Flat and has bred on Rotorua airfield (M.S.B.). Tamaki estuary, up to 26 during July '61 (P.D.G.S.). Wanganui airport, c. 90 on 23/7/61; 12 on 29/8/61 (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Waitotara, 8 on 5/11/60; c. 25 on 3/12/60; c. 60 on 5/2/61; Ohau, c. 30 on 15/1/61; Waikanae, c. 30 on 15/1/61 and 3/4/61; Head of Ngaruroro R., common during November & December (C.N.C.). L. Ellesmere, Greenpark Huts, c. 1000 on 11/3/61 and 25/3/61 (D.H.B., D.E.C.). Aramoana, c. 80 on 13/5/61; Waitati Lagoon, 13 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.). Greymouth, 25+ on 17/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Hokitika, 25+ feeding on short grass of 'The Square' on 11/1/61; Okarito, 6+ on 18/1/61 (R.B.S.).

RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius obscurus*) — Kaimaumau, c. 70 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Mimiwhangata, c. 10 on 21/8/61 (B.D.B., D.V.M.). Mid-Kaipara, 16/4/61, c. 50, of which 40 were together in a loose flock (R.B.S., D.A.U.). Muriwai, 2 prs. over 15 miles on 23/10/60 (P.D.G.S.).

- WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*) — Ninety-Mile Beach, 5 between Awanui beacon and the Bluff, on 9/2/61; Paua, 1 on 6/2/61 (A.T.E.). Mid-Kaipara, 100+ on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). c. 310 on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., D.A.U., H.R.McK.). Waikanae, 1 on 14/1/61 (M.J.I.),
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW (*Numenius madagascariensis*) — Kaimaumau, 4 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.).
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*) — Ninety-Mile Beach, 77 on 9/2/61; Paua, c. 500 on 6/2/61; Kaimaumau, c. 120 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Portland, 800+ on 14/12/60 (P.D.G.S.). Mid-Kaipara, c. 4000 on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.); 800+ on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.). Tamaki estuary, up to 30 during July '61 (P.D.G.S.). Tauranga Hr., best count at Rat I., c. 480 on 12/12/60; at Otumotai and Sulphur Pt., numbers increase to c. 500 in summer; c. 110, at Matapihi Inlet, on 14/5/61, would be most of those wintering (R.V.McL., M.H.). Ohiwa, 2000+ on 23/10/60 (R.V.McL.). Matata, 2 on 21/10/60 (A. & J.P.). Wanganui estuary, 9 near Imlay on 15/12/60 (D.E.C.). Waitotara, 7 on 5/2/61. Few in Westland; Hokitika, 1 on 12/1/61; Okarito, 6 on 18/1/61 (R.B.S.). Heathcote-Avon estuary, c. 1500 on 10/1/61 (R.B.S.). c. 100 on 9/7/61 (D.H.B.). Hooper's Inlet, 8 on 1/9/60; 164+ on 6/11/60; Aramoana, c. 400 on 1/10/60; 200 on 4/2/61; c. 70 on 13/5/61 (W.T.P.).
- HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) — Heathcote-Avon estuary, 1 on 24/6/61 and 9/7/61 (D.H.B., D.D., M.D.).
- GREY-TAILED TATTLER (*Heteroscelus incanus brevipes*) — Waikanae, one under observation by several ornithologists from 1/10/60-22/4/61; a full report will appear later (I.G.A.). Tattlers, identified as *brevipes*, were also reported from Heathcote-Avon estuary and Aramoana, Otago (v. *Notornis* IX, 135, 136 & 181). A tattler was found near the Greenpark Huts, L. Ellesmere, on 25/3/61; but the form was not determined (D.H.B., D.C.).
- TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) — Ninety-Mile Beach, 5 on 9/2/61; Paua, c. 30 on 6/2/61; Kaimaumau, c. 300 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Portland, 6 on 15/12/60 (P.D.G.S.). Mid-Kaipara, 16 on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). 50+ on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.), L. Grassmere, 2 on 25/6/61 (B.D.B., A.B.). L. Ellesmere, scores, perhaps 100, on 7/1/61 (R.B.S., B.D.B.).
- KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) — Kaimaumau, c. 200 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). Portland, 1200+ on 14/12/60 (P.D.G.S.). Mid-Kaipara, c. 1000 on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). 50+ on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., H.R.McK., D.A.U.), L. Ellesmere, 6 near Greenpark Huts on 25/3/61 (D.H.B., D.E.C.).
- SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER (*Calidris acuminata*) — Waitotara, 1 on 5/11/60 (M.J.I.).
- RED-NECKED STINT (*Calidris ruficollis*) — Mid-Kaipara, 4 with necks reddening, on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). 1 on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., D.A.U., H.R.McK.).
- SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*) — 1 associating with several Pacific Golden Plover, Manakau Beach, Wellington west coast on 16/12/57. Photographed and identification confirmed at Dominion Museum (P.M.M.). L. Ellesmere, 1 near Greenpark Huts on 11/3/61 (D.H.B., D.E.C.).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) — Paua, c. 400 on 6/2/61; Kaimaumu, 14 on 12/2/61 (A.T.E.). c. 30 at the 'island' in mid-Kaipara on 16/4/61 (R.B.S., D.A.U.). Albany, new pond of North Shore Drainage Board, some reported to have nested 1960; several pairs nesting spring 1961 (R.B.S., D.F.B.). Awhitu, 1 pr. at nest on 13/11/60 (H.R.McK.). Tauranga Hr. 121 at Rat I. on 2/4/61 (P.D.G.S.). Volcanic Plateau, breeds freely where conditions are favourable. Transients seem to pass through Rotorua during spring and autumn migrations (M.S.B.). Taupo, young chicks seen near outlet, 2/1/34 (J.S.A.). Tokaanu, 3/1/61, family party of 5 ballet-dancing on mat of floating weed (R.B.S.). Mohakatina rivermouth, N. Taranaki, 12 on 28/2/61 (H.M.McK.). Waitotara, c. 50 on 5/11/60; 27 on 5/2/61 (M.J.I.). Wanganui estuary, 50-60 in May, decreasing to c. 25 in Sept. '61 (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.), Ohau, c. 15 on 15/1/61; Waikanae 22+ on 15/1/61, 27 on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Wanstead swamp, 12 on 3/4/61 (J.S.H.). Rather scarce in Westland, 6 on playing field at Greymouth on 21/6/61 and 6 at estuary on 5/8/61 (E.W.C.). 4 at lagoon S. of Gillespies' Pt. on 17/1/61; 4 near Barrytown on 19/1/61 (R.B.S.). Dunedin Hr., 78 on 29/1/61; 85 on 20/2/61; 76 on 21/3/61; 13 on 26/6/61. Green I. lagoon, 17 on 27/4/61; Parakanui 20, Long Beach 12, Murdering Beach 7, Kai-kai 9 on 2/5/61. Karitane, 50+ on 25/5/61. Invercargill estuary, 10 on 24/1/61 (W.T.P.).

SOUTHERN SKUA (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*) — Tomahawk, Dunedin, 1 on 13/3/61 (W.T.P.).

POMARINE SKUA (*Stercorarius pomarinus*) — Between Clevedon estuary and Ponui I., 1 on 30/4/61; closely watched; it chased Red-billed Gulls and forced them to disgorge; tame, hovered low over launch and settled on water only 12ft. away. Evidently juv.; central tail-feathers not noticeably projecting (M.J.B.).

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) — Waitarere, 1 on 30/4/61; Ohau, 1 on 15/1/61; Waikanae, 6 on 15/1/61; Tory Channel, 3 on 31/1/61 (M.J.I.). Hinds rivermouth, Ashburton, 1 on 24/4/61 (E.W.C.). Not uncommon off Westland; 2 off Hokitika still harrying White-fronted Terns at 8.25 p.m. on 12/1/61; Tauranga Bay, S. of Westport, 3 at dusk on 19/1/61 (R.B.S.). Greymouth, 1 on 8/4/61 (P.G.).

SOUTHERN BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) — Ninety-mile Beach, c. 1300 counted over 29 miles on 9/2/61 (A.T.E.). Muriwai, c. 120 prs. breeding in sandhills, 12 miles up beach; no eggs on 23/10/60; well-grown young on 2/1/61 (P.D.G.S.). Koi Rock, Waiheke, 50+ nests with eggs on 27/11/60 (D.V.M.). Patea, c. 2300, below meat works on 25/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Waitotara, 14 occupied nests on 5/11/60; several young chicks on 3/12/60 (M.J.I.). Wanganui, 5000+ near Inlay meat works during winter and early spring (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Palliser Spit, 5/11/60, 209 nests; 46% contained 3 eggs; no chicks as yet (C.N.C.). Green I. beach, up to 1300 in winter; Port Chalmers, c. 2000 on sandbanks on 5/2/61; Rerewahine Pt., c. 40 nests mostly with 3 eggs on 22/11/60. Bluff, c. 1000 near freezing works on 23/1/61 (W.T.P.).

RED-BILLED GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*) — Ninety-Mile Beach, c. 1000 over 29 miles on 9/2/61 (A.T.E.). Muriwai, c. 10

XLV—This Grey-faced Petrel (*Pterodroma macroptera*) was found on the deck of R.M.S. Rangitāia, entering Wellington Harbour on 8/9/60. Also known as the Great-winged Petrel, this species breeds on many islands of the Bay of Plenty and Hauraki Gulf. In November, fat nestlings are taken as 'Muttonbirds'.

I. F. O'Leary



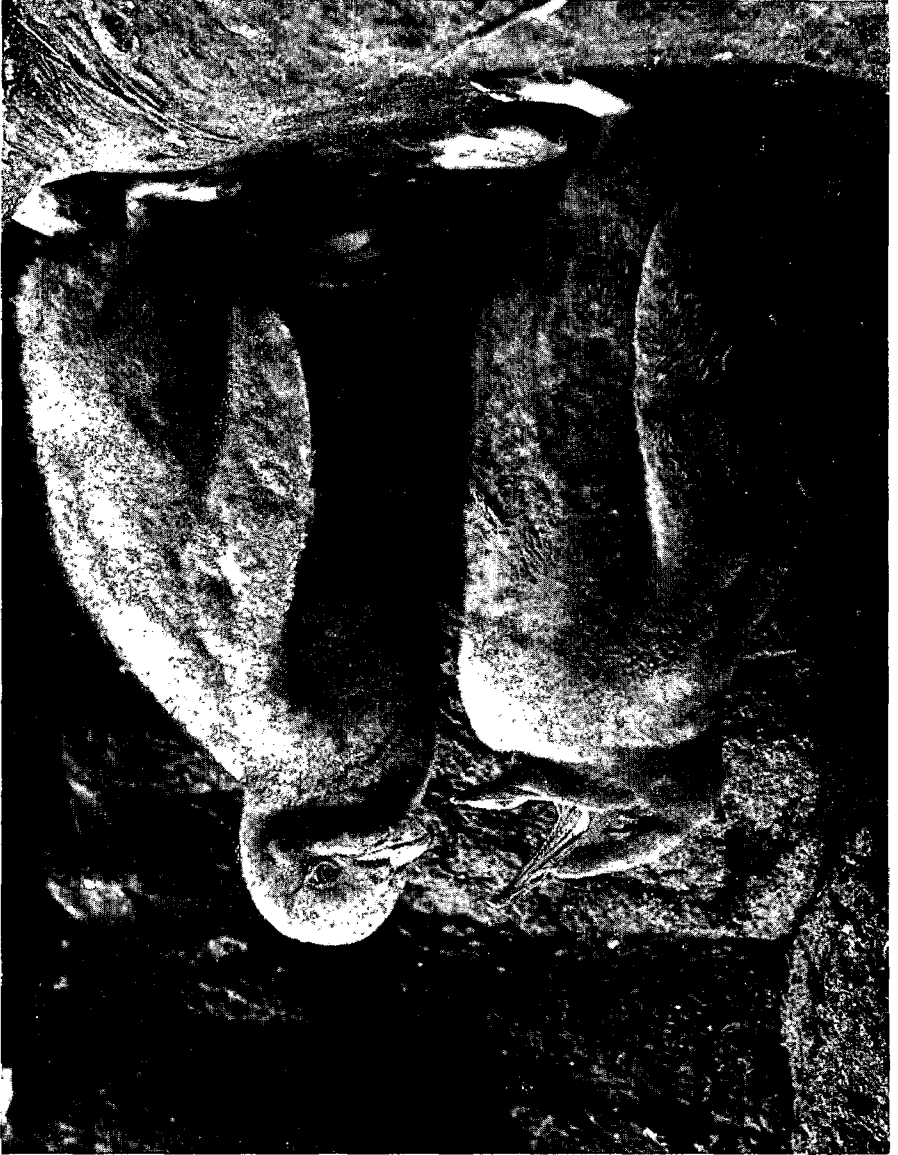


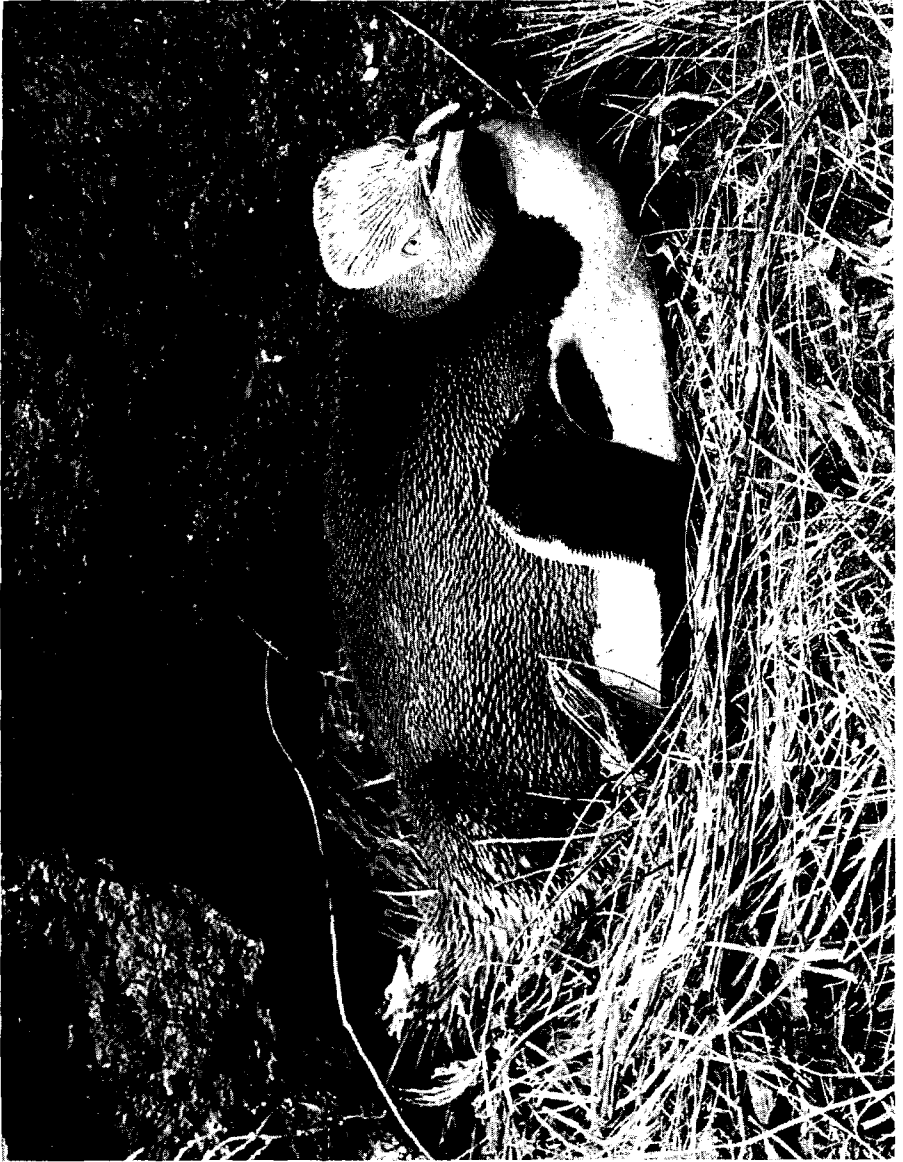
[F. C. Kinsky

XLVI — Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*) outside its nesting burrow at Pipinui Point, on the Wellington west coast. This is the true Muttonbird. Its main breeding grounds are to the south of the South Island, but small numbers breed in northern New Zealand and a few mainland colonies manage to survive.

XLVII — Young Yellow-eyed Penguins (*Megadyptes antipodes*) in early January on the Otago Peninsula. Normally two eggs are laid in the shelter of rocks or vegetation.

[F. C. Kinsky





IF. C. Kinsky

XLVIII — Adult Yellow-eyed Penguin incubating, late October, 1960, on the Otago Peninsula, which is near the northern limit of the rather restricted breeding range. This large, handsome species is found only in the New Zealand region.

speckled young on 2/1/61 indicated successful breeding on the pinnacle (P.D.G.S.). Volcanic Plateau, has increased over last twenty years; winter populations larger than formerly; new colony on mud-flat at Arikikapaka golf links, established in 1959 (M.S.B.). Wanganui estuary, appears to be a winter feeding area; 86 on 22/5/61 dwindling to 25-30 on 18/9/61 (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Himatangi beach, 6 on 29/5/61; Waitarere, 20+ on 4/3/61; Ohau, 1 on 15/1/61 (M.J.I.). Palliser Spit, 24/12/60, small nesting colony of six nests containing eggs, and two with 2 chicks each; 2/1/61, colony deserted. Castle Point, 1/1/61, nesting colony on stack at north end of Castle rock, c. 60 nests occupied, a few young just flying (C.N.C.). Okarito, 5/2/61, in colony of White-fronted Terns, 10 adults, 1 on nest; 10+ large running young (H.R.McK.). Gillespies, 2 on 15/1/61 (R.B.S.). Wharekakaha I., Otago Pen., 77 mostly on nests on 6/11/60; Rerewahine Pt., c. 200 nesting on 22/11/60; Halfmoon Bay, c. 220 on rock on 15/1/61; Anderson's Bay, 494 on 20/2/61 (W.T.P.).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*Larus bulleri*) — Junction of Waikato and Waipakihi, 2 on 22/10/60 (J.L.K.). Volcanic Plateau, numbers fairly stable over recent years, despite considerable predation at main breeding colony on L. Rotorua (M.S.B.). Waitotara, 3 on 5/2/61; Himatangi, 48 on 29/5/61; Waitarere, 35+ on 4/3/61; Ohau, c. 10 on 15/1/61; Waikanae, 3 on 15/1/61; c. 8 on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Hokitika, many on 12/1/61 (R.B.S.) and c. 30 on 15/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Whataroa, 50+ on 13/1/61 (R.B.S.) and 51 on 13/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Okarito, 10+ nesting among White-fronted Terns, 18/1/61 (R.B.S.) and 5/2/61, some young on wing and some chicks (H.R.McK.). Gillespies Beach, many hovering over a waste of gorse and tailings, 15/1/61; L. Lyndon, 1 pr. on 11/1/61; Benmore, c. 12 on 10/5/61 (R.B.S.). 4 with rose-tinted breasts in a group of c. 40 near Alford Forest, Ashburton, on 30/5/61 (E.W.C.). Pukarau, 600+ on ploughed paddock on 24/1/61; Dunedin, 50 on 18/2/61; Tomahawk, 89 on 13/3/61; Long Beach, 140 on 2/5/61; Halfmoon Bay, Stewart I., 2 on 14/1/61 (W.T.P.).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albostrigatus*) — Scarce on Wellington west coast, early 1961; Ohau estuary, 1 immature on 15/1/61; Waikanae, 2 sub-adults on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Aramoana, 37 on 13/5/61 (W.T.P.).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*) — Rotorua, numerous during autumn and winter, when residents are reinforced by visitors; max. c. 50 June-July, roosting on Silica Flat (M.S.B.). Ohiwa, 24/10/60, several nests but no eggs (D.V.M.). Wanganui estuary, odd birds up to Aramoho (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Brothers, 1 on 3/12/60; 2 on 9/1/60 (A.W.). Palliser Spit, 5/11/60, nesting colony, total number of nests 41, of which 19 contained chicks or chicks and eggs; the remainder eggs only, in addition 13 running chicks were counted; 24/12/60, four occupied nests (2 eggs and 4 chicks) and c. 20 running chicks; 2/1/61, six running chicks only. Picton 60+ on 31/1/61. L. Ellesmere, 2 prs. had bred on a 'barley grass' bank near the Canada Goose round-up, and had respectively 1 flying juv. and 2 big fledglings on 7/1/61. Westland, thinly distributed along coast; Hokitika, 5 on 12/1/61; Gillespies Pt., 3 on 17/1/61; Okarito,

a few on 18/1/61 (R.B.S.). Scarce near Dunedin; Anderson's Bay, 1 on 20/2/61; Purakanui, 1 on 2/5/61; Papanui Inlet, 1 on 14/5/61; Karitane, 2 on 25/5/61 (W.T.P.).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*) — Ninety-mile Beach, 688 counted in 31 groups on 9/2/61; Cape Reinga, 7, and Spirits Bay, 5, on 7/2/61; c. 250 off Mangonui and many in Tauranga Bay, Whangaroa, on 14/2/61 (A.T.E.). Muriwai cliffs, c. 250 prs. on 23/10/60, laying in progress; 2/1/61, many chicks flying (P.D.G.S.). Koi Rock, Waiheke, 200+ nests with eggs on 27/11/60 (D.V.M.). Mokau, 380+ on 28/2/61 (H.R.McK.). Wanganui estuary, 3 at mole on 19/12/60 (D.E.C., B.J.T., R.W.M.). Waitarere, c. 1000 on 30/4/61; Ohau, c. 550 on 15/1/61; Waikanae, c. 200 on 15/1/61; c. 180 on 3/4/61 (M.J.I.). Westland, Jan. '61, plentiful offshore from Westport to Gillespie's Pt., frequently harried by Arctic Skuas (R.B.S.). 12/2/61, remnant colonies seen from air at Totara, Wanganui and Poerua rivermouths; Okarito, 5/2/61, 400+ adults, some still on eggs or small chicks; a few chicks flying; many at intervening stages (H.R.McK.). Aramoana, 108 on 1/10/60; 200 on 4/2/61 & 13/5/61; Taieri, 62 on 19/2/61; Stewart I., only a few — up to 10 during Jan. '61 (W.T.P.).

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*) — Portland, 1 with full yellow bill on 14/12/60 (K.C.B.C.).

TERN (*Sterna albifrons/nereis*) — Portland, 3 small dark-billed terns on 14-15/12/60, did not associate with single obvious *nereis*, but kept with waders (K.C.B.C.). Mid-Kaipara, 8 with dark bills and legs on 19/2/61 (A. & J.P.). L. Ellesmere, 1 near Greenpark Huts on 25/3/61 (D.H.B., D.E.C.).

BUSH PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) — Moumoukai, parties visiting patches of bush on farms (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, Aug.-Jan., up to 6 in a day; Feb., 18; Mar, 50; April, 16. Food: Aug.-Sept., putaputaweta fruit; Sept.-Dec., lace-bark and other leaves; Jan., fuchsia fruit; Feb., fuchsia fruit, miro (a month early) and tawa; Mar., miro, tawa, maire; April, miro, kahikatea. No records made after April (R.St.P.). Range S. of Tokaanu, 23/4/61, many (F.P.H.). Franz Joseph-Glacier, Jan.-Feb. '61, plentiful; flocks up to 16 (H.M.McK., H.R.McK., R.B.S.). Leith Valley, 4 on 3/9/60; 4 on 6/5/61; 6 on 24/6/61; Whare Flat, 10 on 27/9/60; Stewart I., up to 20, any day Jan. '61 (W.T.P.). Mt. Creighton Station, 1 feeding off plum tree buds, 27/8/61 (R.M.).

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*) — Cuvier I., 2 on 16/2/61 (D.V.M.). Moumoukai, seem to come and go, 1-3 at times (J.W.St.P.). Minginui, Aug.-Mar., up to 9; April, none. In Nov., some flying E. at c. 4000ft. (R.St.P.). Pureora, W of Mangakino, 1 heard (D.N.L.). Waipakihi, Kaimanawas, 18-24/4/61, several seen; Waipakihi-Wanganui R., 2 prs. 22-24/10/60 (J.L.K.). Moerangi Bush, W. of Tokaanu, odd ones; range S. of Tokaanu, none seen or heard (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Ikamatua, 17/2/61, 5 at least in beech trees (P.G., T.H.S., H.R.McK.). L. Mapourika, 1 (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.), Stewart I., 1 on Ulva on 17/1/61; Golden Bay, 1 on 22/1/61 (W.T.P.).

KEA (*Nestor notabilis*) — Becoming a carpark attendant near Fox Glacier; 10 at roadside halt near Waikutupa R. on 13/1/61; and 5 at viewpoint below 'Cone' on 17/1/61 (R.B.S.).

WHITE COCKATOO (*Kakatoe galerita*) — 1, probably the same bird, widely reported from Ness Valley, Orere, Whakatiri, Miranda; sometimes closely pursued by Harriers (A.W.M., G.M.O., A.T.).

RED-FRONTED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae*) — Of 8 parakeets seen Jan. '61 on Stewart I., two identified as this species (W.T.P.).

YELLOW-CROWNED PARAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*) — Minginui, Aug. '60-April '61, 2-4 often seen; one party of 7 (R.St.P.). 2 probably of this species in a birch (*betula*) beside L. Kariere on 12/1/61, elusively seen but looked small (R.B.S.).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*) — First song:— Whangarei 16/9/60 (O.C.); Little Barrier 6/10/60 (R.H.B.); Middlemore 30/9/60 (P.D.G.S.); Clevedon 17/9/60 (J.W.St.P.); 19th (C.R.O.); 20th (A.J.G.); Minginui, 4/10/60; scarce this season, not seen or heard in Jan. (R.St.P.). Last song:— 7/1/61 (J.W.St.P.); 13th Jan. (H.MMcK.); 24th (A.T.). On 19/12/60, one flew from tree and sang full song, ending with downward notes, on the wing (H.M.McK.). Calling at Geraldine on 3/1/61 and Longford Bridge, Murchison, on 8/1/61 (J.G. & L.E.W.). Winchmore, Ashburton, 1 juv. on 27/2/60 (E.W.C.). L. Mapourika, 1 singing strongly on 13/1/61 (R.B.S.). Farewell Spit - Nelson - Reefton and down to L. Paringa, 19/1/61-18/2/61, not seen or heard (H.M. McK., H.R.McK.).

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*) — Little Barrier, 2 at 1200ft. on 12/10/60 (R.H.B.). Minginui, first seen and heard 4/10/60; last seen and heard 2 on 30/1/61 (R.St.P.). Waipakihi Valley, Kaimanawas, several heard 22-24/10/60 (J.L.K.). L. Matheson, 1 on 14/1/61; Okarito Forks, 1 on 13/1/61 and 18/1/61 (R.B.S.). Base of Farewell Spit, 1 on 21/1/61; Okarito, 2 on 4/2/61; Franz Joseph and L. Wahapo, calls up to 13/2/61; not heard at Kaniere or near Hokitika on 15/2/61 (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.).

MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) — Volcanic Plateau, present in fair numbers (M.S.B.). Halfmoon Bay, 2 calling on 16/1/61 (W.T.P.).

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*) — Volcanic Plateau, fairly common; a few move into Rotorua over the winter (M.S.B.). Minginui, 1960-61, Aug., none; Sept., 1; Oct.-Jan., up to 8 per day; Feb.-April, odd ones (R.St.P.). Wanganui estuary, 39 on 22/5/61 between Imlay and Yacht Club (D.E.C., R.W.M.). Westland, apparently rather scarce (R.B.S.). Waikati, 3 on 17/9/60; 3 on 25/5/61; 7 on 22/6/61; Aramoana, 4 on 13/5/61; Otago Hr., 6 on 14/5/61 (W.T.P.).

N.I. RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris granti*) — Waipakihi-Waikato rivers area, Kaimanawas, 22-24/10/60 and April '61, easily the most common bird. Numerous at river level and high in the bush (J.L.K.). Ranges S. of Tokaanu, April '61, common in rimu; but not seen in kamahi bush or in the upper belt of beech (F.P.H., M.G.D.).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) — Mt. Patutu, Kaimanawas, 22-24/10/60, few; but 1 at c. 4000ft. (J.L.K.). Seen during year, Dune-din, 65 pied, 12 black; Stewart I., 21 pied, 1 black (W.T.P.).

- PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*) — Moumoukai, 1960-61, now very scarce; not one seen since Christmas despite traversing miles of bush each week (J.W.St.P.).
- YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica m. macrocephala*) — Ikamatua, near Reefton, 2/2/61; 18/2/61 all along bush road; noticeably yellower than when seen on 2/2/61 (P.G., H.R.McK. et al). Westland, Jan. '61, one of the commonest native passerines (R.B.S.). Waipori gorge, 25/3/61, 2 males, 2 females, one of which was working hard at a large green cricket; Bull Creek, 3 males on 1/4/61; Leith Valley, 2 on 15/6/61. Stewart I., 4-23/1/61, 10 seen (W.T.P.).
- N.I. ROBIN (*Petroica australis longipes*) — Minginui, 1960-61, Aug., song increasing; Sept.-Oct., song strong; Nov., males carrying food; Dec.-April, less song and laterly birds retired to deep bush (R.St.P.). Mt. Patutu hunters' camp, 1; Waipakihi-Waikato rivers junction camp, 1 usually present, very tame (J.L.K.); April '61, 8 seen on half-mile of bush; one out in open in full sunlight. Ranges S. of Tokaanu, none seen (F.P.H., M.G.D.).
- S.I. ROBIN (*Petroica a. australis*) — Nelson - Westland, Feb., 1961, seen or heard at Hope Summit, north and south of Murchison, Maruia river bridge, Lewis Pass, Rahu Saddle, Ikamatua and reported plentiful at Mt. Hercules. Two at Maruia ate butter and Christmas cake; two at Rahu ate bread and fruit of a creeping plant (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). One near Murchison on 6/1/61 was seen to gulp up a pellet measuring 13 x 7 m.m. (J.G. & L.E.W.).
- FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*) — Small isolated colony persists between Ngongotaha and Kawaha Pt. (M.S.B.). Minginui, only 1 found 1960-61 (R.St.P.). Between Desert Rd. and Kaimanawas, a loose colony seen every year since 1954 (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Tongariro National Park, several calling on 18/5/61 in heather colony near Tawhai Falls (P.D.G.S.). Okarito, Westland, 6/2/61, some calling; L. Paringa area, reported common (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.).
- BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*) — Fox Glacier road, 7/2/61; 1 pr. in scrubby forest on side track (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). Klondyke Corner, Arthur's Pass, noisy family parties 11/1/61 in beech forest (R.B.S.). Edwards River, c. 40 in flock on 5/3/60 (E.W.C.). Whare Flat, 4 on 27/10/60; Waipori Gorge, 14 on 25/3/61; Bull Creek, 4 on 1/4/61; Dunedin, 6 on 8/4/61 & 20/5/61; Evansdale, 8 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.).
- WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua albicilla*) — Rotoma Hill, 4+ on 22/10/60 (H.R.McK. et al). Minginui, Aug. '60-April '61, plentiful, up to 50 in a day (R.St.P.). Common in exotic pines between Wairakei and Tokoroa, Oct. '60 (J.P., A.P., M.S.B.).
- YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala*) — Ikamatua, 2/2/61, 5+ in high beech trees; song noted as of heavier timbre than song of Whitehead. Paringa, Westland, 9/2/61. 2 flying across road, one calling on the wing (H.M.McK., H.R.McK., T.H.S.).
- GREY WARBLER (*Gerygone igata*) — Plentiful around Dunedin (W.T.P.).
- SONG THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*) — Minginui, singing stopped 11/2/61 (R.St.P.). Reefton, 1-2/2/61, several singing strongly (H.R.McK.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*) — Clevedon, song started at end of June and ceased about mid-December, with odd snatches till Dec. 30 (H.R.McK.). Minginui, song began 6/9/60 and ended about 11/2/61 (R.St.P.). Kaimanawas, 23/10/60, 1 near top of range at c. 5000ft. (J.L.K.). Reefton 1-2/2/61, several singing moderately well (H.M.McK., H.R.McK.). Clevedon, July '61, one white except for some dark flecks (G.M.O.). Vauxhall, 7/1/61, female anting in garden stopped by a male, who generally stops Starlings from anting (L.E.W.).

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*) — Clevedon 3/12/60, 2 young which could hardly fly were feeding on a lawn and begged food of a cock House Sparrow (H.R.McK.). Vauxhall 24/3/61, two seen bathing in wet clover on lawn (L.E.W.).

PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*) — On Volcanic Plateau has had to retreat to more secluded areas. Logging roads traversing fern and scrub land are now a favourite habitat, e.g. March '59, 35 counted along two miles of track (M.S.B.). Kaimanawas, 22-24/10/60, several pairs along river valleys and on the tops; nest, 3 eggs, in a clump of tussock (J.L.K.).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*) — Moumoukai, still fading; only 2 heard in six months (J.W.St.P.). Common around Rotorua (M.S.B.). Minginui, best daily count each month from Aug. '60-April '61: 35, 70, 70, 80, 60, 50, 50, 300. Foods noted: *Nothopanax arboreum* flower; Oct. started on kowhai; Oct.-Jan. fuchsia flowers; Jan.-Feb. konini; Mar., maire and kaikomako; April, kahikatea. Insects are taken throughout the year (R.St.P.). Kaimanawas and ranges S. of Tokaanu, April '61, numerous. Near the latter place the bush resounded with a call we had not heard elsewhere. It was of two notes sounding like the shrill yelping of a small dog (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Westland, Jan. '61, plentiful (R.B.S.). Dunedin, Fraser's Gully, 16 on 13/9/60; 11 on 8/12/60; 19+ on 8/4/61. Waipori Gorge, 7+ on 25/3/61; Bull Creek, 6 on 1/4/61; Whare Flat, 31 on 27/10/60, mostly heard. Halfmoon Bay, plentiful; 1 with wings of large crane-fly forming moustache, sang several times (W.T.P.).

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) — Minginui, best daily count each month Aug. 60-April '61: 30, 70, 75, 120, 70, 50, 45, 70, 300. Foods noted: Aug.-Sept., flowers of *Nothopanax arboreum*; Oct.-Nov., kowhai; Oct.-Jan., fuchsia flowers; Feb., konini; March, miro, maire; April, kahikatea. Insects throughout year (R.St.P.). Kaimanawas, 22-24/10/60, only 1 seen (J.L.K.). Ranges S. of Tokaanu, April '61, very few; at least 20 Bellbirds to one Tui (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Rotorua, not very common; 4 in aerial display near Hamurana; fed with Bellbirds during winter at Taupo (M.S.B., J.S.A., C.D.B.). Dunedin, Leith Valley, 3 on 24/6/61. Halfmoon Bay, Jan. '61, 20-30 every day; singing 'cowbell' notes (W.T.P.).

SILVEREYĒ (*Zosterops lateralis*) — Little Barrier, 7/7/60, first small flocks for winter (R.H.B.). Cuvier Island, 11-23/7/61, thousands present; they departed as suddenly as they arrived (D.V.M.). Minginui, Aug.-Jan., small parties; Feb.-April, flocks of up to 90. Food noted: Feb., wineberry, blackberry, coprosma, lucida; Mar., kaikomako;

- April, coprosma (R.St.P.). Clevedon, June '61, swarming on 'Red Hot Pokers' (M.J.B.).
- GREENFINCH** (*Chloris chloris*) — Rotorua, the last three years large flocks appeared in autumn and disappeared Aug.-Sept. (M.S.B.). Minginui, a few throughout year; seen eating dandelion seed (R.St.P.). Dunedin, formed about half a flock of 1500 finches on 29/6/61 (W.T.P.).
- GOLDFINCH** (*Carduelis carduelis*) — Minginui, Aug.-Sept. '60, a few; Oct.-April '61, none (R.St.P.). Taupo, 2 at Waitahanui on 14/7/61, the only 2 seen during a stay of 10 days (H.R.McK.). Dunedin, flocks of up to 100 in winter (W.T.P.). Westland; Jan '61, very few seen (R.B.S.).
- LESSER REDPOLL** (*Carduelis flammea*) — Minginui, small parties, spring and summer; no big flocks autumn '61 (R.St.P.). Dunedin, flocks of up to 12, Oct.-Jan.; up to 250 in winter, feeding chiefly on thistles and grass seed (W.T.P.).
- CHAFFINCH** (*Fringilla coelebs*) — Minginui, first song heard 2/9/60; song continued till near end of Feb. '61 (R.St.P.). Kaimanawas, 22-24/10/60, the most numerous introduced bird in the valleys and up the forested ridges* (J.L.K.). Moerangi, west Taupo, early June '61, all finches scarce where they had been in great numbers in May '59 (F.P.H., M.G.D.). Dunedin, winter flocks of 100+; commonly feeds on beaches (W.T.P.).
- YELLOWHAMMER** (*Emberiza citrinella*) — Little Barrier, 1960, c. 20 present all winter (R.H.B.). Moumoukai, 30/12/58, 2 nests with 4 and 3 eggs, 1 and 3 feet up in bracken (R.St.P.). Dunedin, 150+ in flock up c. 1500 finches on 29/6/61.
- CIRL BUNTING** (*Emberiza cirius*) — Motunau, 19/1/61, pair with fledgling (D.H.B.). Winchmore, Ashburton, a few seen frequently between April '60 and June '61; probably breeds (E.W.C.). Sumner, 1 singing at dusk on 9/1/61 in pines on top of cliffs (R.B.S.).
- STARLING** (*Sturnus vulgaris*) — Minginui, Aug.-Dec. '60; best daily count per month 60-80; Jan.-Feb. '61, none; Mar.-April, odd ones. Starling and House Sparrow greatly reduced, probably as result of advent and increase of Myna (R.St.P.). Queen's Gardens, Dunedin, c. 450 roosting (W.T.P.). Vauxhall, Nov. '60-April '61, often seen anting (L.E. & J.G.W.).
- MYNA** (*Acridotheres tristis*) — Naenae, several again reported (C.N.C.).
- BLACK-BACKED MAGPIE** (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) — Massey College, 1 regularly seen; Foxton, 2 on 18/8/61 (M.J.I.).
- WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE** (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) — Little Barrier, 6/12/60, adult arrived and was promptly shot (R.H.B.). Persists in Tongariro National Park, 2 at 2900ft. on 18/5/61 (P.D.G.S.). Klondyke Corner, 2 on 11/2/61 (R.B.S.). Evansdale, 3 on 22/6/61 (W.T.P.).
- KOKAKO** (*Callaeas cinerea wilsoni*) — Moumoukai, population may be increasing slightly. More singing noted (J.W.St.P.).

ANNUAL LOCALITY REPORTS

FIRTH OF THAMES

- BLACK SHAG** — 42 on summer census 27/11/60; c. 330 on 6/6/61 just south of Miranda; 187 on winter census 2/7/61.
- WHITE-FACED HERON** — Up to 16, Kaiuaa to Kairito, Dec.-Jan.; "17 together on 12/7/61 and 15/7/61. More than I have seen here before. Every day I see them flying inland, but have not yet located a nest." (A.T.).
- BLUE HERON** — 1 at Whakatiwai on 2/7/61.
- PARADISE DUCK** — Miranda, 26/1/60, 2 on farm (A. Todd).
- SHOVELER** — 9 at Miranda Creek on 2/7/61.
- BANDED RAIL** — Not uncommon. Many sightings. Young seen on 27/11/60.
- S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER** — 92+ on 14/10/60 at Whakatiwai; 109 on summer census 27/11/60; 146 on 10/1/61; 630+ on 7/3/61, 21/3/61 and 21/5/61; c. 760 on 6/6/61; 1280 (incl. 150 at Piako and 60 at Thames) on winter census, 2/7/61.
- VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER** — 3 black at White Bridge on 25/1/61.
- ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER** — 85 on rough ploughland at Waitakaruru on summer census 27/11/60.
- BANDED DOTTEREL** — 4 nests found. c. 30 on summer census 27/11/60. Kaiuaa-Kairito, 26+ on 7/1/61; c. 400 on 7/3/61 in in Kairito 'turnip' marsh; 60 on winter census 2/7/61, (Kaiuaa 45, Parawai 15).
- RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL** — Up to 5 between Kaiuaa and Miranda. Nest, 3 eggs on 22/12/60.
- LARGE SAND DOTTEREL** — One closely watched on 24 & 26/1/61 by P.D.G.S. and D.G.F. in the Kairito turnip marsh. It was among Wrybills as was the one seen in the same place during Jan.-Feb., 1960.
- WRYBILL** — c. 150 at White Bridge on 14/10/60; but rather fewer are known to have summered, viz.:— 42 on 24/11/60 and 65 on the census, 27/11/60. Numbers rapidly increased in January, 400 on 10/1/61; 2000+ on 24/1/61 in Kairito turnip marsh. In autumn and winter, numbers exceeded all counts made over the last twenty years e.g., 4000+ on 7/3/61 and c. 4,500 on 21/3/61; though the census on 2/7/61 reached only 2,500; but on 2/8/61, the count was 3,450 and on 31/8/61 there were still many more than 3000. On all instances counts were carefully checked, usually by several observers.
- LONG-BILLED CURLEW** — The biggest flock so far recorded, 18, was seen on 27/11/60 and 24/1/61. 4 on 21/3/61 and 6/6/61; 6 on winter census, 2/7/61. Some were usually to be found between Miranda and Waitakaruru.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT** — The usual thousands arrived in spring. Census on 27/11/60 gave 9,650 for the whole firth; Winter census c. 900 on 2/7/61.
- ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT** — 1 on 3/9/60; 2 on 25/1/61.

TURNSTONE — During the summer more were recorded on the Kaiaua-Kairito coast than ever before:— 31 on 25/10/60; 48 on 24 & 27/11/60; 76 on 22/12/60; 56 on 7/1/61; 67+ on 21/3/61; 42 on winter census 2/7/61.

KNOT — The usual thousands arrived in the spring. Summer census 7,320 on 27/11/60; winter census, 590 on 2/7/61.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — 1 on Miranda pools on 14/10/60; 5 on 27/11/60; 16 on 7/3/61 and 21/3/61, all well into breeding plumage.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — A flock of 8 and probably 3 others at Waitakaruru on 27/11/60; 1 well-reddened and 9 others in Kairito turnip marsh on 27/1/61; 8 on 21/3/61, 6 well-reddened, 2 pale.

RED-NECKED STINT — 3 on 25/10/60, 5 on 24/11/60; odd ones throughout summer; 2 on 25/1/61; 1 on 21/3/61.

PIED STILT — Some nests at pools still contained eggs in mid-Oct. 16 flying young on Miranda pools on 25/10/60. A pair at Kairito had hidden young in late November. Kaiaua-Miranda, 140 on 24/11/60; summer census, 920 for coast of firth in 27/11/60. After nesting, many birds from the Hauraki Plains move down to the tidal flats and creeks. Winter census on 2/7/61, 4,695, with probably many more inland on flooded paddocks. An almost black stilt was at Miranda on 2/8/61.

ARCTIC SKUA — 2 dark birds off Miranda on 24/11/60; 4 off Whakatiwai on 10/1/61 and 2 on 7/3/61.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — At the Kairito shell-bank on 25/10/60 9 nests had three eggs, 5 two and 6 one; but a new colony north of the old limeworks had 10 nests without eggs. Later there were 14 nests in the new colony.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — 80+ on 25/10/60; 31 on 27/11/60 were evidently summering non-breeders; 90 on 21/3/61; c. 400 on 21/5/61; 480+ on 6/6/61; 335 on winter census, 2/7/61.

CASPIAN TERN — There is still no known instance of breeding on the west and south coasts of the firth. 74 on summer census, 27/11/60; 95 on winter census, 2/7/61.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 1000+ noisy and excited at the road-corner colony and one broken egg found 25/10/60; but this site was subsequently abandoned. On 27/11/60 c. 250 pairs were nesting on the Kairito shell-bank. 22/12/60, c. 1000 birds, c. 500 chicks. Nests with eggs 500+. Mortality among chicks was high, e.g., 71 dead on 24/1/61 and many more a few days later. Winter census 143.

TERN (Sp.?) — Once again small *albifrons*-like terns haunted the south-east corner of the firth during the summer. 4 at Waitakaruru on 27/11/60 and 26/1/61.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — From time to time one appeared over the Miranda pools. Some of its visits were very brief. On 14/10/60 it was in a very worn breeding dress but with some black left under the wings and on the sides of the body. On 7/1/60 it appeared to be wholly in eclipse. By 27/1/61 it was blackening again. On 21/5/61 and 6/6/61 it was in full breeding plumage. What was evidently the same bird was well seen over the shallows between Kairito and Waitakaruru on 2/7/61.

— H.R.McK., R.B.S.

MANUKAU NORTH · OTAHUUHU, MANGERE, PUKETUTU,
IHUMATAO

This report covers the localities formerly separated as Manukau (a) and Manukau (b). With the completion of the major portion of the Manukau sewage purification works, shore-birds have lost more than two square miles of tidal feeding grounds and at least three high-tide roosts (v. Notornis VIII, 221 for map). Inevitably the status of several species has been affected. Gains and losses are being carefully studied. The most obvious gains have been with Red-billed Gulls, Black Swans and ducks; and temporarily the changed conditions have enabled Pied Stilts to breed. On the other hand Banded Dotterels, Wrybills and Golden Plover seem to be deserting the area.

The period of transition when shallow lagoons, formed behind the new sea-walls, proved very attractive to arctic waders, especially the smaller species, is over, except perhaps along one edge of L. Oruarangi. It was thought that the new embankments between the oxidation ponds might be used by waders as roosts. To some extent this has happened; and at high tide it is not unusual for flocks of South Island Pied Oystercatchers to gather on them, though Godwits and Knots generally are flying to more distant resting places. During the winter mixed flocks of waders were quick to use the partly constructed runway of Mangere airport, where it extends about half a mile over the tidal flats south of Ihumatao Point.

WHITE-FACED HERON — Numerous after midsummer on L. Oruarangi and at Ihumatao.

BLACK SWAN — 1000+ on 8/4/61 off Mangere airport. Usually up to 100 throughout winter on Explosion Crater and some on L. Oruarangi; but other Puketutu pools avoided.

GRAY TEAL — 2 on L. Oruarangi on 13/3/61.

SHOVELER — Noted only on L. Oruarangi, where some were present December-February.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 20+ on L. Oruarangi on 28/12/60, 2000+ off Ihumatao on 11/2/61. From time to time the new embankments were used as high-tide roosts by these oystercatchers; so too was the partly built runway at Mangere airport.

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER — 2, black, at Ihumatao, 8/4/61.

BANDED DOTTEREL — 1 at L. Oruarangi on 8/12/60. None seen at Ihumatao Pt. when other waders were numerous on 11/2/61 and 8/4/61.

RED-BREADED DOTTEREL — 1 on the old causeway, 31/12/60.

WRYBILL — At L. Oruarangi, 1 on 4/12/60; 2 on 26 & 28/12/60; c. 90 on 11/2/61 and 16/2/61. At Harania Ck., near Favona causeway, 1 on 9/2/61; 15 on 7/4/61. No big winter flock was noted near Puketutu. The displaced birds probably wintered on the Karaka coast, where numbers were much bigger than ever counted before, though some may have regularly used the new runway at Mangere airport. Here 70 were found on 30/7/61.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Summer numbers in upper Manukau well up to average, e.g. c. 3000 at Harania Ck. on 11/11/60 and 25/11/60. 4000+ at L. Oruarangi on 4/12/60; c. 8000 on 11/2/61 off Ihumatao and 600+ on 8/4/61. Some hundreds in winter off Ihumatao and Mangere airport.

ASIATIC BLACK-TAILED GODWIT — 1 at Harania Ck. on 11/11/60, identified as of this form by its white underwing.

TURNSTONE — 2 on 26/12/60 on the top of a new embankment, c. 40 on 11/2/61 at Ihumatao.

KNOT — Plentiful in upper Manukau in summer. Hundreds at Harania Ck. on 29/10/60 and 1000+ on 24/11/60. 500+ on L. Oruarangi on 4/12/60. Off Ihumatao 8000+ on 11/2/61. None noted off Ihumatao on 8/4/61.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — 2 beside L. Oruarangi on 11/2/61; 6 on 16/2/61.

PIED STILT — At a summer census 4/12/60, 1800+ were counted in northern Manukau, viz. 1210 at Harania Ck., 135 at Pikes Pt., 200+ along the old Puketutu causeway and 250+ at L. Oruarangi, where perhaps 50 pairs were breeding rather late.

The swampy edge at Spoonbill Pool where Stilts bred successfully in spring 1959, was deeply submerged; and the only area where they are known to have bred in spring 1960 was the rough shoreline of L. Oruarangi. Only towards the end of October did it appear that some of the scores of Stilts present were in pairs and contemplating nesting; and the first bird sitting on eggs was found on Nov. 10. Then things happened rapidly. On Nov. 17 there were at least six occupied nests and on Dec. 1, twelve in one corner only. On Dec. 8 a survey of most of L. Oruarangi revealed at least 35 and possibly 50 nesting pairs. Most eggs were laid in November or early December. Several nests still contained eggs in the last few days of December, but there were also many young at various stages but not yet flying. On 11/2/61 among c. 500 stilts on this pool were scores of young only recently on the wing.

At the same time Pied Stilts were the most conspicuous birds after Red-billed Gulls along the causeway. It is possible that a few pairs bred early near here on a small secluded swamp behind Bull Bay. On Nov. 17 among many stilts feeding along the edges of the circulation channel between the two parallel embankments there were some just-flying young. More continued to arrive; and since opportunities for studying young stilts here were unusually handy, it was noticed that many showed some black feathering in the tail feathers, this forming in some a distinct band across the tip of the tail. On 31/12/60 these were carefully checked by Peter Skegg and his brother, who found that out of 133 juveniles examined as they rose in flight, only 7 did not show some black near the tips of the tail feathers.

A very dusky stilt frequented the old causeway during December.

Pied Stilts were quick to use the shallow pools formed within

the stop-banks in the early stages of the construction of the runway at Mangere airport, e.g. 40 on 11/2/61; hundreds on 8/4/61.

2000+ at Harania Ck. on 3/6/61 c. 1500 on 6/7/61 — not exceptional for upper Manukau at this season.

BLACK-BACKED GULL — At least 3 pairs nested on the embankments beside L. Oruarangi.

RED-BILLED GULL — Large numbers of non-breeders summered in Upper Manukau, e.g. c. 2000 at Otahuhu on 25/11/60. Hundreds all summer along old causeway feeding over ponds, e.g. 1000+ on 26/12/60. Increasing in autumn; e.g. 6000 resting on Ascot Pool on 13/3/61.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN — 1 in fading breeding dress several times seen at Harania Ck. between 29/10/60 and 24/11/60: 1 (probably same bird) in eclipse, frequently noted at old causeway, over Teal Pool and L. Oruarangi, in December. 1 in full breeding dress at Harania Ck. seen several times between 9/2/61 and 3/6/61.

CASPIAN TERN — 29 on 4/12/60, summer census, in Manukau north. Influx starts soon after, viz. 40+ at L. Oruarangi on 8/12/60; 130+ on 26/12/60; 150+ on 11/2/61.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 2 off end of Mangere airport on 11/2/61.

— R.B.S.

MANUKAU SOUTH. KARAKA PUHINUI

GANNET — 170+ on 17/6/61 feeding near shore at Weymouth. c. 200 on 13/8/61 fishing off Seagrove.

LITTLE BLACK SHAG — c. 150 on 17/6/61 at Weymouth, where flocks occur every winter.

GREAT WHITE HERON — 1 reported several times near Weymouth between 24/4/61 and 26/8/61. 1 at Kingseat on 20/7/61.

WHITE-FACED HERON — Now a typical bird of the coast, creeks and ponds. 33 on summer census, 4/12/60. No noteworthy winter flocks.

PARADISE DUCK — 14 in Higham's marsh on 14/5/61, 2 being adult females. Subsequently present in varying numbers, till 11/7/61, when three dark-headed birds were still present.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — 200+ on 20/11/60 at Kidd's were evidently summering. Summer census c. 475 at Puhinui on 4/12/60. Winter census, 1,740 on 30/7/61; 1,900 on 1/8/61 in Kidd's bay; 1000+ on 13/8/61.

VARIABLE OYSTERCATCHER — 1 black on 4/12/60; 3 black on 30/7/61.

ASIATIC GOLDEN PLOVER — c. 40 on 20/11/60; 46 on 1/1/61; 68 on 8/1/61; 60+ on 19/2/61; 70+ on 18/3/61; 1 in Higham's marsh on 30/7/61 — instances of wintering in N.Z. are very few; 1 on 5/8/61; 2 on 27/8/61; 3 on 10/9/61; 7 on 14/9/61; 22 (only 2 not showing some black on underparts) on 8/10/61.

BANDED DOTTEREL — c. 10 on 20/11/60 in Kidd's marsh; 1 large chick banded; c. 75 in Kidd's; 1 pair and 1 juv. in Higham's marsh; and two nests of 3 eggs each on the shellbanks on 1/1/61. At least

- one of these late nests hatched. 300+ on 5/4/61, none in good colour; c. 275 on 28/5/61.
- RED-BREASTED DOTTEREL** — Usually at least a pair in Kidd's bay; 1 nest with 2 eggs on big shell-bank on 1/1/61; 4 on 14/5/61; 2 prs., one on territory, one not, on 13/8/61. An early nest with 2 eggs on big shell-bank on 14/9/61.
- WRYBILL** — Only 2 on 20/11/60; none on summer census, 4/12/60; 94 on 1/1/61; 260 on 8/1/61; 800 on 19/2/61; c. 1200 on 18/3/61; c. 1350 on 5/4/61; c. 2700 on winter census, on 30/7/61 (probably includes the former flock of Puketutu now displaced); 1870 on 1/8/61; c. 1100 on 13/8/61; c. 700 on 27/8/61.
- ASIATIC WHIMBREL** — 1 at big shellbank, chased by two godwits, on 13/8/61. Also 16/8/61 and 8/10/61.
- BAR-TAILED GODWIT** — c. 8000 on 20/11/60. 6000+ at Puhinui and c. 4900 along Karaka coast on 4/12/60, when summer census of whole of Manukau was taken at c. 15,500. Winter census, 3300 on 30/7/61. c. 1600 on 27/8/61.
- GREENSHANK** — 1 on shore among stilts near Higham's sluice on 13/8/61 and 16/8/61.
- TURNSTONE** — c. 190 on 22/11/60; c. 200 at Urquhart's Point on 4/12/60; c. 255 in Kidd's bay on 1/1/61 and 19/2/61; c. 250 in Higham's marsh on 19/3/61; 89 on winter census 30/7/61; 31 on 27/8/61.
- KNOT** — 1 only with c. 7500 Godwit on 2/11/60; c. 60 on 4/12/60; c. 800 on 18/3/61; c. 300 on 30/7/61.
- RED-NECKED STINT** — Kidd's Bay seems to have become a favourite haunt, where numbers build up over the summer. 3 on 20/11/60; 7 on 22/11/60; 10 on 4/12/60; 14 on 1/1/61 and 8/1/61 and for some time afterwards; 11+ on 19/2/61 and 18/3/61; 10 on 5/4/61 (6 well reddened); 2 on 14/5/61; 4 (all pale) on 18/5/61; odd ones throughout winter among Wrybills; 2 on 13/8/61 and 27/8/61; 6 on 23/10/61.
- PIED STILT** — 107 counted along Karaka coast on 4/12/60; by which date family parties have started to leave their inland breeding grounds. 1100 on winter census 30/7/61. c. 700 in Kidd's bay on 1/8/61. 1 pr. at nest at Oakland's Rd. on 13/8/61 and others present. An almost black stilt was seen at Kidd's on 13 & 16/8/61.
- CASPIAN TERN** — 25 non-breeders on shellbank on 22/11/60; 46 along Karaka coast on 4/12/60; 46 on 30/7/61; c. 100 on 27/8/61.
- WHITE-FRONTED TERN** — 6 on the old jetty on 20/11/61; c. 220 on 4/12/60 along coast; 31 prs. with nests on big shellbank on 1/1/61; also with them c. 150 resting terns, including 9 mottled juv. visitors from some colony probably on the outer west coast; c. 50 nests, only two with eggs, on 8/1/61. The colony failed. None recorded on this coast on 30/7/61.
- TERN (Sp.?)** — 2 tiny terns of the type frequently noted in recent years were seen at Seagrove on 4/12/60.

MANAWATU — (a) RANGITIKEI ESTUARY

N.Z. CRESTED PENGUIN — 1 fragmentary corpse by the old river-mouth on 11/12/60.

LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS — 1 corpse on nearby beach on 28/8/61.

FAIRY PRION — 1 passed southwards along the beach on 2/1/61 in a fresh north-westerly wind.

SOOTY SHEARWATER — Thousands migrating northwards off the estuary on 14/5/61 at the visible rate of about 12 per minute. Some came close inshore. None were found dead on the adjacent beach on this date, but a considerable number were wrecked within the following two weeks with westerly winds.

BLACK SHAG — Small numbers present throughout the year. Highest count was 17 on 4/4/61.

LITTLE SHAG — Regularly come down to the estuary to feed at low tide on fishes trapped in the old riverbed, which is about 1 mile long and very shallow in parts at low tide. Flounders are abundant here and it may be on these that the shags feed. Highest counts are 9 on 21/1/61; 10 on 4/4/61 (3 Little Pied Shags).

BLUE REEF HERON — Rarely seen along this part of the coast though it breeds on the rocky coast further south from Paekakariki. 1 seen in the estuary on 19/2/61, 4/4/61 and 14/5/61. It fed alone, taking fishes at the edge of the old riverbed, but occasionally roosted with White-faced Herons at high tide.

WHITE-FACED HERON — 2 or 3 normally seen in November and December, 1960. A post-breeding influx in summer: 8 on 2/1/62 (4 juv.); 12 on 19/2/62 (4 juv.); 6 on 12/3/61 (2 juv.); 4 on 31/3/61; 3 on 14/5/61; none on 28/8/61.

GREY DUCK & MALLARD — During summer and early autumn a flock of 20/30 Mallard frequented the estuary. Numbers increased in late March: 12/3/61 — 5 Grey Duck and 30 Mallard; 31/3/61 — c. 50 Grey Duck and c. 70 Mallard. 14/5/61 — 21 ducks of both species present, very scary because of shooting; many more were seen flying around out at sea, where they were taking refuge from shooters. 34 Mallard on 28/8/61.

SHOVELER — A few associated with the Mallard in early summer; 3 on 27/11/60; 2 on 11/12/60 and 2/1/61.

S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER — None seen in the estuary this year.

N.I. (VARIABLE) OYSTERCATCHER — 2 to 4 present in November and December, 1960, at least 1 pair (black) of which attempted breeding. There was a post-breeding influx, a good flock gradually building up: c. 10 on 2/1/61; 9 on 19/2/61; 13 on 12/3/61; 15 on 31/3/61; 25 on 4/4/61 (3 pied, c. 6 black, c. 16 smudgy); 6 on 14/5/61 and 28/8/61, all in pairs.

GOLDEN PLOVER — 11 present by 13/11/60. Counts throughout summer and early autumn varied between 10 and 12. 14 on 31/3/61, the last record for the season.

BANDED DOTTEREL — c. 16 on 13/11/60; c. 20 on 11/12/60; c. 25 on 2/1/61. A large flock present in the non-breeding season: c. 140 on 19/2/61; c. 130 on 14/5/61; c. 25 on 28/8/61.

WRYBILL — c. 8 on 13/11/60; 3 on 27/11/60; none on 11/12/60 or 18/12/60; 1 on 2/1/61. This estuary appears to be more attractive to Wrybills than is Manawatu Estuary. By March a good wintering flock had built up: 27 on 12/3/61 and 14/5/61; 21 on 28/8/61.

ASIATIC WHIMBREL — 2 present by 13/11/60 were regularly seen till 4/4/61. Typically they were the most shy waders in the estuary; generally they fed apart from other waders on the firmer, early-exposed mudflats where crabs are most abundant. Small crabs probably form a major part of their diet here. 1 still present on 14/5/61 with Godwits.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — c. 65 on 13/11/60. Counts thereafter to March varied between c. 60 and c. 70; c. 45 on 31/3/61; c. 20 on 4/4/61 and 14/5/61; c. 16 on 28/8/61.

TURNSTONE — usually odd birds on passage in spring. 1 on 13/11/60 and 11/12/60.

KNOT — 30 on 13/11/60; 3 on 27/11/60; 2 on 11/12/60; 1 on 2/1/60 and 19/2/61. 1 seen on 27/11/60 and 11/12/60 still showed some red below.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — seen only on passage in spring this year. 1 on 13/11/60; 2 on 27/11/60.

RED-NECKED STINT — A small flock gradually built up over the summer: 3 on 13/11/60; 6 on 11/12/60; 7 on 18/12/60; 8 on 2/1/61; 10 on 12/3/61 7 on 31/3/61. 2 showing reddening forenecks by 12/3/61. 3 on 14/5/61; 2 wintered; 2 on 28/8/61.

PIED STILT — c. 25 on 13/11/60, 27/11/60 and 11/12/60. An influx after the breeding season: 55+ on 2/1/61. Numbers fairly constant at c. 60 after this to May. No mid-winter count was made. None seen on 28/8/61.

ARCTIC SKUA — 1 passing south off the estuary on 17/12/60; 1 passing north on 19/2/61. Both of the dark phase. Probably both on migration.

RED-BILLED GULL — Very scarce at this estuary. None definitely recorded this year; probably a few amongst c. 50 small gulls on 4/4/61.

BLACK-BILLED GULL — A few normally present. 2/4 in November, December and January. c. 12 on 19/2/61; c. 8 on 12/3/61; c. 40 on 4/4/61; c. 12 on 14/5/61; none on 28/8/61.

CASPIAN TERN — c. 6 from November to January. 27 on 19/2/61; c. 35 on 4/4/61; c. 10 on 14/5/61.

LITTLE/FAIRY TERN — 1 first seen on 13/11/60 was seen on every visit thereafter to 14/5/61. This was a juvenile as the plumage indicates:

Forehead white; crown whitish, streaked black; nape glossy black, the black extending forwards through the eye to about half-way between eye and bill on the lores. Bill blackish, feet dark reddish-brown. The wing showed a conspicuous pattern in flight; primaries and fore edge of wing dark grey, brown mottling on the wing coverts.

There was little change in plumage by 14/5/61; most of the brown mottling on the wing had disappeared, and the bill was slightly yellow at the base. It was not seen after this.

This bird no doubt belongs to the same species as those small terns regularly seen in the Firth of Thames and elsewhere in summer. The Fairy Tern has been reported at Rangitikei Estuary on 12/11/48 (N.Z. Bird Notes 3, p. 211). The Firth of Thames small terns are believed to be the migrant species *S. albifrons*, which has not been previously recorded in Wellington Province.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — 400+ on 2/1/61 at low tide fishing in the rivermouth and resting on the beach. Later they moved off northwards into a fresh north-westerly wind and only c. 30 remained after high tide. c. 10 on 19/2/61; c. 60 on 12/3/61; 12 on 31/3/61.
KINGFISHER — A few in the estuary in autumn and winter: 1 on 31/3/61 and 14/5/61; 2 on 28/8/61.

— M.J.I., I.G.A.

(b) MANAWATU ESTUARY

- GIANT PETREL — 1 passing northwards off the estuary on 25/6/61.
BLACK SHAG — A small post-breeding influx. c. 20 on 30/4/61 is this year's highest count.
LITTLE SHAG — Up to 3 occasionally.
WHITE HERON — 1 on 30/4/61 in the upper estuary. They prefer the riverbanks nearer Foxton: 2 here in October, 1960.
WHITE-FACED HERON — Regularly seen in small numbers. Highest count was 8 on 30/4/61.
ROYAL SPOONBILL — 4 still present on 13/11/60; 1 on 26/11/60 and 3/12/60; 3 from 11/12/60 to January '61; 2 from 25/2/61 to 25/3/61. The autumn influx lasted through April: 3 on 1/4/61; 8 on 14/4/61; 26 on 30/4/61 is the highest count to date for this estuary, but some moved on; 18 on 5/6/61 and throughout the winter to August.
BLACK SWAN — 3 on 21/10/60; 2 on 28/10/60; 4 on 26/11/60; 2 on 28/12/60.
GREY DUCK AND MALLARD — Large numbers, mainly Mallard, often seen in the upper estuary where they breed.
SHOVELER — Rarely seen here; a pair on the south mudflats on 11/12/60.
S.I. PIED OYSTERCATCHER. — Only 3 present from late October to late December 1960. 9 on 3/1/61; 36 on 25/2/61 with little variation to 14/4/61, when 35 were counted. c. 30 wintered to July; 10 on 18/8/61.
N.I. (VARIABLE) OYSTERCATCHER — Very scarce this year. Usually 1 to 3 were counted; 6 on 13/11/60 (1 pied; 1 black; 4 smudgy) and 28/12/60; 5+ on 18/8/61 included 2 pied birds.
PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER — 29 present by 13/11/60 when one was still in almost full breeding plumage and another was quite black below. Highest counts during the summer were c. 33 on

11/12/60 and on 7/1/61. 21 still present on 3/4/61. All had departed by 14/4/61. Some were very black below by 25/2/61.

BANDED DOTTEREL — Few late spring. c. 25 on 3/12/60; c. 60 on 3/1/61; about 200 present from late February to early June, after which the pre-breeding dispersal began. Highest count was c. 210 on 5/6/61. The post-nuptial moult was virtually complete by 25/2/61 and bands were beginning to appear again on 3/4/61. 30+ on 9/7/61; 8 on 18/8/61.

WRYBILL — 1 in breeding plumage on 13/11/60. None on 26/11/60 and 11/12/60. Increasing numbers during the northward migration period: 2 on 28/12/60; 5 on 3/1/61; 8 on 25/2/61; 11 on 4/3/61. Thereafter 5 or 7 were regularly seen throughout autumn and winter.

ASIATIC WHIMBREL — 1 stayed for a short period on passage in late autumn, and probably wintered in northern New Zealand. It was seen on 30/4/61 and 5/6/61.

BAR-TAILED GODWIT — Numbers increased through November and December to reach a peak in January, viz. c. 200 on 28/10/60; c. 245 on 11/12/60; c. 280 on 3/1/61; c. 220 from 25/2/61 to 19/3/61, after which the main departure took place: c. 85 on 25/3/61; 41 on 14/4/61; c. 28 on 5/6/61; 15 on 18/8/61.

HUDSONIAN GODWIT — A single bird again present throughout the summer was first seen on 21/10/60 and regularly thereafter. Some doubt exists as to whether this is the same bird as was present during the previous summer and winter.

On 14/1/61 it was seen feeding six miles up Foxton Beach with some Bar-Tailed Godwits. Previous observations suggest that it may have fed frequently or even regularly on the beach at low tide. It was last seen on 25/3/61, when in well-developed breeding plumage.

TURNSTONE — Infrequently seen at this estuary. 1 on 13/11/60 and 11/12/60.

KNOT — Present in larger numbers than usual in spring; 61+ on 13/11/60 was an exceptionally high count. c. 15 on 26/11/60. Counts were erratic and small after this. Last summer record was 10 on 4/4/61, of which 5 were reddening. 1 on passage on 30/4/61.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER — Fewer seen this year than in previous years. 1 first seen on 13/11/60 associated with Golden Plovers until 2 more arrived in March. 2 on 4/3/61; 3 on 19/3/61 and 3/4/61.

1 was heavily streaked below and much darker than the other 2 by 19/3/61.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — 4 on 4/3/61 and 3/4/61. 1 still present on 30/4/61, probably wintered elsewhere in New Zealand. All were in pale plumage throughout their stay here and this, together with the buff edgings to the feathers of the back and scapulars, suggested that they were immature. They associated with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Banded Dotterels.

This is the first record of this species from this estuary and from the Wellington Province.

RED-NECKED STINT — 1 on 13/11/60 is the first spring record at this estuary. This species clearly prefers Rangitikei Estuary.

PIED STILT — Numbers variable throughout the year. c. 20 on 28/10/60; c. 30 on 3/12/60; c. 60 on 28/12/60; c. 100 on 3/1/61; 50+ on 25/2/61; c. 30 on 19/3/61, 1/4/61 and 14/4/61; 50+ on 30/4/61; c. 140 on 5/6/61 was the highest count for the year; c. 40 on 9/7/61 and 18/8/61. There is evidence here of 2 peaks with the main one in May/June, as noted last year.

RED-BILLED AND BLACK-BILLED GULL — Throughout the year there were generally slightly more Red-billed than Black-billed Gulls, the ratio being about 7 to 5. c. 12 from October to January; c. 20 on 25/2/61; c. 120 on 25/3/61; c. 80 on 1/4/61; c. 60 on 14/4/61; 28+ on 5/6/61; c. 55 on 9/7/61; c. 155 on 18/8/61, about equal numbers of each species.

BLACK-FRONTED TERN — None seen at either of the estuaries this year and apparently very few visited the Wellington west coast during their non-breeding season.

CASPIAN TERN — Counts were generally lower than last year. c. 6 present on most visits. 21 on 3/1/61; 24 on 14/4/61.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN — A few occasionally come into the estuary in summer and autumn. 120 on 8/1/61 and c. 130 on 19/3/61 at the rivermouth.

KINGFISHER — Present in the estuary from autumn to end of winter. First seen on 1/4/61. Normally 2 or 3 counted. Last seen on 18/8/61.

GOLDFINCH AND LESSER REDPOLL — Seen in the upper estuary in moderate numbers in autumn feeding on the seed heads of *Salicornia* and of estuarial grasses, sedges and rushes. Several hundreds on 30/4/61; c. 30 on 5/6/61.

— M.J.I., I.G.A.

SHORT NOTES

DABCHICK NESTING IN A BOATSHED

After an initial setback, a Dabchick (*P. rufopectus*) nesting in a boatshed at Tokaanu, at the southern end of Lake Taupo, has successfully reared some young birds.

The Dabchick first laid two eggs on 1st and 2nd November, 1959, in the nest which was placed nine inches above the water and two feet back from the edge of the water, under the loading platform in a boatshed. A rise in the stream destroyed this nest and forced the bird to build another six inches higher; but in the process she lost one egg over the side into the water, and the egg which she did save was infertile. It is not known how she transferred this egg to the second nest.

In 1960 the bird again nested in the same place and in early November laid two eggs. The hatching period was between three and four weeks. The two young chicks were seen with the parents which used to stay in the boatshed overnight.

The female Dabchick became quite tame, coming into the boatshed when called. She did not appear to be unduly disturbed when the motor was started alongside her.

— R. J. BIDDLE

RED-NECKED PHALAROPE AT WASHDYKE LAGOON

On 19/3/61, with D. H. Brathwaite of Christchurch, I visited the Washdyke Lagoon. We traversed the seaward side of the lagoon, and reached a series of brackish pools, which stretch for two miles to the north.

In a pool fairly heavily covered with greenish algae and weed, a small bird about the size of a Pectoral Sandpiper was noticed. It was swimming along with quite a jerky movement and gave the impression that it was walking along in water up to its belly, this being impossible because of the depth of the water. Our presence caused it to rise; but it immediately settled again several yards away. At this stage I was certain the bird was a phalarope, D.H.B. agreeing. Half an hour's observation through telescope from separate vantage points allowed us to compile individual notes on the bird. As it was in winter plumage and neither D.H.B. nor myself were certain of the diagnostic characters separating the species, I returned to the car for the field guides, while D.H.B. continued observation.

On my return we checked text and illustrations in Pough (Audubon Waterbird Guide) Petersen (Birds of Britain and Europe) and Witherby (Handbook of British Birds). From these it was apparent that the bird could only be a Red-necked Phalarope (*Phalaropus lobatus*). The straight needle-like black bill and the streaked appearance of the back were noted by both of us. The black patch about the eye was quite noticeable. During my absence the bird had flown a short distance enabling D.H.B. to note the dark upper wing with the conspicuous narrow white bar. Although the bird would not permit as close an approach as a Pectoral Sandpiper, observed the previous week-end at Lake Ellesmere, it would not fly more than a few yards. Otherwise it was completely indifferent to our presence. D.H.B. noticed that it seemed equally indifferent to the presence of a Harrier (*Circus approximans*) which flew quite close while I was away. On my return to the pool it was standing at the water's edge and we noticed the peculiar long-bodied appearance, as described in Witherby's Handbook of British Birds.

This peculiarity seemed to be due to a combination of a small head and long under tail coverts. On the water while resting the head was drawn into the shoulders, but when feeding the head was held fairly high and the tail low, giving the bird a peculiar 'sit' on the water. The sketch on p. 137 of Petersen's (Birds of Britain and Europe) is a perfect illustration of the bird as regards plumage pattern and the above described 'sit.' Having the field-guides on hand made it possible to identify the Red-necked Phalarope with absolute certainty. As it fed, short sharp jabs were made amongst the weed and its whole body moved, giving a very definite, yet jerky feeding movement. In my absence the bird came to the water's edge, where it stood preening for some time. This unexpected appearance of the Red-necked Phalarope is the third record for New Zealand and the first for 26 years; the other records being at Lake Ellesmere in 1929 and the Wanganui Estuary in 1935.

On my return to Wanganui, Mr. M. J. G. Smart was able to show me the specimen found in 1935, which is now preserved as a mounted specimen in the Wanganui Public Museum. Although the specimen in the Wanganui Museum is in a summer plumage and is not mounted in a posture similar to that observed in the field, the general characters are the same as those observed at Washdyke Lagoon.

— D. E. CROCKETT

FIELD STUDY WEEK-END, SOUTH AUCKLAND 1961

Fortunate indeed were those members of the Society who took part in the Labour Day week-end field studies and meetings based on Clevedon; for the weather was good, and the birds were most co-operative. Thirty-five members took part, mostly for the full course, some for one or two of the days. They came from Christchurch, Wellington, Wanganui, New Plymouth, Whakatane, Tauranga, Taupo, Cambridge, Hamilton, South Auckland, and Titoki and Rawene in Northland. Emphasis throughout was on bird study.

Members who had arrived on Friday evening, 20th October, met at the H. R. McKenzie's, where all meetings were held in their "big room." Mr. McKenzie gave an outline of what it was proposed to do, and the programme was discussed. Miss A. J. Goodwin projected slides of wading birds photographed by D. A. Urquhart, and some by W. T. Parham taken at the Labour Day Week-end at Whakatane, principally of excursions to Ohiwa Harbour. Finally she showed an interesting selection of scenes from her voyage by yawl-rigged yacht from England to N.Z.

On Saturday morning, seven carloads travelled to the Moumoukai bush for study of the Kokako. The party was met and guided by Mr. J. St. Paul, who has a long experience of this rare bird. Imagine a party of 36, young and old, seated in the bush on the crown of a hill overlooking a deep valley, for an hour of silent waiting, with attention concentrated on a miro tree known to be a favoured haunt of the Kokako. Meanwhile, the calls of Warblers, Shining Cuckoo, Fantail, Tui, and Kingfisher were heard. At last, a large dark bird was seen in the lower branches of the miro, then ascending by long hops in a zig-zag to the top, and disappearing behind a clump of kie-kie. Two short notes of song were heard, and after a time, movement away from the far side of the tree was noted. Later the Kokako returned and, as quietly, went away.

At the evening meeting, Mr. R. B. Sibson gave a talk on bird life of the eastern offshore islands of the Auckland Province, showing many of his own slides and a selection sent by Mr. R. H. Blanshard, of Little Barrier Island. Much was learnt of this island, the Poor Knights, Hen and Chickens, Mercury Group, the Aldermen and Mayor Island.

Through the good offices of a local member, Mr. G. McKenzie, Commodore of the Clevedon Cruising Club, the party was next day taken out on four large private launches and a smaller boat. Mr. McKenzie's own launch was "up," but he came on the trip. He and the other boat-owners did everything for the comfort and pleasure of all.

In the Wairoa (Clevedon) River, Pied and Black Shags were closely seen, Gannets patrolled both river and sea. About the river mouth where the falling tide was exposing the flats, were South Island Pied Oystercatchers, Blue and White-faced Herons, Godwits, Pied Stilts, Little Shags, Gulls, Caspian Terns, and a N.Z. Dotterel. The weather being perfect, it was decided to lunch on Tarakihi Island (Shag Rock).

The passengers were put ashore by dinghy, and most of the party scrambled up a track to find occupied burrows of Grey-faced Petrel and Blue Penguin. The corpse of a White-faced Storm Petrel was found, and a young Grey-faced Petrel seen. Land-birds noted on this isolated stack were Riro, Silvereye, Dunnock, Chaffinch, Starling and Blue Heron. A few of the party went to examine a Spotted Shag colony on the east side, where nesting was at various stages.

After a conference with boat-owners, it was decided to go on to Horu Horu (Gannet Rock), north-east of Waiheke Island. On the way there and back, Blue Penguins were observed, and on the wing were many Fluttering Shearwater and a few each of Buller's Shearwater and Flesh-footed Shearwater and one Arctic Skua, as well as some Spotted Shags and White-fronted Terns. The sea was so calm that all who wished landed on Horu Horu and spent some time photographing and studying the Gannets. There were sitting birds, eggs, small black leathery-looking chicks, up to half-grown ones in fluffy white down, and adults "necking," landing or leaving.

That night, a party of enthusiasts camped in the Moumoukai bush with the object of hearing the dawn song of the Kokako. Two came to the miro tree and much of their repertoire was heard, including a descending semitone with repeated coos, and an ascending fourth, whistled; then soft tapping notes. One watcher in another part of the bush heard the pipe-organ notes.

On Monday a profitable few hours were spent observing waders at their high-tide roost at the Karaka shell-bank. The number of birds seen was estimated at about 10,000, the bulk of which were Godwits; but especially appreciated were a noisy gathering of about 230 Turnstones; six Red-necked Stints and summering flocks of Wrybills (48) and S.I. Pied Oystercatchers (c. 600). Two pairs of Red-breasted Dotterels had nests, each with two eggs; and two pairs of Banded Dotterels were agitated over full clutches of three.

In the saltmarsh scrub several Fernbirds were seen and heard. Even for those less energetic members who were content to sit still on the bank, the long skeins of Godwits and the dense clouds of mixed shore-birds were an exciting sight. Don Urquhart's "hide," from which several photographers have taken many fine photographs, was examined with interest.

That evening, Miss M. C. McIntyre kindly came back from Howick and entertained those remaining with slides of the Whakatane Field-study Week-end, Monarch Butterflies, beautiful flowers and South Island scenery. Mr. McMillan (Rawene), on behalf of all the party, thanked the hosts and especially Mrs. McKenzie for making the stay at Clevedon so enjoyable. Those of the members without cars are much indebted to car owners for transport on this and other occasions.

— R. V. McL.

NOTICES

NEW MEMBERS up to 8/11/61

Bartlett, John, Mangahoe, R.D. 1, Hunterville
Brook, C. S., Dental Surgeon, Rora Street, Te Kuiti
Bullivant, L. G., Pukemiro, via Huntly
Davidson, G. M., 237 High Street, Dunedin
Davis, V. T., 29 West End, Ohope
Duncan, E., 159 Selwyn Street, Invercargill
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Papakura Volunteer Fire Brigade, c/o Mr. Merv. Kemp, Marne Road,
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Reed, Mrs. Sylvia M., 4 Mamaku St., Meadowbank, Auckland S.E. 2
Simpson, Roger, Te Iringa Maori School, R.D. 3, Kaikohe
Swift, Reg., 41 Robertson Road, Rotorua
Theed, Timothy, Mangahoe R.D., Huntreville
Trower, Miss C. M., Great South Road, Papakura South
Tucker, Barry J., 17 Kawakawa Street, Wanganui

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BEACH PATROL SCHEME

It is hoped to publish the report for 1961 early in 1962, but this will be possible only if all members send their cards to the Organiser (P. C. Bull, 131 Waterloo Road, Lower Hutt), before the end of January.

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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:— Mrs. Hetty McKenzie, Box 45, Clevedon, Auckland.

Other publications available are: *The Takahē* (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.

As there is a steady demand for back numbers of *Notornis* and especially for the earlier *N.Z. Bird Notes* (1943-1950), members are asked to offer to the Society, for gift or sale, past numbers which they no longer need.

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BANDING REPORTS FOR SALE

The full and detailed Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Annual Reports of the Banding Committee for the years ending 31/3/59 (38 pages), 31/3/60 (42 pages) and 31/3/61 (37 pages) are available at 5/6d. each and may be obtained from Mrs Hetty McKenzie, Box 45, Clevedon, Auckland.