

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

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1944-45.

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SOUTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx australis*). Male struck by car near Okarito township, June, 1945. (R.A.F.)

NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*). One run over and one seen, both within five miles of Wanganui P.O. during summer, 1945. (C.A.F.) Ohakune Mountain Hut, 30/8/44, one calling; near top of bush line in Mangaturuturu Valley, Mt. Ruapehu, 31/8/44, tracks seen. (W.P.M.)

- LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI (*Apteryx oweni*). Okarito, 1 killed by car, spring, 1944. (R.A.F.)
- PENGUIN SP. Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 1/1/44, 12 seen at 30 yards or so. Larger than Little Blue, very dark on back, front white. Thought to be Crested. Off Hook's Bay, Waiheke Is., 29/1/44, 3. Ponui O Waiheke Passage, 8/3/44, 1. Off Ponui Island, 4/6/44, 3; 15/10/44, 12; 22/4/44, 2. (T.M.R.)
- LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*). Off Ponui Island, up to 20 + seen. Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 1/1/45, 2. Thumb Point, Waiheke Island, 28/1/45, one moulting in shallow hole at top of steep face of about 250 feet. The mouth of the hole was almost blocked up by feathers. (T.M.R.) Mokohinau Island, October, 1944, breeding cries heard at night; several occupied burrows (Burgess Island). Unnamed island to S.W., further occupied burrow. (C.A.F.)
- DABCHICK (*Polyocephalus rufopectus*). "Flotilla" of c.40 off Sulphur Point, Lake Rotorua, mid-May, 1945; 3 at Hamurana, 21/5/45, one much paler than others, possibly 2 adults and 1 juvenile. Similar trio seen on Lake Rotoiti, where most birds were in pairs, 22/5/45. c.12, Lake Rotomahana, where Waimanga Stream enters, 17/5/45. (R.B.S.)
- GREBE (*Colymbus cristatus*). Present at Wairau, 8/7/45. (J.R.E.)
- DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*). Mokohinau Island, October, 1944, abundant off shore; call heard at night, Burgess Island; adult alone in burrow, Lizard Island, 17/10/44; old eggshell in scree slope, Fanal Island. (C.A.F.) Fresh corpse, Ohau River Estuary, 18/9/44. (C.A.F. and K.A.W.)
- WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL (*Pelagodroma marina*). Of about a dozen burrows investigated on Lizard Island, Mohohinau, five had birds within and three of these had eggs, 5/10/44. This seems earliest date for eggs so far reported for this species. Cry heard on Burgess Island at night, where numbers of burrows on cliff ledges were being cleaned out; several corpses found, cats present. (C.A.F.) Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 1/1/45, 19. (T.M.R.)
- CAPE PIGEON (*Daption capensis*). Near entrance Tory Channel, Cook Strait, 30/10/44, one; near Wellington Harbour entrance, 14/11/44, one (R.H.D.S.). Wellington Harbour, 7/12/44, flock reported. (A.A.B.) Purakanui, Dunedin, 22/1/45, two seen. (I.T.)
- GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*). Usually present off Auckland wharves in winter, 11/9/44, four. (H.R. McK.) 23/6/45, two. (R.B.S.)
- DOVE PRION (*Pachyptila desolata*). One dead, Muriwai, 22/7/45. (R.B.S.)
- SALVIN'S PRION (*Pachyptila salvini*). Fresh corpse, Waikanae Estuary Beach, 3/7/44. (K.A.W.)

- FAIRY PRION (*Pachyptila turtur*). 11/10/44, small numbers between Little Barrier and Mokohinau. (C.A.F.)
- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*). Ponui Island-Hauraki Gulf area, 19/11/44 to 29/4/45, sometimes few. Often many hundreds. 1/1/45, c. 3,000. (T.M.R.) Not seen in trip from Auckland to Mokohinau 11/10/44. Absence anomalous. (C.A.F.) Muriwai, three dead, mid-February, 1945. (H.R.McK.)
- BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*Puffinus bulleri*). Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 1/1/45, eight; 15/4/45, three. Off Ponui Island, 29/4/45, one. (T.M.R.) Several between Tiritiri and Mokohinau Islands, 11/10/44. (C.A.F.)
- MUTTON BIRD (*Puffinus griseus*). One, recently dead, at Muriwai, 22/7/45—an interesting date for one still to be in New Zealand waters. (R.B.S.) One corpse, Waikanae Estuary, 9/7/44. (K.A.W.) Immature bird struck wires at Waitaki Power Station, 7/5/45. (R.A.F.)
- TASMANIAN MUTTON BIRD (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). Odd remains, Muriwai, February-June, 1945. (H.R.McK.; R.B.S.)
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*Puffinus gavia*). Ponui Island-Hauraki Gulf area, 19/11/44 to 13/5/45, from none at all and small parties to several thousands. (T.M.R.) Large congregations feeding off Flat Rock, 11/10/44; fewer in outer Hauraki Gulf, Mokohinau Islands—moderately plentiful most days offshore, and at times several close workings of some hundreds of birds in shelter of Burgess Island, where they fed within a few feet of the cliffs. Heard fighting ashore several nights, and seen in torch beam coming ashore to small islets to S.W. of Burgess. Lizard Island—one in burrow with egg with well-developed embryo and another slightly incubated egg in empty burrow, 15/10/44. Queen Charlotte Sound, November, 1944, many seen right up to Anakiwa at head of Sound on some days. (C.A.F.)
- ALLIED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus assimilis*). One dead, Muriwai, February, 1945. (R.B.S.) Identified in seas round Mokohinau, but not found in some 20 burrows investigated on Lizard Island, where it is known to breed, 15/10/44. (C.A.F.)
- WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*). Muriwai, 14/2/45, one dead. (H.R.McK.)
- MOTTLED PETREL (*Pterodroma inexpectata*). Muriwai, February, 1945, two dead. (H.R.McK.) Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 15/2/45, three. (T.M.R.)
- COOK'S PETREL (*P. cookii*). Small numbers between Little Barrier Island and Mokohinau, 11/10/44. (C.A.F.)

- PYCROFT'S PETREL (*Pt. pycrofti*). One bird with shorter and broader wings than Cook's Petrels seen same day, believed to be this species, seen within an hour's steam north of Little Barrier, 11/10/44. (C.A.F.)
- WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*). Immature bird, South-bridge, Canterbury, January, 1945. (R.A.F.)
- BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche melanophrys*). One dead, Muriwai, February, 1945. (H.R.McK.)
- WHITE-CAPPED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche cauta*). Cook Strait, 30/10/44, one. (R.H.D.S.)
- GREY-HEADED MOLLYMAWK (*Thalassarche chrysostoma*). One dead, Muriwai, July, 1945. (R.B.S.)
- LIGHT-MANTLED SOOTY ALBATROSS (*Phoebastria palpebrata*). One dead, Muriwai, July, 1945. (R.B.S.)
- BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945. Up to 17 consistently recorded, Wanstead, 14/1/45, three. (K.A.W. and J.M.C.)
- PIED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax varius*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 22/6/45, three on a tree by Maungatawhiri Creek at the head of Moumoukai Valley, eight miles over ranges from coast. Stayed some days. Not seen here before, though Little Pied, White-throated and Large Black occur occasionally. (J.W.St.P.) Visitors to Burgess Island, Mokohinau, from picturesque breeding colony of less than 20 nests (estimated) on rocky promontory in bay on south shore of Fanal Island; unusual colony on rock, 17/10/44. (C.A.F.) Point Howard, Port Nicholson, August, 1945, one on rocks. (A.A.B.)
- WHITE-THROATED SHAG (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*). Pakihi Island, off Clevedon, 100 in party. More than 100% increase over last year in this area. (H.R.McK.) Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945, up to 11 recorded; Wanstead, 14/1/45, 36 plus 4 white-bellied (J.M.C. and K.A.W.). At nesting colony associated with White Heron sanctuary, South Westland, many young were flying by December. (R.A.F.)
- SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocorbo punctatus punctatus*). Ponui Island, 3/12/44, c.500. 17/12/44, 400-500 feeding between Tarakihi Island and Ponui Island. April, none at all in this area on several visits (T.M.R. and H.R.McK.). Orere coast, Clevedon, 3/3/45, three on rocks (C.M.R.). One adult in full mating plumage at Sumner. July, 1945 (E.F.S.). Large flocks, fully formed crests, at Port Underwood and Wairau Bar, July, 1945 (J.R.E.). Ototoke Beach. N.W. of Wanganui, 20/2/45, one corpse of non-breeding bird (C.A.F.). Rona Bay wharf, Port Nicholson, 21/1/45, one seen (A.A.B.). Westport, 5/11/44, two, one adult breeding plumes, one immature (R.H.D.S.).

GANNET (*Morus serrator*). Seen breeding at Cape Kidnappers, White Island, numerous islands in Hauraki Gulf, Great Barrier, Poor Knights and S.W. island of Three Kings. (M.E.J.) Gannet Rock, north of Waiheke Island, one juvenile still at the nesting colony, 31/3/45. (T.M.R.)

WHITE HERON (*Casmerodius albus*). Broods were reared in 10 nests in the Waitangi-rotu sanctuary, South Westland, 1944-45. Seventeen birds reported by ranger to have reached flying stage. (R.A.F.) Report that for the last two or three years one has been seen periodically at Albertown in the Molyneux. Was there November, 1944. Reported at Waikouaiti, 1/5/45. (A.A.S.) Coast south of Dunedin to Taieri Mouth in August and September, 1944. Reported at Outram in winter, 1943. (I.T.) Merton Swamps, two seen 27/12/44 and again 3/2/45. (D.N.F.C.) One present Wairau Bar, June-July, 1945. (J.R.E.)

WHITE-FACED HERON (*Notophoxyx novaehollandiae*). One recorded Wanganui, autumn, 1945 (C.A.F.). Adult from Temuka, 1/8/45, immature bird found Waimate 11/2/45 (R.A.F.). One seen at Lake Ellesmere late August, where it had been for some months. This is the first record of this heron from Lake Ellesmere for over 40 years (E.F.S.).

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*). Clevedon, still plentiful. One seen two miles up river. Very unusual (T.M.R.). One pair near Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound, November, 1944 (C.A.F.). One pair Motonau Beach, North Canterbury, 13/4/45. White phase still resident at Wairau, 8/7/45 (J.R.E.).

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Clevedon River, seen consistently. Certainly resident all year (T.M.R.). Eight birds on northern pond, Waikanae River Estuary, 3/7/45 (K.A.W.).

PARADISE DUCK (*Tadorna variegata*). Three on Waimangu Stream, Rotomahana, 17/5/45. Whangamoana, 24/12/44. Non-tidal lagoon, seven young with parents (J.M.C.). Very plentiful, Lewis Pass region, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.). Kowai Bush, often attacked by magpies, which swoop at them (K.B.S.G.). Sutton, 23/10/44, about a dozen in pairs (I.T.).

GREY DUCK (*Anas poicilorhyncha*). Clevedon, 4/10/44, nest found in astelia clump in rewarewa tree, 20 feet above edge of river, seven eggs (T.M.R.). Virginia Lake sanctuary, Wanganui, 22/8/45, brood of 11, about week old (W.P.M.).

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Mt. Bruce, Masterton, 11/8/45, three nests each containing eggs. Last season a nest under observation contained 18. During laying operations the duck was escorted to the nest each day by the male, who left her and returned to the creek as soon as she was on the nest. Through the incubation period the male appeared to take no interest in the nest what-

soever. On the last day, as the young were hatching, the male was seen sitting on the nest alongside the female. Seventeen ducklings were hatched (E.O.W.). Hybrid grey-mallard stock, common in Christchurch, had many January nests and ducklings hatching in February, 1945 (R.A.F.).

GREY TEAL (*A. gibberifrons*). One shot, Southland, May, 1945. (R.A.F.).

SHOVELLER (*A. rhynchos*). Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945, two seen (K.A.W. and J.M.C.). Waimangu Stream, Lake Rotomahana, c. 50, 17/5/45. Hamurana, Lake Rotorua, 200+, 21/5/45 (R.B.S.). One found dead, South Westland, May, 1945 (R.A.F.).

BLACK TEAL (*Aythya novaeseelandiae*). Counts were made around Rotorua during shooting season: Lake Rotorua (a) behind Ward Baths, 450+; (b) Hamurana Stream, 120+; (c) Lake Rototoi, c.90 in one bay; (d) 4 pairs noted elsewhere; (e) Lake Okataina, c.20. Lake Rotomahana, where Waimangu Stream enters, c.80. None noted on Blue and Green Lakes (R.B.S.). Clevedon, report from Mr. J. Luke of odd pairs at odd times over 40 years ago in Rotopiro Creek. Rotorua, 20/11/44, 11 in lake behind Ward Baths (H.R.McK.). Lake Rotorua, Nelson, 2/11/44, 16 (R.H.D.S.).

BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*). Rangitaiki River, Mr. J. O'Dey reported one seen in upper reaches a few years ago. Te Whaiti, Rotorua, some reported at headwaters of Whirinaki River (H.R.McK.). Two adults and five ducklings seen, late in nesting season, R. Mangakino, Arataki; and four seen c. July 15, by surveyors, per R.St.P. (R.B.S.). Young picked up Waitaha River, September, 1944; two adults seen swimming, 29/10/44, near where young was found (A.S.G.).

CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*). Reported common round Lake Wanaka (I.T.).

BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*). Sutton, 24/10/44, two with young on the salt lake, though there are several fresh lakes nearby (I.T.). Eggs and young Lake Ellesmere in April, which is usual in this area (R.A.F.).

BUSH HAWK (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). Clevedon, odd ones many years ago; one seen on rata log playing with live sparrow, letting it go and catching it again (H.S.M.). Rangitatau Waterworks, May, 1944, one seen. Pipiriki, April, one seen (C.A.F.). Herbert, 22/7/42, one seen (S.I.A.).

HARRIER (*Circus approximans*). Odd birds visited Burgess Island, Mokohinau, apparently from Fanal Island, where, 17/10/44, pair indulged in mating flights. Wanganui district, fairly plentiful (C.A.F.). Three Kings, 1/1/45 (M.E.J.). 29/11/44, 22 seen from car between Miller's Flat and Glenore (I.T.).

- PHEASANT (*Phasianus colchicus*). Hills behind Clevedon. Pure white cock bird resident on farm for three years. Still there (H.R.McK.).
- BROWN QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*). Lake Onoke, 30/12/44, calling all night; 4/12/43, calls ceased at dusk (J.M.C.). Seen Kohua Road and Mokauiti Valley, near Aria, King Country, January, 1945 (C.A.F.).
- SWAMP QUAIL (*Synoicus ypsilophorus*). Awatuna, 27/9/44 (A.S.G.).
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL (*Lophortyx californicus*). Alexandra, 22/11/44, with young. Small young seen to swim readily. Nest reported at Palmerston with 20 eggs (I.T.).
- CHUKOR (*Alectoris chukor*). Seen near Alexandra, 22nd and 24/11/44 (I.T.).
- WEKA (*Gallirallus sp.*). Wekas reported to be reappearing at Maruia and also reported Okuku Gorge, North Canterbury, autumn, 1945 (R.A.F.).
- SPOTLESS CRAKE (*Porzana tabuensis*). Te Whaiti, Rotorua, 14-16/11/44, two birds heard in swamp at dusk. Three kinds of call used. One new and one old nest found. No eggs. Identity practically certain (M.F. and H.R.McK.).
- MARSH CRAKE (*Porzana pusilla*). One seen Lake Rotomahana, where Waimangu Stream enters, 12/6/45 (P.C.B.). One struck power wires, Lake Coleridge, 16/2/45 (R.A.F.).
- PUKEKO (*Porphyrio poriocephalus*). Chicks seen near Stafford, West Coast, 27/9/45. Adult flying with nesting material 26/10/44; three chicks seen in swamp, Awatuna, 26/10/44; adult seen catching frogs, Awatuna, 2/11/44; adult with chicks seen Awatuna, 5/12/44 (A.S.G.).
- COOT (*Fulica atra*). One shot, South Westland, 16/5/45 (R.A.F.).
- SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus finschi*). Puhinui, Manukau, 450+, 2/4/45, 180+, 23/8/45; Puketutu, Manukau, 40+, 30/3/45, c.50, 28/7/45; Miranda, Firth of Thames, c.40, 4/3/45; 44, 26/8/45. Seven summered, 1944-45. One, presumably this species, heard calling at dusk over Mangere, as it flew in a southerly direction, 17/8/45 (R.B.S.). Clevedon Estuary, one present since 29/10/44; the first one noted there (H.R.McK.). Porangahau Estuary, 31/3/45, 64 in a group, all *finschi* (J.M.C.). Ettrick, Otago, November, 1944, albino seen several times. Did not mix with the three normal birds about. 15/10/44, nest with two eggs, only one hatched (F.S.G.). 27/11/44, two seen near the top of the Old Man Range. They kept up a constant calling (I.T.).
- NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*H. reischekji*). Opito Bay, Coromandel, four black and two pied, 22/1/45. Cook's Beach, Coromandel, four, 24/1/45, per V. J. Mackereth. Two among *H. finschi* in

Manukau, winter, 1945 (R.B.S.). One pair, one bird black and second a little mottled, Waikanae River Estuary, 1/10/44; one pair and single bird, all black, Waikanae River Estuary, 3/7/45. Three birds, two black without gloss and one very pied but of the *reischeki* type, Waikanae River Estuary, 9/7/44 (K.A.W.).

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*). One summered with small flock of *finschi*, Miranda. Up to eight seen near Puketutu, Manukau, where they appeared in the autumn with *finschi*. Six still present, 28/7/45. Usually odd ones with big flock of *finschi*, Puhinui, Manukau (R.B.S.). 2/1/45, near Big Bay, West Coast, about a dozen in twos and threes (D.N.F.C.).

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). Very rare west side of Firth of Thames, three being the most seen together. Regular in some numbers. Puketutu flats, Manukau, in autumn. Maxima: 17-28/3/40, c.60; 9/3/41, c.65; 12/3/42, c.84; 1/3/43, c.75; 18/3/44, c.70; 3/4/45, c.85 (R.B.S.).

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominica*). Very scarce west side of Firth of Thames, usually pairs or odd birds seen. Scarce and irregular in spring in Manukau. More common and regular in autumn, when usually c.20 are present for some weeks on Puketutu flats (R.B.S.).

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*). Buffalo Beach, Mercury Bay, flock of 25, 23/1/45, per V. J. Mackereth. Whakatiri, Clevedon, dropped from c.200 last winter to c.30 in 1945 winter; but later c.150 were located in a field on north side of Clevedon River mouth. Muriwai, 23/4/45, nine at creek and 14 scattered along 15 miles of beach (H.R.McK.). 10/6/45, six near creek. 22/7/45, three pairs. Lake Rotorua, always some, maximum 14, on silica flats, 10-22/5/45. Firth of Thames, three nests each with three eggs, 26/8/45, though some birds were not yet demonstratively interested in territory, but were still in small parties (R.B.S.). More than 40 birds, mostly in pairs, with well marked bands. Though the mating call was often heard and a nest with a clutch of three eggs was found, it seems that most of the birds were still migrating as the estuary seems too small to accommodate such a number in nesting sites, 18/9/44, Ohau River Estuary (C.A.F. and K.A.W.). Waikanae River Estuary, 1/10/44, six pairs, some defending territories, mating call heard, all in breeding plumage (K.A.W.). Lake Wairarapa, 4/2/45, one in every five still had complete breast bands (J.M.C.). Tongariro, west side, 4,500 feet, 9/1/45, one, breeding plumage, in sandy basin (W.P.M.). Waimakariri River bed, opposite Woodstock, many nests are annually washed out by flood, then most move away (K.B.S.G.).

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*). Manukau, Puketutu flats, one, 18/4/45-28/7/45, when it still showed no colour on breast and was, therefore, presumably juv. The first seen in

Manukau during six years' watching (R.B.S.). The last Manukau record was of a single juv. bird with Wrybills in March, 1937 (C.A.F.). Firth of Thames, Miranda, one juv., 26/8/45 (R.B.S.).

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*). Present in its usual winter haunts in Auckland. Muriwai, 23/4/45, three in 15 miles (H.R.McK.). Manukau, four had arrived 15/1/45, 94 counted 3/4/45, and 90+ were present May, June and July; c.72 on 14/8/45, c.35 on 8/9/45. Firth of Thames, Miranda, 54+ on 2/1/45; this was an unusually big flock for the time of year. A very big flock was seen 1/7/45 (R.B.S.; H.R.McK.). Seven adult birds coming into breeding plumage, associated with banded dotterels observed, Ohau River Estuary, 18/9/44 (C.A.F. and K.A.W.). Lake Wairarapa, 4/2/45, one seen, eclipse (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.); Porangahau Estuary, 21/1/45, one, winter plumage (J.M.C.).

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). Very few wintered in Manukau. C.150, Miranda, Firth of Thames, 1/7/45 (R.B.S.). Lake Wairarapa, 4/2/45, one seen (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 8/10/44; one American (*pectoralis*) (H.R.McK. and R.B.S.). 4/3/45, 13, mostly too heavily banded and scarcely buff enough to be acuminata; but it may have been a mixed flock. Some variation in size was noted (R.B.S.).

RED-NECKED STINT (*Pisobia ruficollis*). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 22/10/44, 2+ with Godwits and Knots. 5/11/44, one with Wrybills (R.B.S. and H.R.McK.).

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). Large numbers, as usual, wintered in Manukau and Firth of Thames (R.B.S.). Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945, up to 150 (K.A.W. and J.M.C.). Single bird, Waikanae River Estuary, 1/10/44 (K.A.W.). 31/3/44, 124, including one in full and one in part summer plumage. Of 124, nearly all were examined closely and identified as Bar-tailed (J.M.C.).

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). Clevedon, c.30 stayed for breeding season. 14/9/44, six nests, 4, 4, 4, 4, 3, in wet field one mile and a-half south of Clevedon. All hatched, but all chicks lost, apparently through bad weather. Ardmore, one nest, four eggs, three chicks hatched. All killed by vermin. Clevedon River, one nest, one chick raised. Migration early 1945 very small, about 60% drop from last year (H.R.McK.). Numbers wintering west side Firth of Thames were over 50% down on the average of the last three years. For the fourth year in succession almost black stilts (2) wintered at Miranda Creek. An early nest with one egg, 26/8/45 (R.B.S. and H.R.McK.). Lake Rotorua, c.200 in the Sulphur Point-Silica Flats area in mid-May. Lake Rotomahana, c.30 where Waimangu Stream enters, 17/5/45 (R.B.S.).

Reporoa, near Rotorua; up to 30 would appear in flooded paddocks after heavy rain during winter (N.H.C.). Heard migrating at night over Tihoi, 29/1/45 (R.St.P.). About 28 birds, some in pairs; no juvenile birds observed, Ohau River Estuary, 18/9/44 (C.A.F. and K.A.W.). Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945, up to 39, none in juvenile plumage. No breeding colony found, Wanstead, 14/1/45, six adults and two juvenile (K.A.W. and J.M.C.). Putaruru, August, 1945, between 15 and 25 birds seen feeding in small swamp between Putaruru and Arapuni (H.T.W.). Fledgling seen Rangiora, 24/2/45 (R.A.F.). Outram, 16/9/44, returned to lagoons, where they nest (D.N.F.C.).

BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albibriata*). Upper Wairau Valley, Marlborough, 31/10/44, six single birds and flock of 13, latter feeding over tussocks; Havelock, Pelorus Sound, 11/11/44, one (R.H.D.S.). Single bird still in winter plumage, Ohau River Estuary, 18/9/44 (C.A.F. and K.A.W.). Porangahau, 31/3/45, three seen (J.M.C.). Still on Waipara River bed, 13/4/45 (R.A.F.).

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Biggest count for Lake Rotorua in mid-May was 35. They roost on silica flats near Whaka Stream (R.B.S.). Porangahau Estuary, January, 1945, up to 14 birds, including two and possibly four nesting pairs (K.A.W. and J.M.C.). One visited Victoria Lake daily, July-August, 1945 (R.A.F.).

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*). Muriwai Beach, 20/2/45, sudden increase from nine adults to c.100 adults, with about 50 young, apparently just left nesting place. Clevedon coast, numerous this year, many young (H.R.McK.). Waiheke Island-Ponui Island, 1944-45, thousands all this season. Breeding very successful (T.M.R. and C.M.R.). Miranda, 60-70 pairs breeding. On 2/1/45 the colony contained eggs, young in down, and young just feathering (R.B.S.). Burgess Island, Mokohinau, colony of 24 nests on ledges on vertical face below lighthouse and three pairs in one colony of Red-billed Gull. Birds sitting (Oct. 11-18), but no egg actually seen owing to inaccessibility (C.A.F.). Wanganui coast, not abundant, January-May, 1944, but seemed to accompany Red-billed Gulls which appeared February 20 and were seen in small numbers thereafter. Porangahau, North Spit, January, 1945, c.700 nests (K.A.W. and C.A.F.). Flock Motunau Beach, 13/4/45 (R.A.F.).

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*). Rare visitor to Burgess Island, Mokohinau, in October, 1944. Attended fishing boat in pairs, suggesting laying not begun, 17/10/44 (C.A.F.). Coast, Wanganui to Waitotara, January-May, 1944. The dominant seabird, breeding in fairly large (50-100 pairs) colonies between Nukumarū and Ototoka beaches (C.A.F.). Blue Lake, Tongariro, 8/1/1945,

two, probably nesting (W.P.M.). Winter, 1945, when flooding took place in Hagley Park, there were a total of about 700 of all ages on two ponds in the park (E.F.S.).

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*). Clevedon area, all left for breeding season as usual. Miranda, c.100 did not go. Westfield, 1000+ did not go. Rotorua, 20/11/44, c.20 (H.R.McK.). 1000+ Lake Rotorua, May, 1945. They roost on silica flats near Whaka Stream (R.B.S.). Coast between Wanganui and Waitotara, none seen till February 20, when parties of few to 50, totalling some hundreds, appeared and made consistently southward for some days, leaving permanent residents at places. They included immature birds and suggest movement away from a colony either in Taranaki or, perhaps, Nelson (C.A.F.). Large colony reported, 1945, on cliffs, Cape Terewhiti (J.M.C.). Porangahau, North Spit, January, 1945, single colony, c.50 eggs and young, mostly hatched beginning of month. Adults commenced moult of primaries, 13/1/45 (J.M.C. and K.A.W.). None seen Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound, 10-23/1/44 (C.A.F.).

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*). Rotorua, 20/11/44, c.400 on rocks behind Ward Baths. Some were busily catching green beetles on the wing over the manuka (H.R.McK.). Lake Rotorua, 10-22/5/45, usually 30-40 behind Ward Baths and odd ones on jetty. Lake Rotomahana, 17/5/45, c.20. Miranda, Firth of Thames, usual winter population of c.300 (R.B.S.). At least 23 birds, many of them heading south; one was with distinct immature plumage; only one red-billed seen, Ohau River Estuary, 18/9/44 (C.A.F. and K.A.W.). Porangahau Estuary, 11/1/45, 22 nests and several young amongst White-fronted Tern, nests on sand mounds on spit between estuary and sea. All but five eggs hatched on 12th (J.M.C. and K.A.W.). A number of colonies on the Ahuriri River, two at least of which were replacement colonies of those that had been washed away during the previous week. During a period when the hockey ground in Hagley Park was flooded, winter, 1945, I saw a flock of over 1000 of these gulls (E.F.S.).

SKUA SP. (*Stercorarius sp.*). Clevedon coast, 8/4/45, almost certainly a pomarine, but tail not seen perfectly.

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Clevedon Estuary to Hauraki Gulf, 4/12/44 to 13/5/45. Seen consistently in considerable numbers. All grades of colouring, dark predominating (T.M.R. and C.M.R.).

PIGEON (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1944-45. Up to 50 seen in one day, but usually 8 to 12. 4/7/44, seen feeding on fruit of lancewood, whauwhaupaku and nikau (J.W.St.P.). Aratiki, 19 feeding on one miro tree, 18/5/45. Seen

feeding on maire and fuschia in January, on supplejack in June and putaputaweta in August (R.St.P.). Mt. Holdsworth (Tararua), 3/6/45, three-four mile walk in bush, 11 counted (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.). Wangamoa Hill, Nelson, 10/11/44, flock of about 30 (R.H.D.S.). Several on trees, Awatuna, September, 1944 (A.S.G.). Dunedin, 9/8/44, many young unable to fly (D.N.F.C.).

KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*). Usually to be seen Mt. London (J.St.P.). Tihoi and Arataki; Tihoi, 14 live up here and "on cold, wet days one would think they had rheumatics by the painful noises they make" (R.St.P.). Hope Saddle, 8/11/44, four flew over road (R.H.D.S.). Appears to be increasing slightly in a number of districts on the West Coast (E.F.S.). Stray bird, female, seen Waiiau, North Canterbury, 27/7/45 (R.A.F.). Kowai Bush, five in black beech trees. June to November, 1943, and same period, 1944 (K.B.S.G.). Report from Mt. Aspiring Station, not seen recently, but has been heard (I.T.). 2/1/45, several between Routeburn and Big Bay (D.N.F.C.).

RED-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus novaeseelandiae*). Less than six pairs on Burgess Island. Mokohinau; some regularly entering nesting crevices in cliffs. Others noted on outlying islands and Fanal Island, 11-18/10/44 (C.A.F.). Three Kings Islands, 1/1/45, several (M.E.J.).

YELLOW-FRONTED PARRAKEET (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*). The dominant Parrakeet at Tihoi and Arataki (R.St.P.). - Small numbers, Lewis Pass, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.).

PARRAKEET SP. (*Cyanoramphus sp.*). Buller Valley, 6-7/11/44, several seen or heard, both red-fronted and yellow-fronted reported present (R.H.D.S.).

ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*). Moumoukai Valley, Clevedon, one about in 1943. 28/4/44, one in high tea-tree near house. 5/11/44, one seen again. Very wild and shy, but clearly seen with glasses. Identity certain (E.St.P.). Appears to be spreading in suburbs of Dunedin (I.T.).

SHINING CUCKOO (*Chalcites lucidus*). Moumoukai Valley, Clevedon, 4/9/44, heard two full calls two miles apart, certainly two birds. About three weeks earlier than usual (E.St.P.). Tihoi, first notes 6/10/44 (R.St.P.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 21/9/44, first call heard. 21/11/44, young Cuckoo being fed by a Grey Warbler. Plainly seen and heard (J.W.St.P.). Muriwai Beach, 12-25/2/45, great numbers feeding on caterpillars on lupin. Late songs heard on 12th and 13th (H.R.McK.). Heard Awatuna, 18-27/10/44; seen Awatuna, 19/10/44; heard November, 1944; one seen 8/11/44 (A.S.G.). Press reports first heard at Farewell Spit, 30/9/44, and large numbers in the next week. Fox Glaciers, 3/10/44. Dunedin, 6/10/44, last heard 12/1/45 (I.T.). Herbert, 17/1/40, Grey Warbler feeding young Cuckoo (S.I.A.).

- LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Eudynamis taitensis*). Titikaveka, Rarotonga, Cook Islands. The first arrival this year was flying straight in from the sea on to the south side of the Island. Flying low, headed into the bush in centre of island. Not since sighted or heard, 31/8/45 (J.D.C.). Tihoi, first noted 12/10/44, chased on sight by tuis and bellbirds. Last heard 27/2/45 (R.St.P.). Paekakariki, 22/1/45, one seen (A.A.S.). Heard end of October, 1944, also November, 1944, Awatuna, West Coast (A.S.G.). Moa Flat, Heriot, Otago, one immature bird once present for several days (A.J.H.). Dunedin, 26/7/44, reported heard at Waimana, end of February, 1945 (I.T.). Dunedin, 11/2/45, one seen (D.N.F.C.).
- MOREPORK (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*). York Bay, Wellington, 17/4/45, one flew in bedroom window at 6.25 p.m. and landed on bed. 5/5/45, one sat for about a quarter of an hour outside little sparrow-house on verandah, peering in door of it or gazing around. 6/5/45, 7.30 a.m., one caught and carried off sparrow from bamboo clump near house (M.M.A.).
- KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*). Kawa Kawa Bay, Clevedon, 13/8/44, 63 counted on telephone wires over mudflat in one mile. Usual population about 12. Local migration to coast indicated (H.R.McK.). Mokohinau, one bird seen Burgess Island, not regularly. October, 1944, Wanganui district, not abundant, but fairly well distributed (C.A.F.). York Bay, Wellington, 28/1/45, three holes in tree where last year Kingfisher had nest. Kingfisher flying about, back and forth, to two of the holes. No sign of the nest (M.M.A.). One seen flying with fish in its mouth. Awatuna, 15/11/44 (A.S.G.).
- RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*). Fair numbers in beech bush behind Anikawa, Queen Charlotte Sound, November, 1944 (C.A.F.). Lake Rotoiti, Nelson, 1/11/44, most numerous native bird (R.H.D.S.). Plentiful Lewis Pass district, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.).
- PIPIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Mokohinau, several pairs Burgess and Fanal Islands (C.A.F.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 21/9/44, nest with three eggs (J.W.St.P.). Tussock country near Taupo, in flocks up to 40 in winter (R.St.P.). Three Kings, 1/1/45, several (M.E.J.).
- FERNBIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*). Te Whaiti, Rotorua, one seen, several heard; reported well distributed over volcanic plateau (H.R.McK.). Small colony found near Miranda, Firth of Thames (R.B.S.). Frequently found in swampy gully-heads near Taupo (R.St.P.). Re-discovered at Waingaro (P.C.B.).
- GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*). Raetihi, November and December, 1944, one in garden, probably breeding town gardens there (W.P.M.). Tihoi, nest-building, 25/9/44. 1/12/44, two young seen.

YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala macrocephala*). Anikiwa, fairly scarce along shores but commoner in bush at higher altitude, November, 1944 (C.A.F.). Still very scarce throughout cultivated portion of North Canterbury, but a few returning to habitats from which they have been absent for the past seven years (E.F.S.). Dunedin, 5/9/44, song, also 16/2/45 and 24/4/45 (I.T.). Plentiful Lewis Pass, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.).

PIED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala toitoi*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1944-45, many seen and heard. The territorial habit is consistent throughout the year. 26/11/44, two adults feeding three young (J.W.St.P.). Tihoi, 23/11/44, one juvenile, capable of short flights being fed by both parents. 1/12/44, two juveniles flying from another nest. 19/12/44, several families about, the male does most of the feeding (R.St.P.). Putaruru, August, 1945, well established in pine plantations in vicinity of Atiamuri (H.T.W.). York Bay, Wellington, 26/8/45, pair in bush, first for many years (M.M.A.). Masterton, 21/5/45, female found dead in garden, first known record for 20 years (R.H.D.S.).

N.Z. ROBIN (*Miro australis*). Tihoi and Arataki, regularly seen. 20/9/44, nest with two young; 31/10/44, another nest with two young ready to leave; 9/2/45, one seen in advanced stage of moult (R.St.P.). Thirteen miles from Rotorua on old Tauranga road, one pair. When fed with bread crumbs one kept other away; much chasing (P.C.B.). Three Kings, 1/1/45, one seen (M.E.J.). Seen or reported at five localities in Buller Valley from Tophouse to near Inangahua, 1/11/44 to 9/11/44; two singing gloriously (R.H.D.S.). One pair, Canterbury side Lewis Pass, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.).

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). Papatoetoe, one black one reported, winter, 1945 (H.R.McK.). Flocks in winter on volcanic plateau, e.g., 20 in pines near Reporoa School (N.H.C.). Rotorua, in great numbers all round the lake edges, June, 1945. Over 20 resident on six acres at Kawaha Point, often collecting together as a flock. Rotoiti, 12 seen together following a horse. By 2/8/45 the 20 at Kawaha Point were reduced to two pairs (P.C.B.). Dozens in trees along Ngongatoha Stream in May (R.B.S.). Report from Kutarere, Bay of Plenty, June, 1945. In a flock of 20-30 in the long grass of an open field. (I.T.). At Anikawa, Queen Charlotte Sound, 10 of 21 birds seen were black phase. Male of one black pair had whitish ear coverts; two mixed pairs with male and female respectively black; one mixed pair, female black, had three flying young of which two were black, 10-23/11/44 (C.A.F.). Raetihi, May, 1945, new visitor to garden (W.P.M.). Day's Bay, 2/1/45, black one seen (A.A.B.). Deserted nest found with shells in it, Awatuna, 15/11/44 (A.S.G.). The white ear spots of the black form vary in size and may be absent. Two seen Purakanui, Dunedin, with a very much larger spot on the left than the right. Counts of the numbers of the pied and black forms were

continued (see previous year's notes) and the numbers recorded in the garden were 187 pied and 32 black (17%), outside the garden, 107 pied and 21 black (19%). Five other observers in April and May only recorded 83 pied and 26 black (31%). Of the above records outside the garden in these two months there were 25% of the black form (I.T.). Pied Fantails wandering afield in mid-April (R.A.F.).

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala ochrocephala*). Buller Valley, above 2,500 feet, seen near Gowan Bridge, 3/11/44, six in 350 acres (R.H.D.S.). Plentiful in Lewis Pass, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.). Routeburn locality, 26/12/44, several seen (D.N.F.C.).

WHITEHEAD (*Mohoua ochrocephala albicilla*). Tihoi, four young birds clumsily flying short distances, 15/12/44. Arataki, abundant. More down to scrub country in winter (R.St.P.). Raetihi town, 13/8/44, flock, about 12, working along row of pine trees, first I have seen in town (W.P.M.). Pataruru, August, 1945, a flock of approximately 20 birds met in pine forest between Putaruru and Atiamuri (H.T.W.). Mt. Bruce, Masterton, 5/6/45, flock of c.23 birds seen in bush feeding with flock of 50 White-eyes' (E.O.W.).

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*). Plentiful Lewis Pass district, May-June, 1945 (R.A.F.).

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Reporoa, c.1000 March-April, feeding on weeds in badly overgrown paddocks, dock, sorrel and thistles. Only occasional birds seen during frosty winter months (N.H.C.). Summer, 1944-45, none around Auckland, but plentiful on Great Barrier Island (M.E.J.). Lake Wairarapa, 4/2/45, small groups, 8-12, inserting bills into spiders' white nests, containing young spiders (J.M.C. and R.H.D.S.). No big flocks seen at "Ilam" this year, the largest flock being only about 35 birds, winter, 1945 (E.F.S.). Dunedin, 17/10/44, carrying food to young. March, 1945, bird with white neck patch seen. Summary of trapping records at Stonelaw Terrace: 1943—200 ringed, 43 recovered; 1944—0 ringed, 7 recovered (3 new recoveries but 2 ringed at R.T.); 1945—0 ringed, 7 recovered (3 new, but 2 recovered elsewhere) (I.T.).

TUI (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae*). Moumoukai Valley, Clevedon, 22/10/44, saw nest being built in a high tea-tree. Later blown out by wind. 13/12/44, building again in top of high, slender totara a few yards from the first site. The female apparently did all the building while the male chased all intruders. 3/1/45, chicks heard in nest (E.St.P.). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1944-45, quite plentiful. 31/12/44, two young being fed. 1/1/45, two young in bush by homestead (J.W.St.P.). Mokohinau, 17/10/44, abundant on Faal Island (C.A.F.). Three Kings, 1/1/45, several (M.E.J.).

Numerous, National Park, 31/12/44 (K.A.W.). Several seen on kowhai and fuschia trees, Awatuna, September, 1944. Nest with three eggs, in tree 25 feet above small stream, Kakapōtahi, found 23/10/44; young hatched 2/11/44; young disappeared 7/11/44 (A.S.G.). Dunedin, one seen on the ground visiting primrose flowers. Bird seen dropping with a flop into dead wet kowhai foliage with wings partly open and shaking. Repeated several times, evidently bathing (I.T.). Christchurch, 10 or 12 frequent Cashmere district April-August (R.A.F.).

BELLBIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, 1944-45, increasing somewhat but not yet plentiful. No nests found (J.W.St.P.). Orere, Clevedon, 26/7/44, one reported seen and heard, Kaukapakapa. November, 1944, one reported seen and heard (H.R.McK.). Abundant on Fanal Island, not seen Burgess or other islands of Mokohinau Group, 11-18/10/44. Wanganui district, generally distributed in bushed gullies and even in suburbs; perhaps more common in settled country in May than in summer (C.A.F.). Rotorua, May, 1945, far commoner than the Tui (R.B.S.). Tihoi, 22/11/44, two young flying and badgering parent for food. Taupo, 3/3/45, four young flying with parent and still being fed (R.St.P.). Three Kings, 1/1/45, several (M.E.J.). Many seen during one day's outing, National Park, 31/12/44 (K.A.W.). None seen vicinity Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound, November, 1944 (C.A.F.). Tophouse and Lake Rotiti, 1-2/11/44, common; not so numerous further down Buller until beyond Murchison to Westport; Motupiko and Belgrove, near Nelson, 9/11/44, recorded in settled area (R.H.D.S.). One seen going to and from nest in white birch tree over cliff, Awatuna, 13/12/44 (A.S.G.). Dunedin, 7/2/45, five singing together; 1/5/45, six singing together (I.T.). Christchurch, one or two in Cashmere district April-August, but outnumbered by Tuis (R.A.F.).

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Calleas cinerea wilsoni*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, June, 1944, to June, 1945, frequently seen and heard. Numbers estimated to be approximately stationary. 21/2/45, two adult crows feeding two young. The young were about two-thirds grown and had tails only half length. They seemed to seek food themselves also, calling to each other as they moved about in the trees. The calling was similar to that of the adults when feeding near each other. No nests found, though exhaustive search made many times (J.W.St.P.). Rotorua area, Mr. James O'Dey reported having seen one at Manawahe, one at Hongi's Track and one at east end of Lake Rotoma (H.R.McK.).

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*). Opuā, occasional. One caught as adult, lived 12 years in a cage (M.A.E.D.). Numerous Levin district, one seen 16/1/45 near Shannon (A.A.S.). Bedes, Central Otago, out of 30-40 nests all had six eggs except one with seven and four with five (A.N.S.).

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*). Single bird seen Burgess Island, Mokohinau, October, 1944 (C.A.F.). Dunedin, 6/8/45, full song heard 1500 hours; short bursts but often repeated; warm day (L.G.).

REDPOLL (*Carduelis carduelis*). Breeds west coast of Auckland at Te Henga and Muriwai; also in hills above Ardmore. Small flocks regularly in winter on saltings, Firth of Thames (R.B.S.). Common Tihoi and Arataki (R.St.P.). Waingaro, September, 1945 (P.C.B.). Te Whaiti, mid-November, up to 30 in loose flocks (M.F.). Opuā, rarely seen (M.A.E.D.).

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis cabaret*). One pair seen Burgess Island, Mokohinau (C.A.F.). Flocks of 1000+ and 300+, Firth of Thames, saltings, 1/7/45 (R.B.S.). Opuā, 2-3/4/45, feeding fully fledged chicks (M.A.E.D.). Masterton, flock pf. 50-60, 25/3/45 (J.M.C.). Raetihi, never seen in flocks (W.P.M.). One seen feeding on daisies, Awatuna, 15/11/44 (A.S.G.). Herbert, 22/2/39, nest, three eggs; 20/12/39, four eggs; 31/12/39, hatching; 18/1/40, empty (S.I.A.). Late nesting, 16/2/45, Avoca, Canterbury, two eggs only hatched, nest subsequently deserted (R.A.F.).

SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Burgess Island, Mokohinau, October, 1944, c.20 (C.A.F.). Masterton, one chasing a tui, 22/8/45, tui squawking, sparrow right on its tail (N.F.S.). Dunedin, 20/6/44, some grass in nesting box erected 3/6/44. Nest gradually added to during August (I.T.).

YELLOWHAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Single bird seen, Burgess Island, Mokohinau (C.A.F.). Dunedin, 5/9/44, song heard. Alexandra, 23/11/44, nest, five eggs, five feet up in gorse bush (I.T.). Dunedin, 28/9/44, first song heard 09.30 hours, bright, sunny day (L.G.).

THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*). Moumoukai Valley, Clevedon, 3/9/44, caught a young bird just able to fly. Very early (E.St.P.). Opuā, song began early March, more frequent in May (M.A.E.D.). Mt. Bruce, Masterton, 7/8/45, nest under construction (E.O.W.). One feeding on worms in garden, Awatuna, November, 1944 (A.S.G.). Kowai Bush, nest building, 1/8/44 (K.B.S.G.). Resuming song mid-April, nest half finished, 31/8/46, Christchurch (R.A.F.). Becks, Central Otago, of 60-70 nests examined, only about four had three eggs and fewer five. Most had four eggs (A.N.S.). Company Bay, Dunedin, 4/8/44, nest with two eggs eight feet up in macrocarpa hedge (D.N.F.C.). Dunedin, 9/9/44, nest with one egg. Four laid 17/1/45. Bird on nest. 8/2/45, bird seen feeding young (I.T.). 23/4/45, Dunedin, first sub-song, 08.45 hours; 3/5/45, first full song—thereafter continuous and general (L.G.).

BLACKBIRD (*Turdus merula*). Clevedon, case of re-occupied nest. 26/8/44, pair seen building in pohutukawa in garden; 19/9/44, two young in nest; left nest in due course. 22/10/44, nest found to be in use again. 25/10/44, three eggs seen; 27/10/44, three chicks. These were reared also. A new lining only had been placed in the old nest (H.R.McK.). Bird deserted nest with four eggs when bush nearby was disturbed, Awatuna, 2/11/44 (A.S.G.). Kowai Bush, nest building, 7/8/44. Earlier than 1943 (K.B.S.G.). Dunedin, 12/6/44, sub-song heard, including notes similar to the alarm or bed-time notes, but so soft as to be only just audible. 14/6/44, two families fighting; 26/7/44, first song; 7/9/44, building begun; 8/2/45, last round of young fed; 25/7/45, sub-song (I.T.). Dunedin, nest with four eggs removed from tree and placed on the ground about noon. Replaced in the evening and the eggs were hatched 10 days later (D.N.F.C.).

HEDGE-PARROW (*Prunella modularis*). Very common around Auckland and Rotorua (R.B.S.). Present at Opuia (M.A.E.D.). Masterton. 26/11/44, second clutch in same nest (J.M.C.). Dunedin, 30/4/45, singing short burst of full song 08.00 hours; 5/5/45, singing short burst of full song, 08.10 hours; 7/7/45, singing in morning quite frequently (L.G.). Herkert, Otago, 25/2/39, nest, four young; 8/1/40, nest empty but for one dead chick; 31/12/39, another nest, four eggs pierced by teeth (S.I.A.). Dunedin, song regular in June, increasing in July. 25/9/44, nest with one egg, deserted later. 28/12/44, seen carrying food to young. Mast song 17/1/45. 1/4/45, song at Ruakanui. In May the birds seemed interested in the site of last season's nest. Occasional song towards the end of May (I.T.).

SKYLARK (*Alauda arvensis*). Present on Burgess Island, Mokohinau, October, 1944 (C.A.F.). Opuia, scarce (M.A.E.D.). Lake Onoke, 30/12/44, five at least singing before 3 a.m. in bright moonlight (J.M.C.). Kaihinu, 13/12/44, nest made of dry straw, with two eggs, found (A.S.G.).

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Perhaps 100 birds on Burgess Island. Noted Fanal Island, October, 1944 (C.A.F.). Roost reported previously, 22/7/44, as c.74,000; on 23/9/44 was c.48,000; on 23/10/44, 6,900; on 18/2/45, none roosting, or seen flying to any roost; 23/6/45, new roost, not located, is several miles away (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.). Awatuna, 4/10/44, birds started to build; finished by 22/10/44; eggs laid 25th, 26th, 27th; birds sat for nearly a week, when rats took eggs. Nest fell to one side and birds abandoned it (A.S.G.). Dunedin, 18/3/45, carrying nesting material into nesting box; 14/5/45, egg, about three-quarters

normal size and fresh when blown, found in a nesting box whose opening had been made too small for starlings during the previous October. Some nesting material had apparently been dropped in through the opening. Starlings were seen several times later trying to enter, but none successful (I.T.).

MYNA (*Acrodothores tristis*). At northern limit of its range, two pairs seen between East Tamaki and Howick, 26/8/45 (L.S.B.). Increasing west side of Firth of Thames (R.B.S.). Foxton, 30/1/45, pair seen, have been around for three years. The only pair seen in the district (A.A.S.).

MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). 26/8/44, Masterton, nest containing young, believe four, six-seven days old. 18/8/45, nest in same paddock, presumably by same pair, apparently complete—inaccessible (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.). Mt. Bruce, Masterton, 1/8/45, building nest in tall pines (E.O.W.).