

N.Z. BIRD NOTES

Bulletin of the Ornithological Society
of New Zealand.

Edited by Professor B. J. MARPLES and Dr. R. A. FALLA.

Address communications to Professor Marples, The Museum, Dunedin.

Annual subscription, 5/-. Price to non-members, 2/- per number.

Vol. 1—No. 7.

Issued, December, 1944.

CONTENTS.

Introduction.

Summarised Classified Notes.

INTRODUCTION.

While the main value of the Short Notes published each year continues to be record and reference value—a contribution to our knowledge of distribution and population density—there are a number of other items of more than ordinary interest. Attention may be drawn to records of rare vagrants. One of these, the Australian Wood Duck or Maned Goose, is recorded for the first time (two examples). Others such as the Spur-winged Plover, Royal Spoonbill, and Glossy Ibis are additions to existing records. The reports of arrival and approximate departure dates of the regular migrants are good material for analysis, especially in conjunction with such records as that of Pacific Godwits on passage in Fiji. Important contributions to the histories of single species are to be found in the notes on Blue-wattled Crows and on White Herons. The Reef Heron notes include an identification of the pure white phase, which should stimulate further exact determination of white heron-like birds seen. It is not at all unlikely that both the Royal Spoonbill and the white phase of the Reef Heron may sometimes inaccurately be reported as “White Herons.” A new habit record is the apparent flocking of Grey Warblers.

It is pleasing to notice that more and more attention is being given to careful records of the distribution and habits of imported birds. Their place as an integral and numerically strong part of the avifauna has too often been ignored by New Zealand ornithologists, and members are urged to include all available data on naturalised species in their annual contributions.

The editors are anxious to receive articles for publication in this bulletin. With our small and fixed number of pages it is a matter of some difficulty to arrange the contents unless there are a number of items of different lengths to select from. Short articles of half a page or a page in length are specially useful, and members are asked to bear this in mind when they make observations whose interest merits rather fuller treatment than inclusion in the annual short notes.

SUMMARISED CLASSIFIED NOTES.

Contributors.

A.S.G.—Annat School Group.	C.W.McL.—Mrs McLatchie.
M.M.A.—Mrs Atkinson.	H.R.M.—H. R. McKenzie.
P.C.B.—P. C. Bull.	M.J.McC.—Miss McCallum.
J.M.C.—J. M. Cunningham.	M.W.S.G.—Masterton West School
D.N.F.C.—Dunedin Naturalists' Field	Group.
Club.	W.P.M.—W. P. Mead.
E.S.G.—Etrick School Group.	S.V.R.—S. V. Robertson.
B.A.E.—B. A. Ellis.	T.M.R.—T M Roberts
J.R.E.—J. R. Eales	E.F.S.—E. F. Stead.
M.F.—Mrs Freeman.	H.L.S.—H. L. Secker.
R.A.F.—Dr Falla.	J.W.StP.—J. W. St Paul.
G.W.G.—G. W. Graham.	R.B.S.—R. B. Sibson.
A.C.H.—A. C. Henderson.	R.H.D.S.—R. H. D. Stidolph.
A.J.H.—A. J. Hodgkin.	W.S.—W. Sanderson.
E.W.H.—E. W. Hursthouse.	D.T.—D Teviotald
G.G.H.—G. G. Hole.	I.T.—Mrs Tily.
J.M.H.—J. M. Henderson.	R.H.T.—R. H. Traill.
K.S.G.—Kakapotohi School Group.	A.S.W.—A. S. Wilkinson.
A.E.P.LeC.—A. E. P. LeCren.	G.B.W.—Mrs White
G.B.L.—G. B. Lane.	H.T.W.—H. T. Wenham.
J.C.L.—Dr Lopdell.	K.A.W.—Dr Wodzicki.
B.J.M.—B. J. Marples.	W.A.W.—W. A. Watters.

- NORTH ISLAND KIWI (*Apteryx mantelli*).** Two were killed by dogs at Mokai, about 1940. (R.St.P.) Hukatere Peninsula and Tarunui, North Auckland. Reported present within the last four years. (C.A.F.) A good many reported in rough country near the Wanganui River. (W.P.M.)
- SOUTH ISLAND KIWI (*A. australis*).** Stewart Island. Plentiful from Pegasus up to the Freshwater River. (R.H.T.)
- LARGE GREY KIWI (*A. haastii*).** September, 1943. Heard Tere-makau. (E.F.S.)
- ROCKHOPPER PENGUIN (*Eudyptes cristatus*).** One adult, moult just completed except for tail found at Christchurch 18/4/44. Released in good condition 13/5/44 with new tail about 1½ in long (R.A.F.)
- LITTLE BLUE PENGUIN (*Eudyptula minor*).** Orewa, 8-14/12/43, three adults and seven juvenals washed ashore, several of the latter still with patches of secondary down. (C.A.F.)
- CRESTED GREBE (*Podiceps cristatus*).** Noticed on temporary pools near Ikamatua, April. (Reported to R.A.F.) A pair on Lake Sara, Aug.-Sept., 1943. Several pairs on Lake Coleridge, May, 1944. (E.F.S.) Lake Fergus, 20/3/44, three birds. (W.A.W.)
- DABCHICK (*P. rufopectus*).** Has disappeared from Clevedon, though never common there. Over 40 years ago Mr Luke reported two in a small creek, and Mr Munro knew of one shot in Wairoa (Clevedon) R. Gorge (H.R.M.). Jan., 1944, over 52 pairs in a chain of pools behind Muriwai Beach. (R.B.S.)
- DIVING PETREL (*Pelecanoides sp.*).** Bream Head, 27/12/43, three feeding with White-fronted Terns. (W.S.)

- DIVING PETREL (*P. urinatrix*). 28/10/43, one picked up dead at Lake Ellesmere. (R.A.F.)
- GREY-BACKED STORM PETREL (*Garrodia nereis*). One came in alive to Burnham Military Camp in Feb. 1944. (E.F.S.)
- GIANT PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*). Wellington Harbour, 11/10/43 to 27/10/43. Numbers 12, 9-12, 20, 18, 25, 15. Observations generally about 7.30 a.m. Occasionally marked reduction by evening. (H.L.S.)
- PRIONS (*Pachyptila* sp.) Many were freshly ashore at Muriwai and on the west coast of Auckland in May. *P. salvini* and *P. turtur* were the commonest. *P. vittata* and *P. belcheri* were also found. *P. desolata* was not identified for certain among the corpses. (R.B.S. and P.C.B.) Waikanae Estuary, 9/7/44, one dead *P. salvini*, 17/10/43, two dead *P. turtur*. (K.A.W.) Lake Ellesmere, 28/10/43, one dead *P. turtur*. (R.A.F.)
- FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus carneipes*.) Off Ponui. From 25/10/43 to 5/6/44, from 1 to 12 seen on seven occasions, but on 28/12/43 over 1,000. (T.M.R.)
- BULLER'S SHEARWATER (*P. bulleri*). Off Ponui, 5/1/44, five; 16/4/44, one. (T.M.R.) Muriwai, 20/5/44, two dead. (R.B.S.)
- SOOTY SHEARWATER (*P. griseus*). Only four found at Muriwai, May, 1944. No recent corpses Te Henga, May, 1944. (R.B.S.) Mana Island, a few pairs reported to breed regularly. Waikanae Estuary, 7/7/44, one dead. (K.A.W.)
- SHORT-TAILED SHEARWATER (*P. tenuirostris*). Te Henga, 1/5/43, one just dead. Muriwai, 20/5/44, two dead. (R.B.S.)
- FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (*P. gavia*.) Off Ponui. None Oct. and Nov., 1943; 28/12/43 odd groups of 10 or so; 5/1/44 and 5/6/44, about 1000 each time. (T.M.R.) Two Waiti Bay, Clevedon, 4/6/44 (H.R.M.)
- WHITE-HEADED PETREL (*Pterodroma lessoni*) Muriwai, 20/5/44, one dead. (R.B.S.) About 1925 Mr H. S. Munro saw one land exhausted in a field in Clevedon.
- MOTTLED PETREL (*P. inexpecta*.) Mid-Hauraki Gulf, 5/1/44, three seen (T.M.R.) Te Henga, 31/1/43, one just dead. (R.B.S.)
- COOK'S PETREL (*P. cookii*.) Muriwai, 20/1/44, one dead (R.B.S.)
- WANDERING ALBATROSS (*Diomedea exulans*). One young bird with down still attached picked up dead, Birdling's Flat, 17/1/44. One young bird found alive near Christchurch, 14/2/44. (R.A.F.)
- ALBATROSS (*D. sp.*). Wellington Harbour, 8/11/43. One of the large species. (E.W.H.)
- BLACK SHAG (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). Eighteen on waterworks dam, Ardmore, Papakura, 2/1/44. (J.W.St.P.) Hundreds, if not thousands, in the Firth of Thames. (R.B.S.) Wellington Harbour, October, 1943, common, many young. (H.L.S.). Three nests with half-grown young and many pairs courting, cliff on Banks Peninsula, 16/7/44. (E.F.S.) Breeding colony well up the Hakataramea River. (W.A.W.)

- PIED SHAG (*P. varius*). In the Firth of Thames, seldom seems to reach Miranda, but is common about nine miles to the north. (R.B.S.) Four seen on lower Wairau River in May. (J.R.E.) Noticed as numerous in Whatamunga Bay and Kenepuru Sound, Marlborough, May, 1944. (A.E.P.LeC.)
- LITTLE BLACK SHAG (*P. sulcirostris*). Seven seen at Whangamata. (W.S.) Lake Pupuke, Takapuna, 29/12/43, one. (C.A.F.)
- LITTLE PIED SHAG (*P. melanoleucus*). About equal numbers of white-throated and white-breasted types. Not abundant. Whangamata. (W.S.) Firth of Thames probably five or six white-throated to one white-breasted (R.B.S.). Lake Okataina, small colony in high dead trees. (G.B.W.) Pepin Island, near Nelson, four white-throated birds seen, 11/12/43. (K.A.W.) Reported from South Canterbury rivers. Specimen sent to Museum was immature white-breasted form. (R.A.F.)
- SPOTTED SHAG (*Stictocarbo punctatus*). Regularly seen near Ponui; about 250 on 4/1/43. Colony on Tarakihi increasing. 4/1/44, 30 in Coromandel Harbour. (T.M.R.) Colony at Te Henga on Ihumoana cliff is thriving. (R.B.S.) 200 on shingle bank at the mouth of the Waitaki River, 12/1/44. 18/1/44, two flights of about 100 each. (C.M.McL.)
- GANNET (*Moris serrator*). Pipinui Point, north of Ohariu Bay, 27/12/43, 12. Wellington Harbour, 30/12/43, several. Palliser Bay, 15/12/43, one. (H.L.S.) Wairau Bar, 14/9/43, 15 in flock. (J.R.E.)
- PARADISE DUCK (*Casarca variegata*). January, 1944, one on Lake Takapuna, a female; probably an escape. Nest reported near Gisborne with six eggs early in September, 1943. Odd pairs frequent the Oweka Valley, East Cape. Male at Middlemore, Tamaki, 2/9/44. (R.B.S.) Some at Tikoī. (R.St.P.) Waimarino district. Increasing and now present round Karioi and down the Mangawhero in considerable numbers. (W.P.M.) Near Cape Palliser, 27/10/43, pair on coast with seven young; several in the back country. (H.L.S.) Ohau River mouth, 21/11/43, one pair. (R.H.D.S.) Mating and apparently laying Upper Tere-makau River, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) About 30 at Dillon's Point, Wairau Bar, 18/10/43. (J.R.E.) Moa Flat, Otago; occasional. (A.T.H.) Etrick, Otago, one pair August to October; none later. (E.S.G.) Eglinton Valley, 21/3/44, common. (W.A.W.) Mount Aspiring Station, reported that "scores are noted." (I.T.)
- GREY DUCK (*Anas superciliosa*). Waikanae Estuary lagoons, six drakes and one duck with four and one with one duckling. This is the first time in the last few years that they have nested here; 29/10/43. (K.A.W.) Reported as plentiful in the usual Canterbury localities. Large flocks Lake Ellesmere, March. The common Christchurch hybrid, which is superficially like a pure Grey, was abundant in the winter, 1944. (R.A.F.) Wairau Bar, 9/10/43, one nest with eight eggs, one nest with 11 eggs all hatched by November 1st. (J.R.E.) Lake Gunn, 18/3/44, two. (W.A.W.)

- GREY TEAL (*Querquedula gibberifrons*). Gladstone, 21/5/44, 50 to 100 (R.A.F., R.H.D.S., and J.M.C.) 6/8/44, about the same. (R.H.D.S. and A.S.W.)
- BROWN DUCK (*Elasmonetta chlorotis*). Several reported as seen on Waitakere dam, 1926, by Mr Fred Gibbons. (J.W.St.P.) Reported to be present Whangamata. (W.S.) Waipu, 50 together, Ruakaka River, one pair seen, 3/2/44. Taronui, Bay of Islands, reported abundant; duck and two week-old ducklings seen 12/2/44. (C.A.F.)
- SHOVELLER (*Spatula rhynchotis*). Fairly common on the chain of pools behind Muriwai Beach. Occasionally seen at Miranda, Firth of Thames. (R.B.S.) Lake near Marton, 7/11/43, three. Manawatu River, Karere, 9/11/43, 12. Bullers Lake, Levin, 16/11/43, four. Ohau River mouth, 21/11/43, six. (R.H.D.S.) Wairau Bar, about 50 on large lagoon, May, 1943. (J.R.E.)
- BLACK TEAL (*Fuligula novaeseelandiae*). Up to 1000 on Lake Okataina. They have been known to remain under water for 22sec. (G.B.W.) Lake Rotoiti, 17/9/43, 70 close in shore. (H.R.M.) Chain of pools behind Muriwai Beach, 19, 20, and 21/1/44, 18 females with broods, totalling 102 juvenals. Many others probably lurking in the reeds. Males in flocks, 122. Other pairs, indeterminate groups, etc., c25. This colony is isolated and evidently flourishing. (R.B.S.) Fewer than usual in Christchurch Gardens and reserves. (R.A.F.) Wairau Bar, six seen on large lagoon, May. (J.R.E.) 20/3/44, four at Lake Lochie and eight at Lake Fergus. (W.A.W.)
- BLUE DUCK (*Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus*). Some at Tihoi and on the Waihaha River. (R.St.P.) Reported by Maoris as being in creeks running into Wharekawa Harbour. (W.S.) Waimarino district, decreasing and now rare. (W.P.M.)
- AUSTRALIAN WOOD DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*). First record for N.Z. In 1910 one was shot at Lake Glendhu, Wanaka. About the middle of 1944 another was shot near Invercargill. Both are in the Otago Museum. (B.J.M.)
- MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*). Still in large numbers at Lake Ellesmere. Odd birds only in Christchurch Gardens. (R.A.F.)
- CANADA GOOSE (*Branta canadensis*). Lake near Marton, 7/1/43, one. (R.H.D.S.) Reported in hundreds near Lake Wanaka. (I.T.)
- CAPE BARREN GOOSE (*Cereopsis novaehollandiae*). Liberated near Lake Hawea, 1915. Reported seen 1936. (R.H.D.S.)
- BLACK SWAN (*Chenopsis atrata*). Kourarau Dam, Gladstone, 21/5/44, pair with four young about three weeks old. (R.H.D.S.)
- BLACK-FRONTED TERN (*Chlidonias albibriata*). Te Henga, 5/5/43, one with White-fronted Terns. (R.B.S.) Wairau Bar, May, 40-50. (J.R.E.) Frequent small flocks, mostly in eclipse plumage, Lake Ellesmere, 29/3/44. (R.A.F.) Mouth of Rakaia River, February-May, 1944, flock of 500, adults and yearlings. (E.F.S.) Waimakariri River bed near Sheffield, 20/10/43, two nests, one with

eggs hatching. (A.S.G.) Hakataramea River, two seen late in August. Much more common September 9-12, 1943. (W.A.W.) Ettrick, Otago. Arrived 28/7/43. (E.S.G.)

WHITE-WINGED MARSH TERN (*C. leucoptera*). Bird in partial eclipse plumage, Lake Ellesmere, 29/3/44. (R.A.F.) One in full breeding plumage, Rakaia Mouth, November, 1943. (E.F.S.)

CASPIAN TERN (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Whangarei. Birds nested on an islet three-quarters of a mile from the former ternery, which was deserted owing to sea erosion caused by cattle destroying protecting mangroves. About 100 chicks reared from about 70 nests. Rat's nest found on the islet; also six dead chicks. First chick hatched about October 30, the last about December 6. Several pairs also nested on Pirate Island, about a mile away. Food almost entirely piper, few flounder and herring also. The beaks are broken off the piper before they are fed to the young birds. (W.S.) Considerable influx every winter into Manukau Harbour, Wairoa estuary, Clevedon, and Firth of Thames. No known local breeding grounds. (R.B.S.) Porirua Harbour, 3/9/43, four. (H.L.S.) Wairau Bar, November, 1943, 10 eggs; the first time they have bred there. (J.R.E.) One bird working reaches of the Avon River in the city area throughout June and later. (R.A.F.) One on Victoria Lake, June, 1943, and February, 1944. (E.F.S.) Hundreds reported nesting near the mouth of the Clutha River. Eggs in November and young in some nests until well on in January. (D.N.F.C.)

FAIRY TERN (*Sterna nereis*). Pakiri, 30/1/44. Single bird in breeding plumage. (C.A.F.) Lake Ellesmere, 29/3/44, five or six in eclipse plumage. (R.A.F.) Victoria Lake, June, 1943, one (E.F.S.)

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*S. striata*). Ponui, 4/12/43, c2000 at pinnacle rocks, where they bred in 1941. Much courtship. 25/12/43, none at pinnacle rocks, but a large colony at Hook's Bay, Waiheke. 4/1/44, Colony at Coromandel Island. (T.M.R.) Other colonies at Orere Point and Miranda, over 400 nests. (R.B.S.) East part of Nelson harbour boulder bank, 10/12/43. 200-250 nests over 350-450 yards. Nests in groups of 6-12, eastward part with eggs only, the westward with young, some fully fledged. Mortality of young about 5 per cent. (K.A.W.) Wairau Bar, April, about 200; June, only 30-40. Wairau River mouth, November, 1943, 80-90 eggs and 200-250 birds. (J.R.E.) Waitaki River mouth, 12/1/44, not in such large numbers at breeding site. (C.W.McL.) Matukituki River, Mount Aspiring Station. Reported to arrive in August, nest, and leave about the end of January. (I.T.)—(Probably refers to *C. albistriata*.—R.A.F.)

BLACK-BACKED GULL (*Larus dominicanus*). Ponui, 25/10/43, about nesting sites. 7/11/43, one pair nesting. 14/11/43, two pairs nested on old wharves. (C.A.F.) Mana Island, 1/1/44, 250 pairs nesting. 1/1/44, mostly fully fledged. (K.A.W.) Opau, Makara, 21/12/43, six or seven nests, one with young, one

with three eggs. (H.L.S.) Waimakariri River bed, near Sheffield, 20/10/43, about 50 nests with two or three eggs. (A.S.G.) Taieri Island, 6/11/43, 12 nests with one egg, 33 nests with two, and 56 with three. 14/11/43, two eggs hatched. 25/1/44, one nest with three eggs. Most of the young flying or fully fledged. (B.J.M.)

RED-BILLED GULL (*L. novaehollandiae*). Ponui, 17/10/43, several still about. 25 and 31/10/43, none left. 1/1/44, c20 back from breeding grounds. (T.M.R.) Kohukohu, Hokianga, 22/2/44, 500-600 roosted on old wharves. (C.A.F.) Mana Island, 1/1/44, about 70-100 pairs nesting, mostly with one or two eggs. Also 50-60 unemployed birds, apparently young which had already moulted into adult plumage but had not yet bred this season. (K.A.W.) Wairau, 17/10/43, 20 nests with one egg. November, 1943, 60 nests with four eggs, two with three, others with one or two. (J.R.E.) Matukituki River, Mount Aspiring Station, reported to arrive to nest in August and leave in February. (I.T.)—(Probably *L. bulleri*.—R.A.F.)

BLACK-BILLED GULL (*L. bulleri*). Returns every winter to Miranda, Firth of Thames. Maxima, 1941, c275; 1942, over 250; 1943, over 300; 1944, over 300. The first birds reappear in early April and many are late to depart, e.g., over 200 on 31/10/43. So far no records December to March, but a few early birds may arrive in March. Reported from Taupo. (R.B.S.) Hundreds on the Avon in Christchurch throughout the year, but especially numerous in winter. These birds have only come to Christchurch during the past 10 years, prior to which none came on to the Avon at all. (E.F.S.) Waimakariri River, near Sheffield, 20/10/43, about 200 nests with two or three eggs. (A.S.G.) Hakataramea River, only two seen in late August, but much more common September 9-12. (W.A.W.) Several noted at Purakanui, Dunedin, early in February, 1944. (I.T.)

ARCTIC SKUA (*Stercorarius parasiticus*). Both light and dark phases seen frequently from Clevedon to Ponui, December, 1943 to 29/4/44 (T.M.R.) Some may stay throughout our winter. In the Firth of Thames I have seen them as late as May 24 and as early as August 25. (R.B.S.) Mana Island, 2/1/44, five seen chasing White-fronted Terns; one belonged to the light phase. (K.A.W.) Cloudy Bay, 13/5/44, three. (J.R.E.) In 1943 they were present in great numbers during March and April. In 1944 not many. Present at Rakaia Mouth throughout the late summer, seen 11/4/44. (E.F.S.)

NORTH ISLAND OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus reischekii*). Very rare in Manukau Harbour. Two have been present this winter with *H. finschi*. Rare also in the Firth of Thames and not known to breed. Odd birds appear in winter, possibly from the eastern coast of Coromandel. (R.B.S.) Pakiri, 30/1/44, three. Taronui, Bay of Islands, and the next estuary north usually have a pair. (C.A.F.) Waikanae River Estuary, 7/7/44, two black and one

white-breasted. Ohau River Estuary, 12/3/44, two adult black birds feeding on one of the spits, which indicates that these birds were not breeding during the last season. (G.B.L. and K.A.W.)

SOUTH ISLAND PIED OYSTERCATCHER (*H. finschi*). Miranda, Firth of Thames, Maxima, 1941, c75; 1942, over 130; 1943, over 90; 1944, c70. Puhinui, Manukau Harbour, 1943, over 194; 1944, c260. In both localities a peak is reached in March and April; some birds evidently travel further north. In 1942 36 non-breeders summered at Puhinui, and 24 seen in the Firth of Thames on 3/10/44 were probably summering, too. (R.B.S.) Wairau Bar, 9/10/43, 23; 24/12/43, flock of 69. (J.R.E.) Large flocks on the north side of Sumner estuary July, 1944. Large flock north side of Waimakariri River Mouth 20/2/44. (R.A.F.) Reported from a number of inland stations, mostly in odd pairs, during September, October, and November, 1943. Obviously extending its recent breeding range. (E.F.S.) Ettrick, 22/11/43, nest with two eggs; one hatched next day. (E.S.G.) Kelso, 21/1/44, six; the only ones seen in January and February. (W.A.W.) Mount Aspiring Station, report of nests on Matukituki River flats. (I.T.)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (either black phase of *H. reichkei* or *H. unicolor*). Uncommon migrant to the Firth of Thames and Manukau. Eight is the greatest number seen together. They possibly cross to the Firth of Thames from Coromandel, but I believe from observations made over four years that some travel up from the south with *H. finschi*. (R.B.S.)

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER (*H. unicolor*). Ohau River Mouth, 21/11/43, nest, two eggs. Onoke Spit, Palliser Bay, two. (R.H.D.S.) Te Awaiti, near Cape Palliser, three pairs in two and a-half miles. (H.L.S.) Pepin Island, near Nelson, 11/12/43, pair. Later reported to have reared two chicks. (K.A.W.) Kakapotahi Beach, Westland, pair appeared 30/8/43; still present 30/10/43. (K.S.G.)

TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*). Ohau River Mouth, 21/11/43, three. (R.H.D.S.) Was the only migrant wader seen at the north end of Lake Ellesmere 29/3/44. Mostly in high plumage, but a few in retarded moult. (R.A.F.)

LESSER GOLDEN PLOVER (*Pluvialis dominicanus*). Ohau River Mouth, 21/11/43, four. (R.H.D.S.) Ohau River Mouth, 12/3/44, male coming into summer plumage and two others still in winter plumage. (G.B.L. and K.A.W.)

BANDED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius bicinctus*). Firth of Thames. Breeding population, Kaiua-Miranda, 20-24 pairs 1941, 42, and 43. 30/12/43, c30 had returned to Mangere, earlier than usual (R.B.S.) c200 wintered again at Whakatiri, Clevedon. (H.R.M.) Waingawa River bed, 8/8/44, nest, three eggs. Earliest record for Wairarapa. (R.H.D.S. and A.S.W.) Wairau Bar, December, 1943. Usually seen in pairs, 400-500 birds. In January in flocks of 15-20; largest 45. 3/10/43, two chicks; 10/11/43, one chick. 200-300 on boulder bank, November, 1943; 1/5/44, seven, 18/5/44,

57 scattered about lagoon. (J.R.E.) General distribution over a wide area; about 90 per cent. in eclipse plumage, but some adults still showing indistinct bands. Percentage of juvenals not determined. Lake Ellesmere, 29/3/44, still very scarce in Canterbury. (E.F.S.) Moa Flat, Otago, occasional. (A.J.H.) Etrick, 17/11/43, nest, three eggs. (E.S.G.) Hakataramea River, not present in winter, but seen in late August. (W.A.W.)

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus*). One pair bred in Firth of Thames, 1943; the eggs were laid in the last week of October. (R.B.S.) Wairau Bar, 29/12/43, flock of 14. (J.R.E.)

WRYBILL (*Anarhynchus frontalis*). Ruakaka, 19/9/42, one. (W.S.) Puketutu, Manukau. Maxima, 1940, 18; 1941, 36; 1942, over 60; 1943, 64; 1944, 77. Muriwai, 20/5/44, 15. Firth of Thames, 25/7/43, over 200; 20/8/44, over 150. Mataitai, Clevedon, 8/1/44, two. In Manukau the first arrivals were early this season; 10 on 10/1/44 and 31 on 17/1/44. (P.C.B., R.B.S., M.J.M., and H.R.M.) Clevedon River, 6/1/44, two juvenals on mud with godwits; 7/1/44, three. Amusing habit noted of trotting down to the water with larger worms and vigorously washing them before swallowing. These are the first Clevedon records. (T.M.R.) Several pairs at the mouth of the Rakaia River October, November, and December, 1943. (E.F.S.)

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (*Lobibyx novaehollandiae*). Waimatuku River mouth, Southland, May, 1943, flock of 14-15 reported seen. One was shot and presented to Southland Museum. (D.T.)

KNOT (*Calidris canutus*). Scarce at Mataitai, Clevedon, though Godwits come in large flocks. 25/9/43, 16; 8/1/44, one. (H.R.M.) Manawatu River mouth, 20/11/43, one. (R.H.D.S.)

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Pisobia sp.*). Miranda, Firth of Thames, 3/10/43, two; 31/10/43, 10. Of these, one bird was paler and less pronouncedly banded and tentatively we agreed that nine were Americans (*P. pectoralis*) and one Siberian (*P. acuminata*). (H.R.M., C.A.F., and R.B.S.) 2/1/44, a single bird in the same place was undoubtedly Siberian. (R.B.S.) It was seen again 12/3/44. (H.R.M.) The single bird seen in 1942 was definitely American. I believe a form intermediate between the two has been hinted at. Geographically, New Zealand would be a likely place for it. (R.B.S.) Manawatu River mouth, 10/11/43, 12 *P. acuminata*. (R.H.D.S.)

RED-NECKED STINT (*P. ruficollis*). Puketutu causeway, Manukau, one seen several times between 30/12/43 and 15/3/44. (R.B.S.)

BAR-TAILED GODWIT (*Limosa lapponica*). Flying Officer E. F. Dodson writes: "Godwits appeared in large numbers on the mud flats round Suva on March 29th. They may have been there up to two days before that, and they were all gone the next day." Clevedon, Mataitai Bay. Arrival, 12/9/43, 11; 26/9/43, 200; 29/9/43, 320; 17/10/43, 900. (H.R.M.) Orewa, occasional visits of parties of 3-12 between 3/10/43 (the first after the winter)

- and 21/11/43. (C.A.F.) Nelson Harbour, 10/12/43, c150. (K.A.W.) Wairau Lagoon, August, 1943, five; 15/9/43, 60; 28/9/43, 200; 9/10/43, 400; January, 1944, 300-400. Three remained after the departure of the migrants. (J.R.E.)
- CURLREW** (*Numenius cyanopus*). One adult female found dead Lake Ellesmere, 16/5/44. (R.A.F.)
- STILT** (*Himantopus leucocephalus*). Mataitai, Clevedon. About 40 stayed for the breeding season, of which 10 or so were juvenile. 22/8/43, one new nest; 29/8/43, five new empty nests; 5/9/43, none near the nests; 12/9/43, nesting ground deserted, none bred. In November, all except three or four left Clevedon, as last year. (H.R.M.) 20/2/44, 60-70 newcomers in Clevedon River mouth. (T.M.R.) Tauranga-Taupo Bay, Lake Taupo, 20/1/44, two adults and two juvenals. (H.R.M.) Poor nesting season in the Firth of Thames. A small pool at Ellerslie in the Auckland suburbs was frequently visited by five or six. (R.B.S.) Whangarei, nest with four eggs on ternery. 31/10/43, nest with four eggs on Pirate Island. 28/12/43, several other families raised. Frequently seen at Whangamata. (W.S.) Lochinver, off Taupo-Napier road, 40-50. (R.St.P.) Pakiri, 30/1/44, about eight pairs of adults had produced three broods totalling four young. Present on inland pools near Piopio, King Country, 28/8/44. (C.A.F.) Wairau, 13/11/43, two nests with four eggs each. Big lagoon, Wairau, 18/5/44, 57 scattered birds. (J.R.E.) Lake Ellesmere, 29/3/44, 20-30. (R.A.F.) To-day only 10 per cent. of the stilts at Lake Ellesmere that frequented the area five years ago. (E.F.S.) Hakataramea River, August and September, 1943, common. (W.A.W.) Moa Flat, Otago, occasional. (A.J.H.) Bred at the head of Otago Harbour, 1943, within a few yards of houses and trams. (B.A.E.)
- NORTH ISLAND WEKA** (*Gallirallus greyi*). Waimarino district. Now rare (W.P.M.)
- NORTH ISLAND WEKA** (*G. australis*). Reported plentiful in the Buller district, April, 1944. (R.A.F.) Stewart Island, plentiful south of Paterson Inlet; only a few near Halfmoon Bay. Plentiful on Codfish, Bench, Herekopare, Pukeakaoka, and Ulva Islands. (R.H.T.)
- BANDED RAIL** (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*). Whangamata, 22/11/43, four adults and six three-weeks-old chicks seen on the beach; common. (W.S.) Kawakawa Bay, Clevedon, two or three lots of chicks reported. (H.R.M.) Mangaturoto, 31/1/44; Upper Orewa Valley, December, 1943; Puhoi Estuary, 20/9/43; Okahukura Peninsula, 23/12/43; Leigh, 29/1/44; Pakiri, 30/1/44; Tinopai, 2/2/44; Motukaraka and three miles east of Kohukohu, Hokianga, 23/2/44. Mainly single birds seen. (C.A.F.)
- SPOTLESS CRAKE** (*Porzana plumbea*). Colville, 1943, two adults with two young reported. (H.R.M.)
- MARSH CRAKE** (*P. pusilla*). One found dead at New Brighton, 2/2/44. (R.A.F.) Several seen Lake Coleridge, May, 1933. (E.F.S.) Tomahawk Lagoon, Dunedin, still seen at intervals. (B.A.E.)

PUKEKO (*Porphyrio melanotus*) 49-50 along the Opawa River Marlborough, May, 1944. (J.R.E.) Plentiful in several Canterbury localities, May, 1944. (R.A.F.) Common near Hakataramea River. (W.A.W.)

WHITE HERON (*Egretta alba*). Wairarapa, 27/8/43, four seen together. (R.H.D.S. and J.M.C.) Wairau Bar, 9/9/43, one. (J.R.E.). Reported in Karitane district in January and February, 1944. (D.N.F.C.) November, 1943, press report of two seen at Waikouaiti. 29/7/44, one at Taieri Mouth and also in the district in succeeding months. (G.W.G.) Okarito Heronry, 1943, Mr B. King, Commissioner of Crown Lands, Hokitika, reports that on 11/11/43 he paid another visit to heronry on the Waitangi-Roto Creek, described in Bull. No. 2, 1942. The birds were nesting in the same place, not on the tree fern crowns as before, but in kowhai trees fringing the water and amongst nests of white-throated shags. In all, there were seven nests, two containing three young, three containing two young, and one with three eggs; one was empty. Nine adult birds were seen in the immediate neighbourhood, and Mr Norman Friend reported three more near Okarito, possible non-breeders. This marks an increase on the 1941 count. The number of shags also appeared to have increased by 100 per cent., and the young birds were in every stage from fledglings to unhatched eggs. (R.A.F.)

REEF HERON (*Demigretta sacra*). Whangamata, occasional. Whangarei, c16 nest, a slight increase on the year before. In January, nests contained eggs, newly-hatched chicks, and half-feathered chicks, and some young had left. A large chick regurgitated a mullet about 4in long. (W.S.) Orewa, two regularly seen November-December, 1943, apparently attempted breeding on cliffs to the north. (C.A.F.) Over years seen disappearing under King's wharf, Wellington. Ohariu Bay, 1/11/43 and 21/12/43, one. (H.L.S.) Two in normal dark plumage, Port Underwood, June. One in pure white phase at Wairau Bar since April. (J.R.E.) Solitary birds at Sunshine Bay and Whatamunga Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound, 10/5/44. (A.E.P.leC.) Taieri Island, 6/11/43, nest with three young. This proves, as has been suspected for several years, that this is a nesting site. It seems to be the most southerly definite record of a nest. (B.J.M.)

BITTERN (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*). Whangamata. Booming started in mid-September and finished about February 10. Mostly at night. Pairs calling to one another, beep boom answered by higher-pitched boom. (W.S.). Occurs Clevedon River. (T.M.R.) Frequent west side of the Firth of Thames. (R.B.S.) Quite common Lake Okataina. (G.W.B.) Waikanae Estuary, pair seen 17 and 29/10/43. (K.A.W.) Hakataramea River, common. (W.A.W.)

GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*). Ohau River Mouth, 17/11/43, one. (R.H.D.S.) Two previous records in South Canterbury in 1902 and 1917.

- ROYAL SPOONBILL** (*Platalea regia*). Wellington district, 1943, party of four (R.H.D.S. and A.S.W.) South-west Bay, Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island, 9/7/43, single bird, very tame. (R.H.T.)
- PHEASANT** (*Phasianus colchicus*). Lake Onoke area, 13/11/43, two or three hens seen. (J.M.C.)
- BROWN QUAIL** (*Synoicus australis*). Common North Auckland. Seen at Rangiriri and Te Awamutu, but not elsewhere on Auckland-Taranaki-Wellington Road. March, 1944. (C.A.F.) Wairarapa Lake, 4/12/43, three calling. (R.H.D.S.)
- CALIFORNIAN QUAIL** (*Callipepla californica*) 15 at White Bluff, Wairau, May, 1944. (J.R.E.) Hakataramea, common, up to 25 together. (W.A.W.) Common near Roxburgh and in the Ida Valley. (I.T.)
- NEW ZEALAND PIGEON** (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*). Whangamata, occasionally seen in areas of native bush. (W.S.) Plentiful Lake Okataina. Plentiful west side of Taupo, up to 220 being seen in one day. Feeding on Rimu and Horopito in mid-winter, starting to feed on Miro, August 14. (R.St.P.) Near Wellsford, a few. Whitehills, three. Pahi, one. Sumner, 1943-44. (C.A.F.) Reikorangi, bush, 26/2/44, seven seen in 20 minutes. (J.M.C.) Common Upper Hollyford, Lower Hollyford, and Eglinton Valleys. (W.A.W.)
- BUSH HAWK** (*Falco novaeseelandiae*). Tihoi, fairly common (R.St.P.) Te Whaiti, several seen in open at odd times. (M.F.) Mokau River mouth, 25/3/44, one. (C.A.F.) Waimarino district, only seen about once a year. 2/3/44, one chased by three tuis, which made a great chattering. The hawk was much faster in flight. (W.P.M. and A.C.H.) Reported Lake Sumner, May, 1944. (R.A.F.) Not common throughout Canterbury back country, where it has just about maintained its numbers over the past 25 years. (E.F.S.) Three O'clock Creek, Silver Peak district, Dunedin, 4/6/44, four. Burwood Station, near Mossburn, 14/3/44, one. Cascade, Eglinton Valley, 20/3/44, one. Lower Eglinton Valley, 21/3/44, one. (W.A.W.) Moa Flat, Otago, occasional. (A.J.H.) Mount Aspiring Station, reported seen. (I.T.)
- HARRIER** (*Circus approximans*). Dunedin to Roxburgh, 18/11/43, 19 counted from the road. (I.T.) Bird ringed as a nestling in the nest near Pounawea, Catlins, 3/1/44, was trapped at Haldane, about 29 miles to the south on 22/4/44. (J.C.L.)
- MOREPORK** (*Ninox novaeseelandiae*) Lowry Bay, Port Nicholson, nest with two full-fledged chicks, 15/10/43. (K.A.W.) The co-ordinated reports of several members show that between June, 1943, and June, 1944, the calls, which are frequently heard in the Opoho district, could be traced round the city from the Botanical Gardens, Maori Hill, Wakari, to Mornington regions, where they had not been heard for some years. (D.N.F.C.) Heard at Silver Peaks 10/4/44, Leith Valley 16/7/44, and Blue Mountains, South Otago, 18/1/44. (W.A.W.)

- LITTLE OWL (*Athene noctua*). Gore, one reported catching and carrying off a young thrush. (I.T.)
- KAKA (*Nestor meridionalis*). Moumoukai, Clevedon, present all the year in varying numbers. Up to 10 seen in one day. 6/5/44, one was watched feeding on Miro fruit. It pulled the fruit with its beak, transferred it to its foot, chewed off the pulp, then took the stone in its beak and sucked it for a few moments before dropping it. (J.W.St.P.) Huiarau Range, 3,120ft, three. (M.F.) and H.R.M.) Tihoi, seen almost daily, eight being the most. (R.St.P.) One or two have been in the Auckland suburbs for considerably over a year. Reported feeding on Puriri berries. (R.B.S.) Waimarino district, a few still about. (W.P.M.) At the head of the Teremakau River on Fox Glacier. Reported to be more in evidence on the West Coast than for 15 or 20 years past. (E.F.S.) Mt. Aspiring Station, August, 1943. Reported nearly every night, flock of 12 seen. (I.T.) 17/3/44, three seen Lower Hollyford and others heard. 18/3/44, one heard near Marion and at the divide. (W.A.W.)
- KEA (*N. notabilis*). Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Mount Aspiring Station, reported very common in the winter, 1943; 300 destroyed during the season while feeding on dead sheep. (I.T.) 16/3/44, 7-8 seen near the Homer Tunnel. (W.A.W.)
- PARRAKEET. Yellow-fronted Parrakeet (*Cyanoramphus auriceps*). Te Whaiti, 26/1/44, quite a few. Flock of nine flying in a twisting manner. Bushmen showed a nest with five eggs. When disturbed, the female perched near the nest and called agitatedly. The male came to her from afar, took her up into a high Rimu, and caressed her, both finally flying off. The bushmen said that the male's habit was to come to the nest, take her away to feed, and escort her back to the nest hole. (H.R.M.) Tihoi, west of Lake Taupo, parrakeets of both the Yellow-fronted and the Red-fronted (*C. novaeseelandiae*) species occur. A few are seen most days. 30/7/44, busily examining holes in matais. Feed much on Horopito in August. In the old days Yellow-fronted were the common ones in the Mount London Bush behind Clevedon. (R.St.P.) Lower Mangatangi, east of Pokeno, parrakeet call. (E.St.P.) Several parrakeets seen in the Waimarino district (W.P.M.) *C. auriceps*, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) January, 1944, heard commonly in the Lower Hollyford, Eglinton Valley, and Ten-Mile Bush. (W.A.W.)
- KAKAPO (*Strigops habroptilus*). Reports that there were plenty of runs and feathers inland from the north arm of Te Anau, 1943. (R.H.D.S.)
- ROSELLA (*Platycercus eximius*). Dunedin. Seen near the city, once seven together, and some at Maori Hill. (I.T.)
- SHINING CUCKOO (*Lamprococcyx lucidus*). Ness Valley, Clevedon. First heard 2/10/43. Last heard 14/1/44. 17/11/43, song of 31 notes with none of the usual closing notes. Several times in December and early January cuckoo "parliaments" of up to 10

birds were held with much noise, each in a large tree. 31/3/44, two reports of birds seen. (H.R.McK.) Te Whaiti, call heard almost daily to 25/1/44. One call on 17/2/44. First seen Tihoe, 13/10/43. (R.St.P.) Not heard till 3/11/43, Whitehills-Orewa area, abundant thereafter. (C.A.F.) 21/12/43, Eastbourne, Miss Hursthouse reports seeing a young, apparently nearly full grown, cuckoo, fed by an adult. The young one was on a power line with a Grey Warbler an inch each side of it. They all flew down to a bush and the adult cuckoo fed the young one with a caterpillar. Later it gave a low call which brought the young one to it. The warblers hung about all the time, and presently all moved off together. (E.W.H.) Dunedin heard at Wakari 15/10/43. Elsewhere in Dunedin 20 and 21/10/43. (D.N.F.C.) Report of a flock of 15-20 seen some 20 years ago. (I.T.)

LONG-TAILED CUCKOO (*Urodynamis taitensis*). Tihoe. First seen 11/10/43. (R.St.P.) Te Whaiti, last call heard, 26/1/44. (M.F.) Clevedon, October, 1943, one reported seen. 18/2/44, one reported being chased so closely by a tui that it dived into thick fern. One reported as seen almost daily for three weeks up to 26/4/44. (H.R.M.) Okataina, first heard mid-September. Sometimes they call out continuously during the night. No decrease in numbers. (G.B.W.) Cry heard at night, Tinopai, Kaipara, 1/2/44. (C.A.F.) Waimarino district, numerous. (W.P.M.) Eglinton Valley, report of one adult and two young in a tree. Joined by another adult and all flew away together. (I.T.)

KINGFISHER (*Halcyon sanctus*). Masterton, July, 1944, seen on many occasions dropping into a hedge of *Eleagnus japonicus* catching blow flies. 30/6/44, one reported battering a White-eye for half an hour. (R.H.D.S.) Appear to be slightly more numerous in mid-Canterbury, winter, 1944. (R.A.F.) York Bay, Wellington, 31/10/43, two Kingfishers apparently thinking of making a nest in a rather rotten broken-off stump of a branch of Tawa about 200 yards from the edge of the bush and just above a stream. One flew repeatedly to the end of the branch, where there was a hole. 21/11/43, birds not seen, but all round the tree on the ground are torn chips of wood about one or two inches long, quite fresh. 2/1/44, young apparently being fed. In a hole in the trunk of a tree, about three feet from the Tawa, so that the nests are only three or four feet apart, is a Rifleman's nest. Both the Kingfishers and the Riflemen are flying in and out repeatedly. 9/1/44, both still feeding young; in and out continually. The Kingfisher came several times with what seemed to be a fish or worm about four or five inches long. Its arrival at the nest was heralded by the young with vociferous cries, rather like barking dogs in the distance, or frogs. 31/1/44, both nests empty. (M.M.A.)

KOOKABURRA (*Dacelo gigas*). Reported breeding Takatu, visitor to Leigh and Waiwera, and a single bird reached Kaukapakapa, June, 1943. (C.A.F.)

- RIFLEMAN (*Acanthisitta chloris*). Te Whaiti to Huiarau Range, 25/1/44, plentiful. Full-grown young still being fed. (H.R.M.) Tihoi, common. (R.St.P.) Taihape, 11/11/43, nest with young. (R.H.D.S.) Teremakau, September, 1943, plentiful. (E.F.S.)
- BUSH WREN (*Xenicus longipes*). One pair, Teremakau, reported September, 1943. (E.F.S.)
- ROCK WREN (*X. giliventris*). Found in 1941, at about 4000ft, Makarora Valley. The nest was situated at the base of a Koromiko bush growing on the edge of a very steep bank. The outside of the nest consisted of the grass which was growing round the base of the Koromiko. It was completely covered and had an entrance on one side. Several times I saw both parent birds bring food to the young. They came at frequent intervals, and a green caterpillar was the only food I saw brought. (G.G.H.)
- PIBIT (*Anthus novaeseelandiae*). Plentiful in Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) 21/3/44, Common near Te Anau (W.A.W.)
- FERN-BIRD (*Bowdleria punctata*). Whangarei, abundant and still spreading; now seen on hills in gorse, tea tree, and fern, as well as in swamps and valleys. Whangamata, abundant. Found also in plantations of *P. ponderosa* and *P. palustris*, open-growing pines, and in fern and manuka on the edges of dense plantations. (W.S.) Sporadic in Silverdale district; recorded East Coast Road, Upper Orewa Valley; also near Wellsford, Okahukura in spring, 1943. Swamp in Wairau Creek, Milford, 29/1/44; Pakiri, 30/1/44; abundant and widespread around Waipapa, Bay of Islands, February, 1944; Ngawha, abundant, February, 1944; King Country, heard in swamp one mile east of Wairere, March, 1944. (C.A.F.) Te Awaiti, near Cape Palliser, 26/10/43, reported. (H.L.S.) Reported still plentiful at Okuru, South Westland. (R.A.F.)
- GREY WARBLER (*Pseudogerygone igata*). Collecting straw, 3/10/43. (W.S.) Masterton, 5/6/44, building; 14/6/44, still building; about 24/7/44, three eggs hatched; about 28/7/44, nests robbed, probably rats; 1/8/44, building second nest; 10/8/44, still building; sparrows causing annoyance, perching on the nest and occasionally in it. (R.H.D.S.) Taihape, bush reserve, 13/6/44, flock of at least 20; 27/8/44, flock of 15 in three or four trees; one was building a nest. (A.S.W.) York Bay, June, 1944, flock of 20 reported. Mahina Bay, more than usual. (E.W.H.) Masterton, 19/5/44, one young just able to fly seen to be fed by two birds. (J.M.C.) Singing continuously April, May, and June in Christchurch. (R.A.F.) Hakataramea district, very common. (W.A.W.)
- YELLOW-BREASTED TIT (*Petroica macrocephala*). One seen near main road, Rotokahu, near Reefton, April, 1944. (R.A.F.) Plentiful, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Numerous about Queen Charlotte Sound. (A.E.P.LeC.) Kononi, Otago, early January, 1944, report of nest with at least four eggs; about 7ft from the ground against a rocky outcrop on which senecios grew. (I.T.)

WHITE-BREASTED TIT (*P. toitoi*). Waiotapu, 21/1/44, male in manuka scrub far from any bush. Kaingaroa Pine Forest, 27/1/44, male many miles from any native trees. (H.R.M.) Tihoi, common. (R.St.P.) Established throughout the planted forests on the volcanic plateau. (R.St.P. and R.B.S.) Present Wairere and Whareorino Mountain, King Country, March, 1944. (C.A.F.)

NORTH ISLAND ROBIN (*Miro longipes*). Tihoi, quite common, seen daily, 10 being the best count. (R.St.P.) Te Whaiti, 26/1/44, adult and one young seen; bushmen reported it to be well distributed and to feed from the hand at times in the winter. (H.R.M.) Waimarino district, rare; have not seen it for some years, but it is reliably reported in mixed forest from time to time. (W.P.M.) Mangawhero Gorge, Ohakune, 23/10/43 (J.M.H.) Whakapapa Gorge, 30/1/44, one chased by a Rifleman. (A.C.H.)

SOUTH ISLAND ROBIN (*M. australis*). January, 1944, report that no robins were noted in the Routeburn Valley and near Sylvan Lake, where they had been plentiful a few years ago. (D.N.F.C.) March, 1944, fairly common in Eglinton Valley. (W.A.W.)

FANTAIL (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*). A black one was present in the grounds of King's College for over a year. The black phase is very rare round Auckland; this is the only one I have seen. (R.B.S.) Waimarino district, pied form common. (W.P.M.) Mangawhero Gorge, Ohakune Junction, 23/10/43, one black one. (J.M.H.) Wellington Botanical Gardens, 29/10/43, pair, one black and one pied. (H.L.S.) Both pied and black forms present in Christchurch, autumn, 1944; one of the latter reported from Lincoln with a pair of white feathers in the tail, 3/6/44 (R.A.F.) Plentiful, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Dunedin, birds were recorded once daily unless recognised as different birds. June 1, 1943 to May 31, 1944, inside garden, 210 pied and 29 black, i.e., 14 per cent. Outside garden, 63 pied and 12 black, i.e., 19 per cent. The percentages of blacks to pied during the last three years were 13 per cent., 25 per cent., and 15 per cent. There was an error in last year's notes: The count 204 should read 214. It is interesting to note that the count of pied fantails inside the garden remains practically the same as last year, but the number of black is almost halved. The drop in numbers observed outside the garden as compared with last year is due merely to reduced opportunities of making observational walks. (I.T.)

YELLOWHEAD (*Mohua ochrocephala*). Small flock near heavy bush at head of Whatamunga Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound, 11/5/44. (A.E.P.LeC.) January, 1944, noted in the Routeburn Valley-Sylvan Lake area. (D.N.F.C.) 21/3/44, a flock of 15-20 seen beside the road about 10 miles from Cascade down the Eglinton Valley. (W.A.W.)

WHITEHEAD (*M. albicilla*). Tihoi, common; up to 40 seen in one day. Often travels in company with White-eyes. Usually builds a nest on the stem of a punga leaf about 19in from the trunk.

(R.St.P.) Waimarino district, not seen for many years. Seen again in beech forest under Ruapehu, October, 1943, and in January, 1944. Present in large numbers in mixed forests at 2000ft. (W.P.M.) Whareorino Mountain, March, 1944. (C.A.F.) Mataroa, 12/11/43, six. (R.H.D.S.)

BROWN CREEPER (*Finschia novaeseelandiae*). Plentiful, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Dunedin, 23/3/44, about sunset, a party of half a dozen or more singing in concert. One noted twice hanging head down by one foot while feeding. (I.T.) 29/1/44, 10-15 at Liethen Gorge, and 31/1/44, 8-10 at Whiskey Gully, Kelso district, South Otago. (W.A.W.)

WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops lateralis*). Winter flocks of 40-50, June and July, some feeding from fowls' mash tin, Lake Ellesmere, 1943. (R.A.F.) Hilderthorpe, North Otago, arrived 28/3/43 and left 17/8/43. Estimated 500 spent the winter among the surrounding trees. Ringed 30. (C.W.McL.) Hakataramea, one seen eating fat from a rabbit carcass hanging up. (W.A.W.) 27/1/44, near Dunedin. Nest largely made of wool in manuka about 5ft up; three eggs. (B.J.M.) They began to collect nesting material in the first few days of October. Ringed bird reported at Wanaka. With the exception of the above, as far as is known, all the South Island ringing has been in the Dunedin district. (I.T.) Ettrick, Otago, nest with six eggs. (E.S.G.)

TUI (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*). 12/11/43. Moumoukai, young being fed in the nest in Tawa, 35ft up. (J.W.St.P.) Tihoi, common. (R.St.P.) Sporadic but well distributed in Silverdale-Kaipara district, 1943. Building nest Whitehills, 25/10/43. (C.A.F.) Eastbourne, 22/2/44, bird seen collecting strands of binder twine and flying off with them. It seems a late date for nesting activities. (E.W.H.) Groups of up to 12 birds present throughout the winter in suburban gardens, Cashmere, Christchurch, 1944. (R.A.F.) Fairly numerous, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Dunedin, one took a great liking for golden syrup and water, whereas another tasting it acted as if it were extremely distasteful. Similar differences in taste have been noted with Bellbirds. Tuis were noted chasing sparrow, white-eye, fantail, greenfinch, blackbird, chaffinch, pigeon, and bell bird. What appears to be courtship activity, one bird pressing itself up against another, was noted in August, September, and May. (I.T.)

BELL BIRD (*Anthornis melanura*). Moumoukai, seen and heard quite often. Certainly increasing. Not known in this area from early days up to four years ago. (J.W.St.P.) Waiti Bay, Clevedon, 4/9/43, one seen on a kowhai in bloom. Messrs H. S. Munro and J. Luke report none known in the Clevedon area from 1880 up to a few years ago. (H.R.M.) Okataina, abundant. Te Whaiti-Tarapounamu-Huiarau Range, 3120ft, great many. (M.F. and H.R.M.) Tihoi, common. (R.St.P.) Plentiful, Teremakau, September, 1943. (E.F.S.) Dunedin, both male and female noted

many times singing to, and the female attacking, their reflections in a mirror fixed in a nesting box. (I.T.)

BLUE-WATTLED CROW (*Callaeas wilsoni*). 1943-44, Moumoukai, heard every month, but more quiet in late autumn. 12/8/43, six singing as if in competition. 26/9/43, one seen to enter a large tree with a twig in its beak, and, minus the twig, to chase another out of the tree and through the bush at a very fast pace. No sign of nest; evidently part of courtship performance. 26/12/43, nest found in top of Toro, 35ft from the ground and barely visible. Two crows seen. 9/1/44, nest was climbed to. Underneath, entangled in twigs and supplejack was a dead full-grown chick. Mt. London, 28/11/43, deserted nest found with broken egg-shells. 3/1/44 two heard making the rather uncommon clicking call. Others heard calling normally. (H.R.M.) Okataina, has been heard. (G.B.W.) Tihoi, apparently none. (R.St.P.) Patumahoe, a few still linger in small patches of bush. (R.B.S.) Waimarino district, reliably reported occasionally. Reported present in some numbers near Pipiriki. (W.P.M.)

GREENFINCH (*Chloris chloris*). Wellington, 10/9/43, "schwerr" note. 12/9/43, part song. (H.L.S.) Mahina Bay, June, 1944, usual flocks visiting the bay mouth, later and very irregularly. (E.W.H.) Dunedin, first song, 27/9/43. (I.T.)

CHAFFINCH (*Fringilla coelebs*). Wellington, 16/9/43, male chasing female with sex cheep. 27/10/43, female appeared inviting, courting the male and another male nearby; first male unwilling. Courting consisted of shuffling and wing spreading and a strident "yeet" note. Advances to the second male resulted in supposed sexual chase. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, occasional song, June and July, increasing in August, full in September, decreasing in December. Last recorded, 12/1/44. Odd song in March, April, and May. Chasing in October, February, April, and May. (I.T.)

REDPOLL (*Acanthis cabaret*). Karori, 17/10/43, garden influx. Elsewhere several hundred in gums. Decrease by the end of the month. 3/1/44, nest 9ft up a Kotukutuku, with two young. Hen brooding and difficult to flush; then refused to return, perching in a nearby tree and calling "twee." Male appeared, but not interested. Twice danced in flight before the female, but was rebuffed. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, song from October 7 to February 13, 1944. Nest with four eggs, 2/2/44. (I.T.) Etrick, Otago, 1943, plenty of nests with 4-5 eggs. (E.S.G.)

GOLDFINCH (*Carduelis carduelis*). Hildérthorpe, North Otago, a flock of about 300 have made this their home, staying all the year. Nesting in trees. One in a Kanuka in the garden, 4ft 6in up, contained four newly-hatched young, 20/1/44. Watched feeding hours; fed before 6.30 a.m. and between 5 and 7 p.m. Parent birds not seen near the nest during the day. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, song from end of September to April, 1944. (I.T.) Etrick, Otago, 1943, plenty of nests with four or five eggs. (E.S.G.)

SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*). Hilderthorpe, North Otago. An invasion has occurred, and they are nesting in lucerne trees in colonies, 22/1/44. Four trees growing in line have 29, 24, 15, and 1 nest respectively. Some nests are empty, others contain young birds, some with both young and eggs. The heat of one unfledged bird was sufficient to warm the outside of the bottom of the nest at 7.30 p.m. (C.W.McL.) Dunedin, broken eggs seen on 1 and 7/8/43. (D.N.F.C.) Last week in August, great activity with nesting material. 22/10/43, first seen carrying food to young. (I.T.)

YELLOW HAMMER (*Emberiza citrinella*). Wellington, 10/9/43, part song, 3 p.m. 12/9/43, at noon. Linton, 31/8/43, part song, dull. (H.L.S.) North Otago, 1/2/44, nest with five eggs reported. (I.T.)

THRUSH (*Turdus ericetorum*). Wellington, 2/10/43, nest in Escallonia. A sodden structure, apparently deserted. 17/10/43, five eggs; 23/10/43, five young; 30/10/43, almost fledged; 1/11/43, two in nest. (H.L.S.) Masterton, 20/7/44, building in garden; 29/7/44, one egg; 2/8/44, sitting on four eggs; 15/8/44, young hatched to-day or previous day. (Mrs A.S.W. and R.H.D.S.) Masterton, 29/7/44, nest in town garden, two eggs; 14/8/44, sitting on five eggs. Te Whaiti, Masterton, 29/7/44, two nests in gorse, two and three eggs. (R.H.D.) Dunedin, June, songs almost daily; July, songs daily increasing; August, September, and October, song daily. From mid-October, decreasing in the middle of the day. From mid-November, chiefly in morning and evening. December, great decrease in song. Last song recorded, 3/1/44. Early March, morning and evening song; 15th, first song during the day. April, song increasing. Thrush and other species seen eating the berries of tree salvia, which are said to be poisonous. (I.T.)

BLACKBIRD (*T. merula*). Karori, 26/11/43, building in elder; 4/12/43, five eggs; 11/12/43, still sitting; hatched about 15/12/43. One egg removed 19/12/43. One nestling much smaller than the others, suggesting that incubation started before the last eggs were laid. 23/12/43, brood destroyed by rats. This pair built three nests, and both broods in the garden failed. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, 12/9/43, building commenced; 16th, nest finished; 17th and 18th, first two eggs; 21st, third egg; 22nd, fourth egg; 24th and 25th, fifth and sixth eggs. Bird sat off and on all day during laying. October 7th, one hatched; 8th, four hatched; 9th, five hatched; last egg addled. Parents eat the excreta. 22nd, one young left nest; 23rd, rest left, addled egg remaining. (S.W.R.) Dunedin, 1943, May 28th, adult male chasing two young males; 30th, two adult males fighting; the victor then chased the female. June 8th, the first time that two males were seen doing prolonged sentry marching at their territorial boundaries. August 11th, first song heard; 15th, songs heard loudly and repeatedly in the evening; 18th, female first seen picking up nesting material. (I.T.)

HEDGE SPARROW (*Prunella modularis*). Wellington, 20/9/43, pair; one crouching, tail quivering and erect, the other pecking at its cloaca, rising with each thrust as though dancing, and finishing with a more vigorous thrust. 6/10/43, nest with four eggs in Escallonia, female brooding, rival song 25 yards away, where, on 8/10/43 an incomplete clutch of three was found. 24/10/43, nest with four eggs in Escallonia. 28/10/43, nest with two almost fledged young in gorse, 7ft up. 30/10/43, nest with four eggs in bush lawyer 6ft up. (H.L.S.) Dunedin, occasional song in June. August, song daily. Song decreasing towards the end of October. Occasional song to January 28th and again after May 22nd. 10/10/43, nest with four eggs, deserted. (I.T.)

LARK (*Alauda arvensis*). Three nests with four eggs in each, Wairau Bar, 14/11/43. (J.R.E.) Masterton, 4/11/43, nest with two eggs; one hatched 10/11/43. (M.W.S.G.) Ettrick, Otago, 1943, plenty of nests with three or four eggs. (E.S.G.)

STARLING (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Waitare Beach, Levin, 26/11/42, three flocks c50, apparently feeding in low sandhills and driftwood. Why not in pairs breeding? (H.T.W.) Near Masterton, 22/7/44, Roost in gorse on bank of Ruamahanga River, c74,000 birds. (J.M.C. and R.H.D.S.) Lake Ellesmere, nesting commenced in October, 1943, and family groups were still about 4/1/44. (E.M.) Dunedin, 6/11/43. First young noted. A starling spent most of the day on at least three occasions sitting in a nesting box singing to its reflection in a mirror fixed in the ceiling. At dusk, when all other starlings had ceased to fly and sing, it was still there singing. (I.T.)

MYNA (*Acrodothis tristis*). Establishing itself slowly further north, e.g., four at Ardmore, 2/1/44. (J.W.St.P.) Odd birds or pairs seen at Clevedon. (H.R.M. and R.B.S.) Odd pairs occasionally reach Otahuhu, but seem to disappear. (R.B.S.) Present in Waimarino district. (W.P.M.) Present on Great South Rd. between Huntley and Pippio (King Country); rare to Urenui, but seen Mokau and Waikawau; common Urenui to Wanganui, not seen nearer Wellington, March, 1944. (C.A.F.)

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). Flock of 29 seen at Hilderthorpe, North Otago, 3/8/43. Still in district 12/1/44, roosting in gum trees about a mile away, where they also nest. (C.W.McL.) Linton, 29/8/43, nest in Tawa, 30ft up; one egg covered with grass. Titahi Bay, 27/12/43, mobbed by starlings. (H.L.S.)

STOATS AND NATIVE BIRDS. During 1941, in the Young River Valley, Makarora, I found a stoat's nest containing feathers recognisable as of a pigeon, tui, finches (?chaffinch), and blackbird. Others sent to the Department of Internal Affairs were identified at the Dominion Museum as of red-fronted parrakeet and yellow-head. (G.G.H.)