



A New Zealand bird-lover and tamed Native Pigeon.

BIRDS

*New Zealanders!
Protect Your Native Birds!*

Issued by

N.Z. NATIVE BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY.

E. V. SANDERSON, Hon. Secretary.

Box 631, Wellington.

OBJECTS—To advocate and obtain the efficient protection and preservation of our native birds, a bird day for our schools, and unity of control of all wild life.

Affiliated with the International Committee for the Protection of Wild Birds.

The foundation of true conservation is in the setting aside of sanctuaries efficiently and rigidly controlled by men who know how.

SUBSCRIPTION, 5/-; CHILDREN 1/-
(Membership open to all.)

Bulletin No. 9.



White-fronted Terns, one of our most graceful birds.



THE New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society invites all those who have respect for our wonderful and unique native birds, all those who realise the great economic and æsthetic value of birds, all those who wish to preserve our unrivalled scenic beauties to band together with the Society in an earnest endeavour to fully awaken public interest and secure efficient preservation, conservation and intelligent utilisation of our great heritage.

With the co-operation, appreciation and assistance of the general public New Zealand can stand unrivalled. Without such our forests will be hopelessly marred and destroyed by fire, animals and wasteful exploitation—our birds but a memory of the past.

Our subscription is merely 5/-, children 1/-. A ten-shilling note will pay for two years—Besides this, we ask for your co-operation in assisting to conserve your own heritage. Is it worth while?

We aim at issuing only accurate information, all of which is checked by leading authorities. No remuneration is asked by any of our officers. Your contribution goes solely towards better informing others.

Our Great Heritage—Birds and Forests

It is incumbent upon all the people of New Zealand to show active interest in their heritage--our forests and birds. If the people wickedly and apathetically allow this priceless heritage to be destroyed, then will we richly deserve what we will get—an almost birdless, insect-ridden, devastated and eroded land. No good citizen can afford to stand idly by.

Bulletin No. 9

WHAT AMERICANS SAY ABOUT BIRDS.

PLANTING FOR THE BIRDS.

No other group of animals commands such widespread and universal attention as birds; everyone is more or less interested in them. Why is this so?

In the first place, with the exception of insects, birds are the most common form of animal life about us. Approximately 600,000 species of animals are known to science. Some thing like 18,000 kinds of birds alone are found in the world; about 1,200 different kinds are recorded from North America and of these approximately 350 occur in Iowa. Not only is the number of species large, but also the number of individuals is considerable. Competent authorities estimate that there are in the United States 3,800,000,000 nesting birds of all kinds and that, in addition, 3,800,000,000 more birds pass through the United States in their migratory journey. Such an abundance of an active, graceful, beautiful and interesting type of animal life, many forms of which are further attractive to us by reason of their vocal ability, can not be easily overlooked.

Moreover, birds offer unusual opportunities for cultivating the powers of observation as well as for purposes of study and recreation. In addition, they are desirable about our homes and on our farms for the economic benefits which they confer. They are man's only natural allies in the continuous warfare which he must wage against injurious weeds, mammals and above all, insects.

One of the results of the nation-wide movement for the protection of birds has been the acquisition of better and more complete knowledge of their habits, peculiarities and requirements by an ever-increasing mass of people. Those who have had the conservation of our native birds most at

heart have been attempting to produce a sympathetic and understanding citizenship by declaring conservation a duty. That stage is now past, and conservation of our feathered allies is coming more and more to be recognised as a necessity.

A great amount of personal effort is still necessary to accomplish the ends of conservation, but such exceedingly practical methods as attracting birds with food, water, nesting-places, refuges and the like are well directed and timely endeavours to bring about the desired results.

The old idea that only three or four of our birds, the house wren, the bluebird, and the purple martin, commonly grouped as "house birds," could be induced to remain in the vicinity of human habitations has been dispelled. It has been shown that if suitable nesting and feeding conditions are offered, many other species will avail themselves of even the slightest encouragement.

Actual counts of the breeding birds in definitely selected areas which represent as nearly as possible typical conditions have been made in various parts of the United States. Such bird censuses, as they are called, show that the average population is two birds per acre. The United States Biological Survey, estimating the value of each bird in the land at 10 cents, maintains that "the birds of the United States prevent an increase in the annual damage done by insects of more than \$400,000,000. This is a considerable item when it is recalled that forestry and agriculture alone suffer an annual loss through insect damage of one billion dollars.

Of all the methods devised for attracting birds none is better than that of furnishing an adequate supply of suitable vegetation.

One way to combat the state of affairs that has arisen is to plant grasses and berry- or seed-bearing trees, shrubs and vines. These should not be selected at random but with certain objects in view. Some of these objects are: to afford protection and shelter to birds; to afford suitable nesting sites for birds; to supplement the food supply of birds; to serve as decoys and thus protect the cultivated fruits from birds; and to combine the further useful function of furnishing windbreaks and ornamentation about homes, farms, and roadsides.

Granting, then, that planting for the birds is a commendable thing to do, let us inquire more specifically as to what we shall plant. The following are primary requisites

to bear in mind in choosing plants and in arranging them:

1. Select the kinds of trees and shrubs that are suitable for the locality in which they are to be grown. Native ones are usually much better than unique importations for they are more likely to succeed.

2. Select the kinds of trees, shrubs, etc., that are ornamental as well as fruitful. Utility, beauty and variety can be happily combined if a reasonable amount of judicious discrimination is exercised so that there need be no season without its fruit.

3. Select, if possible, a variety of trees, shrubs, etc., so that a continuous and diversified diet may be available to the birds. Many desirable plants possess highly coloured fruits which are always attractive to birds. Plants which retain berries, seeds or fruits for a considerable time after they have matured or throughout the winter have many advantages, to an otherwise plain and drab landscape.

4. Do not arrange the selected plants too formally or exactly; and do not clip or trim them too precisely. Strive to represent natural conditions and to eliminate artificial appearances; too often our arrangement is highly unreal, and the effort that has been made is altogether too apparent. You cannot fool the birds!

Vines.—These serve well the combined purpose of attracting birds and of ornamentation. Furthermore, vines assist materially in furnishing highly desirable nesting sites if a number of small trees or shrubs are allowed to become overgrown with them to form a thick tangle. Vine-covered hedges and fences are attractive to both man and birds.

A favourite food of waterfowl is wild rice and wild celery; both can be planted to good advantage in the lakes and ponds of public and semi-public places.

Finally, we may inquire where these ideas may be put into practice. One need not have an extensive estate and caretaker in order to make his contribution. The following places are suggestive: the farm or some part of it, the roadside running by it, the right-of-way of the near-by railroad, the town park, the fair or chatauqua grounds, school grounds, picnic grounds, cemeteries—your own back or front yard. Even small contributions in the way of additional vegetation will most surely result in an increased number of birds and will prove a substantial factor in their welfare.

A short time ago the National Association of Audubon Societies received as a gift from a cousin of the Late Presi-

dent Roosevelt an 11½ acre tract of land near Oyster Bay as a bird sanctuary. The announcement concerning the transfer of this land states that although there are already many trees and thickets growing thereon, the Association will put a cat-proof iron fence around the property and will set out trees and shrubs that provide the best food for birds. The area is to be called the Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary. Surely, this is a step in the right direction.—University of Iowa Service Bulletin.

PECULIAR MIGRATIONS OF NATIVE BIRDS.

The re-appearance and disappearances of our birds in particular localities is a matter little understood and the following observations by Mr. Annabell now deceased, dated 17th June, 1922, are instructive and interesting.

My observations are confined to the country lying between the Patea and Wanganui Rivers, and more especially to that area of rough country drained by the Waitotara River.

As regards the kiwi, weka and pukeko. I first visited that part of this area in 1875-76 lying around the head waters of Kai Iwi Stream and the Manganui-o-tahu and Mangapapa Streams which latter two join and empty into the Waitotara about 25 to 30 miles from the sea. I heard no kiwi nor did I see any signs of them. Wekas were present in limited numbers. As the country was altogether under forest there were no pukeko.

In 1879 I was back in the Upper Waitotara surveying the Mangapapa No. 1 Block lying on the eastern side of the Waitotara River, between the Manganui-o-tahu and the Makakaho Streams. I spent about three months in the bush with ten Maoris and their wives and families, and also their dogs. The Maoris kept a number of their party out most of the time, hunting pigs for food, but no kiwis were caught nor did I hear the Maoris speak of kiwi. Also I saw no signs of them. Wekas were heard occasionally only.

In the year 1881 I spent 8 months surveying on the eastern side of the Patea River near the head waters of the Whenuakura. We caught no kiwis and personally I saw no signs of them, but two of the party reported that they had seen the marks of a kiwi on a tributary of the Whenuakura. Weka not at all plentiful.

Towards the latter part of the year 1883, I returned to the Upper Waitotara country and I heard the first kiwi on the 8th December of that year. This was at the Trig-Kapara on the western side of the river in the Kapara Survey District.

I spent the year 1884 and nearly the whole of 1885 in the Upper Waitotara district. We now began to see signs of kiwi and to hear them more often at night. Still none were caught by the dogs which we always had with us. Wekas were heard occasionally. In 1886 we worked over the watershed on towards the Wanganui River above Pipiriki. While cleaning a trig station here I found a dead kiwi that had been killed by a wild dog. The dog had buried the bird in the soft ground of a pig rooting. Kiwis were now to be heard almost every night, and occasionally we found the skins of those killed by wild dogs, turned inside out. About this time I caught one alive and kept it in Wanganui for some time. About 1888, returned to the Upper Waitotara. Kiwis fairly plentiful. Wekas scarce. In 1892, I took up a bush section in the Kapara Survey District, Taranaki, and have lived here ever since.

About the year 1896, kiwi had increased greatly in numbers. Though the country was being felled and roaded, all the bush contained them in numbers. And this remained so for 10 to 15 years, after which they were not quite so plentiful, but still were not at all scarce away from the heavy bush.

About 1918 I noticed that they were getting scarce and this continued. Now (1922) though they are still fairly plentiful in the heavy bush, still there are, I should say, not more than one tenth of the numbers of say 1911.

Wekas increased in numbers in the district from about 1900 to 1905 and became moderately plentiful in favourable localities after which they became scarcer, and I have not heard the cry of the bird for several years. Pukeko came about 1903-05, and in certain limited but favourable localities they multiplied greatly; about 1916-17, they began to decline in numbers. There are now only a few left.

Thirty years ago the piopio or native thrush would be heard in a limited number of the heavily timbered valleys. Now, if any are left, it will be in some of the remote valleys of the forest reserve. Bellbirds remain in fair numbers also whiteheads, but the kaka and kakariki are only heard in the seldom visited localities.

ANIMALS IN OUR FOREST.

By Captain E. V. Sanderson, R.A.O.U.

In order to demonstrate the effects of those animals which now roam our forests, let us take two opposite extremes. We will first of all presume that man left New Zealand and took all his importations with him except the animals which now trespass in our forests: Deer of various species, goats, opossums, pigs, wild cattle, etc. As none of these have any natural enemies, they would, of course, increase to vast numbers, the native forest would be totally destroyed and those plants we term noxious, because herbivorous animals will not eat them, would replace our own beautiful and valuable plant life; and the re-discoverer of this land would tell about the golden gorse-covered hills intermixed with impassable blackberry, African box-thorn and other such plants, which the animals could not or would not eat.

On the other hand, let us suppose man left New Zealand and took all his importations with him. The native forest would immediately start to re-assert itself and would, much quicker than many suppose, assume the supremacy over nearly all imported plant life. Gorse, blackberry and the like would be overgrown and smothered; tauhinau and manuka would grow through the grass in the open areas, afford the requisite shade and shelter for our native trees, and in two hundred years or perhaps less, New Zealand would be back into its original native state; and it would be again thronged with bird life.

Now so far as those forests which it is necessary to conserve for beneficial, climatic and other reasons are concerned, the situation is in our hands. If we choose to tolerate animals in our forests, we are heading towards a noxious weed era just so fast or so slow according to the numbers of animals we allow to be present.

Let us look the question squarely in the face. With deer and other animals present in great numbers in many of our forests the state of these forests gives us unerring reply; and if instances of the progressive deterioration and partial destruction of our forests are required, they can be found in any forests where animals are present, but very notably in South Westland and West Otago at the head of Lake Hawea, and other districts where the forest is disappearing in places and is being replaced by noxious plant life as a result of the depredations of herbivorous animals.

What then must we think of those people who are so anxious to increase the number of animals in our forests

for their own gain or sport or that of tourists. No sportsman in the true sense of the term would risk even the possibility of such results to gratify his sport, but unfortunately there are others whose desire to gratify their self interests is greater than their love of our country. These calm their conscience by overlooking the question or by assuring themselves the damage is exaggerated.

The present position of a small minority destroying our finest reserves is unthinkable. The remedying of this animal menace in our forests will surely become a very severe tax on every member of the community. Moreover, the very fact of deer and other animals being so numerous defeats the aims of those whose only desire is to secure head-trophies, as the size and shape of these trophies suffer as the plenitude and variety of feed lessen.

A lady correspondent writes as follows:

"All my life I've just loved trees, especially our native forests, and it has been appalling to me to see what is going on—I've just returned from a trip to the lakes. It is years since my former visit there, 20 or more years. Then the forest was dense, the trees most glorious. Now the deer have eaten right through, and as one man expressed himself, you can drive a horse and cart anywhere as far as the undergrowth is concerned, and when that goes, goodbye to the forests—It is only a matter of time."

OPOSSUMS.

The society has what any unbiased citizen would consider incontrovertible evidence, and photographs, as to damage done by these animals to our birds and forests, and will publish this if any attempt is made to further spread this menace. For instance a member of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union states: "Anyone can see the damage done to trees if he will look at the seedlings eaten down, and the barking and scratching of the trees—without doubt they have killed the kotukutuku and makomako trees in some districts—personally I know of one 20ft. high pohutukawa which one opossum played havoc with."

Mr. W. W. Smith of New Plymouth a naturalist who has spent a life time observing and studying our birds and forests writes:—

"They speak of the opossum doing no harm to the native birds. Those men who write in this style can have had no experience of the habits of these animals, and have

no conception of the damage they cause alike to the native vegetation and the native birds. We need not be surprised at the opossum flourishing apace in New Zealand bush. Almost all the trees and shrubs are of a much more succulent and nutritious nature than is the vegetation of its native country—Australia. Should these animals be permitted to increase for commercial purposes the result will be the certain depletion alike of the native bush and the native birds. Let anyone interested in the welfare of both procure one or two opossums and keep them in captivity for a season. They will very soon convince the experimentalist that they are very partial to small birds' eggs. Let him introduce a blackbird's or a thrush's nest containing eggs, and observe the result. There have lately been many erroneous statements published on the harmlessness of opossums to our beautiful native bush and unique birds."

TREE GUARDED BY DOG.

On Kapiti Sanctuary near the caretaker's residence a lone kotukutuku or konini bearing tree stands, one of the last if not the last of many such valuable bird food trees which once prospered on the island. Camped near this tree is a dog trained to touch no birds, but to bring death to goats and opossums.

A TRAPPER'S STORY.

Hon. Secretary: "How are you getting along with your trapping?"

Trapper: "All right—got eight this morning—my word! Don't they give the trees what—oh?—They just can eat and cut the leaves off. They ringbark saplings, and tear off bark and play the very deuce."

Hon. Secretary: "Yes, it's a bad look out for our birds and forests where they are."

WEASELS, STOATS, ETC.

In respect of extermination leading immediately to extinction, the present condition of the New Zealand fauna is one that must grieve to the utmost every ornithologist who cares for more than the stuffed skin of a bird on a shelf. In the fauna of that region the class aves holds the highest rank, and though its mightiest members had passed away before the settlement of white men, what was left of its avifauna had features of interest unsurpassed by any

others, it was indeed long before those features were appreciated, and then by but few ornithologists, yet no sooner was their value recognised than it was found that nearly all of their possessors were rapidly expiring, and the destruction of the original avifauna of this important colony, so thriving and intellectual, is being attended by circumstances of extraordinary atrocity. Under the evil influence of what was some thirty years ago called "acclimatisation," not only were all sorts of birds introduced, which, being of strong species speedily established themselves with the usual effect on the weak aboriginals, but, in an evil day, rabbits were liberated. These, as was anticipated by zoologists, soon became numerous beyond measure and devoured the pasture destined for the sheep, on which so much of the prosperity of the country depended. Allowing for a considerable amount of exaggeration on the part of the sheepowners, no one can doubt that the rabbit plague has inflicted a serious loss on the colony. Yet a remedy may be worse than a disease, and the so-called remedy applied in this case has been of a kind that every true naturalist knew to be most foolish, namely, the importation from England and elsewhere and liberation of divers carnivorous mammals—polecats, ferrets, stoats and weasels! Two wrongs do not make a right even at the Antipodes, and from the most authentic reports it seems, as any zoologist of common sense would have expected, that the blood-thirsty beasts make no greater impression upon the stock of rabbits in New Zealand than they do in the Mother country, while they find an easy prey in the heedless and harmless members of the aboriginal fauna, many of them incapable of flight, so that their days are assuredly numbered. Were these indigenous forms of an ordinary kind, their extirpation might be regarded with some degree of indifference; but unfortunately many of them are of extraordinary forms—the relics of perhaps the oldest fauna now living. Opportunities for learning the lesson they taught have been but scant, and they are vanishing before our eyes ere that lesson can be learnt. Assuredly the scientific naturalist of another generation, especially if he be of New Zealand birth, will brand with infamy the short-sighted folly, begotten of greed, which will have deprived him of interpreting some of the great secrets of nature, while utterly failing to put an end to the nuisance—admittedly a great one.—From Alfred Newton's Dictionary of Birds, 1896.

AMATEUR ACCLIMATISING.

Mr. John G. Myers, F.E.S., B.Sc., R.A.O.U., late of New

Zealand Agricultural Department, writing from America, remarks:—

At the big Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard they have the customary belief held very strongly that all the indigenous birds of New Zealand are doomed, and that all attempts should be made to collect more while there is yet time. It is extraordinary how strong this feeling is. Personally, I think we shall yet be in time to conserve practically all the species that now remain.

With the growth of sanctuaries in New Zealand I should like to see a warning issued against the introduction of one race of species into the habitat of another—as has happened for instance in the case of the wekas on Kapiti, which are apparently all hybrids. This is a most deplorable thing. I have seen several cases. For instance, there was a quail on the island of Cuba, found nowhere else in the world. Actuated by some ridiculous idea of "improvement," the habitants introduced quail of a related form from Florida. The result is that it is now impossible to find a single pure native quail—all are hybrids, with the imported blood dominating. In New Zealand, while possibly all of our bird species have been described, the distribution of the geographical and other races into which they are divided has never yet been worked out. In some other countries well-meaning introductions, even of the apparent species from one part of its range to another have rendered this impossible. In New Zealand there is yet time and no irreparable damage of this kind has yet been done and it must be remembered that we want to protect species and not mongrels.

As an example of how much there is still to be learned from the birds of New Zealand and about them I might mention a paper by Lowe published some years ago but apparently overlooked in New Zealand. It is on the rather dry subject of the skeleton of the Chatham Island Snipe (the same remarks apply to the other species or races found on the snares and other subantarctic islands). We had always supposed this a rather queer snipe, both from its feeble flight and more or less nocturnal habits; but I think no one realised its full importance until Lowe studied the skeleton. The snipe family contains as its most typical members two groups of the snipes and the woodcocks. But the Chathams snipe is neither a snipe nor a woodcock, but an extremely primitive form probably very closely allied to the ancestors from which both these more modern groups

arose. It is in fact a living fossil in the truest sense of the term.

NEW ZEALAND NATIVE BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY.

The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on Friday, the 8th May, at the Dominion Farmers' Institute Buildings. Mr. J. P. Firth, C.M.G., presided. The Secretary read the following report dealing with the Society's past activities in its endeavours to fully interest the public in the welfare of our native birds.

Several thousand bulletins are now being issued quarterly. The Society has now many earnest helpers distributed throughout the land and with the united efforts of all it can fairly be estimated that well over a hundred thousand articles on bird matter are being printed annually. Some twenty thousand posters have been distributed throughout the Dominion and the Society feels particularly the good effects produced by the postal authorities facilitating the exhibition of a poster in each Post Office. The results so far achieved would have been impossible had not many patriots come forward with donations from £100 downwards, and had great aid not been tendered by many throughout the Dominion.

As a result of the work, a changed view is evidenced by the large and ever increasing membership. Increasing enquiries are being received from schools, and many valuable minor results have come about as the outcome of our solicitations and suggestions.

There is, of course, a long row to hoe yet, but the outlook is very hopeful. Nevertheless, the scope of the work requires much extending, and no doubt the incoming officers will take steps to increase the literary output and inaugurate more illustrated lectures.

The Press generally throughout, New Zealand has given the movement cordial assistance, and a part of this Press has voluntarily offered more. Whenever support has been asked, the vitally important and national nature of the work has been fully realised, and assistance tendered.

The following officers were elected:—

President—Hon. Sir Thos. MacKenzie, G.C.M.G. Vice-Presidents—Sir George Fenwick, J. P. Firth, Esq., C.M.G., H. Guthrie-Smith, Esq., James Drummond, Esq., and Gilbert Archey, Esq., M.A.

A committee of five was appointed to attend to the usual detail and business matters.

Mr. Douglas McLean suggested all Acclimatisation Societies be written to with reference to the destruction done by stoats and weasels. The meeting, however, considered that these societies were fully alive to the question and needed no exhorting.

The meeting concluded with a hearty vote of thanks to the Chairman and commendation to the Hon. Secretary, the Society's various local representatives, and many other helpers for the manner in which the movement has so far been furthered.



A PAIR OF GREY WARBLERS AT NEST,
FEEDING YOUNG.

THE LITTLE BROWN BIRD.

(A story for the Children.)

Billie and his small sister had been playing all the morning on the ten-foot square of grass doing duty for a lawn in front of the suburban cottage. A low hedge enclosed this, and from it's leafy depths they first heard the mysterious sounds that attracted their attention.

So faint were these sounds that possibly nothing less acute than the ears of children would have paid any attention to them. As it was, Billie looked solemnly at Mary, who gazed back in similar manner at her brother, while the tiny "cheep! cheep!" came from somewhere about them.

"It must be fairies!" whispered Billie with one finger lifted to enjoin caution.

"It must!" said Mary, whose brown eyes were big with excitement.

Keeping very still, they gazed about in an attempt to discover where the sounds came from.

Then a tiny brown form about the size of Billie's thumb popped out of the hedge, paused a moment on the grass almost at the children's feet, and then seemed to vanish over the gate.

Billie scrambled to his feet. "I knew it was a fairy!" he said; "and I'm sure there must be another lost in the hedge! Can't you hear it crying?"

"The poor thing! Do let's help it!" and Mary hurried to the place where the brown stranger had first made its appearance.

Here the tiny voice was plain enough and in a moment more the children had discovered that it was coming from inside a beautiful little round-shaped house of moss and twigs.

"Why it's a nest!" exclaimed Billie. "I didn't know fairies lived in nests!"

"P'raps they're lost'ed," suggested Mary. "Don't you 'member how Peter Pan lived in a nest?"

"What if it 'is' Peter Pan?" said Billie, drawing back a little.

"Let's see!" answered his sister, who knew that Peter Pan and his friends were good fairies who loved children. So she pressed the leaves aside, and peeping through a round hole in the side of the nest saw four little pink throats widely opened and below them queer fat bodies covered with white down.

"Why! Why! Goodness!" she cried, "they're dear little baby birds! Oh! Billie what teeny, wee things!"

There was a flutter in the hedge above them, and there sat the daintiest little brown bird imaginable. Her little wings fluttered ceaselessly, and her bright beady eyes seemed to take in all that was happening beneath her. All her breast and throat were white, and this made her appear more fairylike than ever.

The children were enchanted. If it were not a fairy, at least it was the nearest approach to one that they had seen; and stepping back with clasped hands they watched the little bird flutter down and enter the nest.

When father came home from the city that evening, two excited children met him at the gate, and led him to the magic spot. A dainty brown head filled the doorway to the nest and the tiny voices they had heard before were silent.

"Why! its a grey-warbler," said father, "I didn't think that any of them would be found so close to town. You children must be very careful not to frighten the parent birds away, and then you can watch them feeding the little ones."

Day after day, Billie and his sister watched with delighted eyes the coming and going of the two parent birds; and each day the tiny voices they had heard first grew stronger.

Then one morning, hearing a loud twittering in the hedge, they hurried round just in time to find a strange black and white cat crouching on a branch near the nest. Her ears were flattened down, and her eyes glowed angrily, for the two little brown birds were fluttering about just out of reach and darting at her as though about to peck her.

"Oh! She's after our baby birds!" cried Mary, and picking up a stick she struck the cat so hard over the nose that it jumped hurriedly from the hedge, and ran under the house.

"What shall we do now?" said Billie. "That bad cat is sure to come back again."

"We must watch all day," answered Mary, "and ask daddy to keep the cat away at night when we are asleep."

Father was rather startled when he came home to hear that he was expected to watch a bird's nest all night. However, when he tucked the two children into bed after tea, he promised that he would keep the baby birds safe and you shall now hear how he did it.

It was quite dark when he went outside to see if the cat had come back; yet he distinctly saw a dim shape hovering above the hedge. Although it was a good while since he had been a body he guessed what that shape was, and picking up a stone threw it so straight that the shadowy thing floated off. Father said, "I thought so! It's a good job I came out or those small babies wouldn't have lasted long!"

Then he wondered what was to be done, for with a hungry cat prowling about the garden it seemed as though nothing could save those wee birds.

Presently he thought of a plan, and going into the shed, he brought round a large box and some pieces of stick.

With these he made a figure four trap on the lawn and

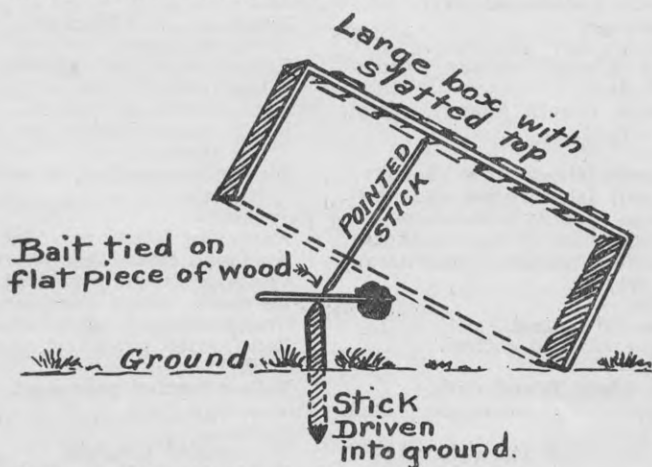
baited it with a piece of raw meat, and smiling to himself went inside.

In the early morning before the children were dressed, he went out to the lawn, and there was a very angry cat crouched under the box. Father smiled to himself and getting a sugar bag from the kitchen managed to finally get puss inside it.

"I thing those little birds are worth a dozen of your kind," he said to himself, and no one ever saw that black and white cat again."

A. H. MESSENGER.

The trap that caught the cat.



A young New Zealand girl writes:—

Puriri, Thames Valley.

Dear Sir,—Will you please admit me as a member of the New Zealand Native Bird Protection Society. Twenty-four of the school children, including myself, brought a half-penny each, and wished me to represent them. Hoping this will be all right.

NANCY McKENZIE.

We should like to hear of others acting like Miss Nancy McKenzie and her 23 school mates.

LIST OF ABSOLUTELY PROTECTED BIRDS, REPTILES AND AMPHIBIA.

It is illegal to take or kill any of these birds or animals at any time, or to have them or their skins, feathers, nests or eggs, in possession unless taken prior to the passing of the Animals Protection Act. Penalty £25.

- Albatross—
 Black-browed mollyhawk.
 Bounty Island mollyhawk.
 Campbell Island mollyhawk.
 Royal albatross.
 Snares Island mollyhawk.
 Sooty albatross.
 Wandering albatross (toroa).
 Yellow-nosed mollyhawk.
- Australian tree-swallow.
 Avocet.
 Bell-bird, or mocky (korimako).
 Auckland Island bell-bird.
 Chatham Island bell-bird.
- Bittern (Matuku-hurepo).
 Little bittern (kioriki).
- Canary—
 Bush canary (mohua).
 White-head canary (popokotea).
- Creeper (South Island), pipipi, toitoi).
- Crow—
 North Island crow (kokako).
 South Island crow (kokako).
- Cuckoo (Family Cuculidae)—
 Long-tailed cuckoo (koekoea).
 Shining cuckoo (pipiwharau-roa).
- Dottrel—
 Banded dottrel.
 New Zealand dottrel.
- Duck—
 Auckland Island duck.
 Blue or mountain duck (whio).
 Brown duck (tarawhatu).
 Grey teal (papango).
- Fantail—
 Black fantail (tiwakawaka).
 Chatham Island pied fantail.
 Pied fantail (tiwakawaka).
- Fern-bird (matata)—
 Chatham Island fern-bird.
 Mainland species.
 Snares Island fern-bird.
- Gannet—
 Gannet (takapu).
 Masked gannet.
- Grebe—
 Crested grebe (weweia).
 Little grebe, or dabchick (totokipio).
- Gull—
 Black-billed gull.
 Red-billed gull (tarapunga).
 Sea-hawk (hakoakoa).
- Heron—
 Blue heron (matuku).
 Nankeen night-heron.
 White heron (kotuku).
- White-fronted heron (matuku-moana).
 Huia.
 Kaka.
 Kakapo (ground-parrot).
 Kingfisher (kotare).
 Kiwi—
 Brown kiwi.
 Great spotted kiwi (roaroa).
 Grey kiwi.
 Spotted kiwi.
 Southern kiwi (roa).
 Stewart Island kiwi.
- Magpie (Australian).
 Martin.
 Owl—
 Laughing-owl (Whekau).
 Morepork (ruru, kookou).
 Rufous-faced owl (North Island).
- Oyster-catcher, or redbill—
 Black oyster-catcher, or redbill (torea).
 Pied oyster-catcher, or redbill (torea).
- Parrakeet—
 Antipodes Island parrakeet.
 Auckland Island parrakeet.
 Chatham Island parrakeet.
 Kermadec Island parrakeet.
 Orange-fronted parrakeet.
 Red-fronted parrakeet (kakariki).
 Yellow-fronted parrakeet.
- Parson-bird (tui).
- Penguin—
 Big crested penguin.
 Blue penguin (korora).
 Campbell Island crested penguin.
 Crested penguin (tawaki).
 King penguin.
 Rock-hopper penguin.
 Royal penguin.
 Tufted penguin.
 White-flipped penguin.
 Yellow-eyed penguin (hoiho or hoihoi).
- Petrel—
 Black petrel (toanui).
 Black-bellied storm-petrel.
 Black-capped petrel.
 Black-winged petrel.
 Blue petrel.
 Brown petrel.
 Cape pigeon.
 Chatham Island petrel.
 Cook's petrel (titi).
 Diving-petrel.
 Grey-backed storm petrel.
 Grey-faced petrel.

- Giant petrel, or nelly.
 Kermadec Island muttonbird.
 Rainbird.
 Silver-grey petrel.
 Whale-bird.
 Whale-bird (whiroia).
 White-chinned petrel.
 White-faced storm-petrel.
 White-headed petrel.
 Wilson's storm-petrel.
 Pigeon (kereru).
 Chatham Island pigeon.
 Pipit (pihoihoi, ground lark)—
 Antipodes Island pipit.
 Auckland Island pipit.
 Chatham Island pipit.
 Plover—
 Lapwing.
 Sand-plover (kukuruatu).
 Wrybill (ngutupare).
 Rail—
 Auckland Island rail.
 Dieffenbach's rail (Chatham
 Island), (moeraki).
 Mangare rail.
 Marsh-rail (koitareke).
 Pectoral rail (mohopereru
 patata).
 Swamp-rail (putoto).
 Rifleman (titipounamu).
 Robin—
 Chatham Island robin.
 North Island wood-robin (tou-
 touwai).
 Snares robin.
 South Island alpine robin.
 South Island wood-robin (tou-
 touwai).
 Saddleback (tieke)
 Sandpiper.
 Shag (kawau)—
 Chatham Island shag.
 Shearwater (kakoakoa).
 Allied shearwater.
 Long-tailed shearwater.
 Pink-footed shearwater.
 Wedge-tailed shearwater.
 Snipe—
 Antipodes Island snipe.
 Auckland Island snipe.
 Chatham Island snipe.
 Common snipe.
 Snares Island snipe.
 Southern merganser.
 Starling.
 Stilt-plover.
 Black stilt-plover (kaki).
 Pied stilt-plover.
 Stitch-bird (hihi).
 Takahe.
 Tern—
 Black-fronted tern (tara).
 Caspian tern (tara nui).
 Grey noddy.
 Little tern.
 Sooty tern.
 Swallow-tailed tern.
 White-capped noddy.
 White-fronted tern (tara).
 White tern.
 White-winged black tern.
 Thrush—
 North Island thrush (piopio).
 South Island thrush (piopio).
 Tomtit (miromiro).
 Auckland Island tomtit.
 Chatham Island tomtit.
 North Island tomtit.
 South Island tomtit.
 Tropic bird (raukura).
 Warbler—
 Chatham Island warbler.
 Grey warbler (riroriro).
 Superb warbler (or blue
 wren).
 Woodhen—
 Black woodhen (weka).
 Brown woodhen (weka).
 North Island woodhen (weka).
 South Island woodhen (weka).
 Stewart Island woodhen
 (weka).
 Wren—
 Blue wren (or superb warb-
 ler).
 Green wren.
 Rock-wren.
 Stephen Island wren.
 Long-tailed bat (pekapeka).
 Short-tailed bat.
 Tuatara.
 Native Frogs.

The Minister of Internal Affairs may allow any of the following native birds to be declared game for the whole or part of a season in any particular acclimatisation district:—Black teal duck, grey duck, shoveller duck, eastern golden plover, godwit, knot, turnstone, pukeko.

IT IS ILLEGAL (Amongst Other Things)—

To take or kill any bird or animal on a sanctuary (scenic reserves and public domains are included as sanctuaries).

To trap or set traps, nets or snares, for game.

To use for game shooting any gun other than a shoulder gun of 12 bore at the muzzle or ten pounds in weight, or rifle, pea rifle, or gun made to carry more than two cartridges at a loading.

To use for shooting, a cylinder as cover, or a silencer for a gun.

To use live decoys.

To trespass with dog or gun on private property (penalty £5).

To take dog or gun on a sanctuary, or to do anything likely to cause any bird or animal to leave a sanctuary.

To light fires or remove or damage any plant life on a sanctuary.

To import any bird or animal without authority (penalty £200, or six months imprisonment).

Copy of Animals Protection Act, Forests Act, or Scenery Preservation Act, may be obtained from the Government Printer.

NEW ZEALAND BIRDS, HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM. THEM.

By P. Moncrieff.

An interesting illustrated and instructive work describing birds found in New Zealand. Will be a boon to school teachers and others. Now obtainable—Price 4/6.



*A Pukeko peeps out from its nest
amongst the raupo.*



*Young of Black Backed Gull—
a well-known bird.*



*A Blue Penguin, a common bird on
the coast of New Zealand*

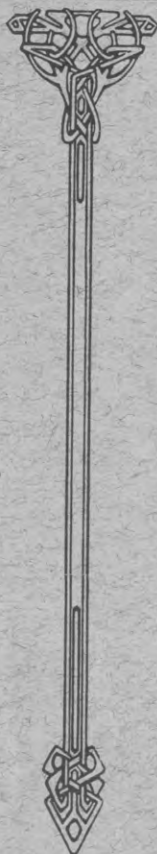


*A pair of Fern Birds at their
nest in the swamp.*



*Young Blue Heron. This bird breeds
in rocky localities on the coast.*

New Zealanders!



No Insect-eating Birds

means no crops.

Fire in our Forests

means sudden death to our forests.

Animals in our Forests

means slow but certain death to our forests.

No Native Birds

means no native forests.

No Forests

means decreased production, desolation and poverty.

Will YOU help to
avoid these results?

Please pass this Booklet on to a friend if of no further use.

Extra copies will be forwarded on request.