

During three months mentioned the parents appear to leave the young unattended for fairly long periods, but on this point Mr. Logie says they are not quite sure. I am very grateful for the exciting information about the kaka family. The questions that arise in Mr. Logie's mind are why do the kakas cling to this particular tree, as he says there are dozens of what might be thought more convenient trees to nest in. The tree stands in an area that has been seared by bulldozers and devastated by logging. Many human beings are in the vicinity daily, and there is a great deal of noise from transport hauling, etc. He surmises, and I agree, as I hinted earlier, that the tree is chosen because it offers the

maximum security (humans with ladders excepted) from predators. It could be an old ancestral home and was perhaps inhabited by kakas in pre-pakeha days, and perhaps also kakas have their traditions as humans have.

Kakas are true forest dwellers. They are not plentiful in our bush now, but such incidents as I have related give hope that they may increase. New Zealand Forest Service seems to be aware of the value of these and many other native birds. Their value lies in their destruction of insects and their usefulness in propagating the forest. They are honey eaters also and no doubt play their part in fertilising forest flowers.

## Quarterly Newsletter

**Auckland Branch.**—27th April. With ideal weather a party of over a hundred members and friends visited Rangitoto Island under the leadership of Mr. K. Given. One member of the party found the rare plant psilotum. Most of the party went to the summit (810 ft.) and some continued to Islington Bay at the far side of the island. A nature quiz competition for junior members was won by Douglas White (group over 12 years); John Laxton and Tony Crosby (equal, group 12 years and under).

9th May. An audience of about sixty were present to see Mr. M. G. Fowlds' superb collection of colour slides of mountain scenery. Little Barrier Island, etc.

Saturday, 25th May. There was an unexpectedly good attendance for the field day at Hunua Dam, over seventy people being present in spite of very unpromising weather early in the morning. Some enjoyable hours were spent in the bush and most of the party visited the Hunua Falls afterwards.

Thursday, 13th June. Dr. R. N. Brothers of the Auckland University College spoke to an audience of about forty on the geology of various places which the Society will be visiting, or has already visited, this year.

There was a high standard of entries for competitions set for the junior members for the May holidays. Results as follows:—

*Drawing, Senior:* Alison Kissling 1st; Elizabeth Kissling 2nd; Marie Blundell, Highly Commended. *Intermediate:* Roger Grace 1st; Alfred Sneyd 2nd; Highly Commended, Rodney Macdonald, Richard Hoadley, Sydney Dromgoole, David Cranwell, Don Hadden. *Junior:* James Hoadley 1st; Michael Guthrie 2nd.

*Crossword Puzzle:* Don Hadden 1st; Roger Grace 2nd.

*Bird Notes:* Rodney Macdonald 1st; Don Hadden 2nd.

We are very grateful to an anonymous donor for two books to be lent to junior members. They are "Plants of New Zealand" (Laing & Blackwell) and "General Entomology".

**Napier Section.**—The preservation and regeneration of our native forests was the subject of a very interesting talk by Mr. J. I. Cook, district ranger of the N.Z. Forest Service at the February meeting. Mr. D. S. Jackson of the Forest Service described the research and practical work that is being carried out in the Hawkes Bay high country bordering the Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges. His talk was illustrated by a series of beautiful slides in colour.

The outing to Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri on 13th April was well attended. Mr. H. R. Holt told members how this 539 acre block, 40 miles from Napier, came to be declared a Scenic Reserve and named the various trees for members who were unfamiliar with them. Members met Miss Pamela Lewis, who lives near the Reserve and whose article on the birds of Ball's Clearing was published in the February number of "Forest and Bird".

To conserve does not mean to refrain from human use and enjoyment but rather to use understandingly and with respect for nature.

—Frank A. Kittredge, in "Recreation."