

house. The other doesn't seem to have so many flowers on from year to year. At present the ground beneath the kowhai tree looks like a yellow carpet with all the petals which have fallen on the ground. At school we have a kowhai tree, but the flowers on that one are all near the top of the tree. We are always very sorry when the tree has finished flowering and we miss the tui's joyful noise.—**Sheryl Smith.**

**TAURANGA.**—I would just like to write and tell you about a little pied stilt my friends and I found today. We were walking through the swamp on our farm when suddenly we saw a pied stilt feeding in a puddle of water. Our curiosity scared the bird, which flew into the next swamp paddock. As we crept towards the bird it stood still until I was just a few feet away from it, when it sat down. It didn't seem a bit frightened when I gently picked it up and took it to my friends. We then put it in a drain, where it ate lots of fish. After that we gave it some fish which we had caught. When it was time to go home we put it in a pool with lots of whitebait, and we left it looking none the worse for our visit. I think the pied stilt is a lovely little bird. It has a very sharp beak.—**Billy Burchett, 11 years.**

*(Continued from page 15)*

The kiwi is a rare and highly interesting bird; in a large measure it is one of our national symbols. Dr. D. A. Bathgate, president of the local society, points out that in addition to its sentimental value, a kiwi is worth hundreds of pounds to overseas zoos. Yet the Forest Service was prepared to sell the tree manukas for firewood, burn off the area, and plant *pinus radiata*. In the process a number of kiwis might have been killed, and a natural habitat would have been destroyed. As Dr. Bathgate says, there are many other places where exotics could be planted without doing harm. What does the Wild Life Division of Internal Affairs think of it? One presumes there is cooperation between the departments.

This question cuts deep. It reminds us that eternal vigilance is the price of preservation of bird and plant life, to say nothing of the soil. The Forest and Bird Society is always active in these matters, large, as in the future of lakes and rivers, and relatively small. It has not had the success it deserves, but this response of the Minister is a good omen. It encourages one to believe that the Minister and his colleagues will implement the proposal to establish a national conservation authority.

This latest development illustrates the value of the individual enthusiast, the man or woman who may be roughly called the amateur. He or

---



---

## What of the Future ?

This is an age of new materials: it has not on that account ceased to be an age of wood. On the contrary, wood, which is among the oldest, is paradoxically proving itself to be one of the most fascinatingly modern of man's materials. Thanks to recent research, indeed, it may be said that wood has itself become a new material, with an extended range of uses. In the new form of glue-laminated timber, for example, it is now being used in spectacular ways in both architectural and engineering construction and is challenging steel as a structural material. It is clear from developments of this kind that wood will be one of the materials of tomorrow—as much needed as ever. And planned forestry by the N.Z. Forest Service and by private enterprise will ensure that the demand for it will be met unflinchingly.

## Forestry is forever

*Inserted in the interests of  
forest protection by the  
New Zealand Forest Service*

FF2.4

---



---

she can observe with special knowledge, report, and, if necessary, protest. There are persons in Hawke's Bay who could have informed the Forest Service of the existence of that kiwi colony. The amateur has already served our outdoor sciences very well from the early days. The more this type can be recruited now, the better will be the prospects of well informed conservation