



*Photo: Wildlife Branch, Dept. of Internal Affairs.*

Westland black petrel at the nesting grounds in rain forest near Barrytown.

Prior to 1953, sanctuaries could be declared for the protection of game, but legally conditions really debarred the use of farm lands. Wildlife refuges, subject to the consent of the occupier, now take their place making provision for more than game, while farmers, by a special section, can carry on normal farming operations within the law. Other than this, entry with dog or firearm or the discharge of firearms is prohibited. There are now 180 wildlife refuges, many of them valuable areas for water birds. Applications are carefully investigated to ensure that areas will be of worthwhile value to wildlife.

There are also wildlife sanctuaries in which a wide range of restrictions can be applied or not as felt necessary. Entry by persons can be prohibited or restricted. Sanctuaries at present are Mokohinau Islands (except Burgess Island), Karewa Island, the Holt Forest near Lake Tutira, Trios Islands, and Otamatou Rock on the Kaikoura coast.

The new Act tightened up restrictions governing the shooting of game birds. It set out

clearly the functions and responsibilities of acclimatisation societies, defined classes of society expenditure, and provided where desired for representatives of farming interests to be appointed to society councils. It also incorporated the little-used provisions of the Injurious Birds Act.

When wildlife is widely protected provision is required for the taking of specimens (such as for scientific purposes) or for its control when genuine damage is being done. The new Act, while facilitating the issue of permits, gave a better measure of control over action arising therefrom. Specimens of protected birds are often found dead, either through accident or from natural causes. So that these specimens are put to the fullest scientific and educational use, provision was made for their retention by suitable public museums. At present the museums with this authority are the Dominion Museum and those at Auckland, New Plymouth, Napier, Wanganui, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Invercargill. Some bird students may, subject to