

supplejacks and other small growths, at times crawling on hands and knees, our Maori sportsman wends his way. A rustling of leaves comes from overhead, and at once he stops, and carefully rising to his knees, strikes swiftly at a shimmer of bronze which shows boldly among the green leaves above him. There is a moment's wild beating of wings, and next minute he is busy fastening his catch to a flax belt which hangs across his shoulder. This done, his progress is resumed, and if the birds happen to be plentiful, he will in a very

At other times of the year, when the pigeon feeds high up in the tree tops on the luscious berries of the puriri, the karaka, and numerous other trees, our Maori sportsman adopts another plan, which proves quite as effective as the previous one. Reaching a tree well loaded with berries, he climbs well up among its branches, where, just below the ripest of the fruit, he builds a small platform sufficient to accommodate himself. Squatting on this, he erects a fairly thick screen of boughs around and over it; there spear in hand, he patiently awaits the appearance of the hungry pigeons, who then fall easy and unsuspecting victims to his dexterity.

The other way, viz., snaring the birds at a water trough, is perhaps the most ingenious of all. A spot is first selected away on the top of some ridge, where food is abundant, but where water is unattainable save at a considerable distance. Here at the cost of no little labour, a rough trough is built, or hollowed out of some convenient log, then the water has to be carried to it from the nearest creek, and when it is filled a series of cunning nooses are placed over it in such a manner that any bird attempting to get a drink becomes caught round the neck, and in the ensuing struggle for freedom becomes quickly strangled.

In this way a great number of different kinds are captured, including the pigeon, kaka, tui, parrakeet, and others, so that by the time the nooses are all tight the owner of the trap has a goodly addition



SPEARING THE KUKUPA, OR NATIVE WILD PIGEON.

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