

Takahe—*Notornis Mantelli*.

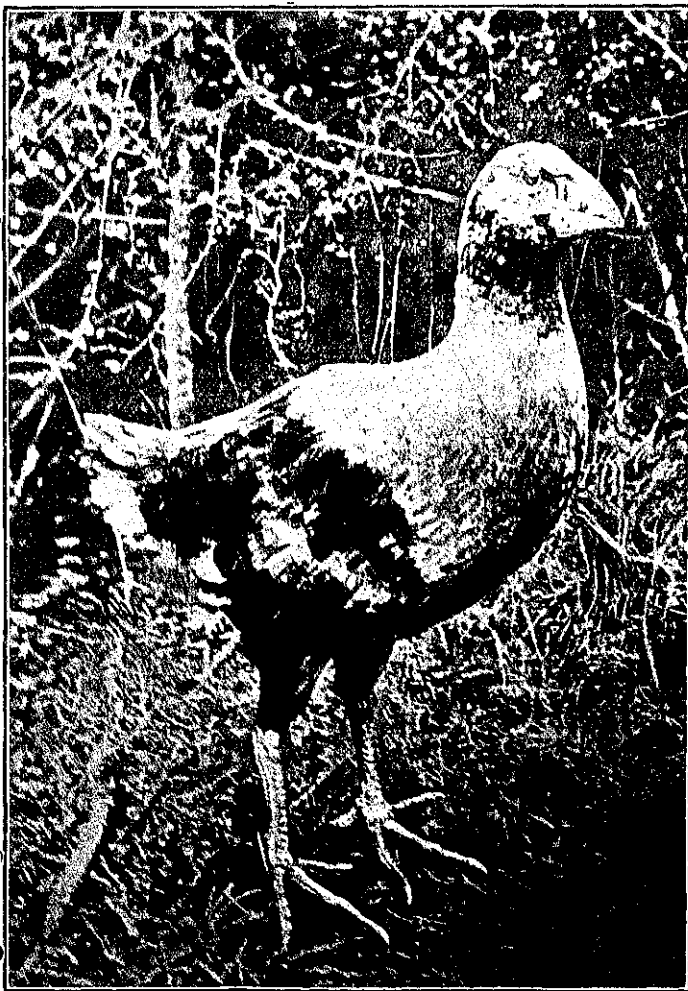
Extract from a Report of the Land and Survey Department.

AMONGST the fossil bones collected in the North Island in 1848 by Mr. Walter Mantell, were parts of a skeleton which was recognised by Professor Owen as a distinct genus of Rallidae, and named *Notornis mantelli*.

There are two specimens in the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, London, one captured alive in 1849 by a party of sealers in Duck Cove, Resolution Island, the other caught by the Maoris on Secretary Island, and obtained by Mr Mantell. The third specimen was found in 1881 on the Te Anau Downs, between the Mararoa and Upokoro Rivers, on the eastern side of Lake Te

Anau, by a rabbitier, whose dog caught it alive. It was sold in London, and is now in the Dresden Museum. The fourth specimen, which is shown in the photograph, was caught by Mr.

Ross, also at Lake Te Anau, in September, 1898. It was purchased by the Hon. John Mackenzie, Minister of Lands, for the New Zealand Government, through the Chief Surveyor at Invercargill, and is in the meantime deposited in the Ducedin Museum.



TAKAHE—NOTORNIS MANTELLI.

from posterior edge of frontal plate to tip of upper mandible, 3in.; length from gape of mouth along edge of lower mandible, 2in.; length of tarsus, 3½in.; length of middle toe and claw, 3½in.; and

(The price paid was £250)

The measurements of the bird are: Greatest height from the ground, 20in, the extreme length, tip to tail straight, 18in.; girth, 20 inches; length of legs, 7 in.; length of back, 9in.; and neck, 2½in.; total length of bird measured along curves, 22 in.; length of wing from the flexure, 9½ in. length of the tail, 4in.; length