

THE NORTH ISLAND AND THE SOUTH ISLAND ROBINS.

With regard to the North Island and South Island robins (*Miro australis* Sparr.), so far as economic considerations are concerned, we are almost compelled, on account of their great scarcity, to speak in the past tense. It is one of the great mysteries of the disappearance of New Zealand indigenous birds that the miro and the ngiru should have survived in such considerable abundance, while the two robins, so like in haunts, habits, food, and nesting-sites, should have become extremely rare. The moral is clearly this: that the decrease of the indigenous birds is not a topic on which any person is competent to express an opinion, but a scientific problem to be studied with all the methods of modern research.



FIG. 2. NEST OF GROUND-LARK, OR PIPIT.

This nest was found on the Tararua Range at an elevation of 4,500 ft., and was built in the heart of a bush of astelia, the leaves of which show round the centre of the picture.

[Photo by E. B. Levy.]

THE PIPIT, OR GROUND-LARK (*Austranthus novaseelandiae* Gm.).

In an indefinite manner every one knows "larks," but whether every one appreciates the difference between the little pipit and the introduced skylark is another question. It is, moreover, of the first importance that people should discriminate between the two, since the former is a wholly beneficial bird, while the latter is perhaps the most injurious bird in New Zealand—one which should never have