

search they prosecute for insects and grubs, and the countless numbers daily consumed by each individual, must materially affect the economy of the native woods."

The Parrakeets.

Of the four species of these beautiful birds found in the New Zealand region, one is confined to Antipodes Island, while a second, the orange-fronted parrakeet, is apparently practically extinct. The remaining two—the red-fronted (*Cyanoramphus novaezealandiae* Sparr.) and the yellow-fronted (*C. auriceps* Kuhl)—are widely distributed over both Islands of the mainland where suitable areas of bush are to be found. Both birds are almost wholly green in colour, with a red forehead, but the crown of the head of the red-fronted is crimson, while that of its rather smaller relative is yellow. Both lay their roundish white eggs in the holes of trees.

Of their feeding-habits little of a detailed nature is known. They appear to be rather more vegetarian in their tastes than the kaka, and to subsist very largely on berries. The black juicy fruit of the tutu (*Coriaria sarmentosa*) is much relished. It is said that the Antipodes Island species feeds largely on the seeds of the pipiriri, hutiwai, or "biddy-bid" (*Acaena* sp.). Reference has already been made to the vast flocks of parrakeets which visited settled areas in the early days, and from the ravages of which scarcely any kind of seeds, grain, or fruit escaped. Under such conditions the parrakeets were as great a pest as the hordes of cockatoos still are in portions of Australia; but under present conditions their numbers are so much reduced, and they are confined so entirely to the forest, that their economic importance can be considered only from the forestry viewpoint. In their present numbers they must therefore be included among the predominantly beneficial birds.

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New Rabbit District.—The constituting of the Kiwitea Rabbit District (Wellington) for the purposes of Part III of the Rabbit Nuisance Act was gazetted on 13th September.