

## HAEMATOPODIDAE.

REDBILL (*Haematopus niger unicolor* Forster).

Along the coast, wherever masses of rock are to be found in conjunction with sandy shores, the redbill is not uncommon.

## CHARADRIIDAE.

DOTTEREL (*Pluviorhynchus obscurus* Gmelin).

Seldom seen on the mainland. In Stewart Island it occurs in fair numbers, nesting on the dunes near the sea and visiting the bare tops of the high country.

## RECURVIROSTRIDAE.

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus alba* Ellman).

The pied stilt seems to be in no danger of extinction. A flock of about fifty was observed recently on the mud-flats of the New River Estuary, and pairs and small groups may frequently be met with in shingly riverbeds and other suitable situations.

## SCOLOPACIDAE.

ORIENTAL WHIMBREL (*Numenius variegatus* Salvadori).

In the collection of the Southland Museum is an example of this species. It was shot on the New River Estuary in 1907, being in company with a flock of godwits.

## LARIDAE.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata striata* Gmelin).

This very common tern breeds at several rocky stations along the coast. In the middle of December I found numerous eggs and a few young birds just hatched. No attempt at a nest is made, the egg being laid on the sandy grit in the hollows of the rocks. The parent bird will not allow any other species to approach the breeding-place; a pair of paradise ducks which were swimming in the sea near the rocks were set upon, and compelled to dive repeatedly in order to escape their tormentors, and on more than one occasion a harrier which had only come within several hundred yards of the nestery found itself vigorously attacked. It was surprising to see the hawk retreat, without the least show of defence, from a bird less than half its size.

ART. XXII.—*Descriptions of New Species of Lepidoptera.*

By ALFRED PHILPOTT.

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## PYRAUSTIDAE.

## Scoparia illota n. sp.

♂ ♀. 18–20 mm. Head, palpi, and thorax fuscous-brown mixed with grey. Antennae fuscous, ciliations very short. Abdomen grey, anal tuft ochreous. Legs fuscous, posterior pair paler, apex of tarsal joints narrowly whitish. Forewings elongate, triangular, blackish-fuscous, densely irrorated with white: first line broad, curved, bluntly angled at middle, white:

*second line distinct, sinuate beneath costa, thence almost straight inwardly-oblique to dorsum, white; subterminal broad, widely and deeply indented at middle, white; cilia grey with fuscous median and subapical lines. Hindwings grey, infuscated round termen; cilia as in forewings but paler.*

Nearest *S. cyptastis* Meyr., from which it differs in the more strongly curved first line, and in the second line being sinuate, not indented, beneath costa. It may be regarded as the forest representative of *cyptastis*.

I took one specimen at Cromarty (Preservation Inlet) in March, 1911. In December, 1917, Mr. C. E. Clarke and myself found it not uncommon from Blue Cliffs to Knife-and-Steel Boat-harbour. It is therefore probably distributed throughout the coastal forest of Fiord County.

## TORTRICIDAE.

*Tortrix inusitata* n. sp.

♂. 20–21 mm. Head and thorax brownish-ochreous. Palpi rather long, fuscous-grey, tinged with ochreous outwardly. Antennae pale ochreous with dark annulations, ciliations  $1\frac{1}{2}$ . Abdomen ochreous-grey, bright ochreous beneath, anal tuft blackish. Legs pale ochreous, tarsi broadly annulated with black. Forewings triangular, costa moderately arched, apex obtuse, termen sinuate, hardly oblique, tornal angle broadly rounded, *purplish-fuscous; a narrow basal patch bright ochreous, extending along costa to about  $\frac{1}{3}$ ; extreme costal edge sometimes ochreous throughout; an outwardly-oblique dark striga obscurely indicated at  $\frac{1}{2}$ ; some undefined dark dots on costa; cilia purplish-fuscous, paler round tornus. Hindwings ochreous-grey with numerous dark strigulae; cilia as in forewings but paler.*

Distinguished from *T. excessana* (Walk.), its nearest ally, by the strongly contrasted basal patch.

Mr. C. E. Clarke has taken a few examples at Waitati, Dunedin, in forest, in the months of October and November. I have taken a single specimen near Invercargill in November. Type in coll. C. E. Clarke.

## NEPTICULIDAE.

*Nepticula lucida* n. sp.

♂ ♀.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ – $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Head greyish-white. Antennae black. Thorax fuscous. Abdomen black. Legs greyish-black. Forewings in ♂ elongate, rather broad basally, apex broadly rounded, in ♀ lanceolate, *shining dark fuscous; a broad outwardly-curved white band at  $\frac{2}{3}$ ; cilia fuscous. Hindwings and cilia dull fuscous-black.*

Differing from any described New Zealand members of the genus in the dark coloration and the striking white band on forewings.

Discovered by Mr. C. E. Clarke. Several beaten from the foliage of *Nothofagus* at Waitati (Dunedin) in November.