

On the large grass area adjoining the Native land where the Advisory Board propose to plant fire-resistant trees as a fire-break along the fence-line, it is gradually closing in from two sides. Tapanui is also helping to reduce the area of grass. Beneath the manuka and tapanui countless seedlings of all sorts are growing.

In Tapanui, where the best sward of grass is, manuka again is the first tree to make an appearance. This is coming away on the slopes facing the north near the gorge, while on the opposite side of the valley, but closer to the western cliff, the shrubby *Yopouma* *Yopouma* is creeping down to the bottom of the gully, in spite of the heavy western gales which sweep down this valley. This shrubby *Yopouma* provides shelter for a lot of young bush trees, the manuka being especially prominent. On the eastern portion of the island (from the *Marataniro* Valley to *Wharaka*), excepting for some isolated patches of bush composed principally of *Yopouma* (which is *Yopouma*), so thick that one has to get down on hands and knees to get through. On the western cliff, in many places inaccessible to goats, there is a *Yopouma* *Yopouma* of different shapes and sizes. They are considered the locality in which they are growing, and are very healthy. Permanent among them is the *Yopouma*, bearing in mind that this is a considerable number of birds. The *Yopouma* that once the goats are destroyed *Yopouma* will soon be established even in this wind-swept locality.

In the *Marataniro* the *Yopouma* (lower) was frequented by dozens of tin and bell birds. At *Wharaka* also these birds were heavily engaged on the *Yopouma*. In places along the east coast the other *Yopouma* (lower) were heavily engaged, and like *Yopouma* was much sought after by the honey-eaters. Whether the abundance of food has had anything to do with the lengthy breeding season, or whether they always breed later on *Yopouma*, the fact remains that even at the present time this nest is found with young ones breeding, while only a few days ago (28th March) a pigeon's nest was found containing one egg, and the bird is now engaged in incubating.

The earliest further reports having seen the unincubated birds during the past six months: (1) *Wharaka*, North Island, common ground-lark, red-footed booby, yellow-fronted penguin, black-bellied penguin, long-tailed cuckoo, kakariki, red-footed booby, yellow-fronted penguin, black-bellied penguin, white-bellied penguin, white-headed stilts, white-fronted tern, black-backed gull, mutton-bird, diving-petrel, blue penguin, white-bird, gannet, grey duck, black-shag. On two occasions *Yopouma* were heard close at hand, but owing to darkness they were not seen.

The following introduced birds have found their way to *Yopouma*: Starling, house-sparrow, *Yopouma*, quail, chaffinch, goldfinch, hedge-sparrow, skylark, redpoll, blackbird, thrush, and yellow plover.

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