

from other sources as to the bird-life in the various parts of the Dominion. It is pleasing to be able to report that the interest in our bird-life has been maintained, and the Department is indebted to acclimatization societies for their co-operation in this respect. A large number of prosecutions have been initiated by societies in connection with the taking of absolutely protected birds. The reports received in regard to bird-life in sanctuaries are very satisfactory. A number of reported cases of native-pigeon shooting have been investigated, but unfortunately it is very difficult to trace offenders. The Department is always ready to institute the fullest possible inquiry into reports of shooting of native pigeons or other absolutely protected birds, and any person who has any knowledge of such happenings will be obliging the Department if particulars are supplied.

A large number of notices soliciting the co-operation of the public in preserving our native birds have been printed, and it is proposed to arrange to have them exhibited in domains and other suitable places throughout the Dominion. Notices showing the names of absolutely protected birds are supplied to holders of game-shooting and opossum-trapping licenses, and copies are displayed at post-offices. Attention is drawn in all cases to the penalties provided for breaches of the Act in regard to absolutely protected birds.

Opossums.—Open seasons were again declared in a number of districts for the taking of opossums. The number of trappers' licenses issued was 1,250, and the number of skins taken amounted to 159,878.

Pukeko.—The result of an investigation as to the feeding-habits of pukeko is as follows:—

District.	Number of Birds taken.	Approximate Date of Capture.	Where taken from.	Stomach contents.
MANAWATU.				
Manawatu ..	2	..	Swamp	Macerated green material, mostly grass.
„ ..	2	6/1/29	„	Macerated green vegetation, and seeds of <i>Lolium perenne</i> and buttercup.
Kairanga ..	4	19/2/29	From swamp with crop of part-ridge peas in near vicinity	Macerated vegetation, and seeds of <i>Lolium perenne</i> , <i>Poa annua</i> , <i>Eleocharis ovata</i> , <i>Carex</i> sp., and <i>Glyceria fluitans</i> .
Karere ..	2	21/5/29	Taken on crop of rape ..	Macerated vegetation, fat-hen, and sedge-weed.
„ ..	2	29/5/29	From swamp area with crop of rape in near vicinity	Macerated vegetation (grass) and duck-weed.
OTAGO.				
Ranfurly ..	2	5/11/28	From vicinity of cropping-areas	Small roots and little macerated green material; also remains of insect-larvæ and spider.
„ ..	2	11/12/28	„	Macerated green material and seeds of <i>Poa pratensis</i> .
„ ..	2	14/1/29	„	Macerated grass and part of an insect.
Waiholā ..	2	12/12/28	„	Macerated vegetation and clover-leaves; also seeds of <i>Eleocharis ovata</i> .
Ranfurly ..	2	9/2/29	„	Chewed up vegetation, and seeds of <i>Eleocharis ovata</i> , <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> , and <i>Poa annua</i> .
„ ..	2	6/3/29	Swamp	Macerated vegetation.
„ ..	2	4/4/29	„	„
Waiholā ..	2	18/3/29	„	Few rush-seeds and some rye.
Ranfurly ..	2	1/5/29	Two miles from cropping-area..	Vegetation, few clover-leaves, and rush-seeds.
Lake Waiholā ..	2	10/5/29	Berwick	Macerated vegetation and large number of rush-seeds.
Waipori ..	2	13/6/29	At Lake Waipori	Macerated vegetation and rushes; also rush-seeds.
Ranfurly ..	2	11/6/29	From vicinity of cropping-area	Macerated vegetation only.
„ ..	2	6/7/29	Near cropping-area	Macerated vegetation and oats.
„ ..	2	5/8/29	From cropping-area	(a) Macerated vegetation and crop half-full of wheat; (b) macerated vegetation and one barley-grain.
Waipori ..	1	6/7/29	Waipori	Macerated swamp vegetation and rush-seeds.
„ ..	2	16/8/29	„	Macerated black-swamp vegetation.
SOUTHLAND.				
Waimea Plains ..	4	Dec. and Jan.	From vicinity of cultivated lands	Macerated vegetation (grass).
Oporo ..	2	Ditto ..	Shot in oat-paddock ..	No oats found; stalks and heads of weeds and other vegetation.
Waimea Plains ..	2	„	Twenty-five chains from nearest crop	Macerated vegetation (mostly marsh-foxtail); <i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i> .
„ ..	2	18/4/29	From cultivated areas on plains	Macerated vegetation (grass) and oat-seeds.
„ ..	2	14/5/29	„	Macerated vegetation (grass).
„ ..	2	25/6/29	Taken beside an oat-stack ..	Macerated vegetation; oat and rush seeds.
„ ..	2	25/6/29	From swamp, half a mile from cultivation	Macerated vegetation; oat and toad-rush seeds.
NORTH CANTERBURY.				
Cheviot ..	2	23/4/29	Alleged to be causing damage to stacks	Macerated vegetation (grass); few clover-leaves.
„ ..	2	20/7/29	„	Macerated grass and other vegetation.