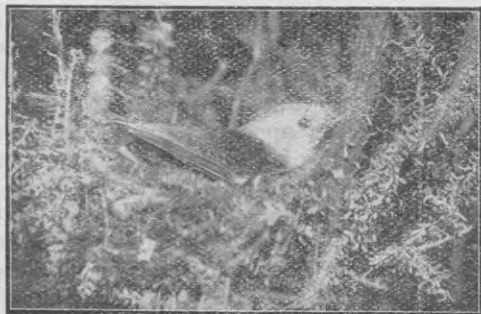


There is another very dangerous side of the acclimatisation question which should not be overlooked. Once a sanctuary is created in a favourable situation, there is a regrettable tendency to stock it, or wish to stock it, with species of native birds not already present, but confined to different localities, or even to other islands. In the case of the confusing medley of species and varieties in the kiwis (*Apteryx*) and the wekas (*Gallirallus*) this practice leads inevitably to inter-breeding, and perhaps prevents for ever the elucidation of puzzling forms. It is *species* we should preserve—not *mongrels*.

Finally, there is great need for education. A healthy public opinion, freed from the erroneous notion that the native birds are doomed in any case, would do more to enforce the protection laws in the backblocks than all the police in the world. This is the task of the Native Bird Protection Society, and I can confidently report that it has the work well in hand, and is receiving very hearty support from the Press and from the Government Departments concerned.

To summarise briefly, the greatest needs of bird protection in New Zealand are as follows:—

1. Adequate enforcement of the protection laws.
2. Unity of control of sanctuaries and reserves.
3. A campaign against aliens—plant and animal—in the sanctuaries.
4. Intensive research into the problem why some species adapt themselves to changed conditions, while others disappear.
5. Education of young and old in the value and interest, scientific, economic, and aesthetic, of the native birds of New Zealand.



POPOKOTEA OR WHITE HEAD ON NEST.

[Photo—Wilkinson.]