



HAAST'S KIWI,

Liberated on Little Barrier, October, 1928.

[Photo—W. R. B. Oliver.

Birds and Forests.



THERE is now scarcely a civilised country in the world which has not come to recognise the importance of bird life, especially insect eating birds, in relation to agriculture. Insect pests cannot be held in check by sprays and carnivorous insects except on extremely limited areas. The bird is our chief ally and can alone turn the scale.* Wherever birds are destroyed in a wholesale manner insect plagues follow in the wake. The question is, shall we in New Zealand recognise the full importance of this matter, or shall we stand idly by and await results before applying the remedy? Each year brings increasing numbers of insect scourges, and the loss sustained by their destruction of our food supplies in New Zealand has been estimated at many millions of pounds. Shall we kill the birds and pay the piper?