

fluttering heavily, noisily it may be said, yet wheeling with sufficient speed to ensure frequent captures. . . .

"To return for a moment to its position amongst the honey-eaters, when the phormium in the months of early spring sends up its lofty flower stems ranged around with tiers of orange tinted blossoms, then the bell-bird and *tui* indulge in ample honey feasts. . . .

"In the busy breeding season, both sexes work at nest building; placed at no great elevation from the ground, the structure may be found in a variety of positions, but we have noticed it very frequently beneath a sheltering canopy of bush lawyer (*rubus*), near the top of some moderate sized shrub or bush; very often under a thatch of the persistent leaves of the ti palm that hang down the tall stem. It is rather flat, loosely yet strongly built of sprays, grass, moss, etc., well lined with feathers; on examining the foundation of a nest, we have several times found green sprays of *manuka* amongst the interlaced materials, a fact which disclosed a pretty good proof of the power of the bill in breaking off twigs from so tough a plant. From wall to wall across the top, the nest measures about five inches; diameter of cavity, two inches, nine lines; depth inside, about two inches. We fancy that the lining feathers are often selected in such a manner as to afford some evidence in their disposal and arrangement of the bird's love of harmony of colour; as, for instance, we have noted specimens with the inner lining red, as the feathers used have been those of the *kaka*, another has been ornamented with the bright green plumes of the parroquet. . . . The eggs, four in number, are of the most delicate white, sometimes flushed slightly with the faintest glow of a pink tinge. They are marked principally towards the larger end with a profusion of reddish brown spots; rarely they are found of a pure white, sometimes they are speckled with a few spots or blotches, or marked with fine hair-like lines. . . . The breeding season extends through spring and summer, the young are fed till long after they are well fledged."

HARRIER HAWK (*Kahu*) (Potts).—"The big hawk soars aloft noiselessly; it performs its aerial evolutions with a vast amount of ease and freedom; it seldom appears to be hurried, but floats calmly in ascending circles, with its wings so apparently motionless, that it might be saluted as the albatross of the plains.

"Heinous offences are laid to its charge, many of them true; but they are often exaggerated, frequently shared by other criminals, who are allowed to go scot free. . . . The harrier feeds on offal or garbage, and in his visits to the lambing ground, the object is not to kill and destroy the young stock, but to feed on the *cleansing* of the ewes. . . .