

But for the effective preservation to future time of our beautiful native birds there must go hand-in-hand with the above suggested efforts a conservation of native flora in all possible localities. And not only in the conservation of what remains, but also the restoration of much that in the past has been too thoughtlessly destroyed.

There must be added to these activities mentioned above a general observance and respect for the laws framed for these purposes; a return, in fact, to the Maori ideals of *rahui* and *tapu*; for only by this loyal respect for and the observance of laws based on some such principles, can the operation of same be made effective.

To achieve these ends much depends after all on our children, the men and women of the time to come. By making Nature-study a feature of our educational system, our schools can greatly influence and aid. Thereby we may hope that New Zealand's unique and beautiful flora and bird-life may be preserved as a prized heritage to a future time. But if the matter be now delayed, that delay will lead to neglect tending to destroy that which can never again be restored to us.

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#### SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS BY MR. E. H. NEPIA.

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Let me briefly tell of the prominence given to birds in symbolic references and proverbs relating to daily life. Some such are as follows:—

“He kaka ki te ngahere; he wahine ki te kainga.”

As is the parrot in the forest; so are womenfolk in the home.

Again:

“He parahako i te koekoea.”

An (egg) abandoned by the koekoea (cuckoo).

(The cuckoo left its eggs in the nest of other birds to be hatched as an abandoned child.)

The grey warbler (*riro-riro*) is immortalised in the proverb:

“I whea koe i te tangihanga o te riro-riro?”

Where wert thou when the riro-riro was calling?”

(A remark made to shame a person who came to seek food not having made a cultivation of food in the planting season—*i.e.*, when the riro (also the koekoea) calls.)

Then again:

“Me he tarakihi e papa ana te wawaro.”

Like unto the locusts is the din of many voices.

(Said of people overlong at meals and jabbering away senselessly—a reminder to get back to daily tasks.)