

very young, we are like small balls of black velvet, and we can run and hide very quickly when alarmed.

Our voice, like that of many other birds of bright plumage, is not at all musical, but it serves a very useful purpose. We have several notes of alarm which are sounded when danger is near. Not being strong fliers, we have an enemy who hovers overhead looking for a chance to pounce on any unwary member of our family: Should this enemy, the hawk, swoop too near one of us, the alarm note is sounded and we who happen to be near will fly to the rescue.

Mr. Hawk cannot stand the din we set up and flies away in disgust.

We are not afraid very much of men, and some of us who are fortunate enough to live near a bird lover are often lucky enough to get many a meal when the farmer's wife calls her hens for their morning and evening food. We soon get used to such kind people and I often wish there were more of them about.

We were in this land long before the white man ever saw it, and all we ask is a small corner here and there to make a home in. So whenever you see the red, white, and blue colours just have a kindly thought for the pukeko whose homes have been destroyed in many parts of the land, and do your best to see that some small portion at least here and there is reserved for them to live unmolested in.

WINTER FEEDING.

Winter feeding of birds was very extensive and in many cases very successful during the last winter. The most striking effort which came under the Society's observation was the work of the Maoris who own the north end of Kapiti adjoining the sanctuary. Here some hundreds of tree lucerne trees, besides kowhai and ngutukaka, had been planted, which proved a great winter attraction for many birds such as tuis, bell-birds, kakariki, etc., besides this some 60 ducks were hand fed, and it is a pretty sight to see these apparently wild birds come winging across the water and pitch in the garden to be fed from the hands of the Maoris, who are extremely skilled in the ways and habits of our native birds. As a bird attractor during the winter and early spring months, the tree lucerne, combined with the ngutukaka, kowhai and poroporo, form an attraction which will bring bell-birds and tuis from long distances, but it is essential that the plants should be in considerable numbers, as an odd tree or two is quickly run over by any visiting birds, and is insufficient to keep the birds permanently in any vicinity.