

SEED-DISTRIBUTION.

The winter before last we furnished an interesting and definite demonstration on native plant seed-distribution by birds by Mr. McCaskill, hon. secretary of the Society's Otago Branch. These particulars were published in a recent Bulletin, and were obtained by cultivating a plot under his feeding station. The experiments were continued last August, and the following plants were taken from the plot and planted elsewhere. It will be noticed that only two exotics appeared as having furnished bird food:—

	April, 1931.	April, 1932.
<i>Pittosporum</i> spp. (kohuhu and tarata)	85	50
<i>Coprosma</i> spp.	37	37
<i>Carpodetus serratus</i> (putaputaweta)	10	1
<i>Nothopanax Colensoi</i> (ivy tree or orihau) ...	3	2
<i>Pseudopanax crassifolium</i> (lancewood)	5	2
<i>Melicytus ramiflorus</i> (whiteywood or mahoe)	4	4
<i>Griselina littoralis</i> (broadleaf)	0	6
<i>Cordyline australis</i> (cabbage tree)	0	2
<i>Fuchsia excorticata</i> (kotukutuku)	0	1
<i>Solanum aviculare</i> (poroporo or bullibulli) ..	0	2
<i>Muhlenbeckia australis</i>	0	9
<i>Aristolelia serrata</i> (makomako or wineberry)	0	1
<i>Cotoneaster Simmonsi</i> (introduced)	0	2
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THE NATIONAL MENACE.

Quite the most obvious of all the laws of nature is the one that requires all living organisms to consume food in one form or another to enable them to survive and multiply. This food as a general rule consists of other living organisms. Plant life alone is able to obtain sustenance directly from the chemical elements of the soil.

Deer, for instance, relish as food the blades of grass; but the wolf and certain other carnivorous beasts equally relish the flesh of the deer. And it is fortunate for the welfare of the grazing race that this is so. Without a host of deadly enemies,—including disease, climatical alterations, and the elements, as well as living creatures—deer theoretically would multiply at such a rapid rate that the North American continent would be over-run within a few decades. The soil could not produce sufficient