

patrol of them by day and night, that they owe their lives; and these species, we may say, he watches without reward. From other kinds aided in the struggle of life, such as rails, ducks, pukeko, possibly, and from the fern bird and ground lark certainly, he does take toll. It is a tribute levied, fit and fair, and the merest fraction of what is robbed by rats; a merely nominal fee, in fact, charged for life insurance. . . . If then, in New Zealand, any serious interest ever comes to be taken in our native birds, the most efficient method of preserving the smaller tree-breeding species lies in the propagation of the weka. Of all the birds that deserve our care he comes foremost, and assistance withheld from him is help denied to half the indigenous birds of New Zealand."

BIRDS INSPIRE HUMANITY.

Birds have been the inspiration of much that is fine in art, poetry, and song. The world would be impoverished, indeed, if they were all destroyed. So, too, we should lose much if the chastening songs of birds were all hushed and their plumages turned to ashes. . . . More and more every year are the American people turning to the study of birds as part of their recreation. Amateurs may be seen everywhere with field-glasses, cameras, and note-books.—Junius Henderson in "*The Practical Value of Birds.*"



[Photo by Stewart V. Robertson, Dunedin.]

NEST OF THE BANDED DOTTEREL.

This ground-nesting bird has been known to make its nursery on farms, sometimes near homesteads.