

sulted in tearing the worm and losing the greater part; so, leaning well back, it remained in the same position, waiting without the faintest movement of any part of its body, until the worm, tired out by its exertion, momentarily relaxed its hold. Then, with another steady pull, the worm was drawn out of its burrow." Other food consists of snails, insects, and berries picked from various low shrubs or from the ground.

The nest is found in holes in banks or beneath the roots of large trees. Little is known about the breeding habits, but usually one egg is laid, occasionally two, and very rarely three. It would appear that, like its South Island relative, the male carries out the duties of incubation. The chicks are covered with soft, fluffy, dark brown plumage.

As the world has no more remarkable bird, it should be rigidly protected because of its scientific uniqueness alone. But, in addition, it is one of the most important members of the police force of the forest floor to which the weka, robin, and tomtit also belong. In addition to spreading the seeds of trees by eating berries, it eats injurious insects, many of them the grubs of borer beetles which would otherwise develop into destroyers of timber. It is all the more unfortunate, then, that the North Island kiwi should have so suffered from the effects of civilisation with its dogs, stoats, and opossum traps that it is now mainly confined to more extensive forest areas north of 40 degrees latitude. Still, it is occasionally reported near our larger towns, showing that with proper protection there is no reason why it should become extinct.

PROTECTION OF NATURE.

The Dutch and French Governments have now officially recognised the International Office for the Protection of Nature and have appointed the following delegates to be their representatives to the General Council of the Office:—

Delegates for Netherlands and Dutch East Indies: Dr. P. G. van Tienhovén, President of the Society for Nature Protection in Netherlands; Dr. W. A. J. M. van Waterschoot van der Gracht, Chief Engineer of Mines; Professor Dr. L. Ph. le Cosquino de Bussy, Director of the Colonial Institute, Amsterdam; Dr. J. C. Koningsberger, former Minister of Colonies.

Delegates for France and Colonies: Mr. M. Bolle, Conservator of Forests, Ministry of Agriculture, Paris; Professor Dr. A. Gruvel, General Secretary of the National Committee for the Preservation of Fauna and Flora in the Colonies; Mr. Raoul de Clérmont, President of the Section for Nature Protection of the Société Nationale d'Acclimatation de France.