



Forest and Bird

Issued by FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND Incorporated



PIED AND BLACK OYSTER CATCHERS

FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

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BALANCING BUDGETS.

THE DRIFT TO DISASTER.

THE balancing of an annual budget means that the taxes imposed upon the community have been sufficient to meet the expenses incurred by the Government in administration, maintenance of works, payment of interest on loans, etc. A credit balance is only an indication of national prosperity in that the people have been able to pay the taxes levied. The balancing of a budget, however, cannot be taken as an indication of continued prosperity because the wherewithal to pay taxes is only too frequently obtained at the expense of the future. For instance, if our essential protection forests are exploited, with no attempt at replacement, or if gold is won, as it only too frequently is, by the total loss of fertile soil, which would have produced food and other needs for centuries, then it will be evident that budget balancing is merely an indication of temporary prosperity. The penalty will come later.

The budget of our natural resources has, unfortunately, never shown a credit balance since the white man landed in this country. Our native forests have been often exploited to the advantage of a few, with no idea of a continuing crop; as a result, the food-producing top soil, our most essential natural resource, is being carried towards and into the sea. Our rivers have gone awry and are spreading stony debris on each side of their banks and choking their beds. The result is that they periodically change their courses and continue the process of depositing debris over our food-producing lands.

With a view to remedying this last national menace, let us look for the source of the evil. This originates, of course, on the uplands, where the natural covering has been destroyed. The downward movement of the soil on the higher parts of the hill country is caused by innumerable trickles of water forcing the soil before them, causing sheet erosion. The tramping of stock, wind and slips or earth-slides are all contributing factors.

In simple words, the meagre top soil covering our hill country is always moving down, but never uphill. When the countless little tricklets, each forcing down some soil or debris combine, their volume and power are greatly increased, thus causing gullies and gashes to be torn away. All this water and debris, soon or late, reaches the many streams that feed a river, which is then called upon to carry a sudden abnormal volume of water and debris.

Thus the channel becomes congested, and the river overflows its banks, carries away bridges and causes ever-recurring and ever-increasing damage. An important factor, not always realised, is that the silt moving downwards on the hard forest-bare hills, chokes the natural entrances to vast underground reservoirs, which normally would have a very valuable function in temporarily retaining surplus water. Therefore the surplus flow augments the great volume of water which has to be suddenly moved to the sea.

The remedy for this one great cause of the depletion of our most vital natural resource is, of course, the conservation of the existing plant covering of the high and

steep country and the replacing of the natural covering where it has been ignorantly destroyed.

Unless, however, New Zealanders as a nation can fully realise the gravity of the situation and thereby be impelled to insist on remedial measures, disaster is certain. The solution of the problems arising out of much past maladministration of our natural resources calls for very large expenditure and a wide-visioned public opinion, which can see the necessity of strong action and stand by those who have the courage to put national welfare ahead of sectional interests.

Is the task too big for New Zealanders?

ITALY NOT SO BAD.

OWL HATRED AND PUKEKO MURDER.

Aviculture (regard for birds) is one of the signs of human culture. A few years ago Italy was well behind, but her cultural advance in the field of bird-protection has been astonishing. It is doubtful whether New Zealand's progress, in the same period, has been equal.

The Italian has had the reputation of being cruel to birds and animals. Perhaps he was. Probably he found some excuse in an ignorance and superstition that have never had any parallel in New Zealand. Superstition, as much as cruelty, impelled Italians to nail owls to the doors of dwellings as "a protection against the evil eye." But in recent years a law has been passed protecting all nocturnal birds of prey that are useful to Italian agriculture. This protection includes all the owls, migratory or stationary, except one species. Owl-protection against "the evil eye" now costs an Italian peasant a fine of about 1,000 lire.

But in New Zealand we still shoot pukekos. We do not pretend that this protects us against evil eyes. We do pretend that it is sporting. And this latter pretence is more grotesque and revolting than anything that can be found in Italian superstition.

If an artist could present the shooting of confiding pukekos in its true natural colours he would surely kill this "sport" for all time. Pukeko-shooting implies not ignorance and superstition but a lack of the sense of the ridiculous.

Faced with a popular benightedness that caused many Italians to believe the owls' dark haunts to be the region of devils, the Italian Government administered a series of legislative

shocks to this frame of mind, by passing protective laws (fauna and flora) that (according to the Natural Fascist Organisation for the Protection of Animals) compare with any in the world. From a pamphlet of the Organisation we quote:—

"With regard to migratory birds, for which our Pensinsula serves as a landing and resting place, the Duce himself has made provision for a safe refuge for them in the Island of Capri, where, according to a Decree issued in 1934, a zone of refuge was established. A word from a poet was enough to move the generous soul of Mussolini. Axel Munthe, a Swedish doctor, while in the Island of Capri, wrote his 'San Michele,' which achieved an astonishing success throughout the whole world. The appeal made by the writer to the Duce for the birds in the island met with an immediate approval and response. Capri has become a place sacred to wild birds and hunting of all descriptions is forbidden."

Some time ago "Forest and Bird" quoted an English author who deplored that bird-nesting is a national pastime among British youth, more so than among the youth of the "cruel" Continent of Europe. In New Zealand also bird-nesting by boys is too much encouraged or condoned. Compare this blemish with a pamphlet issued by a section of the Association of Hunters of Sieva, which "makes an earnest appeal to all schoolmasters to whom is entrusted the education of children. It is necessary that the deplorable habit of bird-nesting should be stopped by close supervision, as, in addition to being an offence against the humanitarian sen-

timents of a civilised people, it is most harmful to agriculture, as the birds—especially in the nesting season—feed their young on larvae and insects injurious to plants. Parents should remember that the law holds them responsible for offences committed by children under age.”

So there is something to be learned from Italy, from a people which, starting in superstition and in a poverty that made the taking of bird-life more excusable than the shooting of non-game birds for “sport,” has evolved in a few years a useful body of animal-protective laws, and a new and truly cultural attitude to human relationship with wild life.

“PROTECTION OF ANIMALS IN ITALY.”

“There reigns in Creation an admirable harmony and a perfection of order whereby all creatures are subject to man so that they may serve him as a sovereign in the attainment of his ultimate ends and under the guidance of his intelligence.

But man upsets this admirable order when on the one hand he casts down his royal crown of superiority before the feet of inferior beings, devoting to them senseless affection, or when on the other hand he exercises over them a tyrannical rule subjecting them to acts of barbarous cruelty and destruction. Among the various inferior beings, the Church has always given a special place of honour to the birds of the air, which are so useful to agriculture, and at the same time appear the best comforters to man wandering through this vale of tears, and which more than all other beings raise him to the thought of God the Creator, by teaching him to detach himself from earthly burdens and to reflect on their flight as suggestive of the coming flight to Heaven.”—Giuseppe Orlando.

“Consideration for the life of animals is one of the noblest characteristics of a country.”

—Sig. Mussolini.

PUKEKO JUST HATCHED

Photo courtesy Auckland Memorial Museum



THE WHITE KIWI.

(By James Cowan)

That rare bird, a white kiwi, is not quite so strange or scarce a bird as most people imagine. A newspaper paragraph which went the rounds recently, one paper after another copying it, stated that evidence that a white kiwi "probably lived within the last twenty years" was disclosed in the existence of a valuable garment in the possession of a Rotorua woman; it has white kiwi feathers woven into it. This was regarded as very wonderful and rare.

However, not only are such white birds well known to the Maori and referred to in legends, but their existence in quite recent times is within the knowledge of some of us. There is one on the Little Barrier Island native bird sanctuary, or was within the last five years or so. A former custodian of the island, the late Mr. Nelson, reported that he has seen it several times. On one occasion he "got a good look at it by the light of the full moon." It is an albino bird caught in the Taupo country and taken to the island. Maori folk lore of the Tongariro-Taupo region invests white birds, whether tui or pigeon or kiwi, with an aura of sanctity, infringement of which has brought dread penalties "Should a man kill a white bird in the bush in these parts," an old man of Ngati-Tuwharetoa said to me, "he would be punished by the spirits of the forest and the mountain. Te Ririo, the demon god, would come for him at night and carry him off into the wild lands, and if he survived to reach his home and people again he would be demented, speaking a strange tongue."

The lone albino of Hauturu bird sanctuary appeared to have struck friendly acquaintance with the brown kiwis of the island. At any rate, one day, Mr. Nelson, when travelling up a gully, saw a young vari-coloured kiwi; its head feathers were white, its back and breast brown, its legs light yellow, and the hinder parts white. "It looked pretty," he wrote in his report. In the following year he reported that the albino putative parent of this feathered piebald—the Spanish "pinto" would sound better—was still alive and very healthy.

On the West Coast of the South Island a white kiwi has more than once been caught. In the Taranaki bush, too, the "kiwi-tea" is known.

Not So Very Rare.

About fifteen years ago a Taranaki sawmiller of my acquaintance, a Stratford man, caught a pure-white kiwi in a bush he was working, many miles inland towards the head waters of the Waitara River. He brought it into his home in Stratford and kept it in a box. It was fed with worms; it kept the family hard at work digging to supply its daily wants. Presently, the Zoo authorities in Wellington heard about it, and a request was sent for it, for the Newtown Park collection. Also it was illegal for any private person to be in possession of a live kiwi. The Stratford man shrewdly opined that if he sent the rare bird to Wellington it would presently be in a glass case in the museum. "To hell with them," he said; "they're not going to get this fellow to mope to death in their zoo. Back to the bush he goes." He took the bird out to the wilds again and liberated him.

The "kiwi-tea" may be there still, or there may be sundry "pintos" roving the bush. By the way, that Maori expression for a white kiwi is the name painted on the bows of a red-funnel collier trading between Wellington and the West Coast. "Kiwitea" here is a misnomer, for the steamer is as black as the coal she carries.

Spotted Kiwi.



DEFENDER OF THE FOREST. "GREY OWL'S" PHILOSOPHY.

A recent cable message reported the death of the famous Canadian-Indian naturalist, forest ranger and writer, part Indian of blood, who bore the name signifying Grey Owl. His home was in the Saskatchewan country, where in recent years he held a Government position as wildlife guardian that was a fitting recognition of his enthusiasm for the preservation unspoiled of the great forest reserves and their inhabitants. Grey Owl's writings, in such books as "Tales of an Empty Cabin," have, or should have, a strong appeal for New Zealanders, for he gave expression in a simple but very eloquent way to the earnest love of a son of the wilds for all the life of the forest, river and lake as he knew it. He had been a trapper for the fur trade until he decided to become a protector rather than a hunter. He was a "Hawkeye" with his rifle, and in the World War he found his special place as a sniper with the Canadian Forces; but when he returned to the far-out Indian country he used rifle and gun against wolves and other destroyers that threatened his beloved beavers.

Some passages from Grey Owl's last book hold a special interest for New Zealanders, for although our bush and its life are different from Canada's, the same broad principles of conservation apply to both. He condemned with all the power of his pen the commercial spirit carried to the point of selfish destruction in the woodland country. Some people "see nothing but so many feet of board measure in the most magnificent tree that ever stood." He realised and explained the distinction between commercial purposes forests and those which should be preserved strictly against sawmillers.

"There are many reasons, aesthetic, economic and patriotic," he said, "for the perpetuation of large tracts of unspoiled original timber—exclusive of reforestation. This last scheme should be carried on intensively, and

commercial concerns should be obliged (and many of them do, to their credit) to plant six or a dozen trees for every one they cut, thus putting in their own crop, and so be made to keep their acquisitive eyes off some of Canada's remaining beauty spots, which will be ruined irretrievably if commerce has its way with them. There is plenty for all purposes."

"LUMBERMAN'S LEAVINGS."

The great natural scenery of Canada, Grey Owl wrote in another chapter, had made the tourist traffic one of the country's foremost industries. He emphasised the quality "natural" as applied to the forests. "I mean natural, real forests of trees, not burnt-over areas or lumberman's leavings. Forests to fill the requirements are not spindling second growth."

That replacement, or regeneration, of the native forest that the Indian woodsman urges, is a duty which New Zealand has quite neglected so far. As for "lumberman's leavings," that accurately describes many State-owned places that should have been saved in their unspoiled condition. There are so-called scenic forests, along the main routes of travel, that are simply wreckage of the original forest. The Mamaku Bush, on the Rotorua line, and that bordering the Main Trunk line between Taumarunui and Ohakune, would be world-famous for their beauty had the Governments of the past taken any trouble to save them from the general ruin. There, if anywhere, the large trees, the splendid rimu and totara especially, should have been left untouched. There was plenty to mill elsewhere. Now, after the reserves have been run through by State and private sawmillers alike, there is no place anywhere on our railway lines where the traveller can find in its original state a bit of the New Zealand bush he has come so far to see.

The Track of the Mill.



WILDLIFE IN 2038.

The wildlife of the world, including its game, big and small, has been diminishing with such alarming speed that speculative minds may wonder whether by the year 2038 an exhibition of various species would be possible save as a museum record of the past. Some species have already gone, such as the dodo and the quagga, the aurochs, the moa, the passenger pigeon, and the great auk. They are total losses; man can destroy a species, but he cannot restore it.

Perhaps one should say he cannot in most cases restore it, for the Germans have in the last decade produced a "synthetic" aurochs, a form reconstituted by crossing the most primitive breeds of domestic cattle and selecting those types whose conformation most nearly resembles that of the original wild species. Such re-synthesis, however, is possible only with a wild species which has left domestic descendants.

Other species now exist only in captivity. Such are the beautiful and fantastic white-tailed gnu or the wild horse. Then there are the numerous creatures which would have become extinct but for rigorous protection, and in most cases exist only in special reserves—such as the American and European bison, the white rhinoceros, the Tuatara "lizard" or *Sphenodon*, sole survivor of a whole order of reptiles, the kiwi, the platypus, the pronghorn, the Alaska fur seal, or the giant tortoises of the Galapagos. The gorilla, the orang-outang, the Komodo dragon, and other creatures are on the margin of this category.

In certain ways more serious than the loss of a few species is the general decrease of wildlife all over the globe. Partly this is a mere quantitative decrease in numbers. The game in South Africa a century ago was more abundant than in the most famous reserves of Central Africa to-day. Early settlers in America found an abundance of bison, deer, duck, and wild mammals and birds of every kind, which does not exist to-day in any part of the United States. And partly the decrease is a decrease of range due to local extermination. Britain originally harboured as breeding species bears, wolves, beavers, spoonbills, ospreys, ruffs, avocets. The kite was the chief scavenger of medieval London; now there are less than a dozen specimens in Britain.

Some of the destruction is direct, some indirect. Direct destruction may be for commercial gain, as with whales, egrets, or fur-bearers; or for sport, as of game; or for the protection of crops or other assets, as of bull-finches by fruit-growers, or elephants by the governments of African colonies. Indirect destruction may occur as the result of the extension of agriculture; by the draining of marches for reclaiming land.

Two types of measures are of vital importance for the saving of the wildlife of the world. One is the framing and ratification of international conventions for the protection of the fauna of large areas. The other is the establishment of sanctuaries.—From the *London Times*.

SEEDS SOWN BY BIRDS.

(By L. W. McCaskill.)

Result of an experiment on seed dispersal by Wax-eyes at the Teachers' Training College, Christchurch, winter, 1937.

Wax-eyes were fed on a bird table with raised edges so that the droppings could be collected. The birds were fed on sugar and water or old honey and water during June, July and August. At the end of August the droppings were collected and sown in a pot of sterilised soil. As the seedlings germinated they were pricked out into boxes at the Christchurch Botanic Gardens. The list of seedlings was as follows:—

Native—

| | |
|---|----|
| <i>Coprosma robusta</i> (karamu) | 7 |
| <i>Coprosma linariifolia</i> (yellow-wood) .. | 20 |
| <i>Pittosporum tenuifolium</i> (kohuhu) .. | 16 |

Introduced—

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Lonicera</i> (shrubby honeysuckle) | 1 |
| <i>Asparagus</i> | 2 |
| <i>Berberis</i> (barberry) | 5 |
| <i>Cottoneaster serotina</i> | 30 |
| — | — |

Total 81

PIED AND BLACK OYSTER-CATCHERS.

Black Oyster-Catcher (*Haematopus unicolor*).

Pied Oyster-Catcher (*Haematopus longirostris*).

(By L. W. McCaskill.)

Although the Pied Oyster-Catcher and the Black Oyster-Catcher are different species, their habits are somewhat similar and in some parts of their range, especially in the North Island, they interbreed. In the southern part of the South Island the two species associate on the coasts in the off-season, but for nesting places the black species seeks such rocky coasts as the West Coast Sounds, while the pied species may go far up the snow rivers and even into the mountains. Many people know them as Red-bills; others use this name for the Red-billed Gull, an entirely different bird. The Maori name for the Pied Oyster-Catcher is *Torea*, for the black one *Torea-pango*.

During the autumn and winter months the birds are usually seen along the coasts and tidal estuaries. They form an attractive picture sedately reposing on the sand, occasionally uttering a shrill pipe, or running to and fro searching for food left by the receding tide. Unless they are separated by a stretch of water from the observer, the birds appear wary and restless. Each bird seems always ready to rouse the rest with its clamorous alarm note.

When feeding, some may be seen dislodging small shellfish such as limpets from the rocks—more frequently they probe in the soft wet sand or mud for marine worms and various crustaceans. Sometimes they search for food among the seaweed in rock pools.

Some birds nest in the sand dunes or on a rocky island off shore. Many leave in the late winter for the inland river-beds. Here on a sand-spit or bank of shingle, a small hollow suffices for the nest. Oyster-Catchers dislike dense shelter near the nest, and for this reason it is feared that the spread of gorse, lupin, and similar weeds on the river-beds is reducing the area available for nesting sites.

When preparing to nest the male bird has been described as "paying his addresses to the mate of his choice; elevating his back and lowering his bill until it nearly touches the ground; strutting or running round her with a loud quivering note, no doubt expressive of his undying attachment."

The colour, shape, and markings of the two or three eggs vary considerably, but in all cases

the protective colouration enables them to harmonise effectively with their surroundings.

The young are able to run shortly after they are hatched. Soon they accompany their parents on their foraging expeditions, prying into every crevice in search of insects and their larvae. The adult has a wonderful capacity for taking care of the young. At a note of warning from the watchful parent, the young birds will crouch motionless, their protective colour and markings blending with the surroundings to make them almost invisible. At the same time the adult bird will attempt to lead away the intruder by feigning lameness, appearing to be suddenly crippled in the wings or by toppling over.

The Maoris believed that the *Torea-pango* know of an approaching storm which it indicated in note, crying "*Keria, Keria*," before a storm, and "*Tokia, Tokia*" after one.

THE PROTECTION OF INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

All insectivorous birds consume daily an enormous quantity of food, about equal to their own weight. A man would have to devour, in one day, a sausage many metres* long if he had, for example, the same appetite as a robin which requires such a quantity of insects that, grouped together, they would form an earth-worm more than a metre long.

Taking these irrefutable data as a basis, it has been possible to estimate the quantity of food required, during one year, by a single couple of great titmice (*Parus major*) with young. The great prolificness of this species is well known, as is also its extraordinary voracity. The tit nests twice a year, the number of eggs varying from six to eleven. It is estimated that a couple with 16 young require, on an average in one year, 75 kilograms* of insects corresponding to 120 million of insects' eggs or 150 thousand caterpillars. These figures are conclusive as showing the inestimable value of insectivorous birds for agriculture and particularly for forests and orchards.—Guiseppe Orlando.

* Metre, 3ft. 3in. Kilogram, 2½lb.

MAORI NAMES OF NATIVE BIRDS.

It must be remembered that the Maoris lived in tribes, and that each of these sections had their own lands or food-producing areas. Trespass on a neighbouring tribe's lands was an act of war. This tribal isolation led in the course of time to many differing names for birds.

The late Mr. Elsdon Best supplied the Forest and Bird Protection Society with the following classified list of many species:—

(m) signifies male, (f) female.

1.—*Glaucopsis wilsoni* and *cinerea* (North Island and South Island) CROW:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| Honga or onga | Pakara |
| Honge or onge | Manu-whakaounga |
| Kokako | |

2.—*Turnagra tanagra* and *crassirostris* (N.I. and S.I.) THRUSH:

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Koroheia | Tiutiukata |
| Koropio | Koko eou |
| Piopio | |

3.—*Pseudogerygone igata*, GREY WARBLER:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Hiroriori | Nonoroheko |
| Horirerire | Rirerire |
| Korirerire | Riroriro |
| Koriroriro | Totororire |
| Nonoroheke | Ingata |

4.—*Petroeca toitoi* and *macrocephala* (N.I. and S.I.) TIT:

| | |
|-------------|----------------|
| Homiromiro | Pimirumiru |
| Komiromiro | Pingirungiru |
| Mauiopotiki | Pipitori |
| Mimiro | Pirangirangi |
| Miromiro | Piropiro |
| Mirumiru | Tane-te-waiora |
| Ngirungiru | Tarapo (f) |
| Pimiromiro | Toitoi |

5.—*Miro australis* and *albifrons* (N.I. and S.I.) ROBIN:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Hatoitoi | Titiketeketemanawa |
| Kakaruwai | Titiwahanui |
| Karuwai or karuae | Toitoireka |
| Katoitoi | Totoireka |
| Mokora (f) | Totoara or totowara |
| Pihere or pierie | Toutou |
| Pitoitoi | Toutouwai |
| Tataruwai | |

6.—*Rhipidura flabellifera* and *fuliginosa*, PIED AND BLACK FANTAIL:

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Hirairaka | Tiakaaka |
| Hitakataka | Tieaka |
| Hiwaiwaka | Tirairaka |
| Hiwakawaka | Tirakaraka |
| Pirairaka | Tiraureka |
| Pirakaraka | Titakataka |
| Pitakataka | Titirairaka |
| Piwaiwaka | Tiwaiwaka |
| Piwakawaka | Tiwakawaka |
| Tiaiaaka | |

7.—*Heteralocha acutirostris*, HUIA:

Huia

8.—*Creadion carunculatus*, SADDLEBACK:

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| Urourou | Tirauweke |
| Tieke | Tiraweke |
| Tiekerere | |

9.—*Sphenaeacus punctatus*, FERNBIRD:

| | |
|------------|--------|
| Koroatito | Mata |
| Korowatito | Matata |
| Kotata | Nako |
| Kukurutoki | Toetoe |

10.—*Certhiparus albicapillus* (N.I.) WHITE HEAD; and

11.—*Mohua ochrocephala* (S.I.) BUSH CANARY:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Hihipopokera | Poupoutea |
| Hihipopokero | Tataeko |
| Hore | Tataeto or tataiato |
| Mohua or mohoua | Tatahore |
| Mohuahua | Tataihore |
| Momohua | Tatangaeko |
| Popokotea or | Tatarangaeko |
| popokatea | Tatariheko |
| Popotea | Upokotea |
| Poriporihewa | |

12.—*Finschia novae-zealandiae*, BROWN CREEPER:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Pipipi | Titirihika |
| Pipirihika | Toitoti |

13.—*Anthus novae-zealandiae*, GROUND LARK:

| | |
|--------|--------------|
| Hioi | Whaioio |
| Pihioi | Kataitai |
| Pioioi | Kongooaroure |
| Whioi | |

14.—*Zosterops caeruleus*, BLIGHT BIRD:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Hiraka | Pihipihi |
| Iringatau | Poporohe |
| Kanohi-mowhiti | Tauhau |
| Karu-patene | Whiorangi |
| Notingitingi | |

15.—*Prosthemadera novae-zealandiae*, PARSON BIRD:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| Koko | Takaha (m) |
| Kukari (young) | Teoteo (f) |
| Pikari (young) | Tute (m) |
| Pitui (young) | Tui |

16.—*Pogonornis cincta*, STITCH BIRD:

| | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Hihi | Matakiore |
| Hihi-matakiore (f) | Motihetihe |
| Hihi-paka (m) | Tihe |
| Hihi-pakawera | Tihe-kiore (f) |
| Kohihi | Tiheora |
| Kotihe | Tihewai (f) |
| Kotihetihe | Tihewera (m) |
| Kotihewera | Tiora |

17.—*Anthornis melanura*, BELL-BIRD:

| | |
|------------------|----------------|
| Kekerematua (m) | Koparapara |
| Kerekerematatu | Korihako |
| Kohimako | Korimako |
| Kohoimako | Koromako |
| Kokomako | Kotaiahu |
| Kokorimako | Kukari (young) |
| Kokorohimako (m) | Mako |
| Kokoromako | Makomako |
| Komako | Rearea |
| Komako-huariki | Titapu (f) |
| Komamako | Titimako |
| Kopaopao | Totoaireka (f) |
| Kopara | Tutumako |

18.—*Xenicus longipes*, GREEN WREN:

| | |
|--------------|----------|
| Huru-pounamu | Piwauwau |
| Matuhi | Puano |
| Matuhituhi | |

19.—*Acanthidositta chloris*, BUSH WREN:

| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kikimutu | Momoutu |
| Kikipounamu | Moutuutu |
| Kikirimutu | Pihipihi |
| Kikitara | Piripiri |
| Kohurehure | Tapahipare (m) |
| Korurerure (f) | Titipounamu |
| Kotikotipae | Toirua |
| Momotawai | Tokepiripiri |

20.—*Halcyon vagans*, KINGFISHER:

| | |
|------------|------------|
| Kotare | Kotarepopo |
| Kotaretare | Warehenga |

21.—*Chalcococcyx lucidus*, SHINING CUCKOO:

| | |
|----------------|------------------|
| Nakonako | Piripiriwharauoa |
| Pipiauroa | Pupuwharauoa |
| Pipiwharauoa | Wharauoa |
| Pipiriwharauoa | Whenakonako |

22.—*Urodynamis taitensis*, LONG-TAILED CUCKOO:

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Kawekawea | Koheperoa |
| Koekoea | Kohoperoa |
| Koehoperoa | Kokoea |
| Kohaperoa | Kuekuea |

23.—*Nestor meridionalis*, PARROT:

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Kaka | Tataapopo (m) |
| Koriwhai | Tarariki (f) |
| Perehere | |

The following distinguishing epithets are applied to varieties of kaka:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Huripa | Nihonui |
| Karorotea | Nihoriki |
| Karorouri | Pipiwharauoa |
| Kereru | Reko |
| Korako | Tamaire |
| Kura | Tuauru |
| Motaraua | |

The leader in a flight is termed kaea or tiaka. Decoy birds are known as mokai, perua, or whakahope, according to the method employed.

24.—*Nestor notabilis*, MOUNTAIN PARROT:

| | |
|-----|------|
| Kea | Keha |
|-----|------|

(To be continued in November issue.)

BIRDS AND BEASTS - HARMFUL OR BENEFICIAL.



HE DECIDES MANY PROBLEMS WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE.

WHY NOT USE THE SHIELD?

REPRISALS SENTENCE.

THREE OLD NEW ZEALANDERS FOUND GUILTY.

Three alleged criminals were placed in the dock the other morning in the greatest wooden building in the world.

They were Mr. Glossy Blue Pukeko, charged with having a preference for damp and muddy places, and with having on one occasion damaged a farmer's haystack; Mr. Sharp Bill Shag, charged with espionage from tree-tops, and with having eaten one trout, seven bullies, and five hundred eels; and Mr. Gaunt and Hungry Harrier, charged with being of wandering habits, and with having assaulted a tame pheasant released from the Acclimatisation Society's game farm two days before May 1st.

The three accused were unable to plead. Their silence was regarded as obstinacy, and therefore as a point against them.

The Judge said that the case presented no difficulty whatever. There was not, against any of the accused, the slightest bit of evidence that would bear scientific analysis. No biological investigation, yielding positive proof of guilt, had ever been made; in fact, many years ago one of the accused, Mr. Glossy Bill Pukeko, had earned a favourable verdict from a near-scientific investigation conducted by his own Department. But this near-scientific evidence was completely outweighed by the whispering campaign that met him in every country district and at every gun-club meeting. A salient fact was that the collection of whispered evidence from farmers and gun-clubs cost nothing, whereas a really scientific investigation would cost a good deal, and already there was hardly enough money for the pheasant-breeding. All things considered, added the Judge, it was clear that he would be failing in his duty if he failed to convict the three accused, and to sanction the sharpest reprisals by the sportsmen of New Zealand against a bird that preferred to live in vile muddy swamps, and another bird that perched statuesque and Satan-like on tree-tops, and yet another bird that had a slovenly way of flying around fields as if it were up to no good.

The death sentence pronounced by the Judge was received in silence, except for a slight rustle

of paper as one of the clerks of the Court scribbled the sentence-record on the top of the file. Somewhere on the same file is the Department's endorsement of the pukeko's right to live, but it will stop where it is, and the file will return to the archives of the greatest wooden building in the world.

When the clerk came to record the history and antecedents of the accused, he found that they were older inhabitants of New Zealand than anybody in the great wooden building. The accused are all New Zealanders. This might have been a factor in their favour, but for their continued obstinate silence, which almost amounted to contempt of Court, and which rendered impossible any plan to secure a confession by the latest Moscow methods.

A Visitor's Impression.

Mr. Sidney Porter, an English ornithologist, who recently visited this country, writes to the Forest and Bird Protection Society as follows:—

I am now here again for a short time and there is a matter I would like to mention. When I was here last I stayed for a time in the King Country, and was taken out by a friend to see the forests which were being worked by the timber company. This company has the lease or owns tens of thousands of acres of the most magnificent forest country in New Zealand, which they are milling. This would not be so bad if it were only milled, but as soon as the very large timber is cut out the whole area is fired, often in parts far too steep for any farming, and which in a few years will erode. When I questioned them on the matter of firing the forest, I was told it was customary! I have recently seen the person who took me down to the forests, and he says that this terrible desecration is still going on, and vast areas are still being burnt. Can't something be done to stop this awful destruction of the forests by burning? Cutting the large timber out doesn't do a great deal of damage, because it can grow up again, but I should have thought there was enough desolation here already without creating more.

THE OLD AND THE NEW.

A NEW ZEALAND STORY WRIT IN SILT

"Not the silt we used to have," says the East Coast farmer when the floods descend upon him, and bury his high-value soil under many feet of hinterland spoil.

No, it is not the old silt; it is spoil in every sense of the word. The valley soil is lost, and a new and inferior medium for grass-growing is presented to the farmer, who straight way turns for help to the Government and the mortgagee.

Nothing any of them can do is of much avail now. The remedy would have been to do nothing years ago. Doing nothing is not usually a virtue, but it is the highest virtue if compared with what the farmer and the saw-miller have done to the high inferior country, the surface of which man was incapable of turning into a farm, but which yet was within the compass of his powers of destruction.

Mr. H. Guthrie-Smith, himself an East Coast farmer, who knows well his Hawkes Bay lowlands and highlands and watercourses, has explained the difference between the old silt and the new silt. In "Sorrows and Joys of a New Zealand Naturalist" he describes the havoc on the hills, and adds:

"On the alluvial flats it takes a different form. They too are threatened by the ultimate effects of grazing of sheep and cattle on uplands that never should have been open to the axe and plough.

"In olden days, before the country was stocked, before its primeval vegetation was destroyed, floods indeed occurred as now. River banks were, as nowadays, bitten out and gouged, but these inferior soils of the bleaker inland were filtered throughout every mile of the river's run; the coarser soil was deposited by blockage of dense riverside jungle and undergrowth. In those days millions of detaining leaves and blades stemmed the flood, each acting as breakwater, each hoarding its own tapering tail of debris. Thus only the finest silt, the most minutely comminuted vegetable matter, reached the flats. The mouths of rivers were then, moreover, in great degree canalised;

the current was confined by the dense growth fostered by conditions of damp luxuriance and oceanic warmth.

"Now bad unfiltered soil is superimposed on good. Moreover, with the trampling and browsing of stock, especially of cattle, these guardian thickets were broken down and destroyed; the untrammelled river broke bounds; long-deposited layers of silt and vegetable mould were directly engulfed by the sea. In place of flat terraces on either side of a deep, smooth, straight river, we have a main stream torn into shallow channels, its mouth altering at every fresh."

What Mr. Guthrie Smith wrote in Hawkes Bay in 1936 has just received a further demonstration in Hawkes Bay in 1938. The process of making New Zealand "little better than a home for white men" had been going on for a hundred years, but the damage has intensified in the last two generations because the occupation of all the grassable lowland has pushed would-be farmers into ungrassable highlands, where the grass product of their labour disappears in a few years. The "constant stirring by sheep's feet of shingle on the screes," the "nibbling of the specialised plant species that bind the stony slides," and "the perpetual fires of modern methods of alpine sheepfarming" in due course ruin the high-country farmer and also ruin the lowland farm. It is all part of a chain of cause and effect that is still active.

Agricultural Department experts have confirmed the deteriorating effect of the silt that piles up on valley lands, and have thus confirmed prophecy. But from a remedy the country is as far off as ever.

ERROR.

A unique picture depicting a kaka feeding, which appeared in our May issue, was erroneously credited to Mrs. A. S. Williamson instead of Mrs. A. S. Wilkinson, Kapiti Sanctuary.

FLOODS AND EROSION. WORK BACK TO FIRST CAUSES.

Hawke's Bay is in a peculiarly unfortunate position geographically, at the mercy of the rivers. So far the land-protection measures adopted have been the building of stopbanks and other engineering works to confine the lower parts of the rivers in their courses and clear the outlets to the sea. But at last the local authorities and the Government appear to have become convinced that the whole problem of protection from flood in the Hawke's Bay area must be tackled. It required a major disaster to rouse them. But a mere local survey and protection scheme is not nearly enough. This is a great national question. River control and soil protection concern the whole Dominion. Man has made such a mess of the country, originally so well clothed and guarded by Nature, that reclamation measures on the grand scale are a nationwide responsibility. The first duty is to make a thorough scientific survey of the whole of the areas. The Government geologists and public works engineers should examine the whole of the country, make an estimate of the huge quantities of soil washed down from the hills and spread over the plains, and work back to first causes.

Some people have attributed the enormous amount of washdown to the loosening of the hills by the earthquake of 1931. That theory is symptomatic of the general inability to see further than immediate surroundings and recent happenings. The earthquake cannot be blamed for everything, neither can the so-called cloud-

bursts. Immediately after the Tarawera eruption in 1886 the Government had surveys made of the country most affected, and Mr. S. Percy Smith and Professor Thomas (the late Sir Algernon) wrote excellent reports, which were published. That was a disaster of a thousand years; it is not likely to recur, in our time—although it is not wise to prophecy. But this flood danger is ever present in New Zealand, in one place and another, or in many places at once. It is most important, and urgent, that the country should be told exactly why and how this flood and ruin occurred.

For years upon years the Government, one Government after another, has been urged to tackle this flood danger and this land ruin. Now that a "major disaster" has at last occurred the job of planning for the future must not be dealt with in bits and pieces. The whole face of New Zealand, more particularly this North Island, should be viewed and reviewed. All the high steep country must be protected absolutely; there is no other course for the safety of the land. It does not matter whether the highlands are owned by the State or by private interests; private rights can be required to give way to the national needs. It is very obvious to all who use their eyes that those who opened up high or steep land for the sheep farmers who cleared and burnt every scrap of native vegetation on the hills are among the country's worst enemies.

Editorial Note:—Since this was written the Government has announced that a report on a comprehensive scheme of river control and soil and forest protection is to be given attention.

*Debris Moving Down
to River.*



OURSELVES.

(By E. V. Sanderson.)

FOR many years past the Forest and Bird Protection Society has been the prime mover in bringing many vitally important matters before the general public, especially matters which scientific and other bodies have scarcely been willing or able to ventilate because of the feeling that nobody can do a public service without treading on somebody's toes.

When the hard uphill fight is approaching finality and Ministers of the Crown see the force of our argument and begin to take action, many helpers come along and give valuable aid, but some of them claim all the honours. This is what is happening even now in regard to our advocacy of an efficiently administered chain of waterfowl sanctuaries to save the sore-beset grey duck.

Some Southland shootists are claiming credit for the initiation of that ideal.

The deer menace was known long before the Forest and Bird Protection Society took it up. The writer well remembers the late Mr. Phillips Turner, when Director of the State Forest Service, deploring the fact that all our forests would be destroyed unless effective war was waged on the browsing trespassers. "Yes," was the writer's reply, "but you are all afraid to bell the cat; but the Forest and Bird Society will."

Some Acclimatisation Societies at that time called State Forests "our deer forests," and the stalker's position was strongly entrenched. A great effort was then made to awaken the public by the Forest and Bird Protection Society, which resulted in the "deer conference," and then Government action against the animals. Some persistent antagonism to this necessary national action is still in evidence, but the public now realise the menace, and all that is required is a great extension of operations against the deer, goats and other pests of the forests.

Sir Alexander Young and the Hon. W. E. Parry, as Minister of Internal Affairs, have both given their support in the arrangement of campaigns against the nuisance.

The dust-bowl trouble in America is no new thing. Its gravity has been long recognised by a few, but no newspaper dared mention it, as such action would be considered by many as unpatriotic. A comparatively small newspaper,

however, broached the subject, and lost 1,000 dollars' worth of advertisements the following week. The cat was, however, out of the bag, and America woke up to the vital need of action. The Forest and Bird Protection Society is giving continuing publicity to a similar state of affairs in this country. There is sad reason to believe that for the time this country has been settled the evil of erosion is more in evidence here than in America.

It is pleasing to see that the authorities are recognising the gravity of the loss of top soil in farming country, and that scientific bodies are now coming up behind the Society and lending their aid in order to save New Zealand for posterity. The Forest and Bird Protection Society recognises that its duty is to enlist public sympathy and support in the preservation of forest and bird life essential for the country's welfare, but we should like all Chambers of Commerce and all other organisations and individuals with any interest in this country to recognise that the well-being of all is intimately allied with the conservation of the Dominion's manageable natural resources.

In this connection we deplore the fact that the State forest policy has in the past been directed too much to the exploitation of the timber resource of the native forests without adequate reservations for the protection of arable and pastoral lands which are the basis of the people's livelihood.



FOREST AND BIRD SOCIETY BADGES.

Metal badges nicely designed in gilt and nephrite green enamel are now being issued by the Society, at the price of 1/6, or in silver and paua shells at 7/6 each. These latter make handsome brooches.

The stock of albums depicting 24 forest-inhabiting birds in colour is now nearing exhaustion. Those wishing to secure copies should therefore make immediate application. Each picture is 9in. by 6in. and is accompanied by an adequate description or lecturette of the birds depicted—Price 12/6 per copy. We have also Xmas Cards depicting Weka, Morepork, Tui or Tomtit in colour—Price 6/- per doz. or 1/- each.

THE CURSE OF THE WHITE HERON.

In the days when kings and queens were more important than they are now, and wise women were consulted instead of specialists, there reigned a queen named Egretta, in a fair far land. She was beloved of all, and consternation fell on her subjects when it became known that she had fallen ill of the "vapours." Physicians were summoned, but in vain. Alas, there was no local Coue to tell her that "day by day in every way she was getting better and better."

But there was a wise woman, for whom the Lord Chamberlain sent in haste, after he had dealt with a sage who wished to pinch the queen's nose to assist the swallowing of a concoction of crabs' eyes.

She came. And after gazing on the pallid Sovereign, listless amongst her silken cushions, in the centre of a marble hall where countless fountains diffused scents from their perfumed waters, she turned all but the most trustworthy from the room and thus addressed the Queen: "You will die, your gracious Majesty." Then the courtiers, hearing what they secretly feared, turned grey with grief. Until the wise woman continued: "If you continue as you are. You have got too far away from Nature. She alone, most marvellous of mothers, can cure Your Majesty. Nay, with all my wisdom, I cannot give you her prescription, for to none does she reveal her secrets, except those who seek her face to face. Yet I can help you, if you consent. But choose quickly, for even Nature cannot long hold back Death's dagger."

The Queen, weary of drugs and nostrums, motioned to the wise woman to proceed. Then the ancient dame drew forth a pungent powder and sprinkled it liberally over the Queen, saying: "Go forth to Nature as a white heron, and return hither as a queen, a year hence, when thou hast regained what thou hast lost."

The powder acted as pepper on the courtiers' noses, causing them to sneeze. When they had finished wiping their eyes they beheld that the graceful, gifted Egretta had gone, for through the open window a glorious white heron had winged its way afar to Nature who sits on the mountains, with her feet in the valleys; with the forests in her lap and her wise eyes over all.

Things happened as the wise woman had predicted. To Egretta the year passed all too

quickly. Nature taught her to value the rain which purified her feathers, and the sun which dried them; to use her eyes to detect her food; and her ears to warn her of danger; to hear the music in the roar of the river, and to dance the dance the trees love, when they lace their arms together, and sway to the music of the passing winds. She, who had never seen the dawn from her many windowed palace, watched for the footprints of the deer in the dew, and beheld the pigeon leave its roosting-place to sip at some clear stream, noting how it raised its head to allow the water to assuage its thirst.

In the heat of the day, she sought sequestered pools where, still as the tall tree trunks, with one foot curled beneath her feathers, she watched the dance of the dragonflies, or little fish on their way to school being bullied by the eels.

At sunset she stood on a sandy beach, watching Nature put the hills to sleep, wrapping them warmly in soft grey mists, while providing them with coloured pictures when the sun set. With them she would gaze at the ever-changing designs. Then, as the daylight faded, she would bless the wisdom which lit the stars as night-lights to calm the fears of timid creatures.

The day before she was due to return as Queen, Egretta arrived on the shores of a lake, a few miles from her capital city, which she could glimpse like a black silhouette against the setting sun.

Unknown to her, a hunter saw her. Silently he stalked the beautiful rare bird, rejoicing at the chance of obtaining such a prize. Nearer and nearer he drew, until a shot shattered the silence and a startling shriek caused even the hunter to shiver for an instant.

By the dying bird he stood, congratulating himself on his straight aim, and while he was watching the life blood staining its pure white feathers, he decided that its delicate plumage should go to enhance his wife's beauty. Impatiently he wiped his eyes, as a film seemed to cover them, distorting his vision, until it seemed as if at his feet lay a fair woman, wrapped in spotless white, except where her life ebbed in crimson gushes. He tried to shake off this impression as he picked up the lifeless heron and strode rapidly home. But he was very silent that night, for in his ears rang an awful curse:

"Cursed be thou who hast prevented my carrying Nature's secrets to my people. And a curse for ever be on those who likewise slay strange birds who appear in their midst. Had I been a stranger, thou would'st have welcomed me, but because I was a bird thou did'st slay me. Beware! Thou and thy like shall bitterly rue the day of thy cruelty."

Days passed, and when the man's fruit crops, which he had tended so carefully, were destroyed by insects and ruin stared him in the face, he sought his wife, to try and lessen his terror by sharing his guilty secret with her. And she, woman-like, hastened to her neighbour to prove by revealing her knowledge that she held her husband's confidence, having first strictly cautioned her to keep the matter a secret.

In this way the news travelled quicker than usual, and everyone knew that the man's ruin was due to his wanton destruction.

Came a time when the story reached a benevolent king. Aware that "forewarned is forearmed," he caused his wise men to record the warning for all to read. He also decreed that the story should be circulated among school-children.

Alas! it befell that, though the books were there, none but a few read them, and the children forgot to pass on their knowledge. So, it still befalls that, though they put it down to bad luck or insect pests, or tricks of the weather, ill luck preys on those who, disobeying the law of hospitality, destroy strange birds which appear in their midst. For the curse of Queen Egretta was a strong one, and, although there are powerful persons on earth at present who could remove it if they chose, yet they approve of what she did and add their curse to hers, but they call a blessing on those who protect their birds.

White Herons.



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FOREST AND BIRD PROTECTION SOCIETY

OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

APPEAL FOR BEQUESTS.

Is there any cause more worthy of bequests by public-spirited citizens than the objectives of the Forest and Bird Protection Society, which is working wholly and solely for the welfare of New Zealand, present and future? Here is a suggested form of bequest:—

"I give and bequeath the sum of to the Forest and Bird Protection Society (Incorporated), and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer for the time being of the said Society shall be a complete discharge to my executors for the legacy hereby given to such Society."

The work and record of the Society, the personnel of its membership and Executive are a good guarantee that the best possible use will be made of such bequests.

CALL FOR SANCTUARIES.

The Society would also welcome the responsibility of administering suitable sanctuaries for land or sea birds, provided that a small annuity is added for the payment of a caretaker. *Such sanctuaries could be named after the donor, and would thus be a perpetuation of his name as a saviour of New Zealand's forest and bird life.* It is suggested that such sanctuaries should be administered in a manner to ensure their return to their original and natural conditions as nearly as possible.

OBJECTS.

To advocate and obtain the efficient protection and preservation of our native forests and birds, enlisting the natural sympathy of our young, unity of control of all wild life, and the preservation of sanctuaries, scenic reserves, etc., in their native state.

Affiliated with the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the British Empire (Patron, His Majesty King George VI.) and with the International Committee for the Protection of Wild Birds (President, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson).

Recognising that it is essential for all those who desire to save our Forest and Bird Life to band together, I enclose herewith my subscription of £..... as a subscriber to the Society. I shall be glad to receive the quarterly magazine, "Forest and Bird," without further charge.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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| Children | £0 1 0 per annum |
| Ordinary | 0 5 0 " " |
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| Life | 5 0 0 |