

so in the first instance, but I presume that this sturdy chick, in trying out its legs and gaining strength while sheltered in the burrow, trampled the shell into minute fragments. I have since examined the grass of the nest and the fragments of egg shell were in amongst the dry grass. There were also a large number of the adult bird's feathers mixed up with the grass.

I was unable to discover if the adult bird which was sitting on the egg was the male or female. It is so hard to distinguish the difference that one would have to have both the male and female together to compare and so note the slight difference.

THE WAIPOUA ROAD

MOTOR TRAFFIC—A DANGER TO THE FOREST

IT is a marvel that the Waipoua Kauri Forest has—up to the time of writing—escaped a devastating fire.

The motor highway that the Government put through the eastern part of the forest some nine or ten years ago, is a continual menace to the safety of these timberlands, the most precious area of forest in New Zealand. Some motorists are careful and considerate, many others are quite indifferent to the destructions that may be caused when they toss away their cigarette butts and their burned matches. The Forest Service officers do their best to guard the kauri reserve, but the effective way to tend the road would be to detail a watcher to every car traversing the forest area, to confiscate all matches, and warn off all picnic parties. All this may be impracticable while the road remains open. It would seem, therefore, that the closing of the motor road, or the making of a long deviation which would avoid entering the forest at all, is the only plan which promises safety.

That road should never have been made. A road is the first of the fatal wedges driven into a forest. Waipoua is essentially a sanctuary, though it has not been proclaimed officially as such, and it should not be traversed by a public thoroughfare. The far less valuable exotic plantations throughout the country are closed to traffic wherever possible; for example, the new forest of pines and gums and other introduced

I have often heard the shrill notes of the kiwi during the night and early morning, but it has been on very few occasions that I have seen the birds during the day time, and then only in the late evening. The birds have such an acute sense of hearing that they could easily seek shelter and be safely hidden before a human could gain sight of them.

That the sturdy legs of an adult kiwi provide a formidable means of defence was well illustrated a few weeks ago when a road worker who saw a kiwi sheltering inside a hollow log, endeavoured to secure it with his hand. His reward was a gash two inches long and deep in the flesh of his forearm just above the wrist.

species that cover the country between Rotorua and Rotokakahi lakes. There various tracks and roads once much used by pakeha and Maori are closed, and motor cars are not permitted to enter the reserve. The old track across the Kaingaroa plains via Motumako—a more interesting scenic road than the new one—has been closed, and car traffic is confined to the one straight highway across the middle of the Kaingaroa. The Government authorities very properly restrict general traffic through the plantation reserve, where the fern and other undergrowth tends to increase the risk of fire. But Waipoua, infinitely more important, is rendered extremely vulnerable by the road which has become a tourist avenue. It is strongly urged that this kauri park should be made a sanctuary in every sense of the term, and the first thing necessary, after the legal proclamation is attended to, is to divert motor traffic northward to some other route. Those who really are interested in the kauri forest could reach it by foot or horse, as formerly; they could thus easily be kept under observation. But unrestricted motor cars, joy-riding, and picnicking mean fire and ruin for Waipoua.

[Editor's Note:—In several, if not all of the best botanical gardens of the world, smoking is strictly prohibited. Surely there is a more than equal necessity to apply such a restriction to the most important national reservations such as Waipoua].