

# Birds on the Wing

By Peter Daniel



Pigeon leaving kowhai tree. Flash at 1/4000 sec. 100 ASA 120 film.

**H**ow does one go about photographing native birds in flight? I asked myself this question over and over during our first few years on Kapiti Island.

If I could do it, not only would it be exceptionally rewarding for me, but other people could see the beauty of our birds in action, and maybe their interest in and love of them would be enhanced.

If people see any object as one of great beauty, then it becomes indelibly printed in their minds as something to be treasured. This was the kind of image of our native

birds that I set out to capture. Living here on the island, I occasionally got quick glimpses of beautiful colours and forms that, I realised, the human eye was too slow to register properly. Thinking about this made me realise that the birds themselves would be able to see all this beauty, hence one of the reasons that most birds within a species display to one another.

Photography has been a serious hobby for me for nearly 30 years. After we moved to Kapiti in mid-1976, I soon realised the tremendous possibilities. My early attempts