



Governor General opens Forest and Bird's new Head Office

A WEEK after the unveiling of our stunning new mural (see cover), Her Excellency the Governor General, Dame Catherine Tizard formally opened Forest and Bird's new building.

The reception was hosted by Society President Gordon Ell, and attended by Distinguished Life Members, local branch officers, dignitaries, media and staff. She was guided through "Gateway For Giants" into the building by staff members disguised as kakariki, kokako, tui and takahe, in the now famous bird costumes.

Dame Catherine spoke about her own involvement with Forest and Bird and shared some of the



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The Governor General, Dame Catherine Tizard, cutting the ribbon to formally open the new Society Head Office.

memories she had of the Society. She said that conservation and habitat protection were important to her and was pleased to act as patron to the Society during her time as Governor General.

It was an important and enjoyable occasion for Forest and Bird and we hope that in the future there will be other opportunities to celebrate successes in conservation.

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National kea and kaka databases

This summer (1991-92) is the beginning of the third year of the kea and kaka schemes. I've received much valuable information from Forest and Bird members around New Zealand over these last two years, which has been inputted onto the computer but even with this information it is difficult to see what might be happening to the birds. The sightings received so far can be summarised as follows:

North Island Kaka

- Moderate numbers in Pureora, Tongariro, Kaimanawa, Urewera.
- Few in Tararua, Ruahine, Raukumera, Coromandel ranges.
- Vagrants around northern North Island.
- Noticeably no sightings from Egmont, Wanganui.
- Most sightings are of one or two birds, occasional larger flocks in February.

- Seen between 0-1500 metres, averaging around 450-700 (summer), and 400-550 m (winter).

South Island Kaka

- Moderate numbers in Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Westland.
- Scattered throughout lower altitude valleys of the western main divide, Paparoas, Richmond Range, Nelson Lakes.
- No sightings from eastern divide, Lake Sumner, Arthur's Pass.
- Most sightings are of one or two birds, occasional larger flocks in February - April.
- Seen between 0-1200 metres, averaging around 450-700 m (summer) and 50-200 (winter).

Kea

- Well represented in Fiordland, Westland, Mt Aspiring, North West

Nelson, Landsborough, Whitcombe.

- Some present in Richmond Range, Kaikouras, Nelson Lakes, Paparoas, Craigburn.
- Numbers seen are very variable.
- Seen between 20-2400 metres, averaging about 950-1400, but also vary variable throughout the year.

I don't wish to bias the database by requesting sightings of particular birds from particular areas. However, sightings from less accessible areas or birds out of their normal range are always valuable. Please keep on recording accurate location (map reference if possible), altitude, date and time, number of birds seen.

Send sightings to: Michael Wakelin, Science and Research Division, Department of Conservation, PO Box 10-420, Wellington.

Errata

The photograph by Conon Fraser in "The Jigger Solution" (Forest & Bird May 1991, page 14) is of young elephant seals, not Hooker's sea lions.

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