



UNLIKELY PARTNERSHIPS can develop between immigrants: like the tuatara and fairy prions which, thrown together by the lottery of island dispersal, share burrows on Stephens Island. Tuatara reach highest densities on islands with moderate numbers of prions. The reptiles seem to gain most from the relationship: warmth from the birds and the opportunity to predate chicks at a vulnerable age. This sudden, massive protein intake may be an important trigger for egg production in female tuatara. Reptiles are capable of enduring long sea voyages on rafts of vegetation, so like seabirds are well suited to island colonisation.

NEW ZEALAND has its share of extraordinary invertebrates. Fiordland's bat-winged fly (*Exsul singularis*) is probably no less rare than the kakapo or remarkable than the kiwi. It has the body size of a house fly, with black, solar-powered, pantaloony-shaped wings as big as a butterfly's. It is carnivorous and changes its form of flight from that of a fly to one which mimics a butterfly. This allows it to enter the territories of small alpine butterflies, where it captures and eats them.