

(4) This nest was 7ft. up in a small fork of a kohekohe tree, leaning against a dead branch. It had very little foundation of manuka, and was beautifully lined within, with native grass. It contained three eggs lighter in colour than those of the nest previously described.

(5) A fifth nest, with a Tui, sitting very close (so close that it permitted the branches to be broken off, to afford a better view with the camera), was in a Mahoe tree, 13-14ft. from the ground, neatly lined with native grass, and contained four eggs.

Anthus novæ-seelandiæ. New Zealand Pipit.—On December 6th a young Pipit was seen flying from rock to rock on the foreshore, also on December 8th, after which it was seen from time to time.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.—A small colony of these birds have established themselves on the cliff face on the north-western portion of Taranga. Their numbers do not at present exceed twenty or thirty, if that.

Nesting of the Spur-winged Plover in Captivity.—The following notes were supplied to me by Dr. S. C. Jamieson, of Yarrowonga (Vic.), and it is interesting to know that the incubation takes approximately four weeks:—

About twelve years ago or more we began to keep Spur-winged and Black-breasted Plovers in our garden of about half acre of lawn, and flowers and vegetable garden. On September 15th, 1927, we noticed that an egg was laid on a bare garden bed. On 17th September a second egg was laid, and on 19th September a third egg appeared. The 20th September the parents were sitting in real earnest, and one day, whilst engaged in driving off a Goshawk, and so staying near the so-called nest for a considerable time, it was noticed that both the male and female birds shared the "sitting." The bird on the nest, when tired, would utter a little call, and the mate would immediately *run*, not walk, to the nest, and when about to sit would at first carefully arrange the eggs with the beak, and very carefully lower itself into the sitting position. This change of guard was very interesting to watch. The first chick was noticed early in the morning of 17th October, and at 5 p.m. the same day the second chick was hatched. The first chick was taken for its first walk on the morning of the 17th October by the bird off the nest, and in the morning of the 18th October the third chick was hatched, and that same day the proud parents and their family moved about a little, and the young birds were quite active at once. The Kookaburras then took a hand. The old birds used to stand up and offer defiance to them. The house cat saw to those of his kind who trespassed, and protected the birds from them. The growth of the chicks was very uneven, one being twice as big as the next, and that one again twice as big as the last hatched. In about three months they had all evened up as regards size.—E. A. D'OMBRAIN, Sydney (13.6.28).