

as the Currawong (*Strepera*) are the offenders. Entry to the nest by any but a very small bird could only be made by tearing a hole in it, as the entrance is only a half inch in diameter.

Another pair of birds under observation half a mile upstream from the cabin built their nest only six feet from the ground in an exceptionally open position. They succeeded in rearing their brood, whereas other birds whose nests were well hidden had failed. I first saw them building on December 22, when only the rough framework of the nest was constructed. The young finally left about February 6, 1930. A photograph was taken on February 2, when the nest contained large young. The birds were not at all timid, particularly the male. Both birds were equally attentive in feeding the young.—N. CHAFFER, R.A.O.U.

New Zealand Native Birds.—Mr. Newton McConchie, of Glenhope, writing to me, says:—"The Bush Canary (*Mohoua ochrocephala*) is still plentiful in the back country of this district. When feeding it follows the direction of the sun until about mid-day, when it reverses and gradually works back to its starting point. This action is rather difficult to understand. It is certainly something in connection with the sunlight, though its haunts are nearly always in the gloom of the heavy birch forest." The letter goes on:—"Your suggestion relative to the Maori Hen (Woodhen) and giving the reason for its almost being extinct as an epidemic is quite correct. I was a constant visitor to the Owen Ranges in the years 1912 and 1913. Here they were to be seen in dozens all over the open snow country. Some fatal disease appeared to attack them during the months of February and March, 1913. Though I saw remains of the birds, none appeared to be older than two months at most."

From Murchison comes the following about Bellbirds (*Anthornis melanura*):—"During autumn and up to the time of the earthquake there was an unusual number of Bellbirds in an apple tree at the side of our house. It was beautiful to listen to their deep bell-like notes. At one time six were whistling at once. They seemed to take turns. You could hear four and sometimes five whistling at once, then another would fly into the tree and start whistling and one of the others stopped, then came another bird from another tree and again one would cease whistling. Anyone could walk under the apple tree and the Bellbirds would be still whistling not two feet above one's head. I have counted as many as fourteen birds on the apple tree at once, eating apples and pecking about the tree. They would eat the apples leaving only a shell hanging on the tree—so they were short of food this last winter (1929)."—(MRS.) PERRINE MONCRIEFF, R.A.O.U., Nelson, N.Z.