

He postulates that birds leaving New Zealand are windborne by the south-east trade winds, and suggests that the ancestors of the subspecies were sedentary (as two other subspecies are today sedentary in the Pacific), and that the migratory habit arose as a consequence of recent glacial conditions rendering New Zealand inhospitable in winter. Comparison is made with the winter and summer range of the Tasmanian subspecies *C. l. plagosus*.

It is disappointing that members of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand did not take a larger part in the investigation.—J.M.C.

## Correspondence

### BIRD-BANDING IN NEW ZEALAND

To the Editor,

Sir—

I have to advise that the Wildlife Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, Wellington, New Zealand, is this year carrying out the following banding programme in connection with game birds—

- (1) Mallard Ducks reared at the government game farm at Ngongotaha, Rotorua, and liberated in the Rotorua Acclimatization District, will be banded.
- (2) Provided supplies of bands arrive in time from overseas all pheasants from the game farm to be liberated in the Rotorua Acclimatization District will be similarly banded.
- (3) Mallard, Grey and Spoonbill or Shoveller Ducks (*Spatula rhynchotis*) banded at three banding stations in the vicinity of Palmerston North will also carry the same bands.

The latter project is part of a comprehensive field investigation which has been commenced on water-fowl problems in New Zealand, with particular reference to the Grey Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).

The leg bands being used are of aluminium and have enfaced on them the following words—

Return Wildlife Service  
Govt. Bldgs. W'ton. N.Z.

It would be greatly appreciated if the attention of members of the R.A.O.U. could be drawn to this work in the first available issue of *The Emu*.

Yours, etc.,

A. G. HARPER,

Assistant Under-Secretary.

P.O. Box 7,  
Government Buildings,  
Wellington,  
Feb. 11, 1948.

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