STIDOLPH, Holidays in N.Z. | The Emu | 1st July

Mohoua albicilla. Whitehead.—The commonest bush bird on Mt. Egmont, in the Urewera country, at Mamaku and on the Motu Hills.

Zosterops halmaturina. Silvereye.—Plentiful throughout, but its numbers varying with the seasons.

Prosthemadera nova-seelandiae. Tui.—Well distributed in the neighbourhood of bush but nowhere very common.

Anthus melanura. Bell-bird.—Common in more extensive bush areas, notably in Marlborough Sounds, Mt. Egmont, Urewera country, near Rotorua and on Motu Hills.

Corvus frugilegus. Rook.—Near Hastings, where the only rookery in the North Island exists.

Acridotheres tristis. Indian Myna.—Occurs in Taranaki and Hawkes Bay.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca. White-backed Magpie.—Only noted in the Wanganui district, on the west coast of the North Island. Not seen anywhere in the parts of the Hawkes Bay and Auckland districts visited.

The following birds, generally speaking, are common and widespread:

- Chloris chloris. Greenfinch.
- Fringilla celebs. Chaffinch.
- Acanthis cabaret. Lesser Redpoll.
- Carduelis carduelis. Goldfinch.
- Passer domesticus. Home Sparrow.
- Emberiza citrinella. Yellow-Hammer.
- Turdus philomelos. Song Thrush.
- Turdus merula. Blackbird.
- Prunella modularis. Hedge Sparrow.
- Alauda arvensis. Skylark.
- Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.

Casual Record of a Bower-bird on Keilor Plains.—One can scarcely imagine a less hospitable locality for a member of that interesting family, Ptilonorhynchidae, than the barren Keilor Plains, in Victoria. Yet for several months a Bower-bird found sanctuary in a garden on the banks of Deep Creek, which winds its tortuous way across these basaltic plains in a more or less southerly direction. It is unfortunate that the owners of the garden did not make the presence of their rare visitor more widely known while the bird was still with them, so that its species could have been positively determined. That it was a Bower-bird is indisputable, for during its stay it built a typical play bower. This structure has since been protected by a wire frame, but being placed in a position almost semi-dark with the shadow of the overhanging foliage, it would be difficult to obtain a satisfactory photograph.

Whence this Bower-bird came no one knows, and its going was also shrouded in mystery. There is a suspicion that it fell victim to the pea-rifles of city youth, who visit the plains ostensibly to shoot rabbits, but who, in contravention of existing laws, all too often wilfully destroy native birds of economic value.—BLANCHE E. MILLER, R.A.O.U., St. Kilda, Vic.