

hatched during October and November. On George's River, complete sittings of fresh eggs are frequently found about the first week of October, and, during the last week of October the first of the season's broods makes its appearance. The nest is placed on or near the ground under growth that conceals it, preference being shown for a position which is slightly elevated in a swamp and where a few saplings grow up from the thick sedge. I have occasionally found the nest at the butt of a *Casuarina* sapling, and wondered whether the Rail used the sapling as a guide for the location of its nest during the night. In fresh-water swamps the nest is constructed under other prominent growths.

The nest is a loose structure composed of lengths of reed, rush, sedge and the like, which are rudely woven into a saucer-shaped receptacle for the eggs. It is generally about ten inches in diameter, and about one and a half inches deep. The nest illustrated was found resting lightly in a clump of sedge two feet from the ground, in the centre of the backwater swamp pictured in *The Emu* for July last. In that position the nest escaped tidal waters which often rose above the normal high water mark, destroying nests that were constructed on or near the ground.

The eggs are rounded-oval in shape, the surface being freckled and smudged with various shades of brown, relieved by a background of faint underlying markings of violet or mauve-grey in the body of the shell. The colouration is more pronounced on the larger end. The ground colour of the shell varies from creamy-white to creamy-pink. The average of several eggs measured is 1.36 x 1.03 inches. Three to five eggs comprise a sitting, and are generally laid on consecutive days. They take about nineteen days to incubate. The young birds, when newly hatched, are covered with blackish down which changes to a dense brownish-black as the chicks get older.

The Lewin Water-Rail seems to be more stationary than the Banded Landrail, confining its movements to the swamps more than the latter species. Except when in association with its young, it also appears to be more solitary than its larger companion, while its movements on the wing are much less frequently observed. Those are aspects in its habits which may repay further investigation.

Additional Species Occurring on Kapiti Island, New Zealand.—Further to my list of Kapiti Island birds published in Vol. xxvi, part 4, and Vol. xxx, part 3, of *The Emu*, I now add the following: *Pterodroma lessoni*, *P. brevirostris*, *Thalassarche cauta*, *T. melanophris*, *Larus bulleri*, *Chlidonias albistriata*, *Hæmatopus unicolor* and *Casarca variegata*.—A. S. WILKINSON, Kapiti Island, N.Z.