

been lost. The process is exactly the same as the gradual loss of an instinct from disuse; both are due to forgetfulness.\*

I have thus tried—very imperfectly, I am afraid—to give you some idea of the nature of the problems to which a study of the avifauna of New Zealand leads, and I think that you will all agree that, however imperfectly I may have explained them, they are of no little interest to biologists in general and to ornithologists in particular.

## APPENDIX.

## MEASUREMENTS IN MILLIMETRES.

	STERNUM.			Length of Wing.	Length of Tarsus.	
	Length.	Breadth at Last Rib.	Depth of Keel.			
<i>Prosthemadera novæ-zealandiæ</i>	34.0	14.5	10.5	156	47	New Zealand
" "	29.5	12.5	9.0	131	35	"
" "	33.0	15.0	11.0	139	42	Auckland Islands
" "	32.0	14.5	10.7	151	43	"
<i>Anthornis melanura</i>	21.0	9.0	7.0	86	28	New Zealand
" "	—	—	—	85	26	"
" "	21.0	10.0	7.5	97	31	Auckland Islands
<i>Anthus novæ-zealandiæ</i>	25.0	12.0	7.5	95	25	New Zealand
" "	22.0	11.0	8.0	—	—	Chatham Islands
<i>Anthus aucklandicus</i>	23.0	11.0	8.0	91	24	Auckland Islands
<i>Anthus steindacheri</i>	20.0	?	6.0	83	24	Antipodes Island
<i>Cyanorhamphus novæ-zealandiæ</i>	37.0	15.0	13.0	124	18	New Zealand
" "	36.0	16.0	13.0	134	20	"
<i>Cyanorhamphus aucklandicus</i>	38.5	16.0	12.7	130	20	Auckland Islands
" "	39.0	16.0	13.0	134	20	"
<i>Cyanorhamphus erythrotis</i>	38.0	18.5	12.0	132	23	Antipodes Island
" "	36.0	17.0	11.0	127	18	"
<i>Cyanorhamphus auriceps</i>	32.5	15.0	11.0	106	18	New Zealand
" "	28.5	13.0	10.0	116	21	"
<i>Cyanorhamphus forbesi</i>	—	—	—	126	18	Chatham Islands
<i>Cyanorhamphus unicolor</i>	38.5	18.0	12.0	145	28	Antipodes Island
<i>Nesonetta aucklandica</i>	50.0	24.0	10.0	141	32	Auckland Islands
<i>Merganser australis</i>	71.0	39.0	12.0	184	36	Auckland Islands

A SEA-BIRD ON LAND.—I saw a White-faced Storm-Petrel blown on shore by a gale of wind at Wellington, New Zealand, and it rolled over and over along a street until picked up, completely exhausted. Also saw a light brown Sandpiper, but could not distinguish the species, about half-way between Sydney and Wellington, N.Z.—LANCE LE SOUËF. Perth, W.A.

\* See *Nature*, 18th February, 1904, p. 366.