

The Grey-breasted Silvereeye (*Zosterops lateralis*) breeds freely in suitable suburban gardens around Sydney. During this season (1936-37) a nest of the species was used for two broods. The first, in September, comprised three young, the second, towards the end of November, had four. I have frequently observed the Silvereeye disgorging seeds minus the fruity parts. A flock of fifty-odd birds in winter plumage flew into my garden on March 8, 1937. A rather amusing incident took place in that several of the flock inspected a disused nest of the species, each in turn fitting itself into the nest, after the manner observed during nidification when the nest is being shaped.

MIGRATION

At Lakemba, on November 4, 1935, at 6.5 a.m., I heard and saw the Koel (*Eudynamys orientalis*) flying over. Several Noisy Friar-birds were calling in tall ironbarks and they apparently induced the Koel to alight in the vicinity. The Koel could be heard calling throughout the day, ceasing towards evening. It had moved on before morning, migrating south.

On October 24, 1935, at Lakemba, at 7.0 a.m., I observed a female Leaden Flycatcher (*Myiagra rubecula*) flying in and out of trees in my garden. It remained for thirty minutes catching insects, then it flew south.

Notes on New Zealand Ducks

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The genus *Casarca* Bp., 1838, haplotype *Anas ferruginea* Pallas, has always held the Paradise Duck (*Anas variegata* Gm.). Both species should not be in the same genus. To see both forms alive indicates that. At Mr. Ezra's place, in 1934, no ornithologist there would agree to this New Zealand Duck being placed in the genus *Casarca*.

Zesarkaca sub-gen. nov. Type *Anas variegata* Gm.

The type of this new sub-genus differs from the type of *Casarca* in being of a different colour and in having the nails on the toes of quite a different character. The nails in *ferruginea* are pointed, curved and narrow, those of *variegata* are wide and blunt.

Elasmonetta chlorotis chlorotis (Gray). Type locality: North Island.

Elasmonetta chlorotis peculiaris sub-sp. nov. South Island.

E. c. peculiaris differs from *Anas chlorotis* Gray, 1845, in being smaller. The wing measurement of birds

from Wakatipu, in the South Island, is 185 mm., while the birds from Taupo, in the North Island, have a wing measurement of from 206 to 213 mm. Type in the British Museum.

Genus **Fuligula** Stephens, 1824, tautotype *Anas fuligula* Linné.

Zeafulix sub-gen. nov. Type *Anas novæseelandiæ* Gm.

The type of this new genus differs from the type of *Fuligula* in lacking the long head crest.

Zeafulix novæseelandiæ novæseelandiæ (Gm.). South Island.

Zeafulix novæseelandiæ maui sub-sp. nov. North Island.

Z. n. maui differs from *Anas novæseelandiæ* Gm., 1789, in being longer in the wing, and in being darker above and below, with obsolete grey specklings on the scapulars. The wing measurement of South Island birds is about 180 mm., that of birds from the North Island 186 to 190 mm. Type in the British Museum.

Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus malacorhynchus (Gm.). South Island.

Hymenolaimus malacorhynchus hymenolaimus sub-sp. nov. North Island.

H. m. hymenolaimus differs from *Anas malacorhynchus* Gm., 1789, in having a longer wing and in having the chestnut markings more pronounced. North Island birds have a wing measurement of 247 mm. or more: birds from the South Island have a wing measurement of from 236 to 240 mm. Type in the British Museum. Perhaps this bird should be in a sub-family and called *Hymenolaiminæ*.

The Brown Songlark.—This bird (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*) is a regular migrant to the wheat areas to the south and west of Red Cliffs. It makes its presence known in September by its noisy and curious notes. Although I have frequently searched, I have not succeeded in finding a nest in a wheat crop. Like most birds of this type, the Songlark alights some distance from the nest and continued observation of the bird and close search are necessary in order to locate a nest. The bird in the illustration was very shy. The nest itself was well hidden and it was not possible to show it in the photograph without unduly disturbing the surrounding growth.—L. G. CHANDLER, Red Cliffs, Vic., 1/6/37.