

away from me. Later in the night we were awakened by the rattling of light rain on the tent (nylon tents make a drizzle sound like a hailstorm) and heard kiwis calling all around, gruff and shrill, bass, tenor and soprano, each bird with its own note. We heard the rising semitone scale once only — about three notes ascending, then levelling off. Made a sortie in the dark, torch at the ready, but did not see any more. By morning we found we were bedded on an *Eleocharis* bog, sodden as a sponge, so we had to return in haste to rescue the car. It took us four hours' fast going in heavy rain from Perry's Pass to the Brown River. The creeks were filling up rapidly but we just managed to get the car out in time. We could not have got much wetter anyway. Future expeditions be warned! Leave your vehicles at the road end; it's only an extra mile to walk.

#### *Recent Developments*

Mrs F. G. Soper of Puramahoi has supplied the following information: The Heaphy Track area is now part of a newly formed Forest Park. The Forest Service has completed clearing the track, but the use of horses is actively discouraged. A horse can do a lot of damage in a botanical and wild-life reserve, both by eating off rare plants and by bringing exotic weed seeds into the area in its droppings.

Walsh Creek has a concrete bottom to the ford now, and there is a walk-way suspension bridge over Fossil Creek. One still crosses the Brown River on foot, though, but no doubt a bridge will be set up here also in due course. There are two Forestry huts at the beginning of the track, and an early start from these makes it possible to reach the Blue Duck Hut in the Gouland Downs in one easy day. There are also new huts at the Karamea end.

An interesting account, "Birds of the Gouland Downs", by G. R. Williams, is to be found in the Ornithological Society of N.Z.'s journal *Notornis*, Vol. 8, pp. 236—243.

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## **Book Review**

**A Bunch of Wild Orchids**, by Sheila Natusch. Pegasus Press, Christchurch. 24 pp. Price 50 cents.

This slender booklet seeks to kindle the interest of amateur naturalists, particularly children, in observing and cultivating our native orchids. The approach is engagingly informal, and botanical names and facts are skillfully introduced amongst reminiscences of the author's childhood collecting days in Stewart Island. The many sketches of different orchids (four in colour) are executed with Mrs Natusch's usual charm.