

XI. ANIMALS PROTECTION AND GAME.

A. GENERAL.

(1) *Bird-life*.—Reports generally indicate a marked increase in waterfowl. There were no game-shooting seasons in 1942. The North Island Vermin Control Scheme has been temporarily suspended.

(2) *Opossums*.—The number of skins stamped was 263,351, compared with 257,639 the previous year.

B. DEER, THAR, AND CHAMOIS OPERATIONS.

During the financial year a total of 12,571 animals were destroyed and 5,432 deer-skins saved. The Department has had to reduce the extent of operations owing to difficulties of securing the necessary man-power. By arrangement with the Army authorities, about thirty men were released from military camps and attached to the Department's deer-destruction parties. The Army Bush and Mountain Warfare Parties in the course of training have accounted for numbers of deer, &c., in areas covered by training operations.

The following are particulars of animals destroyed by departmental parties, in addition to 94 cats and 209 rats destroyed at Stewart Island.

The number of each species and localities are as follows:—

Locality.	Deer.	Thar.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Total.
Urewera and Lake Waikaremoana ..	1,241	..	..	..	195	1,436
Tararuas	99	..	..	..	..	99
Marlborough, Nelson, and North Canterbury	4,042	..	..	203	..	4,245
North Otago, Otago, and South Westland ..	4,133	458	59	..	..	4,650
Southland, Fiordland National Park ..	1,776	..	..	..	..	1,776
Stewart Island	365	..	..	..	..	365
Totals	11,656	458	59	203	195	12,571

The following is a list of the "seasons" total numerical results and geographical analysis for comparison purposes between seasons in the same regions:—

Season 1st June, 1941 to 31st May, 1942.

Locality.	Deer.	Thar.	Chamois.	Goats.	Pigs.	Total.
Urewera and Lake Waikaremoana ..	479	..	..	..	37	516
Tararuas	724	..	..	217	25	966
Kaimanawas	1,422	..	..	363	..	1,785
Marlborough, Nelson, and North Canterbury	9,567	..	16	840	60	10,483
Otago and South Westland ..	1,733	37	2	38	..	1,810
Southland, Fiordland National Park ..	809	..	..	..	1	810
Stewart Island	439	..	..	..	..	439
Totals	15,173	37	18	1,458	123	16,809

In addition, 85 cats and 277 rats.

The keen demand for deer-skins continues. Private hunters sold 3,395 skins to the Department, and 1,508 were sent in by the Army Bush and Mountain Warfare Parties and these were resold with departmental skins. The total number sold for export overseas was 12,109.

XII. ROTORUA ACCLIMATIZATION DISTRICT.

A. THE FISHING SEASON.

Regulations were issued providing for any member of His Majesty's naval, military, or air forces and any member of any allied force in New Zealand obtaining fishing licenses for the Taupo District at the same fees as residents of New Zealand outside the Taupo District. Weights of some of the large fish taken and coming under notice of departmental officers are—

Taupo Area: 12½ lb.; 12 lb.; 11½ lb.; 10½ lb. (2); 10 lb. (2).

Rotorua Area: 19 lb. (2); 17 lb. (3); 16½ lb.; 15½ lb.; 14½ lb.; 13½ lb.; 13 lb.; 12 lb. (2); 11½ lb. (2); 10 lb. (2).

B. GENERAL.

(1) *Fry and Ova*.

At No. 1 Hatchery, Ngongotaha, 2,076,500 eggs were laid down and at No. 2 Hatchery, Tongariro River, 2,104,000 were collected. Sales to acclimatization societies amounted to 480,000. All hatchery operations were on a reduced scale and the Waikaremoana Hatchery was not opened.