Writer and Date. Remarks. NUMBERS, INCREASE OR DECREASE, AND ENEMIES—continued. Stephen Island-continued. P. R. W. Willers; 12th "I have noticed the kingfisher devouring the very small tuatara lizards, and have therefore destroyed several kingfishers and also their eggs. October, 1914 I have also trapped a number of hawks and a few cats, there being but few on the island now. The very large seagulls . which frequent the summit of the island at certain times of the year also devour the tuatara." "By the destruction of the hawk and other natural enemies the tuatara R. S. Wilson; 31st October, are on the increase, but they are not plentiful.' 1914 " During the six months I have been here  $\overline{I}$  have been frequently over the T. B. Smith; 25th May, 1915 whole of the island, and the tuataras are to be seen more or less in every locality, but more especially in the bush and in the vicinity of the dwellings. Since being on the island I have trapped only five cats, and three of these were kittens, so although there must be a few left, I do not think there are many. On two occasions I have seen hawks flying with a lizard hanging from their claws. In March and April, when the hawks were here by the hundreds, I managed to trap a large number, and by secreting myself in the bush at dusk I have shot as many as sixteen in a short time. When all the bush has disappeared off the island, as it is doing, the tuataras will have no bush security. "During the past summer the hawks have been very numerous; there E. R. Wilson; 20th May, 1915 have been 355 destroyed with guns and traps. Also there were five cats destroyed. I do not think there are any more on the island, as I have not seen any lately. There are a great many tuataras in the bush, but not out in the open. They seem to have deserted the open places in the island and taken to the bush." The Brothers. L. Thomson; 22nd April, "There are very few tuataras on The Brothers, and they are no doubt 1913 decreasing. When I was first stationed there sixteen or eighteen years ago there were a fair number, but when I returned five or six years ago the numbers had decreased considerably.' "There are only a few on The Brothers, the food being scarce. I fear E. H. Tutt; 12th March, the hawks get a few, as there are quite a number about sometimes.' 1913 "I fancy their number is much about the same as when I came (two J. McGarvie; 19th March, 1913 years ago), but as this island is very rough and steep I expect there are a large number that I never see at all.' W. W. McLeish; 29th Oc-"I have seen a few about the lighthouse and dwelling, and indications of them on other parts of the island, but cannot say if they are on the tober, 1913 increase or not. "I have seen a few young tuataras lately. These have been hatched this C. Davis; 13th January, season, by their size, and they are lively and keep close to the mouths 1915 of their holes. As flies and beetles and other insects flourish on the island there is always abundance of feed to be had, so that with protection from cats and other enemies I think the tuatara should thrive and increase in numbers here." Cuvier Island. R. Leighton; 24th March, 1913A. Duncan; 30th April,

1913

"I do not think the lizards are very plentiful on Cuvier Island, and should say they have decreased in numbers. The principal reason for this is, in my opinion, the advent of the men employed during the building of the stations, the workmen usually taking cats and dogs with them. I know from experience that both will destroy lizards.

"As I have seen them at different parts of the island, it would seem as if they were fairly plentiful. Cuvier Island must be most suitable for them, as the whole island is covered with dense bush and large boulders, so that in the bush they find plenty of food, and under the boulders they make their nests. I have really no means of knowing whether they have decreased in numbers of late years. I have formed the opinion that a fire must have swept the island in years gone by and must have caused the tuatara to decrease, but I see no reason why they should not now increase. There are a few owls on the island, and they may eat the young ones at times, but with the cover they have, probably the owls cannot get many. On one occasion I have seen an owl carrying a lizard. During my two years on the island I shot seven wild cats, and all were in very good condition. Cats, as a rule, that eat lizards are very thin.'