How many readers have noticed about mid-February many small Birds like the Sparrow, Silvereye, Blackbirds and Thrush Disappear? And are just starting to re-appear mid-April, this happens every year, its seems to be after the breeding season.

Perhaps they head for the forest area’s looking for food that builds their strength up after nesting and rearing their young.

I have noticed the Starlings are busy in the nesting boxes at our place cleaning them out plus claiming their new site, we receive lots of calls about Starling boxes wanting to know where to buy them, if you are looking for them visit Barkley’s on the River pet shop on Port road.

I have seen some flash looking ones around town but they are not well made, the Birds just want something solid and safe.

With all the wet weather around is playing havoc with all the Wild Birds, after a storm is when you will start finding Birds that are in trouble, if you find a Bird that need attention put it in a cardboard box with something soft in the bottom to keep the Bird calm and warm.

Never try and feed a Bird that is in trouble or try and give it water as the stress is so high that feeding them with cause death.

If you were hurt and the Ambulance turned up to help you and the person said would you like some pizza to eat you would say bugger off I just want to die, well that’s how the Birds feel.

This time of the year is when we are very busy and is hard on our funds so if you want to help we would love to hear from you, the more support we get the more we can do for the Birds.

Remember we are Volunteer group helping our Wild Feathered friends.

At this time we have a late Kiwi egg in our Bayer incubation unit that could hatch by the end of the month, you can have a look at the egg on our web cam, just go to our web site [www.nbr.org.nz](http://www.nbr.org.nz) then click on web cams, we update the progress as it’s getting closer to hatching.

Once a Kiwi chick has hatched and starts to put on weight we then put it in the safe outside pen, you can watch this on a web cam also.

All our Birds that are inside recovering are held in special cages which are lined with shredded paper, if you have a shredder and don’t want the paper let us know, the only shredded we can’t use is that which is cross cut, this makes it too small for the Birds to sit on.

All Birds sent to us are recorded in a register, sometimes we forget to let you know how you Bird gets on, just give us a call and we will be able to help you out.

Robert and Robyn Webb.