

commotion, as before. The owl had visited the nest but the trap had failed. Near the entrance blood was seen, while one more fat nestling was gone. On the next night, when the trap was again set, the owl again entered. The two remaining chicks were pulled to the outer edge of the nest, being killed, one with two claw holes in the upper part of the head, while the other one's head had been crushed as though by the owl's beak. The trap again failed. After this, the starlings left the surroundings. No birds had approached the nest site this summer (up to the end of January, 1945).

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REACTION OF SMALL BIRDS TO LITTLE OWL.—Small birds, especially blackbirds (*Turdus merula*) are excessively annoyed by the presence of the Little Owl (*Athene noctua*). The blackbirds approach to within a few feet or hop round on the ground, uttering piercing cries. On several occasions a blackbird has been seen to swoop at an owl, dislodging it from its perch. No young birds have been seen in the 1944 season where usually there are plenty. The owls have a nest high up in a shingle pit across the road. They have been seen flying along the trees from pole to pole, listening for the squeaking of young birds in their nests. Two nests of hedge sparrows (*Prunella modularis*) in a macrocarpa hedge close to a house were robbed in one afternoon. The adult hedge-sparrows were heard uttering plaintive notes.—Hornby School, Canterbury.

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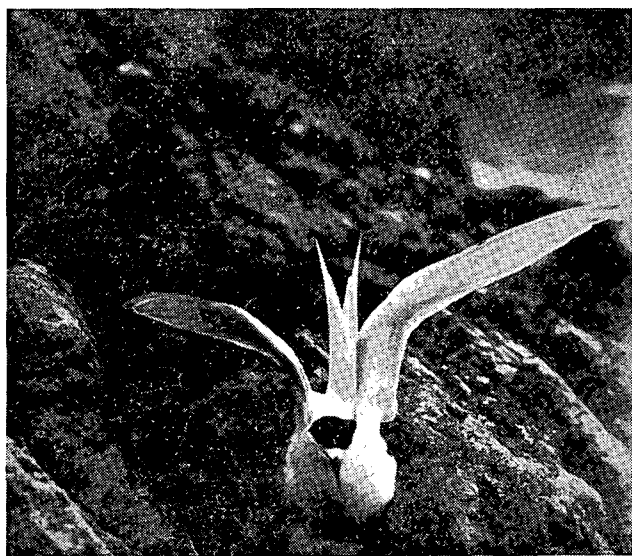


Photo: A. S. Wilkinson.

WHITE-FRONTED TERN (*Sterna striata*) settling on nest,  
Kapiti Island.