

ten yards. I confirmed my original opinion that it was a Black-fronted Tern in adult plumage.

— P. GRANT

[This is a very interesting record because the Black-fronted Tern, which is such a familiar bird on the riverbeds east of the Southern Alps, is virtually unknown west of the main range; and most ornithologists visiting Westland have failed to find one either along the riverbeds, some of which appear to provide quite suitable habitats, or at the estuaries.—Ed.]



#### BLACK-FRONTED TERN IN KAIPARA IN SUMMER

As far as the records go the northern limit of the winter range of the Black-fronted Tern (*C. albostratus*) is Kaipara Harbour, where small flocks have twice been found resting on a derelict jetty at Tangaihi on the Northern Wairoa River, 16 on 23/4/55 and 14 on 15/6/57 (*Notornis* VI, 244, and VII, 197). Since it is far from certain that this predominantly South Island tern habitually travels so far north to winter, it was all the more surprising to find one in Kaipara in summer. On 11/11/62 Lt. A. Y. Norris, R.N., J. L. Kendrick, P. D. G. Skegg, R. H. Sibson and I crossed the sandy tidal flats beyond Taporā to the big island, built of sand dunes with some scrub in the hollows, and walked around it.

On the outer side facing Kaipara Heads were c. 500 White-fronted Terns (*S. striata*), some just preparing to nest — only one egg was seen — and on the edge of the colony many immature non-breeders, identifiable by the height of the white on their foreheads. Apart by itself was an obvious Black-fronted Tern. It was very approachable: and as a result was most satisfactorily photographed in colour both at rest and on the wing by J.L.K. From its plumage we judged that it was about a year old and certainly immature, for though bill and feet were orange, the crown was not black but speckled. In flight the white rump contrasted vividly with the general grayness of its upper surface.

It is perhaps worth mentioning that as we walked back across the wet sands, we counted at least thirteen Little Terns (*S. albigrons*) resting with a big mixed pack of waders, mainly Godwits and Knots. We looked in vain for a pair of Fairy Terns (*S. nereis*) which were suspected of breeding on the island last year.

— R. B. SIBSON



#### LITTLE TERNS AT OTAGO HEADS

On 13/11/62 a visit to the mole at Aramoana, Otago Harbour, showed two very small terns sitting beside White-fronted Terns (*S. striata*). Half the size of the latter, they had black bills, reddish-black legs, gray back and wings, white forehead and crown, black band round back of head to the beak, tail white with shallow notch; and on the back the spotted mottling of juveniles. They seemed to me to be Little Terns (*S. albigrons*) possibly five or six months old. After flying off they fished like the White-fronted Terns which were working far out. On a subsequent visit they could not be found.

— W. T. POPPELWELL