

and the shape and length of its bill. The groove on the upper mandible was not seen, the light being the wrong way. It did not call when it flew.

D.V.M., on 10/2/63, saw and heard at the same place what was most likely the same bird. The call was a short burst of even whistled notes; but not enough to indicate whether it was *incanus* or *brevipes*, though the choice of habitat seems to favour *brevipes*. This is the fifth locality in the South Island to produce a tattler in recent years and the most southerly. It is also the only record of a tattler inland and away from tideline or saltmarsh.

H. R. McKENZIE

D. V. MERTON

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ANOTHER KAIPARA RECORD OF THE LESSER FRIGATE-BIRD

While fishing on 23/3/63, three miles below Moturemo Island on the edge of the Tauhoa Channel, I saw two birds in combat, coming from a southerly direction. As they passed about a chain away at a height of only fifty feet, I saw that one was a Caspian Tern and the attacker a male Lesser Frigate-Bird (*Fregata ariel*). The tern appeared exhausted and screamed every few seconds. The slightly larger frigate-bird showed flashing white patches under each wing-root and the long forked tail was clearly visible.

The flight continued north with slight zig-zags and undulations for the next half-minute, during which both birds gained considerable height. While still in view they suddenly disengaged, the black frigate-bird making no attempt to gather any disgorged fish, but continuing on course. The Caspian Tern immediately turned west, spread its wings and glided for the South Head. Not once did the frigate-bird miss a wing beat in its heavy labouring flight. It is, indeed, a puzzle to me how a Lesser Frigate-bird can stay air-borne for long on its long thin wings, which resemble razor-straps. It is now just over three years since I saw a Lesser Frigate-Bird's attack on a Gannet (*S. serrator*) in much the same area (*Notornis* IX, 109).

F. P. HUDSON

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BROWN BOOBY AND GREY NODDY IN NORTHLAND WATERS

On the northern coast of the Takatu Peninsula and seaward of Maungatawhiri Beach, Pied and Little Shags roost in a group of pohutukawas which fringe the top of a cliff. Below the roost on a shelf twenty feet above the high-tide mark, a juvenile Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) may have roosted for some time with the shags. The first notice I had of the bird was on 27/12/62 when there was a sudden, heavy flapping directly above my head. The Booby lost height until it caught the wind. It flew out to sea, but soon returned. When it saw me, it veered away once more. From such close range, with 12 x 50 binoculars, such salient features as the chocolate-brown coloration, the lighter underparts, the long V-shaped white on the underwing and the pale face could not be missed. As it took off, the splayed orange feet and the white on the underwing were particularly striking. A Gannet (*S. serrator*) flying past enabled comparisons to be made. The Booby was slightly smaller and lighter in build. Whereas the Gannet soared