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SHORT NOTES

BLACK-FRONTED TERN ON THE HAAST COAST

Judged by the paucity of reports, the Black-fronted Tern (*C. albobristatus*) is a rare bird west of the Southern Alps and on the coast of Westland. Several ornithologists have visited that region without finding this tern at all, though the Black-billed Gull (*L. bulleri*) is common enough; and rivers such as the Taramakau and Whataroa have wide areas of shingle which would seem to offer suitable sites for nesting. Perhaps the heavy rainfall is the deterrent.

The following record is therefore of some interest. On 20/2/63 my wife and I found two Black-fronted Terns resting on a sandbar at the joint mouth of the Turnbull and Okuru Rivers, about five miles south of Haast. Both were adults in worn breeding dress. They were loosely attached to a flock of eleven White-fronted Terns (*S. striata*). Mr. P. Grant (*Notornis* X, 185), who found a single Black-fronted Tern at the Taramakau estuary, has commented on the rarity of this species in Westland. By contrast the White-fronted Tern is plentiful and has breeding colonies at many estuaries.

— H. R. MCKENZIE



BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER IN MANUKAU HARBOUR

The purpose of this note is to record the second example of the Broad-billed Sandpiper (*Limicola falcinellus*) to be discovered in New Zealand. The first was known to be present in the Firth of Thames from January to March, 1960 (*Notornis* VIII, 233-235). It was skilfully photographed by Donald Urquhart; and it is a matter of some interest that as the result of a request from the editors of *British Birds*, two of his photographs appeared in that magazine (Vol. 54, plates 52 b and c).

On 1/12/63 John Jenkins and I reached the Karaka Coast of Manukau Harbour via Kidd's paddocks. At midday the tide was nearly full; but the weather was showery, and as a drifting curtain of drizzle was moving steadily in our direction, we ate our lunch without being in any hurry to examine more closely a flock of small waders, mostly summering Wrybills, which occupied the top of a little beach scarcely