

SHORT NOTES

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN IN INLAND SOUTHLAND

Late in 1961 Mr. W. M. Jukes, Springhills, not at that time a member of the Society, described to me a bird he had seen on 23/11/61, while fishing on the Mararoa River, about one mile above Cockburn's bridge on the road to Mararoa homestead. From his unprompted description I was satisfied that the bird had been a White-winged Black Tern (*C. leucopterus*) in breeding plumage. Mr. Jukes later identified it without help in the 'Field Guide to the Birds of Britain and Europe.' The tern took off with a small group of Pied Stilts and flew about over the river long enough for its distinctive pattern to be clearly noticed. It was not seen again on later visits, although Black-fronted Terns (*C. albostratus*) were present.

— B. D. HEATHER



FLESH-FOOTED SHEARWATER AT NEW PLYMOUTH

While banding Diving Petrel (*P. urinatrix*) with the aid of Mr. Collin Gallop and his son on Saddleback Island, New Plymouth, on Nov. 30-Dec. 1, 1963, I encountered a breeding pair of Flesh-footed Shearwaters (*Puffinus carneipes*). A single adult bird was seen resting outside its burrow at 10.15 p.m. On being handled, it disgorged a considerable quantity of small shrimps and herrings. The following morning at 8 a.m., about $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours after sunrise, the Shearwater burrow was investigated with a lengthy stick. Eventually, an adult bird rushed out and thence to sea. Further scuffling from within the burrow was heard, but it is not known whether this was a chick or another adult bird.

Saddleback Island was used by the Maori as an outpost. Several large pits, all lined with hard sandstone, are still in evidence, although all but one have become filled in. Around the perimeter of these pits a total of seven Shearwater burrows was found. All of these ran down at a sharp angle, following the sandstone lining, and then ran horizontally for over eight feet. Only one burrow was known definitely to be in use. Two others showed signs of occupation in the form of freshly disturbed earth at their mouths, but it is possible that this was caused by Diving Petrels.

— M. J. WILLIAMS



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TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY KERMADECS EXPEDITION

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A. BLACKBURN,

Chairman of Kermadecs Expedition
Sub-Committee