

SHORT NOTE

WHITE-CAPPED NODDY AT WHANGAREI HEADS

On the morning of 13/2/65 we were watching a flock of about 60 White-fronted Tern (*S. striata*) loafing on the shore at Ocean Beach, Whangarei Heads. They (like us) were probably sheltering from the effects of the Fijian hurricane, and seemed rather exhausted. The morning was bright and sunny but a very strong south-westerly wind was blowing and the sea was very rough. The birds were fairly tightly bunched at first, but as we approached they moved apart a little and M.J.R. suddenly spotted a stranger amongst them. This was a small black tern with a white forehead and crown; a most distinctive little bird, obviously a White-capped Noddy (*A. minutus*) blown south from more tropical regions by the strong north-westerly which had earlier been associated with the hurricane. We obtained two or three reasonably clear 35 mm. colour transparencies of the noddy taken from about 30 feet, using a 135mm. lens, and so have a permanent record of this rare visitor.

— J. ROBB

— M. J. ROBB



NOTICES

DONATIONS FOR YEAR ENDING 31/3/65

CASH: Jackson, J. R. (Minor Exped. Reserve), £5; Davis, Miss M. M., 1963 L.D.W., £3/12/-; Merton, D., 1964 L.D.W., £3/2/6; McIntyre, Miss M. C. R., 1964 L.D.W., £2/10/-; McDougall, Miss B., £2/2/-; Parsonson, C. F., £1/2/6; Beatson, R. G. S., Key-Jones, Miss J., Petersen, O., St. Paul, E., £1; Fagan, J. A., McLaren, I. G., Pick, Dr. M., Todd, A., Wightman, G., 10/-; smaller amount totalling £1/7/2.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Burland, J. C.; Chapman, G.; Fordham, R. A.; Grant, P.; Hogg, M. J.; Jackson, R. W.; Kinsky, F. C.; Merton, D. V.; Petersen, O.; Skegg, P. D. G.; Sorensen, J. H.

TARANAKI LABOUR DAY WEEK-END 1964 and KAIPARA FIELD STUDY COURSE 1965: McGrath, D., sundry items donated, £4/5/-; Car Expenses donated: McKenzie, G. K., £7; Brown, J. A., £3/3/-. Some refunds to members were returned late as donations and appear in Cash Donations above or will appear next year.

GENERAL: Boeson, B., Beach Patrol Exs. donated, 1962, 1963, 1964, £6/6/11; Blackburn, A., Asst. Ed. Exs. donated, £2; Claridge, J. C. R., Nest Record Exs. donated, £1/0/6; Sibson, R. B., Subs. to "British Birds" donated 1962, 1963, 1964, £6/16/-.

BACK NUMBERS OF "NOTORNIS," etc.: Blundell, Mrs. M. J., 31; Boulton, A. A., 9; Maning, M., 7.

WAITAKI SURVEY

A survey of the Waitaki Basin is to be carried out by officers of the Wildlife Branch, Department of Internal Affairs, in the latter half of October. They would appreciate some assistance from amateurs; and although this is not an official Society activity, the survey can be used to replace the lack of a study week-end in the South Island this year. Members interested in participating, over that week-end or longer, are asked to contact their local regional representative who will be able to supply details. Application must be made before September 1.

— BRIAN D. BELL, Wildlife Branch