

thought was the parent. When the young bird was just under the parent, high above the valley, I noticed the latter drop something small, which was immediately caught by the talons of the young bird, in mid-air. The young falcon then dived down to settle on a log about a hundred feet up a small washout. I was able to reach this site only when the falcon had almost finished devouring the remaining part of what appeared to be a Pipit, holding the victim in one talon and ripping with the mandibles. Exactly four weeks later, within two hundred yards of the above incident I noted an adult falcon sitting motionless on a rock within three feet of the river.

— G. HARROW



CARING FOR WHITE FLIPPERED PENGUINS

The release of over 5000 gallons of fuel oil into Lyttelton harbour on 17th July, 1965, resulted in the loss of a great number of sea birds. Giant Petrels (*Macronectes giganteus*), Red-billed gulls (*Larus novaehollandiae*), Black-backed gulls (*Larus dominicanus*) all were affected but the worst hit were the diving birds, Spotted Shags (*Stictocarbo punctatus*) and the White-flipped penguins (*Eudyptula abbosignata*).

The oil drifted north from Lyttelton and dead and sick birds were reported from Port Cooper up to Amberley Beach, 30 miles from the release point.

Functioning as an Honorary Ranger, I patrolled the beaches near Christchurch and retrieved a number of penguins and also received others from the public.

With very little time to try out the Fuller's Earth method on the mineral oil, I adapted detergent as the best in the circumstances and treated 8 birds in the following fashion and did not lose one.

Stood the bird in 2 inches of tepid water to which I added a tablespoon of detergent and sponged the bird, gently rubbing down the full length only, then after the oil started to lift rinsed with fresh tepid water, avoiding, at all times, the eyes.

Rub the bird with a dry towel and keep in a warm place (70 degrees) for at least two days, then keep in a shed or similar place for at least two weeks, but a longer period is desirable to allow the full insulating qualities to return to the feathers.

Feeding:

The penguins must be fed on fish and although they will survive a long period without food I recommend that you should attempt to feed the bird on the second day with a little forced feeding, if necessary.

The fish must be cut into lengths about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch wide.

The following is a record of 4 birds that were in my care.

No. 1 —

Found at Taylor's Mistake 26/7/65, started to feed immediately after cleaning. Meals 3 times a day consisted of 3 ozs. of fish, two dipped in salt water and one mixed with half a teaspoon of cod liver oil.

Weight when found — 1 lb. 14 ozs.; on 5/8/65 — 2 lbs. 1 oz., and on release 11/8/65 — 2 lbs. 5 ozs.

No. 2 —

Found Lyttelton 27/7/65 — 1 lb. 10 ozs.; 30/7/65 — 1 lb. 14 ozs., and on release 11/8/65 — 2 lbs. 2 ozs.

This bird was force fed for the entire period.

No. 3 —

Found at Sumner 26/7/65 — 2 lb. 1 oz.; 30/7/65 — 2 lbs. 3 ozs., and on release 9/8/65 — 2 lbs. 4 ozs.

This bird started to feed after the third day.

No. 4 —

Found New Brighton, 27/7/65. Weight, 1 lb. 14 ozs.; 30/7/65 — 2 lbs. 1 oz., and on release 9/8/65 — 2 lbs. 2 ozs. Fed as No. 1.

As it can be seen all birds increased their weight and when released were in good condition to survive for a long period if they felt that return to the water was a little premature.

A number of other birds that were cared for by people throughout the province died, and in most cases this was due to more than one washing, which I am convinced is fatal to the bird.

Meat, I feel, is also undesirable as a food when the bird is in the recouping stage, but if fish is not available, then the meat should be dipped in salt water or cod liver oil.

— BADEN N. NORRIS



BROWN BOOBIES ASHORE AT RAGLAN AND IN FIRTH OF THAMES

When I was looking through some bird notes made by the late A. C. Hipwell, I came upon the following entry. "Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*) 28/2/61. 5.30 p.m. Raglan. One on beach near aerodrome. First seen resting on beach at distance of about 30 yds. Observed through binoculars. Dark brown plumage — very light underparts. Bill heavy; feet light colour. Heavy flight in taking off. Nearby a large flock of White-fronted Terns was wheeling and diving for sprats disturbed by kahawai. The Booby made no attempt to molest the terns. Head, bill and feet decided me to list the bird as a Brown Booby — an unusual sighting."

The time of this sighting coincides with the season when sea birds of tropical origin most commonly appear in northern New Zealand waters. It is not irrelevant to mention that in 1963 a Red-billed Tropic Bird was found ashore on the same coast, actually on Toreparu Beach, north of Aotea Harbour.

— R. B. SIBSON

On 8/2/65 a strange-looking bird with a 'Beatle haircut' was observed sitting on boulders at Whakatiwai, on the west coast of the Firth of Thames. It was successfully photographed in colour by Mr. Spencer Heath of Rotorua; and from the pictures it is easily identified as a Brown Booby (*S. leucogaster*). The bird was actually caught and appeared extremely tame. It was examined for injury and subsequently released.

Since 1952 there have been several sightings of Brown Boobies in the Hauraki Gulf and one was known habitually to roost among the Gannets (*S. serrator*) on Horu Horu Is. (Notornis 6, 157-159). The specimen here reported may have been driven south and exhausted by the Fiji hurricane.

— R. M. WESTON