

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