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#### REFERENCE

BOESON, B. W., 1965: Seabirds found dead in New Zealand in 1953. *Notornis* 12, 3, 169;175.



## SHORT NOTES

### ARCTIC TERN IN MANUKAU HARBOUR

On a visit to a beach at Ihumatao on 29/6/68 I picked up a rather battered dead tern. There were two holes in the body and one leg was missing, but the remaining leg was brightly red, and the tarsus seemed very short. Later examination with Mr. H. R. McKenzie proved it to be a female Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisea*). Terry Jenkins was able to convert the wreckage into a very presentable study skin which is now in the Auckland War Memorial Museum (A.V. 1399.8). Its measurements are:— Wing 240 mm., tail 140, tarsus 15, bill 32.

The plumage is at an intermediate stage, showing a little feather wear on the upper wing coverts but none otherwise. The bill is black with scarlet at the base; but on the inside it is scarlet to the tip and the gape is scarlet. Face and forecrown are white: the top and back of the head black with white speckling. The back is pearl grey, the primaries slate grey. The tail is mainly white but the outer webs of the outer feathers are slate grey; and the next pair light grey.

The general colouring, the state of plumage and the date suggests that it was a sub-adult, on its way from the Antarctic to the Arctic, perhaps to breed for the first time.

— H. FREW



### A HUGE REDPOLL FLOCK

On 5/4/68, I was hunting about five miles north-west of Barryville, King Country, near the source of the Waipa River. A long wide stretch of old bush working, wider at its upper end, had failed to regenerate and was in blackberry, a poor growth of fern, some wineberry and much grass and weed. It was alive with Redpolls (*C. flammea*) and when a hawk flew over they rose like a swarm of bees. The flight was about a quarter of a mile long, fifty feet deep and a hundred yards wide. I estimated it to contain over a hundred thousand birds.

— F. P. HUDSON