

Fernbird (*Bowdleria punctata*)

These birds were abundant in the bush of the main island.

Silveryeye (*Zosterops lateralis*)

One bird was seen in January and about 8-9 in a flock during February by R. East.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)

In September, three birds were seen flying in the vicinity of the shag nests. In February, a flock of 500-1,000 was seen at dusk by R. East. Fishermen report this is a regular evening flight from the mainland to roost on the island.

No sign of mice, rats, stoats, or introduced domestic species of mammals were seen.

We are particularly grateful to Mr. A. T. Marley, Dick Marley, and their crews for transporting us to and from the islands; B. D. Bell and R. East for use of unpublished data; and to Carters Consolidated Ltd. for the use of the hut at Jacksons Bay.

LITERATURE CITED

COCKAYNE, L., 1905: Notes on the vegetation of the Open Bay Islands. Trans. N.Z. Institute, 36: 368-377.



SHORT NOTE

BROWN BOOBY ON SOUTH CANTERBURY COAST

On 29/3/69 at 12.45 p.m. a large bird, first thought to be a Gannet (*Sula bassana serrator*), was seen flying over the beach at St. Andrews, ten miles south of Timaru. On reaching the beach I quickly located the bird and focused my binoculars (10 x 50) on it.

The body was slightly smaller than a Gannet's, with upperparts, head and chest coloured a rich chocolate brown. There was a clear cut border between the brown chest and the white underparts, while the underwing was pure white with a brown border on each edge. The underwing and line of demarcation on the breast were the most conspicuous parts of the bird's plumage. The bill appeared to be light grey but the feet were not observed.

The bird appeared to be much more at leisure than any Gannets I have seen in the area, and by this time I was without doubt that it was a Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*). It continued, for the next ten minutes, to glide in circles and semicircles and frequently dive into the sea, after which it rested on the water, apparently devouring its prey. Gradually the Booby moved in a northerly direction and further out to sea. The weather had been fine for the last fortnight and on the day of observation was overcast, but the sun was shining through the clouds.

— R. J. PIERCE

[This note records the most southerly sighting of a Brown Booby in New Zealand waters.—Ed.]