

here and there, pausing briefly to peck at something, and then quickly running a few more feet and pecking again. This continued for about 10 minutes after which they disappeared. On one occasion James Macpherson was also able to remain undetected while two crakes fed. This time they fed more slowly, not running from place to place. As well, a Pukeko *Porphyrio melanotus* was feeding nearby and in the course of searching for food came quite close to the crakes. It suddenly dashed at them, causing them to flee into the cuttigrass.

Wondering whether they would eat if I left something at the nest, I tried some small pieces of luncheon sausage, but although they picked them up, they dropped them after turning them over in their beaks. However, both a grasshopper (dead) and a worm were consumed.

### CONCLUSION

I appreciate that one cannot draw definite conclusions from only three nests, but as such nests are not found very frequently, every little helps, and the above information can be compared with data from any nests that may subsequently be found.

It will be noted, too, that I have given no description of the bird. This is because I am slightly colour-blind and am not always exactly sure of my colours.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. M. I. Macpherson for allowing me free access to his property, and to Mr. H. R. McKenzie for obtaining the egg measurements for me.

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## SHORT NOTE

### MORE SIGHTINGS OF GREY TERNLETS

Dr. Falla's interesting account of Grey Ternlets *Procelsterna albigivitta* in the Bay of Plenty has prompted me to submit the following observations.

I have been offshore fishing in the Bay of Islands every year since 1964, except 1967. My first sighting of what I was sure were Grey Ternlets occurred in January, 1965, when I saw a flock of nine on one day and two birds on another. In 1966 and 1968 I saw one or two Grey Ternlets on more than one occasion. All these sightings were about ten miles from the shore.

During six days' fishing out from Mercury Bay in February 1967, I saw no Grey Ternlets at all. But in 1970 out from the Bay of Islands again I saw two on February 21st, one on 23rd and one on 25th.

I am sorry these notes are so sketchy. At first, in view of the scarcity of these ternlets in New Zealand waters I hesitated to publish my sightings; but in view of Dr. Falla's findings I am quite confident that the unusual terns I have been seeing in summer over some years are Grey Ternlets.

— MALCOLM WALLER