

WHITE-FRONTED TERNS (*Sterna striata*) IN THE TASMAN SEA

On two recent crossings of the Tasman, White-fronted Terns were found onboard alive; both birds subsequently died and were kept frozen down. The bird from position "A" is now in the skin collection of D. J. Gibson of Thirroul, N.S.W., and the bird from position "B" is at New Plymouth Museum.

"A," 39°14'S, 156°40'E, 30/6/72, at 2000 hours; Weather: Wind WNW 40 knots, sea rough, overcast with frequent heavy rain squalls, air temp. 12.0°, sea temp. 15.6°.

This bird, an adult, was found on deck and placed in a box overnight; it was found dead in the morning.

"B," 35°50'S, 160°10'E, 14/7/72, at 1600 hours; Weather: wind W 24 knots, sea moderate to rough, 6/8 cloudy, air temp. 17.0°, sea temp. 16.4°.

This bird was a juvenile, still retaining areas of dark grey on the upper wing especially about the elbows. It seemed in good condition so it was banded and released, only to be found dead the following morning.

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WRYBILLS IN CENTRAL OTAGO: FURTHER RECORDS

Continuing my notes of southern records of Wrybills (Child 1971), I can now add the following:

On 9 September 1971, while making a census count along the Hunter riverbed above Lake Hawea, we found 4 Wrybills in similar circumstances to those seen near the mouth of the Matukituki River in 1969 (Child 1971: 252), all separated and busily feeding at the water's edge. Occasionally a Wrybill would chase off a Banded Dotterel, the latter being relatively common in this area. No evidence of nesting or territorial behaviour was noted among the Wrybills. The Hunter is the closest riverbed in direct line from the Ahuriri where we observed a few in 1965. It would be interesting to know whether, in fact, Wrybills used this riverbed before about 8 miles of the broadest shingle stretches were flooded by the raising of the lake level in 1959 by some 60 feet for hydro-electric storage.

On 30 October 1971, while making a similar census of the shingly stretches of the Matukituki, we counted a total of 7 Wrybills well scattered over a stretch of some nine miles. Probably there were 8 birds since 6 of the 7 we saw were paired, these pairs being one to two miles apart. Two nests, each with two eggs, were found, making this a new record as a breeding species in Central Otago and extending the southern limit of the breeding range.