

LITERATURE CITED

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BLACK FANTAIL IN NORTH ISLAND

The appearance of a Black Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*) in my garden in Masterton in three successive years is rather unusual. The first one seen in the district since 1948, it was recorded on 20 January 1971. The following year another Black Fantail, or the same one, was seen in the garden on 17 February. Then, on 20 February 1973 (note dates) one had a bathe under the spray from a hose and two days later, presumably the same bird, was seen again but not since then.

It is possible that these records concern the same bird though I have regarded each year's observations as another record. It may be pertinent to add that in Wellington Provincial observations extending over fifty years from 1921 to date I have seen 10 Black Fantails and in that period I have notes of 1352 Pied Fantails as having been actually seen. I have ignored all records of birds heard and not seen. The area covered in these observations, the southern portion of the Wellington Provincial District, extends from the Hawke's Bay boundary in the east to the mouth of the Rangitikei River in the west and includes Kapiti Island, where I saw a Black Fantail consorting with a Pied on 22 February 1927. An additional record for the Wairarapa to those already published is one for 18 May 1924 in the Waingawa River Gorge.

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FIRST RECORD OF WHITE-TAILED TROPIC BIRD
IN NEW ZEALAND

On 27 January 1973 I patrolled approximately two miles of beach to the west of the Whakatane River mouth. The remains of 12 specimens of 8 species of sea birds were found, but one complete skull could not be identified. It was peculiar in shape, the bill was like that of a tern, but malformed, the upper mandible being crossed over the lower mandible.