

been seen since and was probably driven off its territory by the female. However, presuming they are opposite sexes, there might be a possibility of them nesting on the quarry face.

The kestrel that was sighted at Napier is still being seen fairly regularly by reliable observers. It is rather unlikely that it is the second bird seen by me at the quarry since the distance between the two areas is about 29 km. One rather interesting fact remains to intrigue me: one of the men who first sighted the "quarry" kestrel maintains he saw three of them one day flying near a small flock of Rooks. Having seen two myself in this area, I have no reason to disbelieve this perhaps rather extravagant statement.

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#### YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK (*Diomedea chlororhynchus*) RECORDED IN THE CHATHAM ISLANDS

The Sisters Islands (43° 35'S, 176° 50'W) represent the northern outliers of the Chatham Island group, some 800 kilometres east of New Zealand. Between October 1973 and January 1975 about 14 weeks were spent on the Middle Sister as part of an intensive study of the status and breeding biology of the *Diomedea* species at their most northerly breeding locality in the New Zealand region.

Soon after our arrival on 21 January 1975 a strange Mollymawk was observed and photographed at 1030 hrs moving among nesting Northern Royal Albatross (*Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*) on the western side of the island. When compared with Bullers Mollymawk (*Diomedea bulleri*) which also breeds on the island a number of differences were immediately evident. These were its small size, single yellow bill stripe, cherry-pink tip to the bill, dark triangular eye patch, and light grey nape and back of head. The underwing was largely white with the narrow black margin wider on the anterior edge (Fig. 1).

Though remaining on land for only a few minutes it was easily identified as a Yellow-nosed Mollymawk (*Diomedea chlororhynchus*) in adult plumage. Apart from its plumage characteristics, the mode of walking with a forward horizontal movement of the head was unlike any other mollymawk in the New Zealand area (Fig. 2).

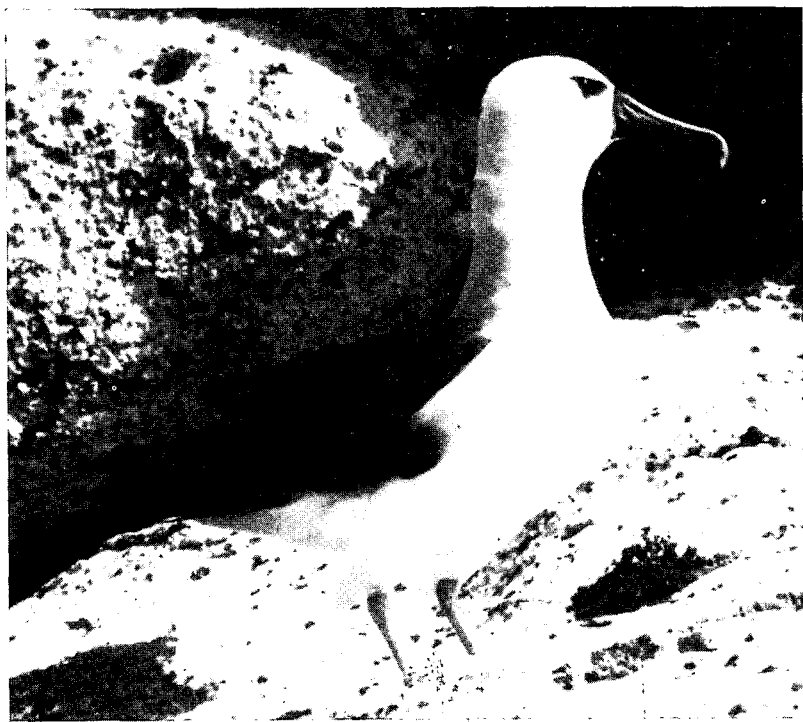


FIGURE 1 — Yellow-nosed Mollymawk ashore on Middle Sister Island, Chatham Is., 21 January 1975.

Photo: C. J. R. Robertson

Previous records of this species in the New Zealand area have been limited since the first beach wrecked specimen in 1921. The following are these records, the basis for which can be found in the appended "References."

1. Muriwai Beach, 1 Ad., 21 Aug., R. A. Falla.
2. Off North Cape, 2 Ad., 16/8/32, R. A. Falla.
3. Off Three Kings Is., 5 Ad., 1 + Imm., 17/8/32, R. A. Falla.
4. Between Hen I. and Poor Knights Is., 1 Ad.?, 4/8/58, B. D. Bell.
5. Off Tutukaka, 1 Ad.?, 22/4/60, B. D. Bell.
6. West of Three Kings Is., 1 Ad., 1 Imm., 4/10/62, A. Y. Norris.
7. Little Barrier I. (skull), 1?, 1962, R. B. Sibson.
8. Off Bay of Islands, 1 Imm., 5/10/62, A. Y. Norris.
9. Outer Bay of Plenty, 1 Ad., 12/10/62, A. Y. Norris.
10. Hauraki Gulf, 1 Imm., 4/6/63, F. C. Kinsky.
11. Waiau River mouth and off Kaikoura, 1+ Ad.?, 5/6/71, J. R. Jackson.

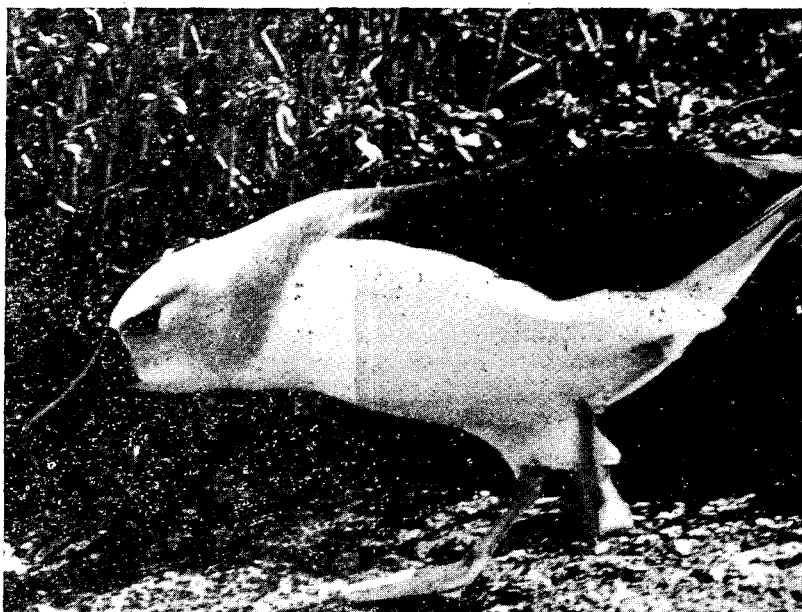


FIGURE 2 — Yellow-nosed Mollymawk, walking posture. Middle Sister Island, Chatham Is., 21 January, 1975.

Photo: C. J. R. Robertson

The closest breeding grounds for this species are at Amsterdam and St Paul Is in the South Indian Ocean where the breeding season extends from September to April. From May to October birds are found at sea in decreasing numbers eastwards across southern and eastern Australia. It is evident from the above records that New Zealand probably marks the limit of their winter range. This Chatham Island record for January would seem to be a vagrant caught well out of its normal breeding range and in search of company.

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