

**TWO BLACK-FRONTED TERN INCIDENTS.**—On January 22, 1953, Mrs. A. C. Prentice, Miss M. L. Johnston and I were watching a colony of about 20 young black-fronted terns (*Chlidonias hybrida albostrigatus*) beside Lake Wanaka. The young birds were in various stages of development, and adult birds were flying to and fro with food for their young. One adult tern with food in its bill was intercepted by a black-billed gull (*Larus bulleri*) and we watched the gull chase the tern for about a quarter of a mile. The tern came back minus its catch. It flew past the colony of young birds to where it had made its previous catch in the lake. In a few moments, with something in its bill, it was flying towards the colony of young terns. This time a young tern arose from its perch on the rocks and flew to meet the adult. Until the attack made by the gull, no young terns had flown to meet adults carrying food. Two days previously, we, with other members of the Dunedin Naturalists' Field Club, had watched a black-fronted tern flying over Diamond Lake in the Matukituki Valley. Probably it was feeding young, for it would carry away its catch, always in the same direction, and in a short time was back for more. It is impossible to say that the tern was always the same bird, but during our stay of about an hour at the lake only one tern at a time was seen. A New Zealand falcon (*Falco novaeseelandiae*) which appeared to be a young, but fully-grown, bird, had been perched on a willow tree near the lake, and had allowed two of the party to approach within fifteen feet of it. We were about to depart from the lake when the falcon made an attempt to fly across the lake and was attacked by the tern. The falcon screamed and dodged, but the tern was the more agile of the two, and made repeated attacks on the falcon. The movements were too rapid to be sure if the falcon was actually struck. The falcon managed to dodge away from the tern and we lost sight of it. For about five minutes all was peaceful. Then the falcon attempted another flight across the little lake, and once more was attacked by the tern. Again there were wild screams from the dodging falcon, which finally found a refuge on the face of a cliff overhanging the lake—(late) I. Tily, Dunedin.

**LINNETS REPORTED SEEN IN DUNEDIN.**—On March 27, 1954, at 1500 hours, six birds belonging to the finch family were seen on a steep uncultivated hillside covered mainly in grass (cocksfoot), Scotch thistles and gorse. The hillside faces directly into the sun and overlooks North-East Valley. The birds were approximately twenty feet away from me and were watched through x10 binoculars. They were feeding on Scotch thistle seeds and appeared to be tame. I got within twelve feet of one before it flew away. They were the size of a sparrow and the general colour of the underparts was a yellowy-brown. The breast was pinkish and a conspicuous red stripe ran down the centre of the forehead. The tail was black, edged with white, and the bird did not have a dark chin spot—a redpoll's identification mark. Their call was a rather short and brisk "zip-zip." The weather was sunny with bright white clouds and a light southerly wind. Further visits were paid to the locality on March 28 and April 10, 17, 19, and 24 but no sign of the birds was seen.—James Watt, Dunedin.

**BLACK-WINGED PETREL—A CORRECTION.**—I am grateful to Mr. K. A. Hindwood, Sydney, for pointing out that I wrongly included Lord Howe Island among the nesting stations of *Pterodroma hypoleuca nigripennis* in my note in *Notornis* 6 (1):20 (see also Checklist of N.Z. Birds, 1953:25). The two specimens from Lord Howe Island in the Australian Museum were considered by Hindwood (*Emu* 40 (1), 1940) to represent stragglers, although the circumstances under which they were collected (in Feb. 1917 and Mar. 1923) have not been recorded. It would not be surprising if the black-winged petrel bred at Lord Howe, which lies between the latitudes of the known stations, and the two specimens were collected during its rather late breeding season, but Mr. Hindwood points out that Roy Bell thoroughly combed the island for sea birds on behalf of Mathews in 1913-1915 without finding it.—C. A. Fleming, Wellington.