

pink, and the flesh on the crown and wings was perhaps a little pinker. The irides were mauve, the iris a pink majenta, and the pupil majenta. In these respects it differed from the three other chicks which were: irides mauve, iris dark brown, pupil dark blue.

I am indebted to Mr. Geary for first drawing my attention to these birds, to members of the Watson family for their courtesy in showing me the birds on their property, and to Dr. R. A. Falla for the description of the specimen.

BIRDS NESTING IN GISBORNE HARBOUR.—In 1950 there was a colony of about 300 white-fronted terns nesting on the cliffs of Tuahine Point, Gisborne. All went well until two vandals, having shot and driven away the adult birds, broke the eggs and strangled the young. Since then the terns have not attempted to nest in Gisborne until the summer of 1953-54, when a small colony of about 50 pairs nested successfully in the company of about the same number of black-billed gulls on an old groyne inside the Gisborne harbour. Boats were passing within yards of the groyne and a great number of people were fishing on the breakwater which was only 150 yards away. On January 17, 1954, nesting had passed its peak; there were then more young than eggs. The usual clutch for the gulls was two, although nests containing one or three eggs were noticed. The adults were very tame and would allow one to approach to less than two yards before they would stir from the nest. The terns laid one or two eggs on the bare concrete, in some cases, although they seemed to prefer a depression or the shelter of a plant. Some of the terns' nests were quite well made, of grass and stones. Most of the terns' nests had rings of small stones enclosing the egg or eggs. Young chicks, on the approach of danger, played "possum." The older chicks, which had left the nests, would flutter over the eight feet drop to the water, and as the danger passed would swim to a portion of the groyne which had fallen in and now sloped into the water. Here they could climb up to the nesting area again. On March 13 the nesting ground was deserted, except for an occasional resting bird.—Don Merton (15 years), Gisborne.

BIRDS IN NORTHLAND WATERS.—From Auckland to the North Cape in my cruise to the Three Kings, little bird life was observed. A few flocks of Buller's shearwater (*Puffinus bulleri*) and fluttering shearwater (*Puffinus gavia*) were seen. On reaching the North Cape large flocks of red-billed gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) were seen. This was new to me, as during the last ten years I have seen this gull in only small numbers at the Cape. On proceeding about a mile past the Cape I saw that a colony of red-billed gulls was nesting there. The nesting area extended over about a quarter of an acre. This is the first time in ten years that I have seen the red-billed gull nesting at the North Cape and the first time in many years that I have seen it feeding in any large numbers on the east coast between Auckland and the North Cape. On arriving at the Three Kings large flocks of the red-billed gull were feeding but the general impression was that they were in slightly lesser numbers than previously. On inspecting their nesting places it was obvious that this year it had been a very early nesting season as the usual nesting areas were almost deserted. The usual flocks of fluttering shearwater and a small number of Buller's shearwater were seen, besides quite a number of diving petrel (*Pelecanoides urinatrix*), but the bad weather prevented us from staying more than one day. On our return journey, when about nine miles north of Cape Brett, I observed a small light-coloured bird approaching the stern of the yacht. At first I thought it was a red-billed gull or a tern, but as it neared the yacht I saw that it was neither. It flew very close to the yacht several times and appeared to be quite friendly and interested in it. It was easy to note the bird's colouring in detail and there is no doubt in my mind that it was a grey noddy (*Procelsterna cerulea albivitta*). This bird has only previously been reported in New Zealand waters on three occasions.—M. E. Johnson, Auckland; 12/1/54.