

slopes gradually in a series of sandstone ledges: and the pools left in the hollows as the tide falls would seem to be an ideal tattler habitat, resembling that at Long Reef near Sydney, N.S.W. It should be mentioned that both H.R.McK. and D.A.U. have met with the Siberian Tattler at Parengarenga.

R. B. Sibson

PIED STILT SWIMS THE CHANNEL

While the potential swimming ability of waders is well known, such observations are seldom published to assist the student of bird behaviour.

With this in mind, I record a Pied Stilt (*H. leucocephalus*) which buoyantly and unhurriedly swam across a watercourse about twenty feet wide at Ahuriri Lagoon, Napier, on 24/7/55.

It had been onshore with some other stilts which were cavorting excitedly, pursuing one another and leaping vigorously about. This group behaviour may perhaps account for the otherwise unnecessary swim.

B. H. Heather

WHITE-FACED HERON NESTING IN NORTH AUCKLAND

A pair of White-faced Herons (*Notophox novaehollandiae*) frequented the eastern end of the Kaipara Flats from early June 1955 until early August.

On 21 July the pair were found to be nesting 35 feet from the ground in a 40ft kahikatea tree, one of a clump of about fifty trees. The nest was a very flimsy structure consisting of a mere handful of sticks, and Mr S. G. Smith, the owner of the land, had discovered the nest by finding two smashed eggs and one whole egg on the ground beneath the tree. During this and subsequent visits the heron remained sitting on the apparently empty nest while I was below the tree.

The heron continued to sit and considerably enlarged the nest structure and laid a fresh clutch, but on 14 August, accompanied by Mr J. Prickett, we found on the ground below the nest two eggs which had obviously been sucked but not smashed. There was no sign of the herons, but we discovered a White-backed Magpie's nest fifty yards away, and Mr Smith said that he had seen the magpies attacking the herons on several occasions.

There appears to be strong evidence to show that this attempt at nesting by the herons was frustrated by the depredations of the magpie. I also have photographic evidence to show that magpies have destroyed the young of both tui and pipit.

G. J. H. Moon

[This is the first record of the breeding of the White-faced Heron in northern New Zealand. During the breeding season of 1955, White-faced Herons were reported from two other localities in Kaipara, but breeding was not proved.—Ed.]

BLACK-FRONTED TERNS (*C. albostratus*) IN KAIPARA

On 23/4/55 we were driving along the northern shores of the Kaipara Harbour when we came to a little bay called Tangaihi and saw a number of White-fronted Terns (*S. striata*) sitting on the piles of a derelict jetty in company with sixteen smaller terns. As some of these were sitting directly in front of the White-fronted Terns, we estimated their size as about three-