

thickly lined with feathers, there were two almost completely fledged chicks which flew after we had spent some minutes investigating. Of the other two nests, one was in good condition and one was only half there. They did not look recent enough to have been used this season.

T. G. LEDGARD

N. J. LEDGARD

(In the 1958-59 summer, Welcome Swallows probably nested successfully not far from here on the Aurere flat and perhaps, unnoticed, at Tokerau, v. *Notornis* VIII, 157.—Ed.)

On 17/1/60 while travelling near Herekino I saw two Welcome Swallows flying close to the road, and when I returned in the evening six were seen close to the place of the original observation. On 20/1/60 I visited the area again and though I saw only one swallow I was compensated by finding two nests with eggs and a third nest partly constructed under a small concrete bridge, with deep water flowing through it.

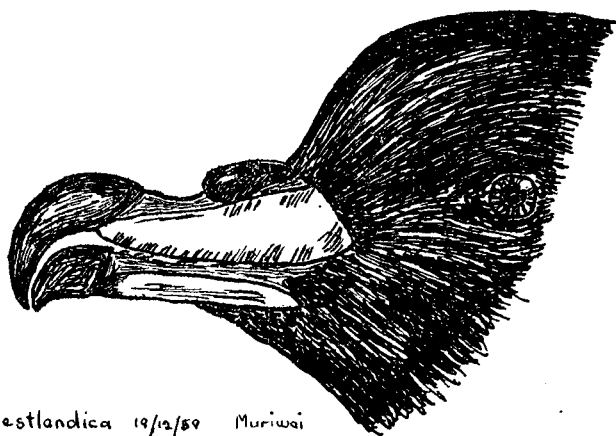
DIGBY GRAHAM

(What was evidently the same "colony" with two nests and "some wet mud on the wall which could have been the beginning of a third nest" was found independently on 22/1/60 and reported by T. G. Ledgard.—Ed.)



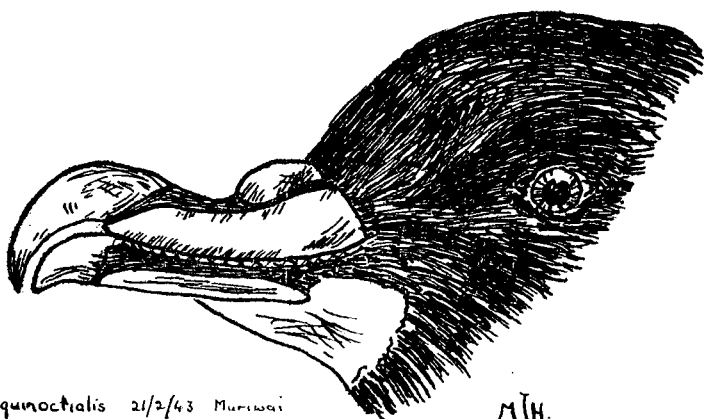
#### WESTLAND PETREL ASHORE AT MURIWAI

On 19/12/59 two schoolboys, Peter Skegg and Michael Hogg, walked four miles at the south end of Muriwai beach, and among tubenoses which they found, including about forty Sooty Shearwaters (*P. griseus*), they recovered the remains of a large black petrel which they tentatively identified as *Procellaria westlandica*. The body had been picked clean; tail and legs were missing, but fortunately wings and skull were intact and the bill had not lost its plates. The following measurements were obtained: Wing 382 m.m.; Culmen, length 49 m.m., width 22.5 m.m. These are too large for the Black Petrel (*Pr. parkinsoni*) and agree substantially with those given for the Westland Petrel by Dr. R. A. Falla (1) who was shown the skull on 20/1/60 and at a glance confirmed the identification. The colouring of the bill with its dark nasal tubes, culminicorn and dertrum, served to separate this specimen from the White-chinned Petrel (*Pr. aequinoctialis*) of which there was available a Muriwai specimen of similar size; while another came ashore at Karekare where it was found by Tim Ledgard about the same time as the Westland Petrel was wrecked at Muriwai. The differences in colouring are well brought out in these sketches drawn to scale by Michael Hogg.



*Pr. westlandica* 19/12/59 Muriwai

$\frac{1}{1}$



*Pr. aequinoctialis* 21/2/43 Muriwai

$\frac{1}{1}$

M.J.H.

Away from its breeding grounds near Barrytown, the Westland Petrel has only once before been found wrecked on the New Zealand coast, namely one at Titahi Bay, Wellington, on 24/5/58. Slowly evidence is accumulating of its range in the Tasman Sea, as it has now been found ashore twice in New South Wales (McGill (2) ), namely at Corrimal on 2/1/56 and Cronulla on 6/12/58. Both these beaches are well to the north of Muriwai.

R. B. SIBSON

#### REFERENCES

- (1) 1946 Falla, R. A. — An Undescribed Form of the Black Petrel. *Rec. Cant. Mus.* V 2; 111-113.
- (2) 1959 McGill, A. R. — Westland Petrel. A Second Australian Occurrence. *Emu* LIX, 4; 259-264.