

apart from a mixed flock of waders, mainly Bar-tailed Godwits. Compared with the latter, it was noticeably smaller, slimmer and predominantly grey above, white beneath, including forehead, face and chin.

In flight, the diagnostic white inverted V of tail, rump and back was conspicuous and the feet projected beyond the tail. Its call, uttered frequently both in flight and while feeding, was a clear strident "choo," descending in pitch. Some references seem to imply that this "choo" is made in rapid sequences of three, but this was seldom so, two or four being usual.

When feeding, either solitarily or among Pied Stilts, the bird ran gracefully through the water, its bill and neck stretched forward, lifting its feet daintily above the surface.

The bird was again seen on 15th and 31st March, in sunny conditions. It was again in the company of Pied Stilts and all diagnostic features, including the greenish legs, were confirmed.

This at 46½°S. appears to be the southernmost Greenshank recorded in New Zealand, perhaps in the world.

B. D. HEATHER
R. M. ROYDS

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WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN AT INVERCARGILL

During a visit to Invercargill in March, 1956, a White-winged Black Tern (*C. leucopterus*) was found to be present at Lake Hawkins. The bird was assuming breeding plumage. Field notes, sketches and colour photographs show that its body, head and upper wing were as illustrated by Fleming (*Notornis* VI, 71) and that its underwing was heavily mottled with black.

The bird was not seen to associate with the Black-fronted Terns (*C. albobristatus*) which were frequent visitors to Lake Hawkins. It was present at least from March 13th to 25th. On March 18th it was seen by B. A. Ellis.

B. D. HEATHER

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WEKAS IN NORTHLAND

The North Island Weka (*G. australis greyi*) was formerly abundant in Northland, but of recent years no definite sightings have been recorded. During a period of work in this district during the winter of 1959, I made the following observations:

Two Wekas were flushed by my dog on the bush edge behind Waima on 4/7/59. Another indefinite sighting of a Weka was made on the banks of the Waihoihoi Stream, Waipu, on 8/8/59; and after enquiries were made, a local farmer, Mr. McLeod Finlayson, reported he had heard recently two Wekas, the first for a number of years.

Two other areas where this species has been reported present recently, but as yet not confirmed, are Onerahi (between Okaihau and Rangiahau) and near Waiotira.

R. T. ADAMS

(Some reported sightings of Wekas in northern New Zealand, especially near mangroves, cannot be accepted, the birds concerned obviously being Banded Rails (*R. philippensis*). However, the older residents near Waipu and Whangarei knew the Weka well and clearly remember its distinctive call.—Ed.)