

## LESSER FRIGATE-BIRD IN KAIPARA

In the southern part of Kaipara Hr., near Moturemo Is., one mile below the confluence of the Tauhoa and Hotoe rivers, on 20/1/60 an obvious frigate-bird, judged from the markings on either side of the belly to be *Fregata ariel*, was watched at close quarters when I was out fishing. It came over the top of Moturemo Is. and attacked a solitary Gannet (*S. b. serratrix*), approaching it from behind and below. After a tussle of a full minute it collected in two swoops the food thrown out by the Gannet, and then returned to the island. It flew heavily with a fast flap, its long narrow wings almost meeting above and below. It passed about fifty feet away and at the height of ten feet. The general colour was a sooty black but a blue sheen on its head and back was visible at quite a distance. What appeared to be its thigh was a dark brownish grey with three almost vertical white bars about an inch apart. The tail and under wings were black. Its neck was curved down and up and the long bill was held downwards at an angle of about 45 degrees from horizontal. Not once did it cease its fast flapping. It was seen by Mr. Marcus Dill both before and after this date, when it was harrying gulls and terns from a cliff-top on the mainland as well as from Moturemo Is.

— F. P. HUDSON

[The presence of frigate-birds so far south is usually associated with cyclonic disturbances. A Lesser Frigate-bird was reported at Kaipara South Head during March, 1959, when cyclonic winds were sweeping Northland.—Ed.]

YELLOW-NOSED MOLLYMAWK IN NORTHERN  
NEW ZEALAND WATERS

The sighting of a Yellow-nosed Mollymawk (*D. chlororhynchus*) off Tutukaka on 22/4/60, immediately reminded me of a similar record I made of one between Hen Island and the Poor Knights on 4/8/58 ("*Notornis*" VIII, 65). These autumn and winter records give food for some thought especially when considered with the previous records from New Zealand. Apart from the storm-wrecked specimen from Muriwai Beach, Auckland, the others were recorded from the vicinity of North Cape and the Three Kings in mid-August, 1932 (*Falla*, "*Records of the Auckland Institute and Museum*" Vol. I, p. 180).

It appears that the status of this species within New Zealand waters has yet to be determined. It would seem from the meagre records available that the Yellow-nosed Mollymawk visits northern New Zealand waters during the autumn and winter. The almost total absence of observers from these waters during this period is probably the main reason for the lack of records rather than a paucity of birds.

— BRIAN D. BELL

[The Yellow-nosed Mollymawk habitually ranges in warmer waters than other closely related southern mollymawks. Its nearest breeding grounds are at St. Paul Is. (39°S 77°E) in the southern central Indian Ocean. It is the most plentiful albatross on the west and south coasts of Western Australia and it occurs not infrequently off the coast of New South Wales as far north as Sydney.—Ed.]