

SOOTY TERN OFF CAPE REINGA

At 1700 hrs. on 30/7/61, a Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*) was observed flying around the M.V. Kaitangata when she was about eight miles off C. Reinga in a position 34° 32' S, 172° 31' E. The wind was west and blowing at 24 knots. Strong northwest gales had been blowing in this area for the past 48 hours and the sea was rough with a swell from W.N.W. The tern made several attempts to come aboard and finally managed it, landing right forward. Some few minutes afterwards the vessel shipped a sea over the fo'c's'le head, washing the tern to the end of No. 1 hatch, a distance of 50 feet with a drop of ten feet.

It was picked up from this position and appeared to be very much alive. Shut up in a cabin overnight it took some sardines that were placed near it, and regurgitated some shells of what appeared to be shrimps. On the morning of July 31 at 1120 hrs. in a position 36° 20' S., 174° 54' E., just east of Kawau, weather fine and clear with a light breeze, the bird was released. It flew strongly away from the ship and disappeared. One hour later it was again on board and stayed aboard until after the vessel arrived in Auckland.

It was seen sitting on the deck of the bridge at 1700 hrs. July 31. Not seen at all on August 1, it was found newly dead on board on the morning of 2/8/61 and handed in at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. The following measurements were taken: Wing 305, Tarsus 22, Bill 41, Tail 235, Depth of fork 144 m.m. The outer-tail streamers are very well grown and considerably longer, with a correspondingly deeper fork, than those of the two Sooty Terns which were found wrecked on the Auckland west coast in August, 1960 (*Notornis* IX, 137).

— J. A. F. JENKINS



GREENFINCHES AND COTONEASTER BERRIES

Mention has recently been made in *Notornis* of Greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*) consuming cotoneaster berries. Over the last six winters I have noted that both male and female Greenfinches have frequented a shrub of *Cotoneaster serotina* during the months April to July in Khandallah.

Through observations made, I have found that they are partial to the seeds rather than the flesh. When one is walking past this species of shrub, the clicking of bills can be heard. Under the tree many fragments of the fruit can be found minus the seed.

I may mention also that two other fruits are attacked, in our garden, by Greenfinches in quest of the seeds. Berries of *Cotoneaster microphylla* have flesh ripped off and seed removed. Frequently what remains of the berry is still attached to the branch. After Blackbirds (*T. merula*) have pecked sections out of crab-apples (*Malus* 'Gorgeous'), Greenfinches have been observed from close range, pecking out and crunching the seeds.

— S. S. McDONNELL