

and more distant sites; hence periodic resting at nearby roosts rather than at the more distant colony would be energetically efficient for birds foraging far from the colony.

The presence of roosts primarily at foraging sites some distance from the colony could also be relevant to the efficiency with which Black-billed Gulls locate food. Individuals of this species, like many other conspicuous gulls and seabirds, commonly find food by cuing to the location of others already actively foraging (Stead 1932, Hoffman *et al.* 1981, pers. obs.). This form of "local enhancement" (Thorpe 1963) is necessarily most effective when local populations of foragers are large. Near a large breeding colony, the presence of the colony should alone be enough to maintain a large local population for locally enhanced search for food. Results of this study suggest that roosts could maintain large local populations when gulls forage far from the breeding colony. I have suggested (Evans 1982) that breeding colonies of Black-billed Gulls may function as "assembly points" where dispersed foragers reunite for subsequent group foraging. The results reported here suggest that this interpretation may also apply to diurnal roosts of this or similar species.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Partial financing was provided by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, Ottawa. I thank John Warham and the Department of Zoology, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, for facilities and advice provided. Kevin Cash and Barrie Heather provided useful comments on the manuscript.

LITERATURE CITED

- EVANS, R. M. 1982. Foraging-flock recruitment at a Black-billed Gull colony: implications for the Information Centre Hypothesis. *Auk* 99: 24-30.
 HOFFMAN, W.; HEINEMANN, D.; WIENS, J. A. 1981. The ecology of seabird feeding flocks in Alaska. *Auk* 98: 437-456.
 STEAD, E. F. 1932. The life histories of New Zealand birds. London: Search Publ. Co.
 THORPE, W. H. 1963. Learning and instinct in animals. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.
 WARD, P.; ZAHAVI, A. 1973. The importance of certain assemblages of birds as "information centres" for food-finding. *Ibis* 115: 517-534.

ROGER M. EVANS, *Department of Zoology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Canada*



SHORT NOTE

KERMADEC STORM PETREL

On 10 October 1981 at 35° 43'S 155° 50'E, four White-faced Storm Petrels (*Pelagodroma marina*) flew close to the ship. They all had white rumps which were as white as the under surfaces of their bodies. This suggests that they were of the subspecies *albiclunis*. I have never seen four *albiclunis* together before, nor have I seen them away from the Kermadec Islands.

JOHN JENKINS