

headwaters of the Whangaehu an ancestral breeding area and when were they abandoned ?

(b) Guthrie Smith H. (1936 *Sorrows and Joys of a N.Z. Naturalist*, p. 120) in a chapter headed 'Terns in New Zealand,' states "Consorting with a colony of the Inland Tern (*Sterna albistriata*) [sic] I have come across once in my life the Black-bellied Tern (*Sterna* sp.). The remarkable velocity of the flight of this species, their celerity of movement when in the air would have rendered the pair conspicuous even had their plumage not vividly individualised them." Clearly White-winged Black Terns (*C. leucopterus*); but where ? and when ? Were they perhaps a breeding pair ?

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### WEKAS SWIMMING

Part of the management of Maud Island in the Marlborough Sounds includes the removal of Wekas (*Gallirallus a. australis*). Most of the birds have been trapped and released on the neighbouring mainland. After many "last" wekas had been caught, it was suspected that some birds were returning. To determine this it was decided to band all birds released. During late May and June 1978 five wekas were caught, banded and released at Deep Bay, north-west of Maud Island across the Apuau Channel. Three of these birds had subsequent histories.

L. 5158, an adult male, was trapped and relocated on 3 June. On 13 June, 10 days later, the bird was retrapped on Maud Island, 5 metres from the original trap site.

L. 5156, an adult female, was caught and transferred the same day as the previous bird. This bird was retrapped on Maud Island on 16 June, 13 days later, close to where originally caught.

L. 5153, an adult female, was trapped on 28 May but could only be relocated, because of weather conditions, on 31 May. This bird was retrapped back on Maud Island on 11 June, 12 days later. It was trapped 60 metres from the original site. It was again returned to Deep Bay but was retrapped back on Maud Island within a few metres of the last site on 15 June, only 3 days later.

The capacity of wekas to return to Maud Island explained the many "last" wekas caught. It illustrates the birds' territorial tenacity and homing instincts and their ability to swim considerable distances. From where the birds were released at Deep Bay they would have to travel some 2.5 kilometres by land and then swim the Apuau Channel. At its narrowest point this is some 914 metres wide. Its tidal flow reaches some 3-4 knots and it has a long reach exposed to westerly winds. Whether the birds wait for favourable weather and a slack tide is not known.

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