

When Gannets are most numerous 'over the Manukau,' the Tasman Sea is at its most inhospitable and they are free from territorial cares. The major wrecks of the truly oceanic Tubinares usually occur towards the end of the winter, and the broad expanse of Manukau Harbour offers comparative shelter. Are June to August also the peak months for Gannets within Kaipara, Raglan and Kawhia Harbours?

Such numbers as I have quoted must be lured by good fishing. What species of fish are shoaling in such numbers that swirls of apparently ravenous Gannets engage in a frenzy of diving? Without being specific, Oliver (1955) mentions "garfish, herrings and young mullet." The new *Birds of the Western Palaearctic* enumerates at least 15 species of fish taken by British Gannets (*S. b. bassana*). The fish range in length from 2.5 to 30.5 cm. Evidently hungry Gannets don't despise tiddlers. Have we among our members some budding ichthyologist who will tell us precisely what species of fish our Gannets are hunting when they follow the tides in the main channels of Manukau Harbour?

#### REFERENCES

- FLEMING, C. A.; WODZICKI, K. 1952. Census of Gannets. *Notornis* 5: 39-78.  
 REED, S. M. 1979. Establishment of a new gannetry. *Notornis* 26: 89-93.  
 STEIN, P. A. S. 1971. Horuhoru revisited. *Notornis* 18: 310-363.  
 MCKENZIE, H. R. Card index, deposited in Auckland Museum.

R. B. SIBSON, 26 *Entrican Avenue, Remuera, Auckland 5*



## SHORT NOTE

### A CRESTED TERN IN HAWKES BAY

On 23 April 1981, during a beach patrol, after an easterly gale, between Westshore and Bay View, north of Napier, Rosalie Giblin, Cara Saxby and I came on a small group of White-fronted Terns (*Sterna striata*) with a larger tern in their midst.

The larger tern was similar in build to a White-fronted but smaller and less plump than a Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*). The plumage of back and wings was a darker grey than the pearl-grey of the White-fronted Terns; breast, abdomen, face, and back of neck were white; and a white patch showed on the wing near the carpal joint. The forehead was white, merging through speckled grey into a blackish-brown crown, which was rather pointed at the back and protruded slightly whenever the wind ruffled the crown feathers. The bill was greenish yellow, about 6 cm long, and powerful looking. The legs were blackish.

We studied the bird for about 20 minutes, but missed it in flight when passing gulls put the tern flock to flight.

This bird was later identified as a Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*), the fifth record for New Zealand.

KATHLEEN TODD, 2/416 E. *Heretaunga Street, Hastings*