

SEABIRDS OFF RAOUL ISLAND

On 31 October 1979, *Marama* called at Raoul Island to embark three members of a Lands and Surveys party. The vessel was within three miles of the island for about two hours, during which the following birds were seen. Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*): in sight throughout, the highest number seen together 40+. Kermadec Little Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis kermadecensis*): in sight throughout, the highest number seen together 11. Black-winged Petrel (*Pterodroma hypoleuca nigripennis*): one was seen near the island, with a total of five birds seen during the approach to and departure from Raoul. I had not seen any Black-winged Petrels in the South-west Pacific for some months and considered these birds to be the first returning migrants. Kermadec Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina albiclunis*): one seen about one mile off Hutchison Bluff, when the very light rump of this subspecies was noted. Masked (Blue-faced) Booby (*Sula dactylatra personata*): four birds, all of which appeared to be in adult plumage, fishing between Raoul and the Meyer Islets. Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*): nine birds seen. White-capped Noddy (*Anous tenuirostris minutus*): three seen. Grey Ternlet (*Procelsterna cerulea albivitta*): five seen.

On leaving, when 11.5 miles from Raoul towards Auckland, a Godwit thought to be *L. lapponica baueri* overtook the ship. It was flying at about 200 feet and appeared to be on the same course as we were.

REFERENCE

MERTON, D. V. 1970. Kermadec Islands Expedition Reports: A General Account of the Birdlife. *Notornis* 17: 147-199.

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RELAYING OF NEW ZEALAND PIGEON

In January 1979 I was spending some weeks on Maud Island. On 4 January, when working close to the old homestead, I noticed a New Zealand Pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) picking up fine sticks from the ground, flying up to a tree lucerne and then some 20 metres to an unkept hedge of taupata and mahoe. On inspecting the site, I discovered the start of a nest which as yet had no shape. It was about 3 m from the ground and 6 m from the house.

On the following day the pigeon was carrying sticks with some urgency. The sticks appeared to be carried only by the female. The male was nearby and chased any other pigeon which came into the vicinity.

On 6 January an egg was in the nest, but it was precariously positioned at the edge. Later in the morning the pigeon had put the egg back into the centre, but about midday it was found broken on