

then dived amidst the White-fronted Terns, Caspian Terns, Pied Stilts, oystercatchers and godwits assembled at the high tide roost. All took to the air and the skuas made off with a few Caspian Terns helping them on their way. They flew out to sea and did not return while we were there.

As the skuas swept low over us we were able to see by the diagnostic spoon-shaped tail plumes that they were Pomarines (*S. pomarinus*). My companion, who had no prior knowledge of the shape of the Pomarine, was able to draw for me the distinctive character which matched exactly the illustration in Pough's *Aubudon Waterbird Guide* which we had on the spot.

During the next two days reports of skuas at the Wanganui estuary were made by B. Tucker, who was unable to identify them specifically. Possibly two of these could have been the Pomarines seen 12 miles south at the Turakina rivermouth.

DAVID E. CROCKETT

[There are now several records of Pomarine Skuas in the Cook Strait region. Dell and Fleming (*Notornis VII*, 62) stated that when a dark Pomarine Skua chased a Caspian Tern at Waikanae, the white wing-flashes were inconspicuous. — Ed.]



## PERSONALIA

Congratulations to (1) Dr. C. A. Fleming on his election as President of the Royal Society of New Zealand; and also on his election as Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists Union.

(2) To Mr. A. T. Edgar, O.B.E., E.D., on receiving, as recognition of his work in Malaya, the award of J.M.N. (Johan Mangku Negara).

Dr. R. A. Falla, C.M.G., represented the Society at the Thirteenth International Ornithological Congress which was held in America in June, 1962. He then travelled on to Britain, where he was hoping, *inter alia*, to work on petrels at the British Museum.

During a trip to Europe, Mr. F. C. Kinsky visited several banding stations and also the island of Skomer.

The President, Mr. A. Blackburn, is on a six-weeks bird-trip to Australia, on which he plans to cross central Australia from Melbourne to Darwin, via Alice Springs. He will be accompanied by Mr. D. V. Merton.

Thanks (1) to Miss C. Bernrieder for the long hours she has devoted to cataloguing the Deignan collection of papers on ornithology, now in the library.

(2) To Mr. D. G. Fenwick for the efficient compiling of the Index to Volume IX.