

appearance and behaviour they were identical to the Grey Ternlets that I have seen off the Kermadec and Poor Knights Islands in New Zealand.

About 30 ternlets were around the perpendicular cliffs. Some were flying over the water with their typically buoyant flight, and some flew up and alighted on ledges on the cliff face, where others were already perched.

The *Bird Guide of Thailand* (Lekagul & Cronin 1974) does not mention Grey Ternlets. However, as the Koh Phi Phi islands have been opened to tourists only recently, the birds may have been present for some time.

I thank Colin Miskelly for suggesting changes to an earlier draft of this note, locating some of the references and drawing the map.

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#### Unusual nesting site for Little Shag

Little Shags are nesting on a rock in a water-level cave at the foot of sheer cliffs in the north-west part of Lake Taupo. The cave entrance is about 2 m wide at the waterline and tapers to a point about 2 m above water level. Height increases inside the cave. The nesting rock is about 6 m from the entrance. Water depth is 2-3 m.

In November 1988 there were 4 or 5 nests. One bird had three naked chicks and another had at least one chick. Adults remained on their nests during my visit. The only access to the nesting rock is by swimming.

I have been aware of this cave and its occupants since about 1972 and have seen the nesting birds in most years. The cave and its residents are not at all obvious to a casual observer.

A nearby waterfall on the Tutaewaeroa Stream is called "The Falls Of The White-breasted Shag" on a map that I have had since the early sixties, and so they may have been nesting there for many years. The main nesting areas on the lake are Motutaiko and Motuwhara Islands.

The site is doubly unusual in that the Little Shags are nesting on a rock in a cave, rather than in trees and shrubs, which is usual for the species (Falla, Sibson & Turbott, 1979, the *New Guide to the Birds of New Zealand*).

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