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SHORT NOTE

YOUNG BLACK-BROWED MOLLYMAWK INLAND

On 26 May 1981, I was notified of a live albatross that had landed on a farm property at Makahu in Taranaki, approximately 30 km east of Stratford. The landowner had found the bird in a weakened state in a damp gully in pastureland. On collection we found it to be a Black-browed Mollymawk (*Diomedea melanophrys*). The feather tips, particularly those of the tail and some hind-neck contour feathers, which still retained vestiges of down, indicated that the bird had only recently fledged and flown. C. J. R. Robertson (pers. comm.) inferred that this was probably an early-departing chick of *D. m. impavida* from Campbell Island.

It was penned, supplied with a trough of seawater, and force fed with fresh fish (trevally) pieces, until after 2 days it showed signs of restlessness and greater resistance to being fed. It was released on to the paritutu headland at New Plymouth, from where it flew to sea.

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