

Harbour, north of Auckland, but many travel east and south to the coast of the South Island. Some travel as far south as Paterson Inlet, Stewart Island.

Within their breeding distributions Whiskered and Black-fronted Terns have a similar diet, mainly aquatic insects and small fish, but their habitats differ. Whiskered Terns build floating nests in swampy localities and feed mainly over shallow lakes and slow-flowing rivers. In contrast, Black-fronted Terns nest in shingle on bare riverbeds and feed mainly over fast-flowing rivers.

Whiskered Terns over-winter generally around inland waters similar to those of their breeding quarters and their diet is essentially unchanged. Although Voous (1960) reported that the diet of *C. h. hybrida* in Africa consists mainly of terrestrial insects (locusts), this observation has been questioned by Bannerman (1962). Whiskered Terns rarely feed on marine prey except during migration. An exception has been reported from Indonesia where large numbers gather along the muddy coast of north-western Java (Mees 1977).

Most Black-fronted Terns over-winter along the coast where their diet consists mainly of planktonic crustacea (Lalas, in prep.). They forage not only over sheltered waters, such as harbours and estuaries, but also at sea. They are seen regularly up to 6 km off the Otago coast, often in association with White-fronted Terns (*Sterna striata*), a habit presumably typical of the whole winter range. Black-fronted Terns, therefore, differ from Whiskered Terns in their selection of wintering quarters.

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SHORT NOTE

GREAT SKUA MOBBED BY GREY-FACED PETREL

At 1200 hours on 16 July 1978 at 26°04'S 176°32'E a very dark Great Skua (*Stercorarius skua*) was seen flying northward and being mobbed by six Grey-faced Petrels (*Pterodroma macroptera*). The skua did not attempt to return the attacks but appeared to be flying quickly to get away from the petrels. The mobbing was seen for about five minutes, when five of the petrels left. The remaining one continued the attack, still without provoking a response, until both birds had passed out of sight.

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