

SHORT NOTE

SECOND RECORD OF WHITE-TAILED TROPIC BIRD IN NEW ZEALAND



Photo: Taranaki Newspapers Ltd.

The first accepted record of the White-tailed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon lepturus*) in New Zealand was based on a skull with a malformed bill found near Whakatane in January 1973 (Brown 1973, *Notornis* 20: 380-1). On 17 February 1979 we found a very freshly dead immature specimen in near perfect condition in the course of a beach patrol near Okato, Taranaki. The presence in New Zealand of this bird, no doubt of the subspecies *dorotheae* which breeds on many South-west Pacific islands, is probably explained by the tropical cyclone that occurred a short time previously. It is perhaps of some interest that this species is a regular though rare visitor to eastern Australia and that most specimens collected there have been juveniles. We propose to deposit our specimen in the National Museum.

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