

twist with fanned tail, dropping in a bounce on to the water. The feet seemed to touch the surface lightly. Bill and head went under 50% of the time. It did not hover, but flew in on to prey. The back arched at lift-off. The tail was flicked after a splash-dive (AJG) and the bird was once wet to the mantle (KJF). Doubtless tide height, as well as wind strength, influenced feeding technique. A Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) also fished the same reach at high water, providing a useful size comparison. The short squarish tail gave the bird a compact look in flight. AH noted that the second primary was missing from the left wing so that the bird may have been in moult. It was seen to rest on a willow log, on aquatic weed at low water and on a tangle of dead vegetation about 60 cm above high water level, when the long-legged upright stance was most apparent.

Identification was made after careful examination of the literature. In addition to the text, we found the illustrations in Slater (1970, *A field guide to Australian birds*, Sydney: Rigby), King, Woodcock & Dickinson (1975, *A field guide to the birds of South-East Asia*, London: Collins) and Ferguson-Lees & Hayman in Gooder (1969, *Birds of the World*, 4 (11), London: IPC Magazine) of the three species of *Chlidonias* very helpful. The distinctively streaked cap joined on hind-crown (as previously described), clearly defined facial pattern, heavy reddish bill, long red legs, the pale even-grey upper surfaces and short blunt tail excluded all but Whiskered Tern. Both AH and BB are familiar with the Black-fronted Tern (*C. albobristatus*) and BB has studied White-winged Black Terns (*C. leucopterus*) in the Firth of Thames. RBS had watched Whiskered Terns in Spain during the previous (northern) summer. He saw the bird on 30 August and agreed with the identification.

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ALBINO WHITE-FACED STORM PETREL

A completely albino White-faced Storm Petrel (*Pelagodroma marina*) was brought into the Museum by Mr Ray Froggatt of Dargaville. It had been found by a farmer on 5 March 1979 about 1 mile inland from Bayleys Beach after a period of strong westerly winds.

Measurements: Culmen 16.6, wing 15.2, tarsus 40.7, mid toe & claw 38, tail 82.3.

Bill yellow with a few reddish patches on both mandibles. Legs dull yellow shading to red on tarsal joint. Webs bright yellow as in normal specimen.

If proved suitable for mounting, this bird will be displayed at the Dargaville Museum.

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