

WHITE-TAILED TROPIC BIRDS ON NORTH AUCKLAND  
WEST COAST BEACHES

While doing the regular monthly patrol of a section of Muriwai Beach with Mrs Claire Exley and Ian Southey on 10 June 1979, I uncovered the wreck of an immature White-tailed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon lepturus*). Although about 2 weeks dead, enough feathering was intact to provide satisfactory identification. Most of the feathers on the head, back, shoulder of wing and outer tail were flecked with black. The outer webs of the primaries were conspicuously black, as were



the feet. Bill grey. Measurements were bill 42.95, tarsus 22.1, mid-toe and claw 36.9, wing 254, tail 145.8. The skeleton has been deposited with the Auckland Museum, and a photograph accompanies this note.

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While beach patrolling on the Aranga-Dargaville west coast beach on 24 February 1979, I picked up a quite fresh White-tailed Tropic Bird (*Phaethon lepturus*). It appeared immature by its plumage but with the two central tail feathers longer than the others. The bird has since been sent by D. E. Crockett to the National Museum, Wellington.

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