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## SHORT NOTE

### WHITE-FACED HERON NESTING ON SOUTH EAST ISLAND, CHATHAM ISLANDS

During 24-30 November 1977, a Wildlife Service party visited South East Island in the Chathams. On 25 November, while walking along the shoreline on the north-east side of the island, we saw a White-faced Heron (*Ardea novaehollandiae*) fly out from beneath a very large boulder. We found a nest placed among three boulders underneath the large one, in the splash zone about 1.5 m above the high-tide line.

The nest was made of bracken with a grass lining. The four sky-blue eggs measured 47.9 x 36.5, 47.7 x 35.3, 48.7 x 35.7, and 47.1 x 36.7 mm. To prevent disturbance, the nest was not examined again. During a subsequent visit, the site was inspected on 13 February 1978. From the droppings around the deserted nest, it was presumed that the pair had successfully raised young.

Although there are some suitable trees for these birds to nest in, the site may have been chosen because of the high winds or to protect the nest against predation by Southern Skuas (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*).

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