

FURTHER RECORDS OF WHITE-FRONTED TERNS

J. B. COX* and IAN A. MAY*

Since the recent publication of a paper concerning White-fronted Terns *Sterna striata* in South Australia (Cox 1977. *S. Aust. Orn.* 27: 179-184), some further records have become known.

1. J. Paton found a desiccated immature specimen on West Island, off Victor Harbor, during August 1968.

2. May saw three White-fronted Terns sitting with Crested Terns *S. bergii* and Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae* amongst kelp heaped upon the beach at Nora Creina, the South-

East of S.A., on 30 April, 1977. The same day, an adult bird was collected 200 metres east of Point [*sic—editor*]; it is now in the South Australian Museum and was examined in the flesh by both authors: plumage not badly worn, nuptial excepting a few white forehead feathers above the white frontal band, and possessing an obvious pink wash on the breast. These birds are the first known April records for the species in S.A., the previous earliest being May 14.

3. J. Eckert obtained a specimen with very worn plumage at MacIntyres Beach, Canunda,

S.A., on May 21, 1977. Because of its worn plumage it was probably a different individual from those seen by May.

The above records are the first known from the South-East of S.A.; but we both believe that the species probably occurs more commonly in that region than these accounts might indicate.

The opportunity is now taken by Cox to point out that unauthorized editorial deletions occurred in his recent paper (*loc. cit.*). Of these, the following are believed to be important.

1. The first paragraph in the section "Identification" (p. 180) originally included a statement, qualifying much of the content matter of this and the previous section ("Recent Observations" p. 179), which reads as follows:

"I had seen all four species (*i.e.* White-fronted, Roseate, Common and Arctic Terns)

on many occasions before most of the above sightings (though only the Common and White-fronted (N.S.W.) in Australia) and have also recently examined specimens of each that are in the South Australian Museum."

2. Alexander (1955) *Birds of the Ocean* remained at the head of the reference list, but the sentence in the third paragraph of the same section (*i.e.* "Identification" — foot of p. 180) which referred to this author was unfortunately deleted. It mentioned that:

"For a good photographic comparison of these features (*i.e.* the differences between the underwings of Common and Arctic Terns when viewed overhead) see Alexander (1955: Plates 35 and 43)."

We wish to thank Joan Paton and John Eckert for granting us permission to publish their records.

** *South Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service.*