

Another Record of the White-tailed Tropic-bird for Australia.—In *The Emu*, vol. xxxviii, page 12, K. A. Hindwood recorded the finding of the remains of an immature White-tailed Tropic-bird on the "South Coast" of New South Wales. He also outlined particulars of the three known authentic records of the bird for Australia.

On January 29, 1939, almost a year after the finding of the above specimen, I noted a further occurrence of the bird. While travelling by car on the heights of the Sydney suburb of Neutral Bay, I sighted a strange bird in the air. It was flying low over the housetops of this rather crowded residential area. I at once stopped the car and, even while the bird was some distance off, I recognized it as a Tropic-bird by its flight and general contour. I am well acquainted with the Red-tailed Tropic-bird of Lord Howe Island and as far as my experience goes the flight of these birds is quite distinct from that of any other family of sea-birds. It then obligingly circled directly overhead three or four times at an altitude of about 50 feet and the white tail streamers were easily visible to the unaided eye. It proved to be a bird in full adult plumage.

Neutral Bay is situated approximately three miles from the open ocean but at no part would it be more than half a mile from the waters of Sydney Harbour. Strong southerly gales had been blowing for several days prior to January 29, but on that day the weather was fine and mild. The gales, whilst probably driving the bird to the shelter of the land, could not have blown it from its normal haunts, which, as stated by Hindwood, include various islands off the north-east of Australia. I later called at the Weather Bureau to seek information on the trend of the wind off the north-east of Australia during the month of January. I was informed that a cyclonic disturbance occurred in that area about January 24 and 25, causing strong winds in a southerly direction. For a couple of weeks prior to that the prevailing wind had been the normal mild north-easterly that blows so regularly at that time of the year. The above-mentioned disturbance on January 24 and 25 could not have driven the bird to the vicinity of Sydney as it could not, in the time, have travelled the distance, which, with the indirect course taken by the wind, would approximate 1,500 miles. Of course, the bird may have been driven down at some previous period and then lingered about the vicinity for some time. I am of the opinion that adverse winds did not account for its presence here, but, as pointed out by Hindwood, the birds probably wander over large areas of ocean and thus some eventually reach Australia.—NORMAN CHAFFER, Roseville, N.S.W., 18/3/39.