

WEST, J.; IMBER, M. J. 1989. Surveys of South Georgian Diving Petrels (*Pelecanoides georgicus*) on Codfish Island. *Notornis* 36: 157-158.

RALPH G. POWLESLAND & ROSS C. PICKARD, *Science & Research Division, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 10420, Wellington;*
MARY H. POWLESLAND, *64 Roseneath Terrace, Wellington 1*



SHORT NOTE

Brown Booby on Farewell Spit gannet colony

On the evening of 6 January 1992, we walked from the lighthouse out to the Australasian Gannet (*Morus serrator*) colony on the Farewell Spit shellbanks. The weather was fine with a light westerly. While still about 1 km from the colony we noticed a large number of gannets in the air, which was extremely unusual. We were too far away to have been the cause. With binoculars HS saw a dark bird among the gannets, which we decided was unlikely to be a juvenile gannet as that would hardly cause such agitation. As we got closer HS identified the bird as a Brown Booby (*Sula leucogaster*), with which he was familiar in Australia.

Eventually we had very good views both on the ground and in the air from some 50 m. The booby was being harassed by the gannets and by the Caspian Terns (*Sterna caspia*) which have a colony alongside the gannets. A Caspian Tern was seen to grab the booby's wing with its bill, while both birds were in flight. While we were watching, the booby landed beside the gannets several times, when the gannets would calm down slightly, but whenever the booby was in the air it was swamped by a cloud of noisy, agitated gannets and Caspian Terns.

There was heavy rain the following morning and when we visited the colony in the early afternoon the booby was no longer there.

This is the first Brown Booby record for Farewell Spit.

J.M. HAWKINS, *772 Atawhai Drive, Nelson*
WILLIE COOK, *Edens Road, Hope, Nelson*
HARRY SMIT, *Alkmaar, The Netherlands*