



*Striking identical poses, a white-fronted tern and chick are pictured at Sulphur Point near Tauranga, while an adult is captured in the act of preening (left). This species is the most common tern in New Zealand, although its future is by no means secure: predators and human disturbance have taken their toll of the bird. In winter many migrate to Australia or to northern New Zealand.*



*Far left: The tables are turned on a wrybill as a cockle attaches itself to its toe. The endemic wrybill is best known for its remarkable sideways turning beak which it uses to "sweep up" food. In December the total population of wrybills (estimated at 5000) travels north after having bred in South Island braided rivers. They will remain in the Firth of Thames, Manukau and Kaipara Harbours and other ports of call until August when they return south. Wrybill flocks are noted for their highly co-ordinated aerial movements (bottom).*