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White tern: p 157.

White Tern *Gygis alba candida* (J.F. Gmelin 1789), Native
1883 Waipu, Northland
1/11/1838 Norfolk Island

It was recorded by Ensign Best at Steele's Point, Norfolk Island on 1/11/1838 (Moore 1985). He described them as "White Swallows", a fairly unmistakable reference.

It is an extremely rare breeder on the Kermadecs with perhaps only ten pairs remaining. Reischek recorded a pair at Waipu in 1883. Cheeseman found the species breeding on Raoul Island in 1887.

Olson (2005) thought there might be three species of White Tern: *G. alba* (South Atlantic); *G. candida* (Indo-Pacific) and *G. microrhyncha* (Marquesas and Kiribati). *G. candida*, was split into two subspecies, the wide-ranging *G. c. candida*, and *G. c. leucopes* found only on Pitcairn and Henderson. Yeung et al. (2009) found *G. a. candida* was the only valid Pacific form, but did not examine *G. a. alba*. Miskelly et al. (2009) listed the Kermadec White Tern as *G. c. royana* Mathews 1912.