

Watola, G. 2011. The Discovery of New Zealand's Birds. (3rd Edition in prep.)
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Page numbers follow Watola, G. 2009 (2nd Edition)
Whiskered tern: p 162.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus javanicus* Horsfield 1821, Vagrant (8)
4/9/1977 Lake Horowhenua, Manawatu
October 2009 Norfolk Island

E.B. Jones wrote in a letter to B.D. Heather that three small terns had been present at Lake Horowhenua for three weeks (Heather & Jones 1979). On 4th September, W.F. Cash and others visited the public domain. Two terns on posts were identified as possible White-winged Black Terns, but they differed by being larger, with longer bills and legs, and a different head pattern. They were subsequently identified as Whiskered Terns.

The finders commented on Black-fronted Terns being so obviously different from Whiskered Terns, as to scarcely deserve comparison. Another Whiskered Tern was recorded in 1978 at the same locality, and a further three records in 1978, 1980 and 1987 at other North Island localities. The first confirmed record from Norfolk Island was in October 2009.