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THE DISTRIBUTION OF ESTRILDINE FINCHES IN QUEENSLAND

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Recently I had the pleasure of reviewing two excellent books on estrildine finches. One was the third edition of Klaus Immelmann's *Australian Finches in Bush and Aviary* (1982). The other was Derek Goodwin's *Estrildid Finches of the World* (1982). Both books were somewhat marred by the inaccuracy of several of the maps showing distribution, especially in Queensland. This has prompted me to draw twelve maps of Queensland outlining the range of the fifteen species native to the State. The numbers on these maps are cross-referenced to the species in the annotated list.

The ranges given in the maps are those occupied at the time of European occupation. Through degradation of habitat and excessive trapping the ranges of several finches have shrunk drastically, especially the Star, Crimson and Gouldian Finches and the white-rumped race of the Black-throated Finch. In contract Zebra and Double-barred Finches have prospered and have recently extended their range to parts of the east coast. However this could be a temporary phenomenon, for the exotic Nutmeg Mannikin is now well-established in the eastern humid and subhumid zones north to Cooktown and is proving a serious competitor to the native finches (Bell, 1961).

1. Red-browed Firetail *Emblema temporale*

   Humid and subhumid zones of northern and eastern Queensland, including Fraser, Bribie and Stradbroke Islands.

2. Diamond Firetail *Emblema guttatum*

   Subhumid and semiarid zones of eastern Queensland, north to the hinterland of Cardwell.

3. Painted Firetail *Emblema pictum*

   Arid northwestern interior, southeast to Opalton (and occasionally to Longreach).

4. Star Finch *Neochmia ruficauda*

Now restricted to coastal plains on Cape York Peninsula. Formerly widespread in eastern Queensland from Cardwell south to Taroom (and probably further, judging from its presence in New South Wales in Gould's time).

5. Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton*

The white-bellied race *evangelinae* (5a) occurs on the coastal plains of Cape York Peninsula. One of the black-bellied races *(phaeton)* is confined to the far northwest; the other *(iredalei)* formerly extended south to the upper Dawson, but is now rare or extinct everywhere south of Ingham.

6. Zebra Finch *Peophila guttata*

Widespread in the arid and semiarid interior, with isolated colonies further east around Townsville and Rockhampton.

7. Double-barred Finch *Poephila bichenovii*

The white-rumped race *bichenovii* is widespread in the semiarid and subhumid zones of Queensland. The black-rumped race *annulosa* of the Kimberley and Northern Territory occasionally visits the far northwest of Queensland southeast to Fountain Springs.

8. Masked Finch *Poephila personata*

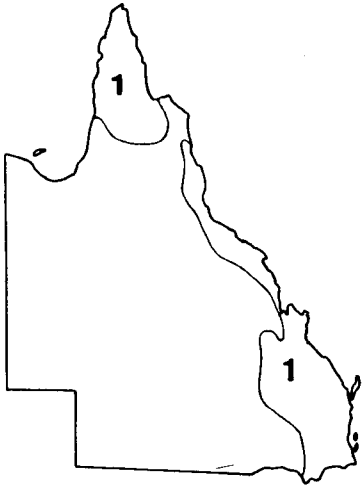
The nominate race is restricted to the far northwest. The white-eared race *leucotis* (8a) is widespread on Cape York Peninsula.

9. Long-tailed Finch *Peophila acuticauda*

Confined to the far northwest, east to the middle and upper Leichhardt.

10. Black-throated Finch *Poephila cincta*

The white-rumped race *cincta* was formerly widespread in the subhumid and semiarid zones of eastern Queensland, but is now extinct in most areas south of the Burdekin. It is replaced on Cape York Peninsula and the Gulf coast (west to the lower Leichhardt) by the black-rumped race *atropygialis* (10a), which hybridizes with the white-rumped race in the south. Contrary to most texts, this finch does not occur in the northern quarter of Cape York Peninsula north of the Archer River.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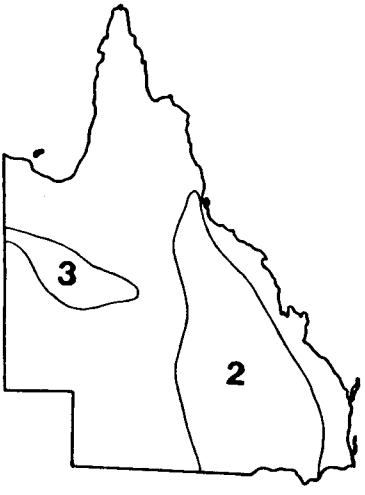
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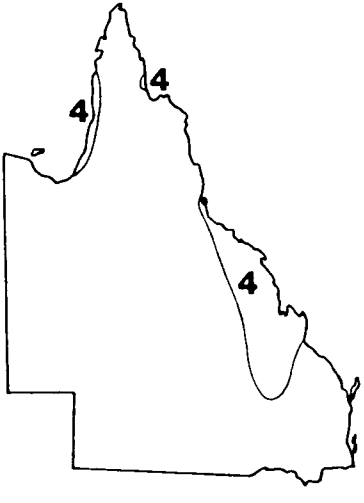
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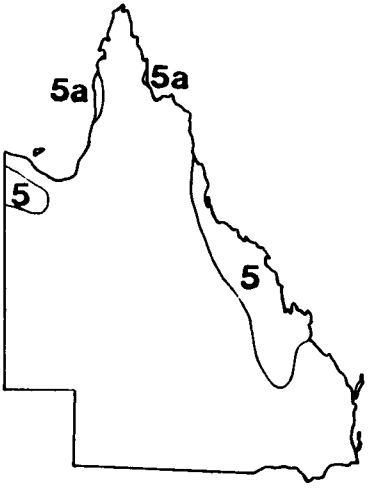
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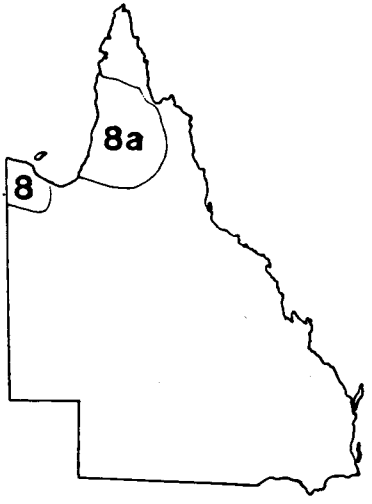
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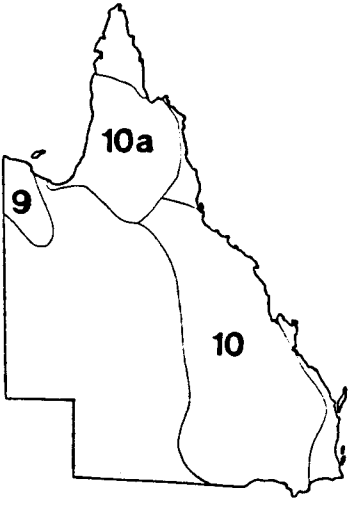
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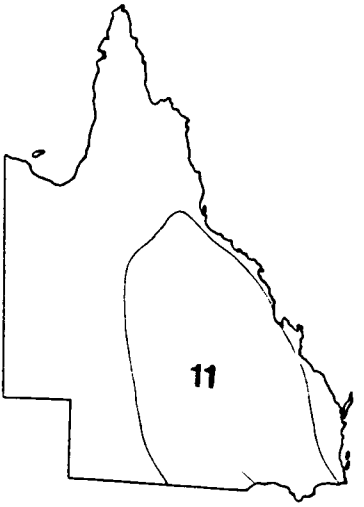
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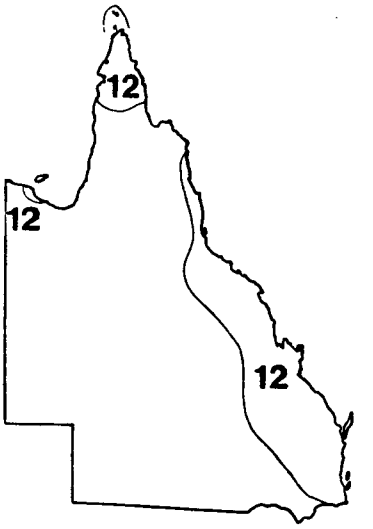
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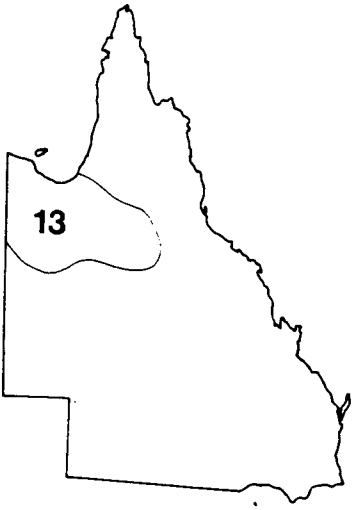
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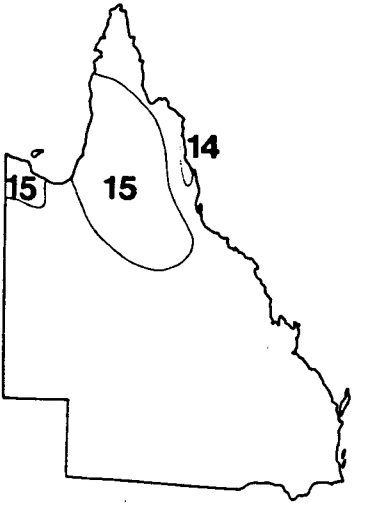
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11. Plum-headed Finch *Aidemosyne modesta*

The stronghold of this finch is the eastern semiarid zone north to the upper Burdekin. It occasionally ranges into adjacent parts of the subhumid and arid zones.

12. Chestnut-breasted Mannikin *Lonchura castaneothorax*

Northern and eastern humid and subhumid zones north to the Torres Strait islands. Also an apparently isolated population in the far northwest (Moonlight Creek).

13. Pictorella Mannikin *Lonchura pectoralis*

Northern arid and semiarid zones east nearly to Charters Towers.

14. Blue-faced Finch *Erythrura trichroa*

Breeding in the humid northeastern highlands from Mt. Finnigan south to Ravenshoe and wintering in adjacent foothills and coastal areas.

15. Gouldian Finch *Erythrura gouldiae*

Northern semiarid and subhumid zones from the Archer River south to Torrens Creek, but now rare or locally extinct. Also formerly in the far northwest.

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REMARKS ON STRUTHIDEA CINEREA DALYI MATHEWS

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Three questions appertain to the nominal taxon *Struthidea cinerea dalyi* Mathews: the whereabouts of its types, the exact position of its type-locality, and its validity as a subspecies.

Mathews (1923) described *dalyi* as follows: 'Differs from *S. c. cinerea* (Gould) in being larger and of a more bluish tinge. Type, Daly Waters, Northern Territory (ex Capt. S.A. White).' The type-material is not in the Mathews Collection, now in the American Museum of National History (Amadon, 1950). Nor is it, as Amadon (1950) suggested, in the H.L. White Collection, now in the Museum of Victoria (B. Gillies, *pers. comm.*). I suspect that Mathews based his description not on specimens before him, but on remarks made in a letter from Captain White. Mathews (1927: 425) stated: "Captain S.A. White writes: Have often met with this strange bird in Queensland and New South Wales ..... When some 20 miles from Daly Waters, Northern Territory, in 1922, upon the overland trip to Darwin, I saw several very large communities of the bird and took specimens; they are larger and of a whitish-bluish tinge." White collected few birds on this trip, and on his return did not unpack them and place them in his skin-cabinets, but left them in the collecting-box, wherein most of them were subsequently destroyed by insects (Mrs. M.B. White, *pers. comm.*). There being no examples of *S. cinerea* among the few skins eventually salvaged from this box, one may conclude that the type-material of *S. c. dalyi* is no longer extant.

In his published account of this trip, White (1923: 227-228) made only one reference to Apostlebirds: "We went into camp at 136 miles [219 km] alongside a fine water-hole ..... Apostle-birds *(Struthidea cinerea)* were seen in large parties." Mrs. White possesses galley proofs of a more detailed account of this trip written by Captain White; from its format, it seems to have been prepared for serialization in a newspaper, but I can find no evidence that it was ever published. In these valuable notes, the waterhole at 136 miles is identified as McGorrerey's Ponds (McGorrery Pond on recent maps), where White's party camped on 3-4 June 1922. I therefore restrict the type-locality of *S. c. dalyi* to McGorrerey's Ponds, 16°26'S, 133°20'E, 19.8 km from Daly Waters on a bearing of 193°.

As to the question whether *S. c. dalyi* is a recognizable subspecies, it would first be useful to ascertain whether the Northern Territory population is isolated, or connected to the main population further east. The elucidation of this point requires the detailing of the species' known distribution in the Northern Territory and north-western Queensland.

Storr (1977: 99) gave the known range of the Apostlebird in the Northern Territory as the northern interior north to 30 km south-west of Katherine, east to Roper Valley, O.T. Downs and Mundah Waterhole, south to Elliott and west to Willeroo (Brandy Bottle Creek), the head of Gregory Creek and No. 12 Bore on the Murranji Stock Route. Storr's analysis of its historical status suggests that the species had been spreading north and west in this region since the 1940's (see also Storr 1973 for details of its expansion in Queensland). New records that extend the known range of this population eastwards are as follows:

1. 118 km east of the Stuart Highway towards Cape Crawford, 14 November 1969, flock in dense Lancewood *Acacia shirleyi* and Bulwaddi *Macropteranthes kekwickii* (S.A. Parker, *pers. obs.*).

2. A few km east of upper October Creek towards Cape Crawford, 3 May 1968, four parties in Lancewood (D.N. Crawford, *in litt.*).

3. 136 km east of Mataranka towards the Roper River Mission, 5 May 1968, party in eucalypt and stunted scrub (D.N. Crawford, *in litt.*).

In the Museum of Victoria there are six specimens labelled 'Borroloola', collected by W.B. Spencer and F.J. Gillen in 1901-1902 (Parker, 1969). I now regard their provenance as doubtful. Although the Macarthur River district has been visited many times by ornithologists since 1902 (for example by G.F. Hill 1911-1912, H.G. Barnard 1913-1914, and in the 1960's by J.L. McKean, R.K. Carruthers, the fifth phase of the Harold Hall Expedition, and myself) no further Apostlebirds have been recorded there. Furthermore (Parker, 1973a: 48), there is reason to suspect that not all specimens from the Spencer-Gillen Expedition bear the correct locality on their labels. Possibly the six skins labelled "Borroloola" were actually collected further west, between O.T. Downs and Newcastle Waters. As for the eggs of *S. cinerea* reported by Le Souëf (1902) as being from the 'Port Darwin District' (about 370 km north-west of Mataranka), this record has already been questioned (Mathews, 1927: 424; Parker, 1973b).

In north-west Queensland, *S. cinerea* has been recorded west to Archie Creek 26 km east of Lawn Hill (J. Kikkawa, *in litt.*; the basis of Storr's (1973: 138) 'Lawn Hill', *fide* G.M. Storr *in litt.*), north to Burketown and Inverleigh and south to the lower slopes of the Mount Isa uplands below 300 m (Storr, 1973; Carruthers, *in litt.*). Here the species occurs mainly in Gutta-percha *Excoecaria parvifolia*, Coolibah *Eucalyptus microtheca*, River Red Gum *E. camaldulensis*, a bauhinia *Lysiphyllum* sp., and a gidyea, probably *Acacia cambagei* (Carruthers and Horton, *in litt.*). At Archie Creek, it was noted in Turpentine-bush *Acacia lysiphloia* (Tracey, *in litt.*), its only recorded occurrence in this widespread shrub.

The centre of distribution of *S. cinerea* in the Northern Territory thus seems to be the great plain north-west of the Barkly Tableland, south to Lake Woods, west to the Victoria River drainage, north to the Daly and Roper drainages and east to the drainage of the Upper Limmen Bight. This area coincides with the heaviest concentrations of Lancewood, Bulwaddi and Gutta-percha in the Northern Territory. Moreover, this population appears on present evidence to be separated from that of north-western Queensland by a gap of 450 km across the northern Barkly Tableland and the borken country to the north draining into the Gulf of Carpentaria. Most of this intervening area is less well-known ornithologically than the areas to the west and east of it, and further observations are needed to determine whether this gap in the known range of *S. cinerea* is real or not.

White (*in* Mathews, 1927: 425) described the type-material of *dalyi* as 'larger and of a whitish-bluish tinge'. Possibly he was comparing it with his only other specimens of *S. cinerea*, male and female from Tubbo, New South Wales (34°38'S, 146°05'E) collected on 6 November 1910. These do indeed have a brownish-grey tone in contrast to the slate-grey tone of recent specimens from the Northern Territory (possibly a result of foxing in the older skins), but a difference in size is not apparent. A brief preliminary comparison of small recent series from the Northern Territory and north-western Queensland revealed no marked differences between these populations, and until such are demonstrated by a more detailed comparison of larger series, I would recommend not recognizing *S.c. dalyi* as a separate subspecies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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RANGE EXTENSION OF GLOSSY BLACK COCKATOOS

RAY PIERCE

The northern limit of distribution of Glossy Black Cockatoos *Calyptorhynchus lathami* is considered to be about the Tropic of Capricorn at Shoalwater Bay (Storr, 1973: 56) although the range extends 'probably to the Mackay district' *(loc. cit.)*. This note documents a nesting record of this species at about 21°10'N in Eungella National Park.

During the early afternoon of 27 June 1983, I was walking through eucalypt woodland adjoining rainforest about one km from Broken River at approximately 500 m a.s.l., when three dark cockatoos flew low overhead. The birds had red panels in their tails, but their soft calls and small size made me discount Red-tailed Black Cockatoos *C. magnificus* , a species with which I had become familiar in norther Queensland during the previous two months. One of the birds flew from view, but the others landed in the upper branches of a tall eucalypt less than 100 m ahead of me. I approached to within five metres of the tree where both birds perched quietly. They were unperturbed by my presence, a feature not shared by Red-tailed Black Cockatoos. By this time, I was confident from their behaviour and relatively dull plumage that both birds were Glossy Black Cockatoos. One of the birds descended the tree to 12 m from the ground where it paused at the entrance to a hole in the main trunk, and was partly obscured from view by epiphytes. After about a minute it entered the hole, evidently the nest site, where it stayed for at least 20 minutes when I left. During this time, the second bird perched in the middle part of the tree, and I photographed it using a 500 mm lens attachment. This bird was later confirmed as a male Glossy Black Cockatoo, by Dr. R. Schodde, CSIRO, Canberra.

At 0800 h on 28 June 1983, I saw 3 Glossy Black Cockatoos flying together about a kilometre from the nest site; one was a male and the others were in female plumage (possibly a female and immatures). Many of the watercourses (the nearest 300-400 km away) in the general area are fringed by Casuarinas, the seeds of which form the staple diet of Glossy Black Cockatoos.

Slides of the nest site and the adult male have been deposited with CSIRO, Division of Wildlife and Rangeland Research, Canberra.

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IDENTIFICATIONS OF CAMPEPHAGIDAE IN VICTORIA

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Panetta (1980) recorded sightings of a male Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela* and an immature Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata* in Victoria. The sightings were outside the normal ranges of the respective species, and in habitats not normally occupied by them. The data given by Panetta *(loc. cit.)* to support the identification of these birds give reasons for assuming the identifications may not be correct.

The Varied Triller was distinguished from the White-winged Triller *L. sueurii* "on the basis of its white eyebrows and more robust shape". The location of the sighting was within the normal range of *L. sueurii*. This species moults into an eclipse plumage from about March to August (Pizzey, 1980) and then acquires a buffy-white stripe above the eye and this plumage is figured by Pizzey *(loc. cit.)* in Plate 82. Panetta does not state if the estimate of "more robust shape" is conjectural or came from a direct comparison with *L. sueurii*. The orange-buff undertail coverts which are diagnostic of the male *L. leucomela* were not mentioned, although the bird was under observation for some ten minutes. From the data presented, it seems more likely that the bird observed by Panetta in May was *L. sueurii* in eclipse plumage, within its normal range, rather than *L. leucomela* as claimed.

"Positive identification" of the immature Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike was claimed "on the basis of its barred sides (which did not extend across its abdomen) and its plaintive whistling call". Juvenile Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes *Coracina novaehollandiae* have distinct fine grey bars on the chest and upper breast and a white abdomen (North, 1904: 105) and this plumage is figured by Pizzey *(loc. cit.)* in Plate 81. I have been unable to locate a description of juvenile or immature *C. lineata* which corresponds to Panetta's description. Reader's Digest (1976) states juvenile *C. lineata* (assumedly birds which have not completed post-juvenile moult) are white below, sometimes vaguely scalloped darker; while immatures, assumedly birds in their first year of life after completion of the post-juvenile moult, are described as less barred below than adults. The immature *C. lineata* figured by Pizzey shows pale, unbarred underparts.

The calls of *C. lineata* in Australia have been variously recorded in recent texts. Cayley (1959) records "an agreeable chatter and a series of soft, murmuring notes". Hill (1967) notes "its bubbling chattering cry is a pleasant call" while Pizzey *(loc. cit.)* ascribes a "pleasant chatter .....: described as 'aw-loo-ack, aw-loo-ack, aw-lack, aw-lack' with tone of toy mouth-organ". These renditions appear to have a common origin, at least in part. Calls recorded by Freeman (1974) ["voice a repetitive chirp"] and Macdonald (1973) ["a weak or soft "chirp""] refer to the same incident in northern Australia. Reader's Digest (1976) records the call as a "short, somewhat nasal whaan singly or repeated". Panetta's "plaintive whistling call" is, of course, open to a variety of interpretations, but does not correspond with any of the above. However Rand and Gilliard (1967) describe the call of *C. lineata* in New Guinea as a "plaintive whistled "whee"". Pizzey *(loc. cit.)* recorded its New Guinea call identically, and doubtlessly quoted from Rand and Gilliard. Slater (1974) listed the call of *C. lineata* for Australia as "a plaintive whistling "whee" or "whee-uk"" and this phrasing makes it reasonably certain that Slater's source was the New Guinea record of Rand and Gilliard. Similarly, it seems likely that Panetta's rendition of the call of the Victorian bird was influenced by Slater's description of the call.

In summary, then, neither Panetta's description of the bird nor his description of its call are convincing support for his identification of the bird as an immature *C. lineata*.

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QUEENSLAND RECORDS OF CHINESE SNIPE

(GALLINAGO MEGALA)

ALLAN EY

During my stay at Iron Range from 23 November 1979 to 27 January 1980, I noticed, in the first week of December, several snipe feeding along the Claudie River. My companions, three bird-watchers from New South Wales, and I were suspicious of the snipe's identity. Because snipe species are notoriously difficult to identify in the field, I collected a specimen on 25 December. The bird proved to be a Chinese snipe *(Gallinago megala)*. The specimen is now in the Queensland Museum and registered as 018673. The details of the specimen are as follows:

Sex - M?	Tail Length - 61 mm;
Weight - 103gm;	Culmen (to skull) - 68.7mm
Total Length - 277mm;	Tarsus - 36mm;
Wing Length - 146mm	No. of Tail Feathers - 22.

Overall, I did not see more than a dozen Chinese Snipe along the Claudie River and associated creeks. Some of them may have been seen more than once because a bird, when flushed, would fly a little further down the river. The vegetation was dense rainforest which often formed a closed canopy over the water-course. Most of the snipe were solitary. They were rarely in pairs. Typically, they were seen feeding around small water-holes. The water-holes were, at a maximum, eight metres across and varied in length up to 30 metres. The snipe were usually found where the water had receded and left a sandy, muddy flat. Occasionally, the water-courses fringed open forest. Once while walking along the bank in this type of vegetation, I flushed a bird from grass about ten metres from the bank. This was the only time I saw Chinese Snipe away from water.

Storr (1973: 39) states that snipe records from north-western Queensland "almost certainly refer to this species", but that no specimens had been collected. Thus Storr *(loc. cit.)* does not definitely record the species for Queensland.

In fact, there are four specimens of *G. megala* from Queensland. Frith *et. al.* (1977: 351) record two specimens: AL White Collection 5804, collected at Coen on 24 March 1922; and American Museum of Natural History Collection 740629 collected at Normanton on 1 April 1914. Furthermore, there are two specimens in the Queensland Museum: 016465 and 016473, both recorded from Booby Island in the Torres Strait on 11 November 1975 and 4 August 1974 respectively.

These records indicate that the Chinese Snipe may be a regular, if uncommon, visitor to north Queensland.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank Glen Ingram from the Queensland Museum for his assistance in the preparation of this note.

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NOTES ON AN INSULAR RAPTOR COMMUNITY

G.V. CZECHURA

The Percy Isles, Northumberland Group, is the most easterly group of Australian continental islands, being located some 95 kilometres offshore. During the period 19-26 July 1982, I had the opportunity to visit one of these islands, South Percy Island (21°45', 150°20'), with officers of the Queensland National parks and Wildlife Service. The visit afforded the opportunity to examine, albeit briefly, the raptor community of a relatively isolated area as part of a general fauna survey of the island.

South Percy Island is approximately 5 km long by 3 km wide, although the distance across the 'horns' of the island, Smith Bluff (north-west) to Chase Point (north-east), is about 6.4 km. The terrain is steep and greatly dissected. The maximum altitude of the island is 193 metres and is attained by an unnamed central knoll. The western side of the island has a large lagoon and extensive rocky beaches present. The northern end around Rocky Shelf Bay supports extensive sandy beaches with occasional rock out-croppings. Our camp was about mid-way along the beach. Permanent fresh-water is scarce, being restricted to one or two small soaks in the central part of the island.

Fifteen habitat zones are recognizable (see below) using broad structural features of the vegetation and/or physical characteristics. Most vegetation types form discrete communities, with sharply demarcated boundaries. The most extensive single habitat type is open forest. It should be noted that many of the vegetation types have suffered from heavy grazing by feral goats *(Capra hircus)*. Control of the goats is possible on South Percy, but not on the larger Middle Percy Island which is suffering severe erosion problems.

Habitat Zones of South Percy Island, M.E.Q.

A. Littoral Habitats - Sandy and stony beaches, tidal reef, rock outcrops.

B. *Callophyllum* Forest and Fringing Forest - Rocky Shelf Bay.

C. Open Forest - Widespread.

D. Heath - *Casuarina/Xanthorrea/Banksia* association, predominant at high elevations or in stony areas.

E. Vine Forest with *Araucaria* emergents.

F. Grassland - (a) Smith Bluff area, western section of island, dominated by *Imperata*.

- (b) Chase Point area in the north-eastern, dominated by *Astridia*.

G. Lagoon - Eastern side of island.

Nine species of raptor were recorded on the island during our stay. The numbers of birds recorded below should reflect actual numbers present on the island at this time, as the size of the island and its relief permit both thorough searches and observations from fixed points. Underestimates may have occurred with Collared Sparrowhawks *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* and Southern Boobooks *Ninox novaeseelandiae* owing to their skulking habits and the rather

dense habitats they favoured. The raptors, numbers of birds recorded, habitats occupied and comments on their occurrence are presented below.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* : 3 (one adult pair, one immature) : A,C.

Most active along Rocky Shelf Bay and around Smith Bluff (north-east corner); nest-site at Howard Islet, which is directly offshore from Smith Bluff; often observed fishing in area of tidal reef during both high and low tides; at low tide observed fishing in gutters and deeper pools.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* : 5 (all adults) : A,B,C,E,F.

Most active over the northern and western beach areas; occasionally oberved soaring over central part of island or scavenging around camp.

Collared Sparrowhawk *Accipiter cirrhocephalus* : 2 (adults) : B,C.

Most sightings made in hills above Rocky shelf Bay; occasionally observed gliding along gully leading to centre of island.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* : 2 (adults) : A,C, D,G.

Active over the western side of the island below Smith Bluff; rarely observed over central area of island.

Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* : 1 : C,D,F.

Active over most of island but more so over central and eastern part of island; sometimes observed feeding on dead goats or carrying portions of a carcass.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco pergrinus* : 2 (adults) : C,D,F,G.

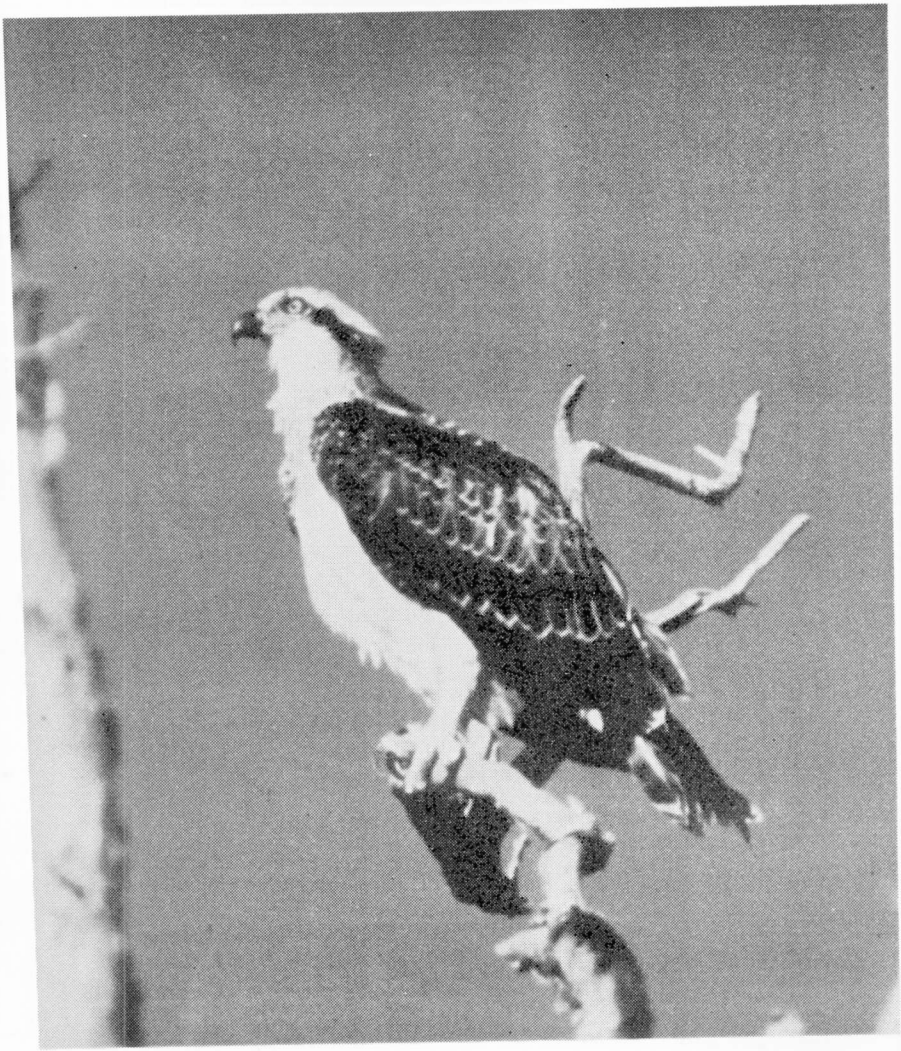
Observed in flight and soaring over central and southern part of island; eyrie suspected but not located among indented cliffs along southern coastline.

Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* : 1 (possible 2) : C,F.

Irregularly observed soaring or in low flight; present in southern and central part of island.

Australian Kestrel *Falco cenchroides* : 2 (adults) : D,F.

Observed hunting over two grassland areas, near Smith Bluff and near Chase Point; on several occasions observed flying between the two areas; often observed soaring over eastern part of island.



1. Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* *(John Moverley)*

Southern Boobook *Ninox novaeseelandiae* : 3 (pairs plus immature) : B,C,E.

One bird found beach-washed at Rocky Shelf Bay; most active along beachfront and hills behind the bay; immature bird observed at roost in gully; pair at regular roost (in E) near campsite.

In view of the small size of South Percy Island, it was somewhat surprising to find such high numbers and diversity of raptors here. This variety probably reflects the diversity of habitats present on the island. Examination of seasonal changes in the composition of the raptor community would prove of interest and should warrant further attention.

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NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

In 1978, the RAOU published the *Recommended English Names for Australian Birds* as a Supplement to *Emu*. Most editors of Australian bird journals adopted the names for their respective journals, in the sound belief that Australia urgently needed consistency in the use of bird venaculars. *Sunbird* continues to follow the Supplement.

Nevertheless, a small proportion of the names evoked a hostile reception from a substantial number of both professional and amateur ornithologists. Many people cogently argue that an institutionalised and popular Australian popular name need not be discarded for one used more widely overseas. Examples include Baillon's Crake and Pacific Baza. On the other hand, for example, there is a strong case for using 'Plover' instead of 'Dotterel'.

Others consider many of the names clumsily involuted (like Pacific Black Duck and Buff-breasted Paradise-Kingfisher) or simply unnecessary when sound names were already in use (for example, Nankeen Night-Heron and Nankeen Kestrel). Still others suggest that group names for distinctive related Australian birds (our 'wrens' and 'warblers' for example) should not be changed to conform with overseas conceptions. Conversely, 'Button-quail', 'Monarch' and others are seen as desirable alterations.

Whatever the polemics, the fact remains that consistency has not been achieved. The RAOU is shortly to produce its 'final' Checklist of Australian Birds in association with the Australian Government. If the RAOU persists in refusing to acknowledge objections, it will be very difficult for editors to continue to resist the not inconsiderable pressure to 'go it alone', and consistency in bird names will continue to be a pipe-dream.

GREG ROBERTS

MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS

Mystery photograph 1. Identify the species. Answer next issue.