

# THE SUNBIRD

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## QUEENSLAND BIRD REPORT, 1983

### INTRODUCTION

The first Queensland Annual Bird Report presents a selection of the State's more interesting bird records for the calendar year of 1983. It proved to be a good year, with six species added or confirmed for the State List : Cook's Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, Ringed Plover, Dunlin, White-necked Petrel, Red-rumped Swallow, the last two new also for Australia. Other highlights included Providence Petrel, Black-winged Petrel, Slender-billed Prion, White-tailed Tropicbird, and Plains-wanderer.

The year began with the continuation of a severe drought, which no doubt explained the unusual concentrations of water birds in the south-east. The breaking of the drought was followed by an exceptionally wet winter, which saw the end of that influx, and ruined the wader prospects for the following seasons.

Records submitted have been vetted by the compiler, and an informal committee. Especially, unusual reports have not been included unless substantiated by detailed fieldnotes, specimen or photograph. Exclusion from this Bird Report in no way implies that a record was considered erroneous.

Nomenclature follows the R.A.O.U. *Recommended English Names for Australian Birds* (1978) *Emu* 77 Supplement). Localities are followed in parentheses, by a regional classification which follows Dahms (1978 *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum*). In the Systematic List, initials of the observers appear after the dates of their observations. A list of observers and their initials appears below. Abbreviations used are:

|     |                       |       |  |
|-----|-----------------------|-------|--|
| bw  | beach washed          | QNPWS | Queensland National<br>Parks and Wild-<br>life Service |
| C   | Cape                  |       |  |
| CQ  | Central Queensland    | QOS   | Queensland Ornitho-<br>logical Society                 |
| Is  | Island                |       |  |
| km  | kilometre             | St    | Station  |
| MEQ | Mid East Queensland   | SA    | South Australia  |
| NP  | National Park         | SCQ   | South Central<br>Queensland                            |
| N   | North                 | SEQ   | South East<br>Queensland                               |
| NEQ | North East Queensland | SWQ   | South West<br>Queensland                               |
| Pt  | Point                 |       |  |
| QM  | Queensland Museum     | WCQ   | West Central<br>Queensland                             |

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Chris Corben  
Greg Czechura  
Tony Palliser  
Greg Roberts  
Anita Smyth

Glen Ingram and Wayne Longmore kindly gave me access to the Queensland Museum specimens.

## LIST OF OBSERVERS

|      |                         |       |                                  |
|------|-------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| D&NA | D & N Anderson          | PM    | P. Mahoney                       |
| RA   | Robert Atherton (QNPWS) | TM    | Tim Murphey                      |
| MA   | Michael Atzeni          | JN    | John Noyce                       |
| KB   | Kevin Bartram           | GN    | Greg Nye                         |
| HB   | Hans Beste              | BO    | Barry O'Dowd                     |
| SB   | Simon Bennett           | TP    | Tony Palliser                    |
| RB   | Ron Brown               | TPA   | T. Parfitt                       |
| VB   | Vic Bushing (QNPWS)     | RP    | Ray Pierce                       |
| TC   | Tony Clarke             | GPI   | G. Piper                         |
| CC   | Chris Corben            | GP    | Garry Porter (QNPWS)             |
| PC   | P. Cox                  | JP    | Jim Porter                       |
| JCr  | John Crowhurst          | NP    | Neil Powell                      |
| JC   | Jenny Curnow (QNPWS)    | AP    | Ashley Pyle                      |
| GC   | Greg Czechura           | TR    | Terry Reis                       |
| GD   | Gerry Daly              | DRE   | David Redhead                    |
| AD   | Alan Dampney            | DR    | Darell Riemer (QNPWS)            |
| RD   | R. Davis                | GR    | Greg Roberts                     |
| DE   | David Eades             | P&MRP | & M Roe                          |
| BF   | Brian Foulis            | R&LS  | R & L Sharrock                   |
| AGT  | Abby Grant-Taylor       | AS    | Anita Smyth                      |
| A&BG | A & B Green             | ES    | E. Sticklen                      |
| HH   | Harry Hines             | DAS   | David Stewart (Moray-<br>field)  |
| GH   | Glen Holmes             | DS    | David Stewart (Mullum-<br>bimby) |
| JH   | J. Hood                 | ST    | S. Templewatts                   |
| GI   | Glen Ingram             | SV    | Steve Van Dyke                   |
| JI   | John Izzard             | IV    | Ian Venables                     |
| BJ   | B. Jahnke               | DW    | Dennis Watson                    |
| DJ   | David James             | LW    | Lenore Wedgewood                 |
| NJ   | N. Julian               | KW    | Keith Williams                   |
| D&JL | Dawn & J. Lake          | MW    | M. Wilson                        |
| PL   | Peter Lansley           | CW    | Carol Wingate                    |
| GL   | Graham Leach            | JW    | John Wren                        |
| AM   | Alan McBride            | JY    | J. Yesbery                       |
| PMC  | Pat McConnell           |       |                                  |
| DM   | Dawn Maggary            |       |                                  |

## SYSTEMATIC LIST

**Great-crested Grebe** *Podiceps cristatus*. Many records received from SEQ, with c.600 on Somerset Dam (SEQ) July 27 ST, being the most outstanding record; also two birds at Lake Corella (WCQ) May 25 JW.

**Hoary-headed Grebe** *Poliiocephalus poliocephalus*. Common in SEQ, especially in the Brisbane Valley, (SEQ) during the first half of the year. Virtually absent in the second half.

**Black-browed Albatross** *Diomedea melanophris*. Single birds off Pt. Lookout (SEQ) May 25, June 12 & 13, July 11, 16 & 17, Sept. 25 CC, TP, DAS: Two bw on Eastern Beach (Moreton Is SEQ) June 25; one bw on Ocean Beach (Moreton Is SEQ) during July, both VB. All specimens in QM.

**Shy Albatross** *Diomedea cauta*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout July 11 CC, GD, GI, TP, DAS.

**Southern Giant-Petrel** *Macronectes giganteus*. One bird off Pt. Lookout July 11 CC, GD, GI, TP, DAS; one found bw on Eastern Beach (Moreton Is) June 25 VB.

**White-necked Petrel** *Pterodroma cervicalis*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout Feb 20 CC, AM, TP, AS, DAS - first Australian record. Smyth, A.K. and Corben, C. 1984. Seabird observations on North Stradbroke Island. In *Focus on Stradbroke* (R.J. Coleman, J. Covacevich, P. Davie ed.) pp 363-369. Brisbane: Boolarong Publ.

**Great-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma macroptera*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout June 5 CC, TP, DAS; one bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) during July AGT, GI.

**Providence Petrel** *Pterodroma solandri*. One off Pt. Lookout June 5 CC, TP; one bw on Frenchmans Beach (N. Stradbroke Is SEQ) June 14 LW. Specimen in QM; several sightings from Pt. Lookout July 16 & 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS.

**Tahiti Petrel** *Pterodroma rostrata*. Two seen on edge of continental shelf off C. Moreton (SEQ) QOS Boat Trip.

**Black-winged Petrel** *Pterodroma nigripennis*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout Dec. 29 CC, AS.

**Cook's Petrel** *Pterodroma cookii*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout Feb 20 CC, AM, AS, DAS, first Queensland record.

**Slender-billed Prion** *Pachyptila belcheri*. Three off Pt. Lookout July 11 CC, GD, GI, TP, DAS; one from same locality July 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS. (4th & 5th Queensland records respectively).

**Fairy Prion** *Pachyptila turtur*. Two bw near Rainbow Beach (SEQ) July 7 DAS; many birds off Pt. Lookout July 9 & 10 CC, GD, TP, DAS; and July 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS.

**Flesh-footed Shearwater** *Puffinus carneipes*. All sight records from Pt. Lookout: one on Feb 1 CC; two on Feb 6 CC, AS; five on Feb 19 & 20 CC, AM, TP, AS, DAS, DAS; ten on Sept 25 CC, TP, DAS; one on Dec 11 CC; one on Dec 24 & 25 CC, AS; c.30 on Dec 26 CC, AS.

**Wedge-tailed Shearwater** *Puffinus pacificus*. Small colony breeding at Camel Rock (N. Stradbroke Is) Jan 5, and still present March 31 HH. This is the most southerly breeding record in Queensland, for the species.

**Buller's Shearwater** *Puffinus bulleri*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout Jan 1 CC, TC, AS - first Queensland Record; two off Pt. Lookout Dec 29 CC, AS. *ibid.*

**Streaked Shearwater** *Calonectris leucomelas*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout: March 1 & 2 KB, DE and Dec 25 CC, AS. *ibid.*

**Fluttering Shearwater** *Puffinus gavia*. One bw on Moreton Is Aug 4 VB, specimen in QM.

**Hutton's Shearwater** *Puffinus huttoni*. All sightings off Pt. Lookout: one on April 10 CC, GD, DAS; three on June 5 CC, TP, DAS; one on June 13 CC, DJ, DAS; four on July 11 CC, GD, DAS; two on July 16 CC, GD, GI, DAS; five on July 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS; one on Aug 7 CC, TP, DAS.

**Little Shearwater** *Puffinus assimilis*. One bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) during July AGT, GI.

**Wilson's Storm-Petrel** *Oceanites oceanicus*. Seven seen at edge of continental shelf off C. Moreton Oct 15 QOS Boat Trip; also at same locality Nov 12 QOS Boat Trip.

**White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*. One bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) during July AGT, GI.

**Australasian Gannet** *Morus serrator*. Observed at Great Keppel Is (MEQ) June 21 PM; one juvenile off Heron Is (MEQ) July 11 DE.

**Masked Booby** *Sula dactylatra*. All sightings of single birds off Pt. Lookout: Jan 1 & 2 TC, CC, AS, DAS; Feb 6 CC, TP, AS; Feb 19 CC, AM, TP, AS, DS, DAS; March 3 KB, DE, JI, GH; March 5 BF, PMC, TR; April 4 HH; one bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) May 2 CC, TP, DAS.

**Lesser Frigatebird** *Fregata ariel*. All sightings off Pt. Lookout. One Jan 1 TC, CC, AS, DAS; two Feb 2 CC, TP, AS; one March 1 KB, DE, JI, GH; two March 2 KB, DE, JI, GH; four April 4 HH; one May 1 CC, TP, AS, DAS; one Dec 29 CC, AS.

**White-tailed Tropicbird** *Phaethon lepturus*. Single bird bw near Eager Swamp (Moreton Is) Jan 10 JC, now in QM.

**Little Bittern** *Ixobrychus minutus*. One near Tamborine Village (SEQ) March 27 TP; one near Redcliffe Airport (SEQ) Dec 15 CC, GD, DJ, AS, DAS; one at Lytton (SEQ) Dec 29 CC, AS.

**Black Bittern** *Dupetor flavicollis*. One at St. Lawrence (MEQ) Dec 14 ES.

**Black-necked Stork** *Zenorhynchus asiaticus*. Recorded breeding at Bald Hills (SEQ) during the year by many observers.

**Glossy Ibis** *Plegadis falcinellus*. Widespread in SEQ in the first half of the year, but apparently absent from SEQ in the second half.

**Magpie Goose** *Ahseranas semipalmatus*. 88 at Atkinson's Dam (SEQ) mid Jan IV, still present Jan 22 CC, TP, AS; seven at Albany Creek (SEQ) April 2 D&NA; 18 at Sandgate Lagoon (SEQ) Oct 29 ES; four at Oxenford (SEQ) ES. This species had been absent from SEQ for many years.

**Wandering Whistling-Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata*. Present in larger numbers than usual in SEQ in first half of the year. About 10 birds at Lytton all year.

**Black Swan** *Cygnus atratus*. 245 at Samsonvale (SEQ) Nov 20 ES; eight at Lake Moondarra (Mt. Isa WCQ) Dec 1 ES.

**Freckled Duck** *Stricktonetta naevosa*. Small invasion into SEQ in Jan & Feb (only significant or maximum numbers are given for each locality). One at Hood's Lagoon (SEQ) Jan 3 MA, PMC; 34 at Seven Mile Lagoon (SEQ) during Jan CC, DS; five at Hood's Lagoon Jan 15 TR; eight at Krasches Lagoon (SEQ) Jan 30 MA; one at Gooby Dam (SEQ) Jan 31 MA; last record for SEQ was one at Hood's Lagoon Feb 26 MA; also reported from Dynevor Lake (SWQ) Sept. 24 BJ; and same locality Dec 27 GD, BF, TR, DAS.

**Australian Shelduck** *Tadorna tadornoides*. Single bird at Dyer's Lagoon (SEQ) March 1 PMC, TR.

**Radjah Shelduck** *Tadorna radjah*. Four on the Cairns Esplanade (NEQ) Sept. 1 DM; eight at St. Lawrence Dec 14 ES.

**Australian Shoveller** *Anas rhynchos*. Single bird at Hasties Swamp (NEQ) May 1 DM.

**Pink-eared Duck** *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*. Another species numerous during the first half of the year in SEQ, with numbers decreasing in the last half. C.100 recorded at Geera (CQ) Nov 25 ES; 12 at Lake Moondarra Dec 1 ES.

**Cotton Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus coramandelianus*. Present at Aitkinson's Dam Jan, Feb, Oct, Nov and Dec, with maximum of ten Dec 18 KB, GR, AS, DAS; numerous around Biloela (SEQ) between March 15 and May 1 PMC; two at Lake Clarendon (SEQ) Sept 18 ES.

**Green Pygmy-Goose** *Nettapus pulchellus*. 12 at Lake Moondarra Dec 1 ES.

**Musk Duck** *Biziura lobata*. One at Aitkinson's Dam Jan 22 CC, AS; one near Beerwah (SEQ) Feb 6 GC, DAS; one on N. Stradbroke Is May 2 CC, TP, AS, DAS; one at Lake Clarendon Aug 17 ES; one at Dynevor Lakes Sept 24 BJ; one at Hood's Lagoon Dec 19 MA.

**Pacific Baza** *Aviceda subcristata*. Single bird near St. George (SCQ) Nov 15 BO.

**Black Kite** *Milvus migrans*. Several SEQ records, all in first half of year. One east of South Brook (SEQ) Feb 25 MA; one at Kallangur (SEQ) March 21 JN; two at Morayfield (SEQ) March 30 DAS; one at Moogerah (SEQ) April 16 PM; one at Burpengary (SEQ) May 30 GC; one two km east of Caboolture (SEQ) June 2 GC; one at Banyo Cemetary (SEQ) late July PC.

**Square-tailed Kite** *Lophoictinia isura*. One at Julatten (NEQ) April 3 AD, AM; one at Kenmore (SEQ) April 25 PM; one near Boonooroo (SEQ) Aug 13 CC *et al*; one near Moonie (SCQ) Oct 10 PMC, DAS.

**Black-breasted Kite** *Hamirostra melanosternon*. Single bird near Quilpie (SWQ) April 1 MA, PMC, TP, TR; reported between "South Plains" and Lake Eliza (SCQ), and between Cunnamulla and Thargomindah (SWQ) during Sept IV *et al*.

**Red Goshawk** *Accipiter radiatus*. One south of Bundaberg (SEQ) Feb 26 BF, PMC, TR; one at "Egypt" (via Helidon SEQ) June 11 & 12 GC.

**Black Falcon** *Falco subniger*. Two 5 km west of Wyeema (SEQ) Jan 17 MA; single birds at Lake Clarendon, Seven Mile Lagoon Jan 28 CC, AS; one at Lake Broadwater (SEQ) April 7 MW; one at Samford Swamp (SEQ) Aug 14 ES.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*. Recorded between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill (SWQ), and between "Kyeenee" and Yowah (SWQ) during Sept IV *et al*.

**Australian Hobby** *Falco longipennis*. Single birds at Archerfield (SEQ) April 9, along Herston Rd (SEQ) July 8, both ES.

**Grey Falcon** *Falco hypoleucos*. One at Seven Mile Lagoon Jan 22 CC, AS; also between Cunnamulla and Thargomindah, between "Kyeenee" and Yowah, and between Quilpie and "Wallumbilla" (SWQ) during Sept IV *et al*.

**Brown Quail** *Coturnix australis*. Two at Mica Creek (Mt. Isa WCQ) Nov 30 ES.





1. Great-winged Petrel *Pterodroma macroptera* photographed off Sydney on 28 January 1984 (Chris Corben)



2. Providence Petrel *Pterodroma solandri* photographed off Sydney on 28 May 1983 (Chris Corben)



3. Arctic Tern *Sterna paradisaea* photographed off Sydney in June 1983 (Chris Corben)



4. Spotless Crake *Porzana tabuensis* photographed at Hobart in May 1979 (Chris Corben)

**King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis*. One pair near North Pine Dam (SEQ) Oct 23 GL, HH.

**Black-breasted Button-quail** *Turnix velox*. Parties of eight and six near Little Yabba Creek (Conondale Range SEQ) May 19 & 21 GR; two at Ravensbourne NP (SEQ) May 30 PMC; two near Little Yabba Creek Sept 17 DAS.

**Red-chested Button-quail** *Turnix pyrrhothorax*. Single bird flushed from edge of Atkinson's Dam Jan 28 CC; one at Biloela May 7 PMC.

**Plains-wanderer** *Pedionomus torquatus*. Two at Davenport Downs (SWQ) one juvenile collected (now in QM) July 11 RA, GP, DR. Second record for Queensland in recent times, both have been in the Channel Country.

**Buff-banded Rail** *Rallus phillippensis*. Breeding at Pinkenba (SEQ) Nov 20 ES.

**Lewin's Rail** *Rallus pectoralis*. One female dead at Mt. Belthorpe (SEQ) Sept 15 TP; another dead near the Cairns Esplanade Oct 16 DM.

**Baillon's Crake** *Porzana pusilla*. Recorded at Hood's Lagoon Jan 15 TR; one near Tamborine (SEQ) Oct 19 TP; one at the Sherwood Arboretum (SEQ) Nov 12 ES.

**Australian Crake** *Porzana fluminea*. Two near Tamborine Oct 19 TP; one collected at Davenport Downs Nov 14 RA, GP, specimen in QM.

**Spotless Crake** *Porzana tabuensis*. One at Lytton March 20 GL; one near Tamborine March 27 TP; one near Redcliffe Airport Dec 18 CC, GD, AS, DAS.

**Bush-hen** *Gallinula olivacea*. One near Beerwah Feb 6 GC, DAS.

**Black-tailed Native-hen** *Gallinula ventralis*. One at Atkinson's Dam Feb 12 DAS. First record for SEQ; c.50 at Fort Constantine (North of Cloncurry WCQ) March 6 JW.

**Purple Swamphen** *Porphyrio porphyrio*. One at Lake Corella Dec 4 ES.

**Brolga** *Grus rubicundus*. Two at Lytton April 4 GP; also 100 km south of Thargomindah Aug 30 AM, DS; one at Brisbane Airport Sept 22 ES.

**Australian Bustard** *Ardeotis australis*. One at Biloela March 22, and May 9 PMC; two 40 km west of Windorah (SWQ) April 3 MA.

**Bush Thick-knee** *Burhinus magnirostris*. One breeding record from Brookfield (SEQ) Nov 2 JY.

**Beach Thick-knee** *Burhinus neglectus*. One on Bribie Is (SEQ) March 16 JN; one on Great Keppel Is June 21 PM.

**Painted Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*. One at Hood's Lagoon Jan 1 MA, PMC; three (two males and one female) at Atkinson's Dam Jan 28 AS; two Feb 13 CC, TP, DAS and one June 13 TP.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*. One bird of northern race *V.m. miles* recorded at Seven Mile Lagoon Jan 22 CC, AS.

**Red-kneed Dotteral** *Erythrogonys cinctus*. Recorded in first half year, in SEQ, apparently absent from SEQ in second half. Also recorded between Beetoota and Birdsville (SWQ) Feb 19 to 26 GC.

**Ringed Plover** *Charadrius hiaticula*. One at Boonooroo July 17 D&JL. First Queensland record. Seen by many people, with the last being Aug 23 MA, PMC.

**Large Sand-Plover** *Charadrius leschenaultii*. Present in large numbers only at Scarborough (SEQ) and Thornside (SEQ).

**Oriental Plover** *Charadrius veredus*. Two at "X" Waterhole, via Durrie (SWQ) Feb 21 GC; one on the Cairns Esplanade during Aug JCr.

**Inland Dotteral** *Peltohyas australis*. Six 36 km west of Thargomindah Aug 29 AM, DS; 14 30 km west of Bulloo Downs (SWQ) Aug 31 AM, DS.

**Red-necked Avocet** *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*. Recorded at various locations in SEQ during Feb, March, April and Dec, with a maximum of c.200 at Lytton during April GPI.

**Little Whimbrel** *Numenius minutus*. 27 at Luggage Point (SEQ) Oct 17 DJ, BO, DAS; one near the Cairns Esplanade from Nov 5 to 10, and another in grounds of Cairns Hospital (NEQ) Nov 5 to Dec 3, both DM.

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*. Two at Tommy Dontra Waterhole, Glengyle St. (SWQ) Feb 26 GC.

**Common Sandpiper** *Tringa hypoleucos*. One at Dunwich (SEQ) Feb 5 TP; one at Pierikoola Waterhole (SEQ) Feb 20 GC; one near the mouth of the Brisbane River (SEQ) Nov 5 AS; one at Luggage Point Dec 2 GD, BO, DAS.

**Asian Dowitcher** *Limnodromus semipalmatus*. Single birds at Lytton Jan 3 TP, IV; five Jan 6 AS, RB, Dec 17 CC, DJ, BO, DAS.

**Curlew Sandpiper** *Calidris ferruginea*. Recorded at Mt. Leonard Tank (Beetoota SWQ) Feb 18, Pierikoola Waterhole Feb 20, Tommy Dontra Waterhole Glengyle St. Feb 26 all GC; also at Barcaldine (WCQ) Sept 26 HH; between "South Plains" and Lake Eliza during Sept IV *et al.*

**Dunlin** *Calidris alpina*. Single bird observed on the Cairns Esplanade Jan 4 GR, first Queensland record. Roberts G. 1983. Sighting of Dunlin *Calidris alpina* in North Queensland and a review of Australian Dunlin records. *Sunbird* 13:15-19.

**Sanderling** *Calidris alba*. 14 birds at Amity Point (SEQ) May 8 CC, TP, NP, DAS; 13 on the Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) June 12 CC, BF, DJ, PMC, TP, TR, DAS; two at Scarborough Oct 9 DAS and four Oct 29 CC, DAS.

**Broad-billed Sandpiper** *Limicola falcinellus*. Two at Clontarf (SEQ) Feb 7 DAS; one at same locality Feb 21 DAS; two at Scarborough March 5 KB, CC, DE, DAS; one at Luggage Point May 7 CC, NP, DAS.

**Ruff** *Philomachus pugnax*. One at Myrtle town Oct 15 ES.

**Australian Pratincole** *Stiltia isabella*. c.600 at Cloncurry Airport (WCQ) Dec 30 JW.

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*. Recorded at Lake Broadwater Apr 7 MW.

**White-winged Black Tern** *Chlidonias leucoptera*. 20 at Samsonvale (SEQ) many in alternate plumage April 4 ES; 40 recorded near Brisbane Airport April 30 ES; 100 at Myrtle-town May 2 and five May 7, all in alternate plumage ES.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo*. Winter records include 38 birds at Redcliffe July 4 CC, DE, DAS; 15 Aug 1 DAS; also at Pt. Lookout Sept 11 CC, TP, SB, BO, DAS.

**Arctic Tern** *Sterna paradisaea*. Single bird off Pt. Lookout June 11, 12 & 13, July 10 & 11, Aug 7 CC, GD, TP, DAS. Smyth, A. and Corben, C. *op cit*.

**Roseate Tern** *Sterna dougallii*. Maximum of six birds on Heron Is, two in alternate plumage June 6 AS and four in various plumages July 7-12 DE, AS.

**White-fronted Tern** *Sterna striata*. All sightings off Pt. Lookout on July 9 CC, GD, GI, DAS; one on July 10 & 11 CC, GD, GI, DAS; one on July 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS; two on Aug 7 CC, TP, DAS.

**Sooty Tern** *Sterna fuscata*. Southerly records include one at Pt. Lookout Feb 19 CC, TP, AS; one bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) March 2 KB, DE; one off Pt. Lookout Oct 15 GP; several on continental shelf off C. Moreton Nov 12 QOS Boat Trip.

**Lesser Crested Tern** *Sterna bengalensis*. Birds seen from Pt. Lookout: one on May 1 CC, TP, AS, DAS; five on May 8 CC, TP, NP, DAS; three on June 12 CC, TP, DAS; 15 at Southport Spit (SEQ) May 15 TP; one at Amity Point June 11 CC, TP, DAS; recorded at Yeppon (MEQ) June 21 PM.

**Common Noddy** *Anous stolidus*. Recorded throughout the year in southern regions. Large groups of hundreds of birds seen off Pt. Lookout on July 10 & 11 CC, GD, TP, DAS; July 16 & 17 CC, GD, GI, DAS.

**Black Noddy** *Anous minutus*. Seen from Pt. Lookout: Five on Jan 1 & 2 TC, CC, AS, DAS; three on May 8 CC, TP, NP, DAS; one on June 15 CC, TP, AS; one on Sept 25 CC, TP, DAS; two on Dec 11 CC; one on Dec 24 & 26 CC, AS; also recorded at Adder Rock (N. Stradbroke Is) May 8 CC, TP, DAS.

**Grey Ternlet** *Procelsterna albivittata*. One bw on Main Beach (N. Stradbroke Is) March 2 KB, DE.

**White Tern** *Gygis alba*. One bw near Currumbin (SEQ) in March, specimen in QM (anonymous donation); one seen from Pt. Lookout June 5 CC, TP, DAS.

**Superb Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus superbus*. Recorded at Kroombit Tops (SEQ) Dec 11 GC.

**Rose-crowned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus regina*. Winter records from SEQ include: one at Heron Is July 8 AS; one at Pt. Lookout June 27 HH; one at Myora (N. Stradbroke Is SEQ) Aug 7 CC, TP; one at Redwood Par, (SEQ) June 8 PMC.

**White-headed Pigeon** *Columba livia*. Six at Chappel Hill (SEQ) Oct 9 HH, GL and four Oct 22 HH.

**Brown Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia amboinensis*. Recorded at Everton Hills (SEQ) June 28 RE; also at Pt. Lookout June 29 HH.

**Common Bronzewing** *Phaps chalcoptera*. One at Cairns May 28 DM.

**Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus magnifica*. Six at Ban Ban Springs (100 km north-east of Jundah SWQ) Feb 26 BF, PMC, TR; one flock of c.1000 at Lakefield NP (NEQ) May 30 DM.

**Glossy Black-Cockatoo** *Calyptorhynchus lathami*. Observed on N. Stradbroke Is July 17 AP; breeding in Eungulla NP (MEQ) during July RP. Pierce R. 1984. Range extension of Glossy Black-Cockatoo. *Sunbird*. 14:10-11.

**Little Corella** *Cacatua sanguinea*. One at Inglewood (SEQ) Sept 4 TR.

**Pink Cockatoo** *Cacatua leadbeateri*. Six birds at Goondiwindi (SEQ) July 15 MA, BF, PMC, TR.

**Musk Lorikeet** *Glossopsitta concina*. All records from SEQ; 12 at "Egypt" (SEQ) May 8 GC; large numbers at South Toowoomba (SEQ) June 27 MA; recorded at North Toowoomba Sept 5 MA; two at Picnic Point (Toowoomba SEQ) Sept 26 MA; also recorded at North Ipswich (SEQ) Nov 7 KW.

**Red-winged Parrot** *Aprosmictus erythropterus*. One dead at Burpengary Feb 14 RD.

**Ground Parrot** *Pezoporus wallicus*. Three in Cooloola NP (SEQ) Aug 24 MA, PMC; three at same locality Dec 20 BO, DAS.

**Budgerigar** *Melopsittacus undulatus*. Recorded at Claremont (SEQ) April 23 and Rolleston (SEQ) April 24, both DN; small flock at Biloela May 5 PMC.

**Swift Parrot** *Lathamus discolor*. One at Atkinson's Dam May 15 CC, TR; also at Wynnum (SEQ) June 3 DW; two seen 4 km west of Toorbul (SEQ) July 16 GC.

**Crimson Rosella** *Platycercus elegans*. Two at Sandgate Lagoon Oct 29 ES.

**Red-rumped Parrot** *Psephotus haematonotus*. One at Cannon Hill (SEQ) Oct 1 DW; 14 at Brisbane Airport Nov 20 ES.

**Bourke's Parrot** *Neophema bourkii*. Recorded between Cunnamulla and Thargomindah, between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill, between "Kyeenee" and Yowah, and between Quilpie and "Wallumbilla" during Sept IV *et al*; two 5 km west of Eulo (SWQ) Dec 25 & 26 GD, TR, DAS.

**Oriental Cuckoo** *Cuculus saturatus*. One immature at Riverside Park (Mt. Isa WCQ) Nov 30 ES; one dead at Paddington (SEQ) Dec 9 NJ, specimen in QM.

**Brush Cuckoo** *Cuculus variolosus*. One fledgling being fed by White-throated Honeyeater *Melithreptus albogularis* at Julatten April 3 AD, AM.

**Black-eared Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx osculans*. Recorded 38 km east of Adavale Aug 28 AM, DS; two at Charters Towers (MEQ) Dec 12 ES.

**Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx malayanus*. One at Tallegalla (SEQ) Sep 11 GL, HH; three at Kallangur Oct 1 ES; two at Tallegalla Oct 9 GL; single bird at Flying Fox (Canungra SEQ) Nov 12 and Charters Towers Dec 8, both ES.



**Powerful Owl** *Ninox strenua*. One in Conondale Range April 16 CC, TP; one at Kedron (SEQ) Aug 11 A&BG; two immatures in Goomburra State Park (SEQ) Nov 19 PMC, TR.

**Barking Owl** *Ninox connivens*. One 3 km north of Dalby (SEQ) during April MW; one at Mt. Lewis (NEQ) April 2 AD, AM; one at Mundubbera (SEQ) April 22 PMC; single bird on Cairns Esplanade between May and July DM.

**Masked Owl** *Tyto novaehollandiae*. Five in the Conondale Range during the year CC; breeding with one fledgling, Little Yabba Creek (Conondale Range) May 20 GR: one dead 25 km north of Caboolture June 19 DAS, specimen in QM; one at Mt. Nebo (SEQ) July 7 GR; one dead 3 km south of Caloundra turnoff (Bruce H'way SEQ) Aug 23 MA, PMC.

**Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris*. One dead at Lytton Sept 9 CC, SB, DAS; several sightings of two birds at Luggage Point from Dec 1 BO to Dec 16 DJ, DAS.

**Sooty Owl** *Tyto tenebricosa*. Three birds in Conondale Range during the year CC; one at Mt. Nebo April 29 GI, AM, GR; one at Mt. Manarina (SEQ) July 7 GR; one dead near Atherton (NEQ) July 23 SV; two near O'Reilly's (SEQ) July 29 GR; one at Mt. Manarina Aug 10 CC, NP, TR, AS, DAS; one at Goomburra NP Sept 21 PMC; one 2 km south of Mt. Gerald (Sunday Creek Rd SEQ) Oct 29 GC; one at Tamborine NP (SEQ) Dec 16 DJ, DAS.

**Marbled Frogmouth** *Podargus ocellatus*. Several records (SEQ, NEQ) to be published elsewhere.

**Spotted Nightjar** *Caprimulgus guttatus*. Breeding between "Kyeenee" and Yowah during Sept IV *et al*.

**White-throated Needletail** *Hirundapus caudacutus*. Last record received for 82/83 summer was a small flock at Mt. Lewis April 2 AD, AM; also c. 100 birds at Tambo (SCQ) Dec 24 ES.

**Fork-tailed Swift** *Apus pacificus*. 80 at Boongaree (SEQ) March 24 JN.

**Blue-winged Kookaburra** *Dacelo leachii*. Recorded at Prezlua (SEQ) June 12 GL, HH; two at Harrisville (SEQ) Aug 21 ES; also near Atkinson's Dam Oct 31 MA.

**Noisy Pitta** *Pitta versicolor*. One dead at Stafford (SEQ) May 12 HH; two at Indooroopilly (SEQ) June 5 IV; also seen on South Stradbroke Is (SEQ) July 13 P&MR.

**White-backed Swallow** *Cheramoeca leucosternum*. Observed at Long Pocket (SEQ) April 18 DA; 23 birds at Flagstone Creek (SEQ) May 8 GC.

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*. Six at Gurradunga (NEQ) March 14 KB, GR, DAS.

**Red-rumped Swallow** *Hirundo daurica*. Eight birds near Daintree River Ferry (NEQ) Feb 12 DM, first Australian record; a maximum of ten at same locality March 10-11 KB, CC, DE, TP, DAS; one bird still present April 19 HB.

**White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina papuensis*. Recorded at Albany Creek (SEQ) April 2 D&NA; also at The Gap (SEQ) June 6, and Aug 3, both TM.

**Yellow-eyed Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina lineata*. Five or six at Helidon April 8 MA.

**Ground Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina maxima*. Recorded at Gooby Dam Jan 31, two at Lockier Swamp (SEQ) April 14, both MA; four at Seven Mile Lagoon Aug 17 TP.

**Jacky winter** *Microeca leucophaea*. Recorded at Kenmore (SEQ) April 16 PM.

**Little Shrike-thrush** *Colluricincla megarhyncha*. Recorded at Brookfield (SEQ) June 12 DA.

**White-eared Monarch** *Monarcha leucotis*. One at Little Yabba Creek (Conondale Range) Nov 7 PMC, TR; three including one juvenile at same locality Nov 18 KB, GR, AS, DAS.

**Satin Flycatcher** *Myiagra cyanoleuca*. Recorded at Coopers Plains (SEQ) Jan 27 CW.

**Cinnamon Quail-thrush** *Cinlosoma cinnamomeum*. All records *C.c. castaneothorax* race. Recorded 38 km east of Adavale Aug 28 AM, DS; between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill, and between Thargomindah and "Kyeenee" (SWQ) during Sept IV *et al*; one male 5 km west of Eulo Dec 26 MA, GD, BF, PMC, TR, DAS.

**Hall's Babbler** *Pomatostomus halli*. Recorded 122 km west of Charleville (SWQ) Aug 28 AM, DS; recorded between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill, and between "Kyeenee" and Yowah during Sept IV *et al*; small groups 5 km west of Eulo Oct 11 & 12 PMC, DAS and Dec 25 & 26 MA, GD, BF, PMC, TR, DAS.

**Spinifixbird** *Eremiornis carteri*. Two 15 km north of Mt. Isa Dec 4 GI, GR.

**Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis*. Two at port Alma (SEQ) Dec 2 GC.

**Splendid Wren** *Malurus splendens*. Recorded between Westmar and "South Plains" (SCQ) during Sept IV *et al*.

**Grey Grasswren** *Amytornis barbatus*. Six to eight 8 km north of Wompah Gate (SWQ) Aug 28 AM, DS.

**Redthroat** *Sericornis brunneus*. Two 38 km east of Adavale April 3 MA, PMC, TP, TR; observed at same locality Aug 28 AM, DS.

**Western Gerygone** *Gerygone fusca*. Recorded between "South Plains" and Lake Eliza, and between Thargomindah and "Kyeenee" during Sept IV *et al*.

**Slaty-backed Thornbill** *Acanthiza robustirostris*. Two 30-40 km east of Adavale April 3 MA, PMC, TP, TR and Aug 28 AM, DS (the most easterly record for the species, with the only other known location in Queensland being 26 km west of Eromanga).

**Banded Whiteface** *Aphelocephala nigricincta*. Breeding near the Ethabuka Rabbit Fence (SWQ) July 23 RA, GP, DR.

**Grey-fronted Honeyeater** *Lichenostomus plumulus*. Observed between "South Plains" and Lake Eliza, breeding between "Kyeenee" and Yowah during Sept IV *et al*.

**Painted Honeyeater** *Grantiella picta*. One 5 km west of Eulo Oct 15 PMC, DAS.

**Rufous-throated Honeyeater** *Conopophila rufogularis*. Observed at Lakefield NP May 1 DM.

**Black Honeyeater** *Certhionyx niger*. Single bird collected near Ethabuka (SWQ) July 7 by QNPWS, specimen in QM; also 122 km west of Charleville, and throughout area between 44 km south of Quilpie to SA border, (SWQ) Aug 28 AM, DS; recorded between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill, and between "Kyeenee" and Yowah during Sept IV *et al*; one 40 km east of St. George Oct 15 BO.

**Pied Honeyeater** *Certhionyx variegatus*. Breeding between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill during Sept IV *et al*.

**Crimson Chat** *Ephthianura tricolor*. Single male on Bribie Is April 6 DRe; 12 km west of Charleville Aug 28 AM, DS; breeding between "South Plains" and Lake Eliza, also breeding between Cunnamulla and "Kyeenee" via Thargomindah during Sept IV *et al*.

**Orange Chat** *Ephthianura aurifrons*. Breeding between "Bullawarra" and Carr's Hill, also breeding between Thargomindah and "Kyeenee" during Sept IV *et al*.

**Yellow Chat** *Ephthianura crocea*. Single bird collected on Davenport Downs Dec 8 RA, GP, specimen in QM.

**Gibber Chat** *Ashbyia lovensis*. One male near Grey Range (SWQ) Aug 30 AM, DS.

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*. Flock of up to 11 birds on Heron Is June 6-13, July 7-27 AS.

**Painted Finch** *Emblema picta*. Four at Fort Williams St. (via Boulia WCQ) April 4; one 15 km south-west of Cloncurry (WCQ) Dec 23, both JW.

**Plum-headed Finch** *Aidemosyne modesta*. c.500 at Wivenhoe Crossing Jan 28 PL, AS; c.80 observed 30 km west of Goondiwindi Aug 27 AM, DS; two at Helidon Nov 20 MA.

**Blue-faced Finch** *Erythrura trichroa*. Up to ten at Mt. Lewis March 3 KB, HB, CC, DE, GI, GR, DAS; three at Jullatten March 2, and two at Mt. Lewis March 3, both AD, AM; present at Mt. Lewis and Jullatten during March/April DM.

**Figbird** *Sphecotheres viridis*. Recorded at Mitchell (SCQ) Sept 22 R&LS.

**Little Woodswallow** *Artamus minor*. Records from SEQ include: one on Bribie Is Jan 9; two at Toorbil Jan 23 & 24; also breeding at "Egypt" during Nov, all GC.

**Apostlebird** *Struthidea cinerea*. Records from SEQ include: six at Samford March 27 ES; seven at Ferny Grove (SEQ) July 30 TM; two at Samford Aug 30 JH; single bird at Samford Dec 27 ES.

**Little Crow** *Corvus bennetti*. Recorded between Quilpie and "Wallumbilla" during Sept IV *et al*.

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## NESTING OF THE WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER ON MUDJIMBA ISLAND, QUEENSLAND

S.G. LANE AND H. BATTAM

The Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* is recorded breeding in Queensland from Raine Island in the north to Lady Elliott Island in the south (Serventy *et al* 1971). Neither the R.A.O.U. Nest Record Scheme nor the Australian Atlas Scheme has any breeding record of this species in Queensland south of Lady Elliott Island in the Punker Group. However, these birds were reported by Hines (1983) to be breeding at Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island, in March 1983. About 20 pairs were nesting there again in the 1983/84 season (Smyth and Corben, 1984).

One of us (H.B.), while holidaying at Maroochydore in December 1980, considered that a small island about one

kilometre from the coast and just north of Maroochydore looked suitable for shearwaters. Although we discussed the possibility of visiting the island, we were not able to until February 1984.

The island is Mudjimba or Old Woman Island and is about one hectare in area. It is privately leased and, with the approval of the owner, we visited it for three hours on 15 February 1984. Even though it was quite calm, landing was difficult due to numerous submerged rocks and the surge around the small island.

Shearwater burrows were well spread over the sloping "plateau" on the island and averaged about one per square metre. We searched 291 burrows during the brief visit. Of these, five contained a cold (addled) egg, three were freshly dug, 38 were too deep to check, 174 were empty and 51 contained a downy Wedge-tailed Shearwater chick. The weight of the chicks (46 weighed) ranged from 205 g to 470 g with a mean of 308 g (standard error  $\pm$  8.27 g).

From an estimation of the area of the burrowed part of the island and the fact that we searched about one burrow in six or eight, we estimated that there were between 1500 and 2000 burrows on the island.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank the owner of the island for allowing us to carry out the survey. We also thank R.A.O.U. staff (Margaret Blakers and Mike Clarke) for checking the Atlas Scheme and Nest Record Scheme data.

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**BOOK REVIEW****JOHN GOULD AND THE BIRDS OF AUSTRALIA - A SUMMARY OF GOULD'S WORK IN AUSTRALIA AND A HISTORY OF THE LEAGUE WHICH BEARS HIS NAME**

by C.F. Jenkins, 1983. Gould League, Perth. 132 pages.

This book is the result of a request from the Council of the West Australian Gould League to Mr. Jenkins to write the history of the League.

Mr. Jenkins has written a short biography of John Gould, the man after whom the League was named. This gives an insight into Gould's character as well as a chronological account of his work and journeys in various countries and in Australia. Mr. Jenkins portrays him as a good business-man, clever taxidermist and above all, what Bill Oddie describes as a "twitcher"! Gould is reported to have said, "I say (send them to me) immediately you receive them, because novelties get described elsewhere before I have had an opportunity of selling them".

The inevitable analogy between Gould and Audubon is indicated, and a rather tedious albeit detailed account of the complete works of Gould is presented. Chapters on his wife (who finished many of his paintings), his family and close friends contain some interesting anecdotes.

Mr. Jenkins presents short histories of those Leagues formed in various states, and finally the detailed story of the Western Australian Gould League. Mention is made of Olive Seymour who was the first full-time Secretary of the W.A. League, and there are three colour plates of her bird paintings.

More than half the book presents extracts from "Gould League Notes", the major publication of the W.A. League. Many of these are obsolete and would perhaps have been best omitted. They apparently were included as examples of the influence the League had on natural history studies in W.A. schools.

This book will, no doubt, have a degree of appeal in those states where the League exists, particularly West Australia. The recommended price is \$9.95, a little expensive for what it offers. It can be obtained from the Gould League of W.A. at the Zoo Education Centre, Labouchere Rd., South Perth 6151. Brisbane stores do not stock it.

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### MYSTERY PHOTOGRAPHS

2. It should be quite apparent that this is one of the small, "plumed" honeyeaters of the genus *Lichenostomus*. The possibilities are Purple-gaped *L. cratitius*, Fuscous *L. fuscus*, Yellow-tinted *L. flavescens*, White-plumed *L. penicillata*, Grey-headed *L. heartlandi*, Grey-fronted *L. plumula* and Yellow-plumed *L. ornatus*. Even in this blurry photo, extensively dark lores and a broad, pale "plume" are evident, narrowing the field to the latter three.

The ventral streaking is nowhere near bold enough for Yellow-plumed and the "plume" is too narrow for Grey-fronted which has the broadest of any of these species. So this bird is a Grey-headed.

This identification is also supported by the general head pattern, in that the yellow "plume" is sharply defined along its anterior edge by a curved black line but merges into the malar region and throat at its lower end. This comes about because the species shows a sharp contrast between the generally dark face and the light yellow throat. The resulting pattern, in which the "plume" appears as an upswept extension of the pale malar region, is quite diagnostic of Grey-headed.

This particular Grey-headed was photographed by me at Mt. Isa in November 1975.

CHRIS CORBEN

Mystery Photograph 3. Identify the species. Answer next issue.

