

THE SUNBIRD

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RECORDS FROM AN ORNITHOLOGICAL TOUR  
OF QUEENSLAND

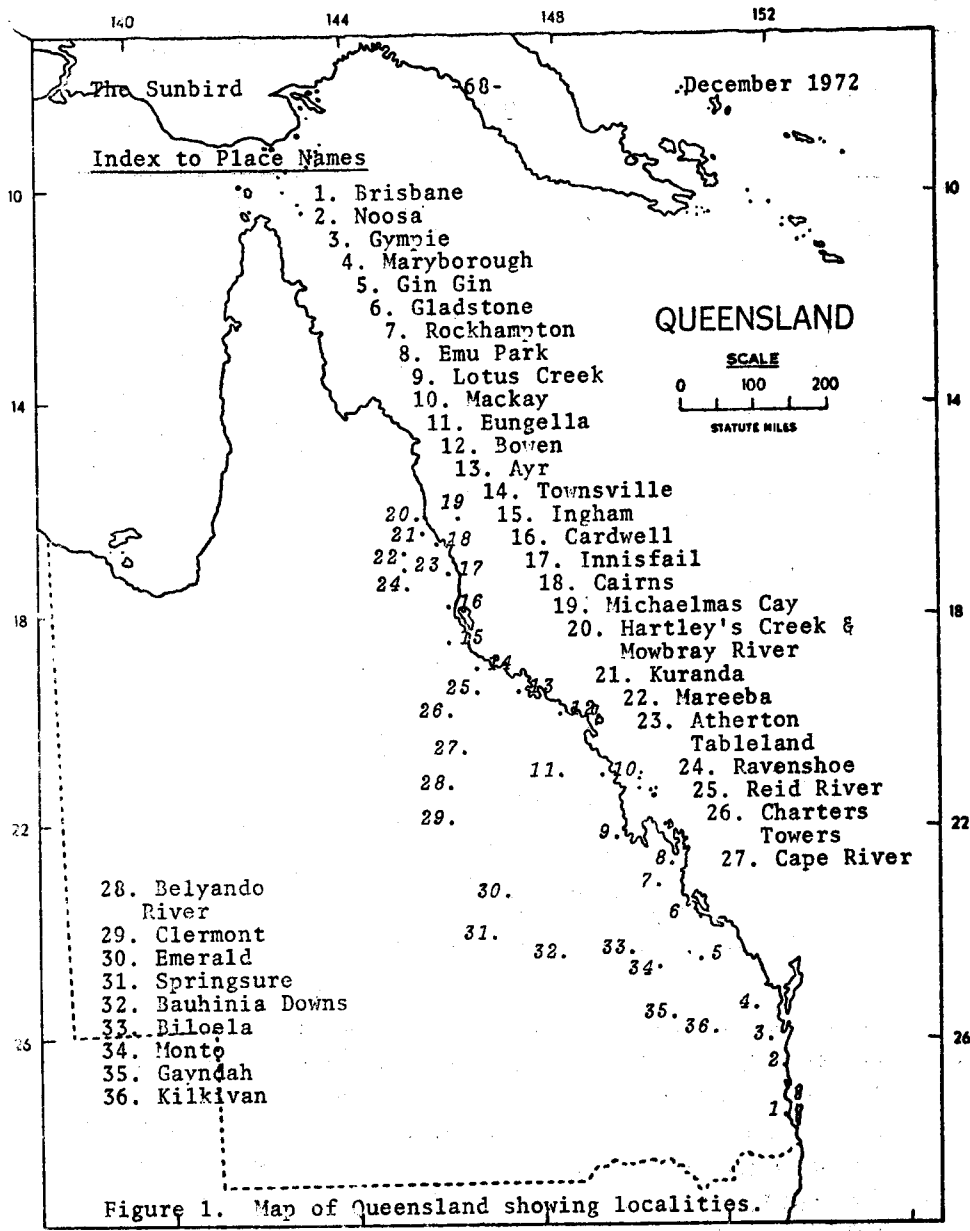
E. K. Bristowe, H. Laybourne-Smith and Alan Lendon

This paper records the observations of a party of eighteen bird-watchers who participated in the 1970 Ansett-Pioneer Ornithological Tour of Queensland. The itinerary, which covered some 3500 miles, was as follows:-

May	23	Brisbane - Gin Gin
"	24	Gin Gin area
"	25	Gin Gin - Rockhampton
"	26	Rockhampton - Eungella
"	27	Eungella area
"	28	Eungella - Ayr
"	29	Ayr - Cairns
"	30	Cairns area
"	31	Michaelmas Cay
June	1	Cairns - Lake Barrine
"	2	Lakes Barrine and Eacham
"	3	Lake Barrine - Innisfail
"	4	Innisfail area
"	5	Innisfail area
"	6	Innisfail - Charters Towers
"	7	Charters Towers - Emerald
"	8	Emerald - Biloela
"	9	Biloela - Gayndah
"	10	Gayndah - Brisbane

The localities are shown in Figure 1.

For the sake of convenient reference, the birds seen have been listed in the sequence adopted by H.J. Lavery in his "List of Birds in Queensland", and his scientific names have been followed, even though a number of them have not, to date, been incorporated in R.A.O.U. Checklist amendments. Lavery's lumping propensities have made it difficult to refer adequately to birds which differ widely in the coverage of this tour, extending over some ten degrees of latitude, and



in consequence, well-marked forms have been treated separately. Lavery has also followed the deplorable but widespread current practice of using vernaculars of his own choice; the authors have retained official R.A.O.U. Checklist names in all cases. Nesting birds have been identified by (N).

The help given by Mr Eric Zillman, who showed the party round the Gin Gin area and by Mrs H.B. Gill, who accompanied the tour from Cairns back to Innisfail, is gratefully acknowledged; without their assistance many species would not have been identified with certainty, let alone seen.

- Cassowary *Casuaris casuaris* - 23, 17.  
 Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* - 31.  
 Little Grebe *Podiceps ruficollis* - 1-14, 34, 35, 36.  
 Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* - 18-19.  
 Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* - 7,9,13,17,2.  
 Red-footed Gannet *Sula sula* - 19.  
 Brown Gannet *Sula leucogaster* - 19.  
 Little Black Cormorant *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris* - 7,17,2.  
 Black Cormorant *P. carbo* - 7, 2.  
 Pied Cormorant *P. varius* - 1, 5, 2.  
 Little Pied Cormorant *P. melanoleucos* - 1,5,6,10,14,23,17,2.  
 Australian Darter *Anhinga rufa* - 5,6,7,9,10-11,23,17,14,  
 Lesser Frigate-bird *Fregata ariel* - 19. 35,2.  
 White-necked Heron *Ardea pacifica* - 5-14,17,23,32-33,36,3.  
 White-faced Heron *A. novaehollandiae* - 1-18,27,32-33,35.  
 Mangrove Heron *Butorides striatus* - 18.  
 Cattle Egret *Ardeola ibis* - 17.  
 White Egret *Egretta alba* - 1-18, 14, 34, 35, 2.  
 Little Egret *E. garzetta* - 10,12,18,17.  
 Plumed Egret *E. intermedia* - 1,4,5,7,10-11,13,14,16,17,  
 Reef Heron (Grey Phase) *E. sacra* - 18. 18,2.  
 Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* - 5,18,17,35.  
 Black Bittern *Ixobrychus flavicollis* - 6.  
 Jabiru *Xenorhynchus asiaticus* - 5, 18, 17.  
 Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis molucca* - 1-18,23,2.  
 Straw-necked Ibis *T. spinicollis* - 1-18,23,26-31,35.  
 Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia* - 5,10-11,13,18,17,35.  
 Yellow-billed Spoonbill *P. flavipes* - 12-13, 14, 35.  
 Black Swan *Cygnus atratus* - 1, 36(N), 2.  
 Whistling Tree Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* - 7, 10-11.  
 Plumed Tree Duck *D. eytoni* - 10-11, 12-13, 14.  
 Grey Duck *Anas superciliosa* - 1-17, 25(N), 35, 36.  
 Grey Teal *A. gibberifrons* - 5, 10-11, 17, 14, 34, 36.

- Maned Goose *Chenonetta jubata* - 5,9,10-11,11,17,34.  
 White-quilled Pigmy Goose *Nettapus coromandelianus* - 5,7,14.  
 Hardhead *Aythya australis* - 1, 5, 7, 10-11, 14.  
 Australian Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus notatus* - 1-15,23,  
 Black Kite *Milvus migrans* - 6-17, 23, 30. 24-17.  
 Red-backed Sea Eagle *Haliastur indus* - 6, 12, 16, 18, 17.  
 Whistling Eagle *H. sphenurus* - 5-17,23,25,27,28,32-33.  
 Australian Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus* - 23.  
 Wedge-tailed Eagle *Aquila audax* - 10, 26, 31, 33.  
 White-breasted Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* - 5,6,18,23,17.  
 Spotted Harrier *Circus assimilis* - 7, 29, 35.  
 Swamp Harrier *C. approximans* - 5,10,12,13,16,17,23,33,36.  
 Little Falcon *Falco longipennis* - 14.  
 Nankeen Kestrel *F. cenchroides* - 1-18, 25-33.  
 Brown Hawk *F. berigora* - 7-16, 23, 26-35.  
 Scrub Fowl *Megapodius freycinet* - 23.  
 Brush Turkey *Alectura lathamii* - 23.  
 Brown Quail *Coturnix ypsilophorus* - 5, 23.  
 Red-backed Quail *Turnix maculosa* - 22.  
 Painted Quail *T. varia* - 5.  
 Brolga *Grus rubicundus* - 12-13, 14, 26, 31.  
 Banded Landrail *Rallus philippensis* - 17.  
 Australian Spotted Crake *Porzana fluminea* - 36.  
 Spotless Crake *P. tabuensis* - 19.  
 Dusky Moorhen *Gallinula tenebrosa* - 1,5,7,10-11,14,35.  
 Eastern Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio* - 1,7,10-11,17,14,36.  
 Coot *Fulica atra* - 1, 5, 7, 23, 14, 35, 36.  
 Australian Bustard *Ardeotis australis* - 22.  
 Lotus Bird *Irediparra gallinacea* - 1, 5, 10-11, 13, 14.  
 Pied Oyster-catcher *Haematopus ostralegus* - 12.  
 Sooty Oyster-catcher *H. unicolor* - 8.  
 Australian Spur-winged Plover *Vanellus novaehollandiae* - 1,  
 5, 10, 10-11, 33, 34, 35, 36.  
 Masked Plover *Vanellus miles* - 13-18, 23, 17, 14.  
 Eastern Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica* - 18.  
 Red-capped Dotterel *Charadrius ruficapillus* - 8, 18.  
 Mongolian Sand-Dotterel *C. mongolus* - 18.  
 Large Sand-Dotterel *C. leschenaultii* - 18.  
 Black-fronted Dotterel *C. melanops* - 22, 17.  
 Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* - 12, 18, 17.  
 Eastern Curlew *N. madagascariensis* - 12.  
 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica* - 12, 18, 2.  
 Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* - 12, 18.  
 Terek Sandpiper *T. cinerea* - 12, 18.  
 Grey-tailed Tattler *T. brevipes* - 8, 18.  
 Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* - 19.  
 Great Knot *Calidris tenuirostris* - 18.  
 Red-necked Stint *C. ruficollis* - 18.

- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminatus* - 18.  
 Curlew Sandpiper *C. ferrugineus* - 18.  
 Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus* - 18.  
 White-headed Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* - 5,12-13,14,17,18.  
 Beach Stone-Curlew *Esacus magnirostris* - 12, 17.  
 Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* - 1,8,10,12,18,2.  
 Dominican Gull *L. dominicanus* - 18.  
 Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* - 5,10-11.  
 Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* - 12, 18.  
 Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* - 12, 16, 18.  
 Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana* - 19.  
 Sooty Tern *S. fuscata* - 19(N).  
 Little Tern *S. albifrons* - 19.  
 Crested Tern *S. bergii* - 1, 8, 10, 18, 19(N), 2.  
 Noddy *Anous stolidus* - 19(N).  
 Red-crowned Pigeon *Ptilinopus regina* - 17.  
 Purple-crowned Pigeon *P. superbus* - 17.  
 Wompoo Pigeon *P. magnificus* - 11, 23, 17.  
 Top-knot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus* - 11, 23.  
 White-headed Pigeon *Columba leucomela* - 11, 17.  
 Brown Pigeon *Macropygia phasianella* - 11, 23, 17.  
 Bar-shouldered Dove *Geopelia humeralis* - 5,20,34,35.  
 Peaceful Dove *G. striata* - 5-18, 23, 14, 26-33.  
 Diamond Dove *G. cuneata* - 12-13, 14, 25.  
 Green-winged Pigeon *Chalcophaps indica* - 20, 23.  
 Common Bronzewing *Phaps chalcoptera* - 29.  
 Crested Pigeon *Ocyphaps lophotes* - 5-14, 25-35.  
 Squatter Pigeon *Geophaps scripta* - 12-13, 29.  
 Wonga Pigeon *Leucosarcia melanoleuca* - 5.  
 Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichoglossus haematodus* - 3-16,23,26-35,2.  
 Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *T. chlorolepidotus* - 4-11,22,23,33,  
 Little Lorikeet *Glossopsitta pusilla* - 5,16,23,32-33.(35,2.  
 Blue-faced Lorilet *Ooopsitta diophthalma macleayana* - 21.  
 Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptrorhynchus funereus* -  
 33-34 (Northern-most record?), 2.  
 Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *C. magnificus* - 6, 10, 22.  
 White Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita* - 4,11,12,17,18,23,29,30,  
 Galah *Cacatua roseicapilla* - 28, 29. (35.  
 Cockatiel *Nymphicus hollandicus* - 5-13, 26-36.  
 Red-winged Parrot *Aprosmictus erythropterus* - 22,17,27-30,  
 King Parrot *Alisterus scapularis* - 5,11,23,17.(32-33,35,2.  
 Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans* - 11, 23, 24-17.  
 Eastern Rosella *P. erimus* - 36 (Northern-most record?)  
 Pale-headed Rosella *P. adscitus* - 5-13,23(nom.race)26-35,2.  
 Budgerigah *Melopsittacus undulatus* - 12, 13, 14, 29.  
 Fantailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus* - 3,11,14,23,33-34,  
 Golden Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx lucidus* - 11,32-33. (35.  
 Rufous-breasted Bronze Cuckoo *C. malayanus russatus* - 20,17.

- Koel *Eudynamis cyanocephala* - 20.  
 Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus* - 3,13,16,23,17,33,35.  
 Tawny Frogmouth *Podargus strigoides* - 5, 22.  
 Papuan Frogmouth *P. papuensis* - 20.  
 Grey Swiftlet *Collocalia francica* - 23, 17.  
 Azure Kingfisher *Acyone azurea* - 17.  
 Laughing Kookaburra *Dacelo novaeguineae* - 1-17,23,33.  
 Blue-winged Kookaburra *D. leachii* - 10,14,15,17,25,28.  
 Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayi* - 5-20,23,26,32-33,2.  
 Red-backed Kingfisher *H. pyrrhopygia* - 10,12,13,14,22,35.  
 Sacred Kingfisher *H. australasiae* - 1-20.  
 Mangrove Kingfisher *H. chloris* - 12,20,17.  
 Rainbow Bird *Merops ornatus* - 5-18, 23, 27.  
 Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor* - 23, 17.  
 Welcome Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* - 1-17, 35.  
 Australian Tree Martin *Petrochelidon nigricans* - 3-17.  
 Fairy Martin *P. ariel* - 7,10-11,13,14,17,23.  
 Australian Pipit *Anthus novaeseelandiae* - 5,6,7,14,29,32-33.  
 Ground Cuckoo-Shrike *Pteropodocys maxima* - 29.  
 Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina novaehollandiae* - 3-17,23,  
 Barred Cuckoo-Shrike *C. lineata* - 21,17. (32-35,2.  
 Little Cuckoo-Shrike *C. papuensis robusta* - 5, 31, 33.  
 Papuan Cuckoo-shrike *C. p. papuensis* - 20, 22, 23, 17.  
 White-winged Triller *Lalage suerii* - 8, 14.  
 Varied Triller *L. leucomela* - 5, 14, 17, 20, 23.  
 Australian Ground Thrush *Zoothera dauma* - 2.  
 Northern Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingii* - 23.  
 Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus* - 5, 11, 23.(31,34,35.  
 Grey-crowned Babbler *Pomatostomus temporalis* - 4,5,9,26,28,  
 White-throated Warbler *Gerygone olivacea* - 5,7,9,27.  
 Brown Warbler *G. igata* - 11, 2.  
 Black-throated Warbler *G. palpebrosa palpebrosa* - 22.  
 Fairy Warbler *G. p. flavida* - 17.  
 Large-billed Warbler *G. magnirostris* - 20.  
 Northern Warbler *G. mouki* - 23,17.  
 Mangrove Warbler *G. levigaster cantator* - 12.  
 Golden-headed Fantail Warbler *Cisticola exilis* - 5, 17.  
 Superb Blue Wren *Malurus cyaneus* - 30.  
 Lovely Wren *M. amabilis* - 17.  
 Red-backed Wren *M. melanocephalus* - 5,20,22,23-24,17,25.  
 Yellow Weebill *Smicronis brevirostris flavescens* - 31,32-33.  
 Little Thornbill *Acanthiza nana* - 30, 33-34.  
 Brown Thornbill *A. pusilla* - 3, 5, 11, 30.  
 Mountain Thornbill *A. p. katherina* - 23.  
 Varied Thornbill *A. reguloides squamata* - 23.  
 Yellow-tailed Thornbill *A. chrysorrhoea* - 28, 33, 34.  
 White-browed Scrub-Wren *Sericornis frontalis* - 11, 2.  
 Yellow-throated Scrub-Wren *S. citreogularis* - 23.  
 Large-billed Scrub-Wren *S. magnirostris* - 23, 17.

- Fern Wren *Oreoscopus gutturalis* - 23(N).  
 Rufous Songlark *Cinclorhamphus mathewsii* - 5,14,22-23,28,  
 Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis* - 5. (32-33).  
 Jacky Winter *Microeca leucophaea* - 5, 7, 27-35.  
 Lemon-breasted Flycatcher *M. flavigaster* - 22.  
 Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* - 5.  
 Mangrove Robin *Peneoenanthe pulverulenta* - 17.  
 Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons* - 23.  
 White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa* - 22.  
 Northern Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis chrysorrhoea* -  
 Pale-yellow Robin *E. capito* - 3,23,17,2. (5,11,22,23).  
 Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* - 12,14,20,23,17.  
 Satin Flycatcher *M. cyanoleuca* - 20.  
 Shining Flycatcher *Piezorhynchus alecto* - 17.  
 Restless Flycatcher *Seisura inquieta* - 5,9,31,32-33,34,  
 Australian Pied Flycatcher *Arses kaupi* - 23,17. (35).  
 Black-faced Flycatcher *Monarcha melanopsis* - 17.  
 Spectacled Flycatcher *M. trivirgata* - 11, 20, 23, 17.  
 White-eared Flycatcher *M. leucotis* - 5, 17.  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer* - 23,17.  
 Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis* - 3,5,11,23,17,2,  
 Grey Whistler *P. simplex griseiceps* - 20, 17. (35).  
 Rufous Whistler *P. rufiventris* - 4-14,22,23,27-35,2.  
 Grey Shrike-Thrush *Colluricincla harmonica* - 3,5,11,12,23,  
 Rufous Shrike-Thrush *C. megarhyncha* - 5,11,23,17,2. (35,2).  
 Bower Shrike-Thrush *C. boweri* - 23.  
 Eastern Shrike-tit *Falcunculus frontatus* - 23.  
 Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* - 3-20,23,31-35,2.  
 Rufous Fantail *R. rufifrons* - 5, 23, 17, 2.  
 Northern Fantail *R. rufiventris* - 20, 22.  
 Willie Wagtail *R. leucophrys* - 1-17, 23, 25-35, 2.  
 White-headed Sittella *Neositta chrysoptera leucocephala* -  
 9, 31, 32-33.  
 Striated Sittella *N. c. striata* - 22, 23.  
 Brown Tree-Creeper *Climacteris picumnus* - 5, 33.  
 Black Tree-Creeper *C. p. melanota* - 22, 23.  
 White-throated Tree-Creeper *C. leucophaea* - 33, 34.  
 Little Tree-Creeper *C. l. minor* - 23.  
 Mistletoe-bird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* - 5,12,14,17,32-33,2.  
 Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus* - 5, 23, 35.  
 Eastern Striated Pardalote *P. ornatus* - 4, 5.  
 Black-headed Pardalote *P. melanocephalus* - 5, 7, 9, 13,  
 14, 22, 27(N), 28, 32-33, 34. (23,17).  
 Yellow-breasted Sunbird *Nectarina jugularis* - 14,16,20,  
 Grey-breasted Silvereye *Zosterops lateralis* - 5,11,23,17,32-  
 White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus* - 23. (33,35,2).  
 White-throated Honeyeater *M. albogularis* - 5-20, 22(N),  
 27-35.

- Black-chinned Honeyeater *Melithreptus gularis* - 32-33.  
 Striped Honeyeater *Plectorhyncha lanceolata* - 31,33.  
 Scarlet Honeyeater *Mysomela dabapha* - 10, 22, 17, 2.  
 Dusky Honeyeater *M. obscura* - 12, 16, 20, 22, 17.  
 Banded Honeyeater *M. pectoralis* - 22.  
 Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* - 11,23,17.  
 Yellow-winged Honeyeater *Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* - 2.  
 White-cheeked Honeyeater *P. niger* - 23.  
 Brown-backed Honeyeater *Ramsayornis modesta* - 17.  
 Brown Honeyeater *Lichmera indistincta* - 4-14,27,28,2.  
 Lewin Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii* - 3,5,11,23,35,2.  
 Lesser Lewin Honeyeater *M. notata* - 18, 20, 17.  
 Graceful Honeyeater *M. gracilis* - 18, 22, 17.  
 Singing Honeyeater *M. virescens* - 30.  
 Varied Honeyeater *M. versicolor* - 18, 17.  
 Mangrove Honeyeater *M. fasciogularis* - 12.  
 Bridled Honeyeater *M. frenata* - 23.  
 Fuscous Honeyeater *M. fusca* - 5, 33.  
 Yellow-tinted Honeyeater *M. flavescens* - 23.  
 Yellow-faced Honeyeater *M. novaehollandiae* - 22,23,23-24,30.  
 Macleay Honeyeater *M. macleayana* - 18, 20, 23, 17.  
 White-plumed Honeyeater *M. penicillata* - 28.  
 Yellow Honeyeater *M. flava* - 14, 20, 22.  
 Noisy Miner *Myzantha melanocephala* - 5,6,23,31,33-34.  
 Yellow-throated Miner *M. flavigula* - 12-13,25,26,28,29.  
 Little Wattle-bird *Anthochaera chrysoptera* - 2.  
 Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis* - 29.  
 Blue-faced Honeyeater *Entomyzon cyanotis* - 5-14, 22, 23-24, 27, 29, 32-33, 33-34, 2.  
 Helmeted Friar-bird *Philemon novaeguineae* - 20, 21.  
 Noisy Friar-bird *P. corniculatus* - 4,7,10,22,23-24,2.  
 Little Friar-bird *P. citreogularis* - 4, 5, 6, 7, 2.  
 Zebra Finch *Taeniopygia guttata* - 14, 29, 31.  
 Banded Finch *Stizoptera bichenovii* - 5, 6, 7, 9, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35. (23-24.)  
 Chestnut-breasted Finch *Lonchura castaneothorax* - 5,10,22,  
 Plum-headed Finch *Aidemosyne modesta* - 35.  
 Red-browed Finch *Aegintha temporalis* - 11, 23.  
 Crimson Finch *Neochmia phaeton* - 17.  
 Black-tailed Finch *Poephila cinerea atropygialis* - 22,23-24.  
 Australian Shining Starling *Aplonis metallica* - 18, 17.  
 Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* - 23-24, 17.  
 Yellow Oriole *O. flavocinctus* - 20, 17.  
 Southern Figbird *Sphecotheres vieilloti* - 4,5,7,30,35,2.  
 Yellow Figbird *S. flaviventris* - 18,20,21,22,17.  
 Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* - 14,16,20,17,2.  
 Magpie Lark *Grallina cyanoleuca* - 1-18(N), 26-36.



- White-winged Chough *Corocorax melanorhamphos* - 5.  
 Apostle Bird *Struthidea cinerea* - 5,9,27,28,29,31,34,35.  
 White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* - 5,  
 6, 10, 16, 17, 18.  
 Black-faced Wood-swallow *A. cinereus* - 7, 13.  
 Dusky Wood-swallow *A. cyanopterus* - 5, 23, 17, 26.  
 Little Wood-swallow *A. minor* - 7, 27, 28, 32-33.  
 Grey Butcher-bird *Cracticus torquatus* - 5, 14, 27, 30,  
 31, 33, 33-34, 35, 2.  
 Pied Butcher-bird *C. nigrogularis* - 3-14, 23, 26-3, 2.  
 Black Butcher-bird *C. quoyi* - 16, 18, 20, 17. (25-33.  
 Black-backed Magpie *Gymnorhina tibicen* - 3-17,22-23,23,  
 Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina* - 5,7,11,23,24-17,35.  
 Spotted Catbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris* - 23,17.  
 Tooth-billed Bowerbird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris* - 23.  
 Golden Bowerbird *Prionodura newtoniana* - 23.  
 Regent Bowerbird *Sericulus chrysocephalus* - 11.  
 Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus* - 23.  
 Spotted Bowerbird *Chlamydera maculata* - 9,26,28,33,33-34.  
 Great Bowerbird *C. nuchalis* - 22.  
 Victoria Rifle-bird *Ptiloris victoriae* - 20 23, 17.  
 Australian Crow *Corvus orru* - 3-14, 23, 14-35.

No detailed records were kept of introduced birds, but the following were seen:-

- Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*  
 Indian Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
 Spice Finch *Lonchura punctulata*  
 House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*  
 Starling *Sturnis vulgaris*  
 Common Mynah *Acridotheres tristis*

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OBSERVATIONS ON MISTAKE MOUNTAINS:  
VOCALIZATIONS OF SATIN BOWERBIRD AND NOISY FRIARBIRD

Jim Clarke and Clarice Clarke

For most naturalists there are places which have special appeal. Perhaps they have great natural beauty, are the homes of rare species, or have been particularly rewarding in other ways. Such a place for us is Mistake Mountains, just north of Cunningham's Gap in southern Queensland.

We first went to Mistake Mountains to record the calls of the Albert Lyrebird *Menura alberti* in its most northerly habitat, since we had been endeavouring to record this species in as many different places as possible. Over a period of three years we spent all our available spare time there - short weekends, long weekends, and holidays - became intimately acquainted with the birdlife, and were constantly being confronted by calls we had not previously encountered.

Of these, probably the most significant were made by the Satin Bowerbird *Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*, the Noisy Friarbird *Philemon corniculatus* and the Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*. The Eastern Whipbird calls have been discussed in a previous article (Clarke, C. 1972. Sunbird 3(3): 49-52). The Satin Bowerbird and the Noisy Friarbird are discussed now.

It is worth mentioning that the territorial call of the Albert Lyrebird at Mistake Mountains is distinctively different from those we have recorded at Lamington, Tamborine, The Head and Spring Creek, although it is similar in structure to the Cunningham's Gap birds by sonograph analysis. To the human ear, however, it is rendered with much more verve.

SATIN BOWERBIRD

On our first visit in January 1968, we were walking along an old logging track in the Flaggy Creek basin when we were challenged by a loud, hoarse call which sounded like - 'three or four'. We were astounded, and felt, as Bernard O'Reilly did when he heard a recording of it - "what in blue blazes is that?"

The bird repeated the call twice, and the last time there was a downward inflection at the end, reminiscent of the Satin Bowerbird. Careful observation resulted in identification of the caller as a Satin Bowerbird. We later found a bower in the vicinity.

Throughout the time we spent at Mistake Mountains, we were to hear the 'three or four' call (as we came to call it) at many different places in the area and from treetops as well as the region of the bower. It seemed to be uttered whenever a bird became aware of our presence. Only mature blue males were observed making the call. Sometimes one 'three or four' was heard, but on occasions it was repeated once and even twice.

Canvassing reliable people with experience of Satin Bowerbirds, we found only one who had heard a call resembling the 'three or four' call. On one occasion at O'Reilly's we ourselves disturbed a blue male on the ground and as he flew off he gave forth a single raucous note which somewhat resembled the first note of the 'three or four' call.

A significant fact concerning this call was provided by the Albert Lyrebird, which draws heavily on the Satin Bowerbird calls in its mimicry. At Mistake Mountains the Lyrebird includes the 'three or four' call in its

mimicry. We have neither heard nor recorded such a call in the mimicry of Albert Lyrebirds from other places.

### NOISY FRIARBIRD

Although the vegetation of a large part of the plateau area of Mistake Mountains is rain forest, on the western edge in particular is a fairly extensive area of open eucalypt country which is under a Forestry grazing lease.

It was here that we heard Noisy Friarbirds singing. Certainly the song had not the sweet quality of a Grey Thrush, but it was indeed musical, with that rather comical tone which one always associates with the Noisy Friarbird.

We searched every reference book we could find, but none mentioned musical calls from this bird. Hill (Hill, R. 1970. Australian Birds. Melbourne: Nelson) states in relation to the Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis* "Alone amongst the friar-birds, this species is sometimes heard to utter quite a musical song."

It would seem impossible to confuse the two birds, but we wondered whether our eyes had deceived us. On subsequent trips in the months of October, November, December and January, we confirmed the bird was indeed the Noisy Friarbird and in fact recorded the familiar calls followed by the musical one.

It is not suggested that these calls will not be, nor have not been heard at other places, and indeed this would seem unlikely in a nomadic species such as the Noisy Friarbird. We nevertheless believe Mistake Mountains State Forest 750 to be a potentially important study area, its 12,895 well-watered acres containing a diversity of habitats and a seemingly dense population of most of the species to be found in south Queensland rain forests and eucalypt forests.

An area of 3,360 acres on the north-west corner was reserved as a National Park some years ago. It is virtually inaccessible, precipitous country, with but a narrow fringe of rain forest along Dry Creek. The remaining 12,895 acres of State Forest contain a relatively flat plateau about 3,000 feet (900 m) altitude, of which at least 5,000 acres are rain forest, over 2,000 acres being virgin. An extensive area of eucalypt forest exists on the western side of the plateau. The rain forest area contains a basin through which Flaggy Creek flows. This basin is rich in bird life and has produced many interesting calls.

According to a news item (Courier Mail 25.4.72, page 1, "The Forest Lyrebirds thwart R.A.A.F. Plans"), the then Minister for Lands (The Hon. V.B. Sullivan, M.L.A.) stated that an additional area at Mistake Mountains is under consideration for declaration as a National Park. It would not seem too ambitious to expect the whole of State Forest 750 to be so reserved.

Mr J. H. CLARKE) *Domrow Road, Camp Mountain, via Samford,*  
Ms C. CLARKE ) *Qld. 4520.*

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NOTES ON WADERS, GULLS AND TERNS IN  
SOUTH WEST QUEENSLAND: SUMMER 1971-72

Chris Corben

From 25 December 1971 to 8 January 1972, Greg Czechura, Greg Roberts and I made a trip to south-west Queensland. Most of the time was spent around "The Lakes" station, approximately 35 km east of Thargomindah. The area was dry, but rain had just fallen in the ranges to the north, causing the rivers to rise sufficiently to cut off major roads in the region. Some time was spent around some of the extensive Dynevor Lakes. The following notes cover species observed in the vicinity of "The Lakes" station and west to Thargomindah.

AUSTRALIAN PAINTED SNIPE *Rostratula benghalensis*

One was seen several times along a bore drain behind the homestead. Possibly the same bird was observed standing around the edge of a small waterhole just south of the homestead.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus miles novaehollandiae*

This species was not common but a few were seen around the lakes.

BANDED PLOVER *Vanellus tricolor*

Only a few Plovers were noted, these all being around the lakes.

RED-KNEED DOTTEREL *Charadrius cinctus*

This species was quite common. Small parties were frequently seen around the lakes, including a flock of thirty-one. One stayed near the small waterhole mentioned above.

RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL *Charadrius alexandrinus*

These Dotterels were very common around the shores of the lakes. Displays by adults suggested nesting, and one runner was located.

BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *Charadrius melanops*

This species was very common wherever there was standing water. There were more than thirty at the water-hole, and they were well distributed around the lakes.

ORIENTAL DOTTEREL *Charadrius asiaticus veredus*

Parties of four and seven of this Dotterel were seen on opposite shores of one of the lakes. Most showed traces of breeding plumage. The head pattern was reminiscent of that of a Golden Plover *Pluvialis dominica*. They were easily approached, and good views were obtained.

EASTERN GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*

Two birds were seen. (See under Long-toed Stint.)

LITTLE GREENSHANK *Tringa stagnatilis*

Along one end of one of the lakes there were extensive areas of shallow water and mud flats. Amongst the many waders feeding there were eight Little Greenshanks.

GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*

Greenshanks were well distributed around the lakes in singles and pairs. Larger concentrations were often observed throughout the shallower areas and mud flats.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Between two of the lakes there was a large area of muddy ditches and channels where one Wood Sandpiper was often seen feeding. Nearby was a narrow inlet from one of the lakes along the shores of which were seen up to seven of the same species.

SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*

Sharp-tailed Sandpipers were common and widely distributed around the lakes. One flock of several thousand was seen.

RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*

This Stint was uncommon and localised, though one group of about fifty was noted.

LONG-TOED STINT *Calidris subminuta*

One bird of this species was seen in the area of ditches mentioned under Wood Sandpiper. It was first noticed by moonlight, feeding amongst Red-necked Stints along one of the ditches. Because of the poor light certain identification was not possible that evening. The following morning it was flushed from the same place and flew around for more than five minutes before disappearing into the distance. During this time it joined a flock of other waders, including Golden Plovers, Sharp-tailed Sandpipers and Red-necked Stints, for a short while. The darker colouring, as compared with Red-necked Stints, was quite evident. About an hour later, the bird was again flushed from the same place, but this time flew only a short distance. After careful manoeuvring by the observers, excellent views of the whole bird were obtained, and identification was confirmed. Each time the bird was flushed, and sometimes in flight, it gave voice to a harsh, unmusical trill.

BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*

A compact flock of twenty-three was watched in the same place where the Little Greenshanks were seen. They were carefully studied in flight for the possibility of Hudsonian Godwits *Limosa haemastica* being amongst them.

WHITE-HEADED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*

These were very common and widespread around the



lakes. Many thousands were seen feeding in vast flocks in all shallow areas. Without doubt, the Stilts were the most numerous Charadriiforme seen.

AVOCET *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*

A total of about twenty Avocets were noted feeding amongst the Stilts.

SOUTHERN STONE CURLEW *Burhinus magnirostris*

Two Curlews were observed flying during the day, near the homestead, in open woodland.

AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE *Stiltia isabella*

Pratincoles were widespread around the lakes and nearby stony areas. They were generally in loose flocks of about twenty, and occasionally groups of up to a hundred were seen hawking around at considerable heights.

SILVER GULL *Larus novaehollandiae*

About two hundred Gulls were seen, mostly sitting on the water.

WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*

This species was very common. The birds generally moved around, feeding, in flocks of several hundred. When studied, many of these were noted to exhibit nuptial dress, but they were not found breeding.

WHITE-WINGED BLACK TERN *Chlidonias leucoptera*

There were at least four in the vicinity, two being seen on each of two lakes. The first two were noted from a considerable distance feeding with Whiskered Terns. The latter pair, however, was studied closely while resting on the shore with about 150 Whiskered Terns. One was in the typical eclipse plumage with which I am familiar around Brisbane. The other showed a small amount of black speckling on the under-wing coverts, but was otherwise similar.

CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne caspia*

Small numbers of this Tern were noted around all the lakes visited.

GULL-BILLED TERN *Sterna nilotica*

Like the Caspian Tern, this species was widely distributed, but in larger numbers.

Mr C. CORBEN, 104 Leworthy Street, Bardon, Q. 4065.

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## SOOTY TERN - STORM WRECK

J. S. Robertson

At Wellington Point, not far from my home, early on the morning of 28 October 1972, after a night of wild storm, an exhausted seabird was found on the ground in a spare allotment. It was being harried by a dog but could barely flop about. My neighbours came to me to identify it.

Obviously it was a tern in immature plumage; it was generally dark brown with white fleckings. After comparing its measurements and plumage details with my reference books it was listed as an immature Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*, intermediate in development between the juveniles of the creche stage of the breeding colonies and an adult. The bird weakened progressively and died in a few hours. After a few days in our home fridge it became Specimen Q.M. O. 13829 in the Queensland Museum where my identification was confirmed by D.P. Vernon.

It is stated of this species by Serventy, Serventy

and Warham (1971) in "Australian Seabirds" that "it is a pelagic bird never coming to the mainland under normal conditions." Also that "ringing recoveries showed that only juveniles appeared to migrate..... The juveniles ..... straggle back to the natal area from their second to their sixth year." Thus it was understandable that it is difficult to locate references giving details of the changes that occur in the plumage during these years at sea, between the initial dispersal from the breeding colonies in the all dark mottled stage and the sleek adult birds which return, black above and white below.

The details of this specimen were listed in my Field Book as:-

"Length 362 mm; wing 287 mm; wingspan 880 mm; tail deeply forked, central pair 84 mm; outers 122 mm; tarsus 24 mm; middle toe and claw 30 mm; hind toe and claw 8 mm; fully webbed on three toes; culmen 34 mm. Bill, legs and feet all black.

Above, generally dark brown; feather tips of mantle, back, rump, tail and wing coverts all tipped white, giving mottled effect; on upper surface of extended wing the white covert tips give a series of seven white lines varying from one to three mm wide. The upper edge of the folded wing from the carpal joint to the body when viewed from above shows white as are the underwing contour feathers. Around the eye a darker patch, particularly on lores, but this only shows when viewed from some aspects.

Chin against bill lighter, near white. All under surface from chin to near legs brown, but paler than above. This brown is basically of feather tips

as the slightest ruffling shows the white beneath the surface film of brown. An area of four cm diameter centrally about legs, almost pure white. Under-tail coverts pale grey/brown.

Underwing mainly almost white, merging to grey margins, darker on secondaries where these project 20 mm beyond coverts when wing is opened. Sharp line between white coverts and dark secondaries.

Primaries all dark, near black above, except shafts which are white on underside only. With the wings folded the primaries extend about 4 cm beyond the tips of the longest tail feathers."

A check with the Bureau of Meteorology showed that at the relevant time there was an intense anti-cyclone, located in Bass Strait area, which produced high winds blowing generally from the vicinity of Lord Howe Island towards south-east Queensland. Cyclone "Bebe" was damaging Fiji.

It is further stated by Serventy, Serventy and Warham that "birds ringed at Lord Howe Island have been recovered on the east coast of Australia." Thus this could be still another bird from that area.

I am indebted to D.P. Vernon, Ornithologist at the Queensland Museum, for the identity check, and also the information that there are two other specimens of this species in comparable plumage already held in the collection there. One of these immature Sooty Tern specimens was obtained in 1962 from Inala, and the second in 1963 from Shorncliffe. Both these sites are in the Brisbane area.

Mr J.S. ROBERTSON, "Terete", 11 Waterloo St., Wellington Point, Q. 4160.

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## S H O R T   C O M M U N I C A T I O N S

POSSIBLE SIGHT RECORD OF THE  
NIGHT PARROT *GEOPSITTACUS OCCIDENTALIS*

Mr Mark Davidson of Clontarf has passed to me a sight record of a pair of parrots, which it seems possible could be referable to this species. The location was approximately 120 kilometres west of Charleville, between Yarranvale and Bierbank stations, on a stony ridge timbered with scrubby Mulga *Acacia aneura* with scattered termite mounds.

One bird was followed; it kept running ahead, and hiding in the grass and stones every few minutes. Very reluctantly, it flushed, but flew only about 20 metres, dropping back into some rough scrubby cover. It could not be located again.

From what little is known of the bird, this location and habitat appear suitable. Fairly large areas of spinifex exist, both to the east and west.

Ornithologists travelling this very interesting stretch of road between Charleville and Quilpie should watch for this bird. Other notable recent sightings in the same general area are the Grey Falcon *Falco hypoleucos*, Black Falcon *Falco subniger*, and the Cinnamon Quail-Thrush *Cinelosoma cinnamomeum*.

Mr A.C. CAMERON, 'Rockwood', Chinchilla, Queensland 4413.

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## CALLS OF THE FUSCOUS HONEYEATER

The Fuscous Honeyeater *Meliphaga fusca* is common in the Inverell district of northern New South Wales, where its calls are a daily delight.

Mr S.A. Parker (Parker 1971, Sunbird 2(3):41-47) quoting Brigadier H.R. Officer (p.45), interprets the song as 'arig-arig-a-taw-taw'. This is not the typical song here. It is 'ariga' followed by four to six 'taw'. The 'a' is short and soft; 'rig' sharply accented; 'taw' a diminishing bright chuckle, eight-to-the-bar. From the first sleepy 'ariga-taw-taw' to the goodnight trill, no song commenced with a double 'arig'. As Mr Parker was writing of *M. f. subgermana*, a possible race variation in voice is indicated. During aggressive behaviour in spring, the opening may be one sharp 'rig' but the chuckle is prolonged, with increasing tempo, to a roll of six to thirty notes.

'Arig' and 'ariga' are both used as contact calls. My notes suggest 'chee chicka' - is this the 'pee pricka' of Miss A.C.M. Griffin (Griffin 1972, Sunbird 3(2):26-28)? 'Chit', bitter-sweet, in rapid succession is the alarm call of the species. A single warning 'chit' interrupts defensive songs.

Short phrases progress in merry rounds when wandering parties gather sweet scale insects from apple-box trees *Eucalyptus bridgesiana* in autumn.

Ms MERLE BALDWIN, Gilgai, via Inverell, N.S.W. 2360.

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## BANDED PLOVER IN THE MOUNT ISA AREA, 1971/72

Banded Plover *Vanellus tricolor* are normally present on the plains south of the Mount Isa ranges. Sam Carruthers (unpublished) in a list prepared before leaving Mount Isa in 1968, lists the Banded Plover as a nomadic vagrant, sighted outside the immediate Mount Isa area in March 1967, and one flock of six birds within the area in December 1964. Slater, in his Field Guide to Australian Birds, shows the bird as a nomadic visitor to this area and as breeding below the Tropic of Capricorn.

In May 1970 and 1971, bird observation trips to Dajarra and Boulia indicated a very small Banded Plover population, undoubtedly owing to the drought conditions prevailing at or prior to those times.

However, prolonged rains in March and April of 1971 and continuing showers throughout the rest of that year maintained wet, boggy conditions on the southern plains for the rest of the 1971 season, but resulted in good grass cover over the plains for this season.

On 21 and 28 November 1971, five Banded Plover were sighted on the wide, grass covered verge of Lake Moon-darra adjacent to the Spring Creek inlet. These were not sighted on visits to this area on 7 September, 27 December 1971, and 20 February 1972. Similar feeding areas extend for many miles around the lake foreshores, but subsequent sightings have always been in this locality. It would appear that the birds were present only for a short time in November 1971.

In February 1972, extensive and very heavy rain-falls occurred to the south and east of Mount Isa (but

only four inches locally) and the plains at Dajarra and Boulia were flooded for a long period.

On 12 March 1972 I sighted a pair of Banded Plover in the Spring Creek locality on the lake. On ten subsequent visits up to the time of writing (17 July), up to ten Banded Plover have been sighted on each visit. On 9 and 22 April, four chicks were sighted and on 6 May, two were caught and banded.

Visits to the Dajarra area on 30 April and 6 May 1972 showed that the Banded Plover had returned to this area in some numbers and about seventy birds were noted on each trip, with about thirty birds being sighted in one flock approximately fifty kilometres south of the Mount Isa ranges. These birds were also breeding and seven runners were caught by hand and banded.

Weather and seasonal variations are such in this inland area that there does not appear to be such a thing as a "normal year". Comparison of bird movements from year to year frequently only reflects the long term weather pattern and not necessarily a change in bird distribution. The above records are of interest but probably only reflect bird opportunism.

Mr BILL HORTON, P.O. Box 614, Mount Isa, Queensland 4825.

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AN OBSERVATION OF THE DISTRACTION DISPLAY  
OF THE GIBBER-BIRD

While travelling through the Planet Downs Station property on 20 July 1969 I was fortunate to observe the distraction display of the Gibber-bird *Ashbyia lovensis*. The area is situated 71 kilometres south-east of Betoota in south-west Queensland. We had been driving through this vast open undulating gibber country when we stopped at 11 a.m.

Walking about just off the road we noticed a pipit-sized brown bird crawling over and through the gibbers at our feet. The bird crawled along in a crouched position with wings spread and drooped close to the ground; its legs were not visible. As it moved along it flopped over large gibbers, its body rolling from side to side with its wings spread. After a time it stopped and turned to face us. The bird then wobbled its head and displayed its warm, yellow coloured breast feathers. As a final show of aggression it fluffed all its breast feathers to their fullest extent towards us. This display lasted for approximately one minute, until one of our group moved towards the bird. It flew nine metres away to perch in an upright stance on a large gibber. Then, after flying in a large circle around us, it came back and perched on a gibber stone near to its nest, which we later found. There it sang a sharp, clear, 'whit' call, nine times before flying out of sight.

After a search we found the nest. The Gibber-bird must have ran 2.5 metres from the nest before starting its display. The nest was cup shaped and set in a depression in the ground under a tussock of Flinders Grass. The depression was lined with dry grass and fine rootlets. The

measurements we took of the nest were 572 mm wide and 381 mm deep. It contained two eggs although McGill (1970) reports that the usual clutch is three. The eggs were very pale pink with reddish brown spots on the larger end.

McGill (1970) gives the habitat of the Gibber-bird as "the low rainfall, semi-desert parts of east-central Australia on the red soil plains where the grass is short and the dominant features are the gibber stones." Its distribution is given as "extreme south-central Northern Territory, far south-western Queensland and north-western New South Wales; a broad area across north-eastern South Australia, south to near the Murray River."

There had been recent good rains in this area and green shoots were evident. The area is an arid one and the birds had started to breed after the rain. Breeding records (McGill, 1970) cover the period between May and October.

The Gibber-bird has an especial appeal to me although I have had only very little opportunity to observe it. Nature always seems to find some type of life to make use of even the most arid areas; and to see this small bird blending into this vast, shimmering gibber plain has never ceased to fascinate me.

#### REFERENCE

McGILL, A.R. 1970. Australian Warblers. Melbourne: The Bird Observers Club.

Mr M. WILSON, P.O. Box 483, Dalby, Queensland 4405.

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## UNUSUALLY COLOURED WHITE-THROATED WARBLER

An unusually coloured White-throated Warbler *Gerygone olivacea* was seen at Logan Reserve, south-east Queensland on 26 October 1972.

DESCRIPTION:

Upperparts generally - greyish brown, tail with dark subterminal band and tipped white, off-white frontal eye-stripe, throat white, underparts pale yellow, almost white undertail, grey smudge on ventral area and a broad black breast band. Bill and feet grey/black.

The black band was approximately ten mm wide on the lower breast so that the underparts colour sequence was:- white throat, yellow upper breast, black band and yellow belly.

The bird was in a family party with three other warblers, consisting of another adult with normal plumage and two fully fledged young in their uniform yellowish plumage. The two adults were very active in providing food for the young; the black banded individual was heard to sing snatches of the normal song, but most utterances of the group seemed to be soft, lisping, one syllable notes which I assume were feeding and/or contact calls.

The birds were seen again on November 2, 6 and 7 when the sighting was verified by my wife, and again on 9 and 10 November, and 11 November when the bird was seen by B. and J. Morgan and P. and D. Dawson. At this time the bird was seen to have a yellow fleck in the black band.

The warbler was seen yet again on 20 November, still close to the house, still feeding young. In the nine days since last seen, the yellow had spread through the

black band, and the yellow underparts had deepened in colour. Only a small area of broken black remained of the original band, as it was slowly moulting out.

Chisholm (1971. Australian Birdwatcher 4(1):1) reports a White-throated Warbler with a black band separating the white throat from the yellow underparts, from Chinchilla, Queensland.

Mr IVAN REYNOLDS, *Flesser Road, Logan Reserve, Qld. 4205.*

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#### L I T E R A T U R E

THE HANDBOOK OF AUSTRALIAN SEA-BIRDS by D.L. Serventy, V. Serventy, and J. Warham. 253pp, 6 maps, 122 photographs and diagrams, 15 col. pls. Published by A.H. & A.W. Reed Pty Ltd, Sydney 1971.

Few who have traversed the oceans can fail to have been attracted by the birds which frequent them, often far from land, and be fascinated by the ease with which they have mastered this habitat in all its moods. But none has yet succeeded in using the 'cradle of the deep' to nurture its young. Sea-birds must come to land to nest, and do so sometimes with apparent reluctance, when they sneak in after dark and leave before dawn, or remain all day hidden in burrows. Others cut short their period of domesticity by fattening nestlings and leaving them to fend for themselves until able to fly.

In spite of their fascination sea-birds are rather neglected in regional bird books. Often they are only

listed if they breed, which may be on remote and little known islands, where they are brief visitors; or if they are found as unattractive jetsam on ocean beaches. But others which occur commonly and for long periods almost within sight of land may not be included. Books on sea-birds are few and it is a notable achievement that ornithological literature should be enhanced by a volume devoted to Australian species.

There are detailed accounts of over 100 species in the main systematic section. A few cormorants and terns scarcely qualify as sea-birds but it would be a pity to split families by omitting them. Information is arranged under various subheads:- 'Field Characters and General Habits', 'Measurements', 'Status', 'Migration', 'Voice', 'Display', 'Breeding', 'Enemies and Mortality', 'Breeding Distribution' - not all of which are used for each species. There is an important section of text following 'Measurements' which might be the better of a subhead to guide readers to the kind of information it contains. This is particularly informative and interesting; the influence of wind force on the effective feeding of species like gannets and cormorants; an estimate that Pied Cormorants excreted 80 tons of guano per annum in the Shark Bay area of Western Australia, with Pelicans adding another 15 tons; and many other items of this nature.

As well as the systematic account there are introductory sections dealing with:- (1) 'Geography of Australian Sea-birds', which puts Australian seas and the species frequenting them into perspective in relation to other seas, especially the southern oceans; (2) 'The Sea-bird Fauna', which details the categories and biology of Australian sea-birds, the latter, for example, with a full

account of recent research on how birds, unlike shipwrecked sailors, can drink sea water and survive; an interesting comparison of the shape of certain bills, as in petrels, with a forcep designed as for picking up instruments from a sterilising bath; and many others; (3) 'Research on Australian Sea-birds'; (4) 'Sea-bird Conservation Problems in Australia', a subject very much in the minds of Australians in all walks of life at the present time.

This is not just another anaemic bird book of pretty pictures to grace the coffee table, although illustrations there are in plenty, but a full-blooded account of every aspect of the biology of the species included. It is written with the authority to be expected from authors whose writings and scientific studies are well known among world ornithologists. It is a rich source of reference information and interesting reading at any time.

J. D. Macdonald

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#### REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Information is solicited from Q.O.S. members concerning any of the following aspects of the communal roosts of the Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*: (1) the locality of roosts, (2) the sizes of roosts -- either absolute or estimated numbers, (3) the structure(s) utilized, e.g. palm tree, eucalypt, or building, (4) the age of the roosts, and (5) the other species of birds occupying the same roosts.

This information will supplement data already collected and will be used in the formulation of general statements on the nature of Myna roosts for a forth-coming paper. The appropriate acknowledgements will gladly be made.

Mr James J. Counsilman, Zoology Department,  
University of Queensland, St. Lucia, Q.4067.