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BIRDS OF MOUNT SPEC

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INTRODUCTION

An annotated checklist of the birds of the Mount Spec rainforest north-west of Townsville has been compiled from observations made in the area since July 1967. An average of eight visits a year have been made, many being weekend trips, but because of the distance from Townsville, regular observations and follow up of such activities as nesting and behaviour at bowers has not been possible. Although the notes may thus be incomplete they will provide visitors with an indication of what they may hope to see and also serve as an introduction to the birds of this interesting area which has a number of species unique to north-east Queensland and of very limited range. In this respect the avifauna contrasts quite markedly with that of Townsville itself (see lists by Hopkins, 1948 and Lavery and Hopkins, 1963). The area is included in a regional survey of the Townsville district (Lavery, 1968) but there is no detailed account of the Mount Spec avifauna.

THE AREA

Mount Spec (18°57'S, 146°12'E) is the highest point (991 metres) at the northern end of the Paluma Range. This range runs parallel with, and a few kilometres inland from, the coast for about 30 kilometres between Ingham and Townsville. It rises steeply from the coastal plain to between 800 and 950 metres. The steep north eastern slopes and crest of the range are frequently cloud covered and rainforest extends from roughly 200 metres on the slopes and gullies to the top of the range and westward for about eight kilometres. This belt of rainforest extends the length of the range but is most accessible at Mount Spec. The area may be reached by turning inland from the Bruce Highway 66 kilometres north of Townsville.

A map of the area visited is shown in Figure 1. This area lies mainly to the south of the summit of Mount Spec extending to Paluma township and includes Paluma Dam, a stretch of water covering 260 hectares but attracting very few water birds. Timber and old tin mining tracks give access to the relatively undisturbed rainforest west of the Mount Spec forestry road, which leads from the Paluma - Ewan road five kilometres past Paluma to Paluma Dam and beyond towards Mount Spec. Most of the area is within State Forest 268 which extends westward towards Hidden Valley and Running River.

The only track at the top of the range giving access to Crystal Creek National Park is a walking track from McLellans Lookout at Paluma which skirts the steep coastal slopes of the range to Widts Lookout, with a track branching off it towards Cloudy Creek. Most of the National Park extends down the steep coastal slopes east of this track and along Crystal Creek Valley. This National Park would be greatly enhanced if it was extended westwards to include the transitions from rainforest to open forest found towards Hidden Valley on Running River.

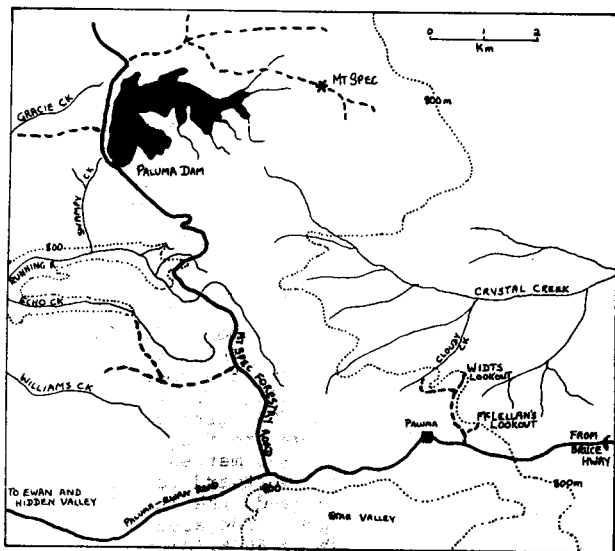


Figure 1. Map of the Mount Spec area.

The main habitat is rainforest, giving a dense canopy except where there has been tree felling or in areas damaged by cyclone Althea in December 1971. The understorey is relatively open although there is a dense layer of shrubs and a thick tangle of vines in damaged areas where more light penetrates. Sarsparilla or Red Ash *Alphitonia petriei* and Cudgerie *Mallotus philippinensis* fringe the rainforest along the forestry tracks, attracting fruit-eating birds. Some tracks are invaded by tussocky grasses, Lantana, brambles and wattle saplings. Stands of Rose Gum *Eucalyptus grandis* and Red Turpentine *Syncarpia glomulifera* are found in the transition zones between rainforest and the eucalypt/casuarina forest. A particularly impressive stand occurs about eight kilometres along the Paluma - Ewan Road west of Paluma township. There is a patch of sclerophyll forest with *Banksia*, *Leptospermum*, *Casuarina*, *Acacia* and *Xanthorrhoea* among other species at Widt's Lookout and banksias, casuarinas and acacias occur with rainforest trees in areas where more light penetrates, such as Birthday Falls and Paluma Dam.

THE BIRDS

The list contains 109 native species recorded in rainforest and transitional fringing vegetation at Mount Spec and also in rainforest near the bridge over Crystal Creek (altitude 350m). Two species, Sooty Owl and Graceful Honeyeater, are included on the basis of calls alone. The species order and nomenclature follow CSIRO (1969) except where trinomials are used. In such cases names coincide with Storr (1973). Species not mentioned by Lavery (1968) are marked with an asterisk.

The list contains sixteen species which are at, or very nearly at, the southern limit of their normal geographical range. These are Cassowary, Little Kingfisher, Northern Chowchilla, Mountain Thornbill, Fern Wren, Grey-headed Robin, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Australian Pied Flycatcher, Grey Whistler, Bower Shrike-thrush, Macleay Honeyeater, Bridled Honeyeater, Spotted Catbird, Tooth-billed Bowerbird, Golden Bowerbird and Victoria Riflebird. Some of these are common in the area (e.g. Northern Chowchilla) while others are rare (e.g. Boat-billed Flycatcher).

Not included in the list are the White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa* and Northern Fantail *Rhipidura setosa*. Both have been recorded early in the morning on the way up the range about one kilometre from the Bruce Highway and both occur in the Jourama National Park at the base of the range on Waterview Creek, ten kilometres further north along the Bruce Highway.

Some non-rainforest species are also worthy of mention since they do not occur or are rarely seen on the coast in the Townsville area. The Yellow-faced Honeyeater *Meliphaga chrysops* is resident in the eucalypt/casuarina forest and the heathland between the rainforest and Hidden Valley on Running River, 24

kilometres west of Paluma. The Fuscous (or Yellow-tinted?) Honeyeater *Meliphaga fusca* (*flavescens*?) and Noisy Minor *Myzantha melanocephala* are both found along Running River at Hidden Valley.

In the brief comments on each species, Paluma, the Dam and Crystal Creek refer respectively to Paluma township, Paluma Dam and the area adjacent to the bridge over Crystal Creek on the road up the range.

*Cassowary *Casuarus casuarinus*

One seen in the seven years, droppings are occasionally seen and breeding has been reported recently. (Dr. H. Lavery, *pers. comm.*).

Darter *Anhinga rufa*

Recorded at the Dam in December 1971 and one to four birds seen on all subsequent visits.

Little Pied Cormorant *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*

Two birds seen occasionally at the Dam during 1972 and 1973.

Little Grebe *Podiceps novaehollandiae*

Single bird seen once on the Dam, November 1969.

Black Duck *Anas superciliosa*

Four seen in August 1972 and two in October 1973.

Crested Hawk *Aviceda subcristata*

Seen in three separate areas on 19 and 20 December, 1970.

Fork-tailed Kite *Milvus migrans*

Single bird seen occasionally over the rainforest.

Whistling Eagle *Haliastur spheerurus*

Seen occasionally over the rainforest and in the Dam area.

Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae*

Seen twice in the Paluma area.

*Australian Goshawk *Accipiter fasciatus*

Recorded in the Paluma area and adjacent rainforest.

Brush Turkey *Alectura lathamii*

Quite numerous and often seen feeding along the edge of the road or forestry tracks early morning or evening.

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Three seen 1 January, 1972 and 12 August 1972 at the Dam.

Red-crowned Pigeon *Ptilinopus regina*

Heard and seen occasionally.

Purple-crowned Pigeon *Ptilinopus superbus*

From September to early April heard and sometimes seen most areas.

Wompoo Pigeon *Megaloprepia magnifica*

Probably resident. Seen frequently and calls are nearly always heard.

*Torres Strait Pigeon *Ducula spilorrhoa*

Recorded 11 January 1970 feeding in canopy fruiting trees north-east of the Dam.

Topknot Pigeon *Lopholaimus antarcticus*

About from August to March. Mostly seen in flight or perched in tall sparsely foliated trees rising above the canopy.

- White-headed Pigeon *Columba norfolciensis*
Recorded October to January. Seen once or twice along Widts Lookout track but seems to prefer the rainforest north of the Dam.
- Brown Pigeon *Macropygia amboinensis*
Common resident in rainforest and secondary growth.
- Green-winged Pigeon *Chalcophaps indica*
Resident and quite common. Most easily seen feeding along roads and tracks in the early morning. Nests with two eggs found in January and February.
- Rainbow Lorikeet *Trichglossus haematodus*
Usually a few around Paluma but not seen in big flocks.
- Scaly-breasted Lorikeet *Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus*
Always a few about but very numerous and noisy when Rose Gums are in flower.
- *Blue-faced Lorilet *Cyclopsitta diophthalma macleayana*
Flock seen in figs, October 1970 (C.A.C. Cameron, pers. comm.)
- Red-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus banksi*
Flocks of from five to twenty seen in January and February in the Dam area. Also recorded from time to time in other months.
- Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*
Always a few about but mostly single birds. Flocks of six to eight have been seen occasionally.
- King Parrot *Aprosmictus scapularis*
Probably resident. Mostly seen in pairs or small parties but flocks of 30 or more have been seen in March feeding in the Red Ash.
- Crimson Rosella *Platycercus elegans nigrescens*
Small flocks of eight to ten birds sometimes seen early mornings at McLellan's Lookout. Mostly in pairs August to February feeding in wattles fringing tracks or in rainforest secondary growth.
- *Pallid Cuckoo *Cuculus pallidus*
Seen once at the Dam, 1 August 1971.
- Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*
Recorded September to April at the Dam and near Paluma. Also occurs at the bridge over Crystal Creek on the way up the range.
- Fan-tailed Cuckoo *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*
Mostly seen and heard at the Dam and McLellan's Lookout between April and November, although it has been seen in January.
- Golden Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx plāgosus*
Common in the area. Heard during most months.
- Pheasant Coucal *Centropus phasianinus*
One seen at Paluma 24 January, 1970 and a juvenile in the same area on 30 January, 1971.
- Boobook Owl *Ninox novaeseelandiae*
Heard in January, March, August and November.

*Sooty Owl *Nyctaleus tenebricosus*

On 13 February, 1972 at Paluma and 1 April, 1973, along the Echo Creek track at about 04:30 and 02:30 respectively, a long high-pitched slightly strident descending whistle call was heard. The call was repeated four times with an interval of a minute or more between each call getting louder and fading as the bird approached and flew over.

*Owlet-nightjar *Aegotheles cristatus*

Seen once in a stand of Rose Gum and Red Turpentine eight kilometres west of Paluma.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Heard "wood-chopping" near Paluma in September and October in most years and in July 1973.

Grey Swiftlet *Collocalia podiopygia*

Mostly seen hawking over Crystal Creek but at around 16:30 on 6 January, 1973 a large flock was drinking or collecting insects from the surface of the water at the Dam.

*Spine-tailed Swift *Hirundapus caudacutus*

A few birds seen from McLellan's Lookout on several occasions between October and April.

*Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

Single bird recorded in April 1970.

Azure Kingfisher *Alcyon azurea*

Seen once on a creek on the way up Mount Spec east of the Dam in September 1968 and once on a secluded arm of the Dam in August 1972.

*Little Kingfisher *Alcyon pusilla*

A pair nesting on Gracie Creek on 28 November, 1971

Forest Kingfisher *Halcyon macleayi*

Has been seen during September and October in rainforest secondary growth at the Dam and at Birthday Falls, also at Paluma.

Sacred Kingfisher *Halcyon sancta*

A casual visitor, possibly on migration. Recorded some years in August, September, October, November, April and May. Three birds seen in different areas in October, 1973 one looking particularly bedraggled and travel worn.

Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*

Recorded flying over rainforest areas mostly in March and April, but also seen in July and October.

Noisy Pitta *Pitta versicolor*

Widespread resident. Can sometimes be seen along Widts Lookout track and on lawns in Paluma.

Welcome Swallow *Hirundo neoxena*

Two, sometimes four, always seen at the Dam.

Tree-martin *Petrochelidon nigricans*

A few occasionally seen at the Dam.

Fairy-martin *Petrochelidon ariel*

Seen occasionally in small numbers at the Dam.

Papuan Cuckoo-shrike *Coraciina papuensis robusta*

Although following Storr, I believe the birds seen belong to the race which Galbraith (1969) calls *C. papuensis stalkerii* and are commonly called Papuan Cuckoo-shrike rather than Little Cuckoo-

shrike. Recorded in rainforest fringe vegetation especially in Rose Gum areas.

Barred Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina lineata*

Seen in pairs, occasionally four birds together, feeding in Strangler Figs and other fruiting trees.

Varied Triller *Lalage leucomela*

One seen along the road about three kilometres west of Paluma in September, 1969 and one along the National Park track in rainforest near Cloudy Creek, in November, 1972.

*Australian Ground Thrush *Zoothera dauma*

Occasionally seen along Widts Lookout track and in a number of other places.

Northern Chowchilla *Orthonyx spaldingi*

Very numerous especially in fairly flat areas and along the less frequented tracks. Noisy in the early mornings from October to January or early February.

Brown (or Northern) Warbler *Gerygone mouki*

Active, vocal and numerous above 350 metres, sometimes in small flocks, sometimes in pairs. Nests seen at the Dam in wattles in January.

*Fairy Warbler *Gerygone palpebrosa*

Occurs at Crystal Creek and recorded in a patch of sclerophyll vegetation at Widts Lookout, otherwise not seen at the top of the range.

*Mountain Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla katherina*

Resident in pairs and small parties in rainforest at the top of the range.

*Buff-breasted Scrub-wren *Sericornis frontalis laevigaster*

Occurs in rainforest fringe areas and secondary growth at the Dam and along the track beyond the Dam. Also seen eight kilometres west of Paluma in a stand of Rose Gum with much low undergrowth.

Yellow-throated Scrub-wren *Sericornis lathamii*

Common resident in rainforest at the top of the range.

Large-billed Scrub-wren *Sericornis magnirostris*

Resident and seen feeding from almost ground level to 15m or more, often with Northern Warblers and Grey Fantails.

Fern Wren *Oreoscopus gutturalis*

Resident in all rainforest areas on level ground, seems to avoid steep slopes. Calls heard mostly from October to January.

Lemon-breasted Flycatcher *Microeca flavigaster*

Only recorded at Crystal Creek.

Grey-headed Robin *Heteromyias cinereifrons*

Common resident in rainforest at the top of the range. Its repeated piping note is one of the most common calls in the area. Nest with eggs found 4 September, 1971.

Yellow Robin *Eopsaltria australis*

Resident in rainforest fringe areas. Two always about in the wattles and secondary growth at the Dam.

Pale-yellow Robin *Eopsaltria capito nana*

Common resident throughout the rainforest. Found nesting

along Widts Lookout track and feeding young there and in other areas in October and November.

Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa*

Numbers fluctuate but some resident. Seen along all tracks.

Rufous Fantail *Rhipidura rufifrons*

Seen at top of the range in rainforest from August to March and at Crystal Creek in April. Possibly absent from the higher altitudes from April until August.

Willie Wagtail *Rhipidura leucophrys*

A pair at Paluma, April and May 1974.

Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula*

Seen in November, 1972 along Widts Lookout track and in March 1972 at Birthday Falls.

*Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca*

Recorded at McLellan's Lookout on 18 October, 1970 and on 13 October, 1973, five were seen in widely separated areas.

*Boat-billed Flycatcher *Machaerirhynchus flaviventer*

Rare and elusive but probably resident. Seen on 3 March 1974 along the road about a kilometre west of Paluma near the turn off to the Rubbish Dump, and also along Widt's Lookout track on 21 March, 1974.

Australian Pied Flycatcher *Arses kaupi*

Recorded very occasionally both at Crystal Creek and along the road to the Dam at the top of the range.

Black-faced Flycatcher *Monarcha melanopsis*

Recorded October to April in all areas in the rainforest. Nests found in January.

Spectacled Flycatcher *Monarcha trivirgata*

Recorded September to April along Widts Lookout track and in secondary growth around Paluma and at the Dam and in August at the Crystal Creek crossing on the way up the range.

White-eared Flycatcher *Monarcha leucotis*

Seen at Crystal Creek in August 1969 and November 1970. Also seen on 5 February foraging in the foliage of a fallen tree brought down by cyclone Althea.

Golden Whistler *Pachycephala pectoralis*

Common resident at the top of the range.

Rufous Whistler *Pachycephala rufivertris*

Seen once at the Dam on 1 August 1971.

*Grey Whistler *Pachycephala simplex peninsulae*

Often seen and heard in the early morning at Crystal Creek. Recorded three times at the top of the range.

*Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*

Always one or two in wattles and secondary growth at the Dam.

Rufous Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla megarkyncha*

Not common at the top of the range. Seen in secondary growth around Paluma and at the Dam and occasionally along tracks. Resident at Crystal Creek.

Bower Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla boweri*

Common resident of the rainforest at the top of the range. One nearly always seen along Widts Lookout track.

- Eastern Whipbird *Psophodes olivaceus*
Common resident of rainforest.
- Striated Sittella *Neositta striata*
Seen occasionally in Rose Gum area eight kilometres west of Paluma.
- Little Tree-creeper *Climacteris leucophaea minor*
Common resident in rainforest at the top of the range. Seen and heard mostly along Echo Creek and Gracie Creek tracks.
- Mistletoe Bird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*
Resident. Occurs in secondary growth and rainforest fringe areas.
- *Spotted Pardalote *Pardalotus punctatus*
Seen in July, August, September about three kilometres west of Paluma and at the Dam, and in February 1973 along the road to the Dam.
- Black-headed Pardalote *Pardalotus melanocephalus*
Seen once in December 1970 about three kilometres west of Paluma at the Star Valley Lookout.
- Grey-breasted Silveryeye *Zosterops lateralis*
Small parties always about at Crystal Creek and also recorded at the top of the range in secondary growth along tracks and at Paluma.
- Dusky Honeyeater *Myzomela obecura*
Resident but elusive. Often seen at Crystal Creek and around Paluma.
- Scarlet Honeyeater *Myzomela sanguinolenta*
Frequently seen at Crystal Creek and recorded spasmodically in most areas at the top of the range.
- Graceful Honeyeater *Meliphaga gracilis*
Call thought to be that of this bird heard on several occasions at Crystal Creek.
- Lesser Lewin Honeyeater *Meliphaga notata*
Resident at Crystal Creek and seen occasionally up to about 500 metres up the range.
- Lewin Honeyeater *Meliphaga lewinii*
Resident at the top of the range in fair numbers and has also been heard once or twice at Crystal Creek.
- *Macleay Honeyeater *Meliphaga macleayana*
Resident at the top of the range and has been seen feeding in Black Bean *Castanospermum australe* blossoms near Crystal Creek. Most easily and regularly seen in gardens at Paluma.
- Bridled Honeyeater *Meliphaga frenata*
Common and at some times of year a noisy resident in rainforest at the top of the range. Seen regularly along Echo Creek and Gracie Creek tracks. Feeds high in fruiting trees.
- White-naped Honeyeater *Melithreptus lunatus*
Not common but recorded regularly in Rose Gum on the western fringe of the rainforest and occasionally seen near the Dam. Resident in eucalypt/casuarina woodland west of the rainforest.
- *White-cheeked Honeyeater *Phylidonyris niger*
Seen in flowering banksias at the Dam and at Birthday Falls,

also feeding in the blossoms of Red Turpentine eight kilo-west of Paluma in 1972 and 1973.

- Eastern Spinebill *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*
Resident at the top of the range but not numerous. Seen in all areas but most frequently at Paluma.
- Red-browed Finch *Aegintha temporalis*
Resident. Pairs or small parties seen in secondary growth at the edge of roads and tracks.
- Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus*
Recorded occasionally in rainforest fringe areas.
- *Yellow Figbird *Sphecotheres flaviventris*
Seen occasionally feeding in Strangler Figs. Birds intermediate in colour between this and the Southern Figbird *S. vieilloti* have also been seen.
- Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus*
Recorded at Paluma and in rainforest fringe areas; occasionally within the rainforest.
- White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
Seen occasionally at Paluma and circling over the rainforest.
- Pied Currawong *Strepera graculina*
Occasional influxes, especially in August and September.
- Spotted Cathbird *Ailuroedus crassirostris maculosus*
Common resident. Inquisitive; often comes to investigate a visitor to its territory.
- Tooth-billed Bower-bird *Scenopoeetes dentirostris*
Common resident. Noisy and active at its playground from about October to January.
- Golden Bower-bird *Ericodura newtoniana*
Fairly common resident at the top of the range from 900 metres. Active at their bowers from September to end of January or early February but also occasionally seen at the bower in July and August. Bowlers found within the forest along Gracie Creek and Echo Creek tracks.
- Satin Bower-bird *Ptilinorhynchus violaceus*
Fairly common resident. May be seen and heard at their bowers from July to early February but most active from October to January. One frequently seen at the camping and picnic area at the Dam. It has a bower in the area.
- Victoria Riflebird *Ptiloris paradiseus victoriae*
Fairly common resident. Heard and seen throughout the area.
- Australian Crow *Corvus orru*
One or two birds seen occasionally.

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A CHESTNUT TEAL NEAR INNISFAIL

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On 16 September 1972, we visited Eubenangee Swamp (17°31'S, 146°02'E) about 15km north of Innisfail, Queensland.

One adult male Chestnut Teal *Anas castanea* was located in rafts totalling about 100 Grey Teal *Anas gibberifrons* on one lagoon in the swamp. The sighting was made from a low hill overlooking the lagoon, at a range of about 150 metres. There was a light overcast; the weather was mild and the wind negligible. Observations were made with 7 x 35 and 10 x 50 binoculars and a 20x telescope. The following description was noted:

Size and proportions virtually identical with those of Grey Teal closely surrounding it. Head bottle green, with a high gloss; breast and most of visible body rich mahogany red. There was a conspicuous white crescent on the flank, and blackish "stern". The eye was dark. The bird was watched for about ten or fifteen minutes. It floated quietly on the water, and was not observed to dive.

The male Chestnut Teal could be confused only with a Hardhead *Aythya australis* or conceivably a male Blue-winged Shoveler *Anas rhynchos*. The present bird was separated from Hardhead by much smaller size, typical *Anas* silhouette on water, green head, and blackish, not white, undertail coverts, and from male Shoveler by size, lack of white facial crescent, dark eye, and small bill. One of us (Lindsey) is very familiar with Chestnut Teal in the

region of Sydney, New South Wales, and both are familiar with Hardhead and Blue-winged Shoveler.

Two unusually dark female teal were associated with the duck, and were thought to be female Chestnut Teal, but the range was considered too extreme for positive identification of females.

The range map given by Frith (1967) implies that the species is "very unusual" over most of Queensland except the extreme south-east. Storr (1973) gives the status of the species as "a rare visitor ... north to Bowen". There are several records from the Atherton Tableland (Bravery, 1970), but the species has not previously been recorded in the Innisfail area (Gill, 1970). In short there appear to be very few published observations of this species in tropical north Queensland, particularly coastal areas, and accordingly it seems desirable to put the above sighting on record.

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SIGHTING OF A GREY NODDY IN QUEENSLAND

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On 14 April 1973, we were watching for sea birds from Camel Rock, approximately one kilometre north of Point Lookout ($27^{\circ}25'S, 153^{\circ}33'E$) on North Stradbroke Island. There was a heavy cloud cover, and a strong southerly wind. Camel Rock consists of two, small, rocky headlands, partly separated by a narrow gully. We were seated on one such headland, about fifteen metres from the seaward edge and ten metres above sea level. Crested Terns *Sterna bergii* and Little Terns *S. sinensis* were numerous; Common Noddies *Anous stolidus*, Wedge-tailed Shearwaters *Puffinus pacificus* and Australian Gannets *Sula bassana* were seen frequently and Common Terns *Sterna hirundo*, White-winged Black Terns *S. leucoptera* and one White-capped Noddy *Anous minutus* were also present.

At approximately 17:30 the light had faded to the point where sea-watching was of little value. We were about to leave when a small, rather pale tern was seen to rise over the southern edge of Camel Rock and fly past us at a distance of no more than fifteen metres. The first impression was of a noddy-type colour pattern, in that there was a distinct whitish cap, occupying a similar position to that in other noddies. However, the remainder of the upperparts were a distinct blue-grey similar to that found in several petrels, for example Prions *Pachyptila*.

With very little wing movement, the bird raced downwind over the edge of the headland, then down to fly along the beach and disappear behind sand dunes to the immediate north. Apart from the paler cap, its colouration was very uniform, though paler on the underparts, particularly the underwing lining. The tail tapered towards its tip, and did not appear particularly long. The body was small and compact and the bird seemed graceful and delicate.

We believe that this bird was a Grey Noddy *Procelsterna caerulea* (Bennett). Although there are several records from New South Wales, particularly from around Sydney, we know of no previous record of this species in Queensland. The closest breeding grounds are Lord Howe Island and Norfolk Island.

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THE YELLOW SILVEREYE IN NORTH-EAST QUEENSLAND

H.J. LAVERY AND R.J. GRIMES

Le Souef (1891) and Galbraith (1967) have referred to observations of the yellow silvereye *Zosterops lutea* Gould in eastern Australia but these observations have not been accepted, for example by Mees (1969).

Lavery and Seton (in press) consider the species, on the basis of collections made during district fauna surveys, as common in the lower Burdekin River district. The following specimens collected on 11 March 1971 at Barratta Creek via Brandon in north-east Queensland, compared with material taken on 14 August 1966 at Karumba on the Gulf of Carpentaria, are offered in support of this considerable extension of range from that of north-western Australia to the Gulf of Carpentaria.

Age and sex	Weight (g)	Total	Length (mm).			
			Wing	Exposed culmen	Tarsus	Mid-toe
BARRATTA CREEK, Q.						
Adult female*	8.9	112	53	9.5	16.2	9.3
Immature ?female	10.7	121	56	10.1	16.9	11.2
Immature ?male	10.9	132	52	9.9	-	10.0
KARUMBA, Q.						
Adult female	8.3	105	56	11.0	16.0	11.0
Adult male	9.5	115	57	10.0	17.0	11.0

* Specimen now in Department of Primary Industries' Collection, North Queensland Fauna Centre, Townsville.

The three specimens from mangroves, chiefly white mangrove *Avicennia marina* (Forsk.) Vierh. var. *australasica* (Walp.) Moldenke (identified by Botany Branch, D.P.I., Brisbane) bordering the

lower reaches of Barratta Creek are indistinguishable in plumage from those inhabiting Karumba, identified as *Zosterops lutea lutea* Gould by Mees 1961 and others; that is the upper parts of the eastern form are mostly also olive yellow (colour 2D7 in 'Methuen Handbook of Colour', 1961) and the lower parts mostly are vivid yellow to yellow (colours 2A8 and 2B8).

The similarity between these widespread populations justifies acceptance of the intermediate locality records of le Souef (*loc.cit.*) and Seaton (1956) (one of the North Barnard Islands, and Edge Hill in Cairns, respectively) particularly because these incorporate similar mangrove habitat. The records also indicate the possibility of discovery in other mangrove areas of eastern Queensland.

The construction and location of nests (sturdy, cup-shaped, lined nests bound to several branches of mangrove trees overhanging water and tidally-exposed mud flats of estuarine streams), egg-laying season (January, February and March), clutch size and appearance (2 x C/3, pale blue), foods (including larval and adult Coleoptera), period of wing moult (including March), and patchy distribution within the mangrove zone, were as recorded for the species elsewhere in northern Australia (see *e.g.* Mees 1961).

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NOTES ON THE BEHAVIOUR OF TERNS AT ONE TREE ISLAND

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From November, 1973 to March, 1974 on One Tree Island (23°31'S, 152°06'E) in the Capricorn Group I observed the behaviour of seven species of tern in their foraging, skimming and interactions with the Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae*. Some observations were also made on chick behaviour, especially those of the Lesser Crested Tern *Sterna bengalensis*.

This work is part of the research in which I am engaged and follows on the preliminary observations made by Domm and Recher (1973). These authors have described the study area and commented on the breeding and feeding ecology of the terns on One Tree Island.

TIME OF FORAGING

Buckley and Buckley (1972) found that the Royal Tern *Sterna maxima maxima* foraged on the incoming tide and "the greatest concentration of birds was usually noted at half-tide," suggesting the importance of tide as a cue to feeding rather than time of day. Similar behaviour was noted in *S. bengalensis* on One Tree Island. The largest numbers were usually seen foraging on the latter half of the incoming tide and full tide. Generally the number of birds foraging on the falling tide decreased. However, "Birds are essentially opportunistic feeders" (Recher, 1971) and if a school of fish is crossing the reef, large numbers of *S. bengalensis* will forage on them during any stage of the tide.

The Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*, Black-naped Tern *Sterna sumatrana*, Roseate Tern *Sterna dougalli* and Little Tern *Sterna albifrons* mostly congregate at high tide on the island or on exposed rubble banks, although many individuals remain out foraging.

The number of Bridled Terns *Sterna anaetheta* on the island falls steadily from sunrise until 15:30 or 16:00 and then rises sharply about 16:30. Generally most birds are back by 18:00. Sometimes 200 or more *S. anaetheta* had not returned by 19:00. As they are not present in the early morning I assume they spend the night on islands between One Tree and their feeding grounds.

Flocks of the White-capped Noddy *Anous minutus* may be seen foraging at all times of the day. The majority of flocks which were seen in the lagoon or outer margin of the reef were between 08:00 and 13:00. Between 12:00 and 16:00 many roost in *Pisonia* trees but

large flocks may be seen in the lagoon during this time. Noddies from neighbouring islands such as Heron and Lady Musgrave forage around the One Tree Reef. Presumably some of these will roost on the island or rest on the water during the hottest part of the day.

BEHAVIOUR IN FORAGING FLOCKS

WHITE-CAPPED NODDY

Whilst foraging in flocks, *Anous* usually fly close to the surface, within one metre of it. Often they forage in large flocks dropping onto the water to capture small fish driven to the surface by piscivores (see Ashmole and Ashmole, 1967; Domm and Recher, 1973).

The ratio of the surface area covered by the prey species to the number of *Anous* foraging on them will contribute to the ease with which prey may be captured. At one time certain individuals cannot get at the fish while others do, but a little later previously hindered individuals may get fish because either the fish are driven to where they are or to a place vacated or unoccupied by other birds. It is unlikely that particular individuals are constantly prevented from catching fish.

When a school is no longer available to the birds they fly about attempting to relocate it. *Anous* may range over several hundred metres in their search. When the fish are available again they aggregate over them.

BLACK-NAPE TERN AND ROSEATE TERN

These two species use similar foraging tactics. They air dip *i.e.*, prey is captured in the air without contact with the water, contact dip *i.e.*, the bird's bill makes brief contact with the water to pick up prey but its forward flight does not stop, and plunge to the surface from two to six metres into the school of fish (terminology from Ashmole and Ashmole, 1967). They do not dive as frequently as *Anous* dip. Diving into the periphery of the school of prey species may provide these terns with more fish or opportunities than when trying to forage where the school is densest.

Being small these terns can manoeuvre very well among the individuals of the flock. The longer tail of *S.dougalli* gives it greater manoeuvrability in flight than *S.sumatrana*; perhaps an advantage in dense foraging flocks.

BRIDLED TERN

S.anaetheta is often seen foraging with flocks of *Anous* in the swell sometimes near the surf. *S.anaetheta* air dips, contact dips and plunges to the surface from two to six metres. This

species also can manoeuvre extremely well in flight but may encounter similar difficulties as *S.sumatrana* and *S.dougalli* when foraging with large flocks of *Anous*.

LESSER CRESTED TERN AND CRESTED TERN

Because of their size they cannot manoeuvre as well as previously mentioned species. *S.bengalensis* and *S.bergii* are not seen foraging with flocks of *Anous* as often as the other terns are. When they do, they dive from seven to ten metres. Unless *S.bengalensis* and *S.bergii* are on the periphery of the flock they do not dive very often.

LITTLE TERN

Sterna albifrons is the smallest tern on the island but it plunges to the surface or dives direct to its prey from ten to thirteen metres. It is even less adapted to foraging in flocks than the other species of tern.

SKIMMING

All species have been seen skimming *i.e.* the bill is opened and the lower mandible is pushed through the water as the bird flies. *S.bergii* often skims with a fish in its bill. *S.bengalensis* may skim just after swallowing a fish or at other times but I have not seen one skim with a fish in its bill. Similarly *S.sumatrana* and *S.dougalli* will skim just after swallowing a fish. The significance to *S.bergii* of skimming with a fish in its bill is not understood, but it may be merely drinking, bill cleaning or a displacement activity (see Manning, 1967) resulting from being unable to find its mate or an unsuccessful attempt to initiate a courtship flight. Buckley and Buckley (1972) suggested that skimming by *S.maxima maxima* after catching a crab or fish "is not drinking ... but rather a means of soothing or cleaning their bills after they have been pecked at or irritated by crabs' claws (or occasionally fish)." Possibly *S.bergii* skims with a fish in its bill to clean or soothe the irritation of its bill caused by fish.

INTERACTIONS WITH SILVER GULL

The fact that gulls steal tern eggs is well documented (*e.g.* Gross, 1954; Drury, 1965; Howard, 1968; Hatch, 1970). *L.novaehollandiae* is no exception.

S.bergii tolerated Silver Gulls on the periphery of the nesting area. If a gull came too close the sitting tern lunged at the intruder or flew up and dive-bombed it. The latter method was not as effective as the former one in protecting the eggs because it exposed the egg and gave the gull time between swoops to break it.

The smaller *S.sumatrana* mobbed gulls entering their nesting area. This method of defence of the nest was more effective in driving off the intruders than that of *S.bergii*.

S.bergii carrying fish back to groups resting on the island are harassed by gulls. The gulls did not chase terns carrying fish but waited for them to land in or near the group and tried to steal the fish from them. However I saw only one gull succeed in stealing a fish from *S.bergii*. Usually the tern saw the gull approaching and escaped.

The gulls concentrate their fish stealing attacks on *S.bengalensis*. This species forages along the outer margin of the reef and on schools of Atherinidae close to the island. The gulls sit on the exposed reef or island near the foraging terns and chase them when the fish are caught. The gulls were successful in stealing fish in approximately 10% of the chases.

A.minutus, *S.sumatrana*, *S.dougalli* and *S.albifrons* while carrying fish are rarely harassed by gulls. Dunn (1973) suggested that the energy yield from small fish did not "warrant the effort" involved in chasing the bird to steal its catch.

CRECHE BEHAVIOUR

At low tide, the *S.bengalensis* creche moved to the outer margin of the reef close to the water's edge. The high tide drove chicks to the higher ground of the first rubble bank. As the chicks got older and ranged more widely over the exposed reef they were often cut off from the higher ground by the incoming tide. When the part of the reef they were on was being covered they swam in tight groups across channels to the higher ground of the first rubble bank.

The chicks formed a tightly packed group when pursued by humans and once went into the water to escape from us. They returned to an exposed part of the reef about 30 metres from where we were standing. When we attempted to capture some of the chicks, they scattered and regrouped a short distance away (cf. Buckley and Buckley, 1972).

During the chase some of the adults present dive-bombed us uttering alarm calls, whilst others kept circling above the fleeing chicks. Adults exhibited similar behaviour of circling whilst the chicks were swimming or the White-breasted Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* was flying over. Once a female Lesser Frigate Bird *Fregata ariel* harassed a Lesser Crested Tern carrying a fish above a creche. The Frigate Bird was mobbed by ten to fifteen *S.bengalensis* and the tern carrying the fish escaped with the fish.

An adult's recognition of its chick appeared to be initially by voice and confirmed by sight. At the age of three to four weeks,

chicks answered any adult carrying fish and calling. At five to six weeks, the chick's recognition of the parents' calls was good e.g. of 32 adults carrying fish, one chick answered five and was fed three times. On several occasions an adult looked as though it was going to feed a chick but then pulled back or swerved away from the begging chick. It seemed as though it realised at the last moment that the chick was not its own.

Silver Gulls stood on the periphery of the creche attempting to steal fish from the adult terns trying to feed their chicks. Similar behaviour by gulls at a *S. bergii* creche was reported by Domm and Recher (1973).

Buckley and Buckley (1972) suggested that the creche offered the chicks protection from predators and freed the adults to forage for the large amounts of food which their chicks require. Sometimes only a few adults are near the creche and so both parents of many chicks can forage simultaneously.

A disadvantage of the creche is the difficulty the adults have in finding their chicks. This is further complicated by the interference from gulls when the adult terns return with fish for their chicks.

The chicks of *S. anaetheta* do not form a creche but remain around their nest sites amongst the vegetation. The adults regurgitate food for their chicks so are rarely harassed by gulls seeking fish. Young chicks (less than one week) freeze when disturbed, pressed close to the ground. Older chicks (three weeks or more, runners) move away from the nest and hide amongst the shrubs or under a fallen tree branch. These chicks are very hard to find. Both their behaviour and cryptic colouring give the chicks excellent protection from predators.

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WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER NORTH OF THE TROPIC

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On 20 April 1973, two White-eared Honeyeaters *Meliphaga leucotis* were seen at Burra (20°44'S, 145°11'E) where the Flinders Highway crosses the Dividing Range roughly midway between Pentland and Torrens Creek. They were feeding low in profusely flowering bushes of *Grevillea decora* on the eastern side of the range and were seen well from a distance of only eight to ten metres, so that their identity was unmistakable.

They appeared slightly furtive as if wishing to avoid confrontation with the resident Brown Honeyeaters *Lichmera indistincta* and were remarkably quiet for this species, though it was their calls which had first drawn attention to their presence.

As this was only an overnight camp it was not possible to watch the birds for long and it is not known how long they had been in the area or how long they stayed. There was no sign of them on the weekend of 5 and 6 May.

The White-eared Honeyeater is a bird of the south-east interior of Queensland and is distributed north to the Tropic of Capricorn (23°27'S). I was surprised to see them this far north and wondered whether there are other records of this species north of the Tropic.

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FIRST QUEENSLAND RECORD OF THE SHOEMAKER

D.P. VERNON AND D.H. FLEAY

During the cyclonic depression with accompanying heavy rain and strong winds which so deleteriously affected south-eastern Queensland 25 to 27 January 1974, many sea birds were driven ashore. The most interesting record from the Gold Coast was an adult Shoemaker (White-chinned Petrel) *Frocellaria aequinoctialis* found alive at Coolangatta on 28 January 1974. It was taken to D.H. Fleay's Fauna Reserve at West Burleigh where it died on 2 February 1974. Shortly after, it was presented to the Queensland Museum and prepared as a study skin with one wing separate and spread.

It has long been known that *F.aequinoctialis* is an abundant pelagic species of southern oceans ranging from the Antarctic to about 30°S latitude in the north. According to Murphy (1936, p.643) "South Georgia is the most glaciated island at which the species nests while the Falkland islands represents the milder extreme of its breeding range". Although it breeds on islands south of New Zealand (Serventy *et al.*, 1971), Oliver (1955) wrote "elsewhere in the New Zealand region it is only an occasional visitor."

To date there are two Australian records (Serventy *et al.*, 1971). A feathered skull and skeleton, National Museum of Victoria registered No. B7208, was found by C. Beaglehole at Discovery Bay, Victoria on 15 March 1959. This specimen was discussed at length by Learmonth (1960, 1962). The second specimen known for Australia was the remains of a beachwashed bird found by G. Holmes at Newcastle Bight, New South Wales on 14 December 1968 (Serventy *et al.*, 1971). Although rare in Australian Museums, Murphy (1936, p.642) recorded that "The American Museum Collection contains a large series of Shoemakers from the oceans on both sides of southern America and also from the Australasian region".

Campbell (1901, p.897) wrote of the species "This large, dark coloured Petrel, with conspicuous white markings about its face is a flyer over the southern seas and has been noted off New South Wales and Tasmania. There has been a little difficulty about determining the species on account of the variations in some individuals of the facial markings, especially under the chin." Variations of facial and chin markings of specimens from the Kerguelen region and observations at sea are depicted by Falla (1937) while the spectacled form *conspicillata* is delineated by Slater (1970).

Details of the specimen are as follows : Q.M. 015178, adult male, gonads not enlarged (8 x 4mm), skull fully ossified. Sooty black both dorsal and ventral with white triangular patch between the

lower mandibles, an area about 25 x 12mm. Near the centre of the white area there are three feathers which are partly sooty black. Iris dark brown, bill yellowish horn, culmen and tip of unguis and mandibular sulcus and groove running along the lower mandible black. Tarsus and feet black. Measurements in millimetres are as follows: total length in flesh 485, culmen 54, wing 380, wingspan 1285, tail 128, tarsus 66, middle toe and claw 84. The weight of the specimen was 611.5 grams. Specimen Q.M. 015178 compares very closely with one illustrated by Godman (1907-10). Of the black petrels, the Shoemaker is second in size only to the Giant Petrels, *Macroneoctes giganteus* and *M.halli*.

Murphy (1936, p.642) discussed the vernacular name in this vein: "At South Georgia where this large black petrel is extraordinarily abundant, I once asked a Norwegian whaler why the bird was called 'Shoemaker'. He replied "Because he sits in his shop and sings ..." In early whaling days it was also known as 'Stinker' by the men because of the rank odour emitted by the birds. The calls of the birds are reported by Murphy as follows: "During the active courtship season November, the peculiarly penetrating cries of the Shoemaker make the night air ring and sound at a distance like a chorus of frogs."

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SILVER GULLS HAWKING INSECTS

KES HULSMAN

The Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* is a very versatile forager. It can scavenge, plunge for fish, steal fish from other birds, steal eggs and hawk insects. Watson and Wheeler (1963) report three instances of Silver Gulls hawking amongst large numbers of insects, while Green (1966) reports Silver Gulls hawking at a height of approximately 100 metres.

The following observations were made on 6 February 1974 between 07:43 and 19:00 on One Tree Island (23°31'S, 152°06'E), Great Barrier Reef. The insects the gulls were feeding on were mantids six to eight centimetres long. Single mantids flew across the lagoon at a height of six to nine metres assisted by a westerly wind of 12 knots. This suggests that the mantids were blown from the mainland or islands between the coast and One Tree Island.

One to four Silver Gulls were standing on the north-west face of the island and sighted single mantids approximately 30 metres away. A gull flew towards a mantid and hovered when the insect was 30 to 60 centimetres away. The gull positioned itself so that the mantid flew into the open bill. Sometimes the mantid was knocked to the water from where it was picked up by the gull.

Mantids were taken by Silver Gulls from various angles. A gull would fly about 45 degrees to the path of the mantid and intercept it. On one occasion two Silver Gulls attempted to capture the same mantid. Silver Gull (1) attempted to take the mantid head on but knocked it down and Silver Gull (2) grabbed the falling insect. On two occasions mantids escaped from Silver Gulls. Firstly, a Silver Gull attempted to take the mantid head on but the insect hit the gull's bill, bounced upward and continued on its easterly flight. The second time, a Silver Gull knocked a mantid downward but the insect quickly regained its easterly direction and swerved over the top of another gull.

Of the 22 attempts to catch mantids observed, 20 were successful.

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WINTER SIGHTING OF A WHITE-TAILED KINGFISHER

DAVID B.J. THOMAE

While banding birds under the Australian Bird Banding Scheme at Moon River (16°53'S, 145°46'E) just north of Cairns on 2 August 1973, a White-tailed Kingfisher *Tanysiptera sylvia* was caught in a mist net. The bird managed to free itself from the bottom shelf of the net as I approached and flew off in a north-easterly direction. In escaping, the bird lost one of its white tail feathers which I have saved. The specimen appeared to be in perfect condition. No other sighting of a White-tailed Kingfisher was made in the six days I was working in the area.

The area where the bird was observed was one of layered eucalypt woodland adjacent to the coast. The forest forms part of Moon River Caravan Park. During the time I was there the weather was very windy and warm with scattered showers.

The White-tailed Kingfisher is a summer migrant to northern Australia presumably from New Guinea. Ms H.B. Gill (Gill 1964, Emu 63: 273-276) gives the earliest arrival date at Innisfail as 27 October and the latest 8 November. She also comments, "They appear to arrive all together, and are here in numbers overnight, noisy and plentiful." The departure in autumn also appears to be very regular as Gill states (p.273), "The mature birds disappear as quickly and completely as they came, about the first week in April. The short-tailed young ones appear to follow a week or two later, ..."

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LOVELY WREN NEAR TOWNSVILLE

A.C.M. GRIFFIN

Storr (1973) gives the range of the Lovely Wren *Malurus amabilis* as Cape York and south to the Herbert River. McGill (1970) gives the distribution as Cape York Peninsula extending further down the east coast to near Townsville. A more precise locality record near Townsville may be of interest.

From 1968 to late 1971 I saw a pair of Lovely Wrens on most visits to Saunders Beach, a settlement 24 km north-west of Townsville (referred to as Jalloonda on Army Survey Corps maps). An arm of Alick Creek, flowing north-west parallel with the coast through mangrove swamp, finds its way into Halifax Bay just south of the settlement. To the north, Althous Creek and the salt flats and mangroves of its tributary Healy Creek form the boundary. Between these two points and behind the houses there is a stretch, a little over a kilometre long and perhaps 500 metres wide, of dense sand dune vegetation with *Melaleuca*, Moreton Bay Ash *Eucalyptus tessilaris*, *Canarium* and figs among other species and a tangled understorey of low bushes, vines and lantana: an ideal habitat for Lovely Wrens which were usually seen on the edge of the scrub fringing the mangroves.

Birding trips to the area were few during 1972 but a concentrated search for the birds during 1973 was unsuccessful.

The area is within the leasehold of Queensland Nickel but is part of the company's promised green belt between the smelter at Yabulu and Saunders Beach. Improved access on a good bitumen road has brought more people, more houses and a boat ramp to Saunders Beach. Cyclone Althea (December 1971) tore down trees and in 1972 a hush fire burnt out all the ground cover. The White-browed Robin *Poecilodryas superciliosa* has survived all these disturbances but it seems they may have been too much for the Lovely Wrens.

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SIGHTINGS OF HUTTONS SHEARWATER IN QUEENSLAND

CHRIS CORBEN, GREG ROBERTS AND GLEN INGRAM

Huttons Shearwater *Puffinus huttoni* has been recorded from Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales. It seems to be much less common in Australia than the similar Fluttering Shearwater *P.gavia* and may be found in the company of that species (Smith, in Simpson, 1972). Identification has been discussed by Kinsky and Fowler (1973) and Robinson (1973). Hitherto there have been no published records of the occurrence of *P.huttoni* in Queensland waters.

An observation of Huttons Shearwater was made on 12 May 1971, when Michael J. Carter, who has had field experience of Huttons Shearwater in Victoria, and H.B. Gill were travelling by boat between Mission Beach and Beaver Cay, North Queensland (Carter, pers.comm.). Good views of a single *P.huttoni* were obtained not far from Beaver Cay (17°50'S). That the species should occur so far north is certainly unexpected, and its occurrence there must be regarded as accidental at this stage.

Less than a month later, on 5 June 1971, one of us (C.C.) observed a single Huttons Shearwater from Point Lookout, North Stradbroke Island (27°25'S, 153°33'E). The weather was fine, with very strong southerly winds. Many Fluttering Shearwaters were seen, mostly flying northwards, some close to shore. Occasionally, an individual would bank away so as to clearly expose the underwing, and a good view could be obtained, particularly in the afternoon when the sun was lower. At about 16:00, two shearwaters passed close to Point Lookout. The second was considerably larger than the first and slightly darker on the upperparts. Fortunately it banked away, giving a good view of the underwing. There was no sign of white, the entire lining appearing dusky brown. This bird was clearly *P.huttoni*.

Better views of the species were obtained on the Queensland Ornithological Society ocean trip, 12 August 1973. A flock of about twelve Fluttering Shearwaters and one Huttons Shearwater was encountered on calm water east of the southern tip of Moreton Island (27°21'S).

The *huttoni* was located in flight, and identified by the underwing colouration. After the flock had settled again on the water, one bird stood out by its much greater size and extensive dark colouration on the sides of its neck. Though not well seen in flight it was most certainly the *huttoni* that had been seen a few minutes earlier. Another bird seemed intermediate in size and neck colouration between that bird and the rest of the flock. It had a

long, slender bill, but on flushing again it showed white on the underwing and was clearly a long-billed individual of *P.gavia*.

Another flock of about ten birds was seen a little later in much the same area. After flushing, some of them flew back across the bow of the boat and one was identified as a Huttons Shearwater. It was slightly larger than nearby Fluttering Shearwaters, and showed extensive encroachment of dark brown around the sides of the neck. The underwing was seen very well. It was almost uniformly dusky brown, with a narrow whitish streak, speckled with brown, along the centre of the underwing. The coverts distal to the carpal did not appear any paler than those proximal to it.

We believe that Huttons Shearwater is probably a regular, if somewhat rare visitor to the south-eastern coast of Queensland, but that its occurrence in the north is most likely accidental. The underwing is difficult to see in the field, even from close-up, unless the bird banks away from the observer. No doubt many *P.huttoni* go unnoticed in flocks of the rather common *P.gavia*.

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