

The Tasmanian Naturalist

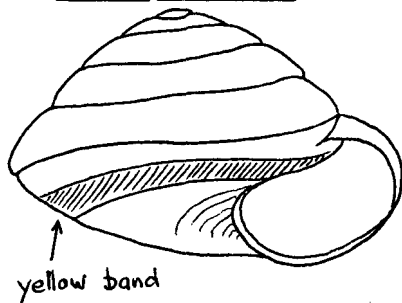
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Anoglypta launcestonensis

WANTED:
DEAD OR ALIVE
by Alan J. Dartnall



Anoglypta launcestonensis is a large snail known only from the forests of north-eastern Tasmania. A rare species it has no obvious relatives in southern Australia and it has probably not been seen alive since the early years of this century judging by the condition of the shells in the collections of the Tasmanian Museum and the Queen Victoria Museum. Recent searches in the Gould's Country/Welldborough area have not produced a single live animal and the only shell found had probably been dead for many years.

If anyone finds a rather flattened snail about the size of a twenty cent piece with a wide yellowish band running along the underside of the whorls of the shell will they capture it please. It should be placed in a polythene bag or similar container with a quantity of damp leaf mould and sent either to Mr. R. Kershaw, The Queen Victoria Museum, Launceston or myself at the Tasmanian Museum, Hobart.

The snail will probably be found, if it is not extinct, in the rain forest and fern gullies of the North-East. On wet days they may be found crawling over logs and tree trunks; at other times under stones and rotten logs and buried in leaf litter around the base of trees.

We are interested in both dead shells and live animals - preferably the latter because it would prove that this interesting animal is still a member of the Tasmanian fauna.

Junior members of the Field Naturalists' Club will receive 50 cents for each live snail delivered to me.

LIST OF BIRDS OF CAPE BARREN ISLAND, FURNEAUX GROUP, TASMANIA John Whinray

FIFTY-TWO species are given in this preliminary list. It was compiled from the author's observations during visits to the island between February 1967 and August 1970. Most of the species were seen at the western end of the island in the former Reservation. This area, of about 4000 acres, would have a climax vegetation of Eucalyptus globulus and Casuarina stricta woodland. However periodic burning

has effected, and maintains, a great variety of stages in the vegetation. These range from tussock grassland to small patches of mature woodland. The area includes also about 300 acres of grassland. Some of this is native grassland; the rest is sown pasture of introduced grasses and clovers. Most dwellings have small grassed areas of up to five acres surrounding them. When birds were noted only outside the former Reservation their locality or localities are given.

All the species listed have been recorded from nearby Flinders Island (Green 1969). At least one species, common on Flinders Island, seems to be absent from Cape Barren Island. This is the Superb Blue Wren, *Malurus cyaneus*, which was not seen during the four months spent on Cape Barren Island. The Kook-aburra *Dacelo gigas* and White-backed Magpie, both introduced to Flinders Island, have not reached Cape Barren Island yet.

The author hopes to publish, after more work, notes giving the distribution and frequency of occurrence of the birds of Cape Barren Island.

Phaps elegans (Common Bronzewing); *Larus novae-hollandiae* (Silver Gull); *Larus pacificus* (Pacific Gull); *Haematopus ostralegus* (Pied Oystercatcher); *Haematopus unicolor* (Sooty Oystercatcher); *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae* (Spurwinged Plover); *Zonifer tricolor* (Banded Plover); *Charadrius alexandrinus* (Red-capped Dotterel); *Charadrius cucullatus* (Hooded Dotterel) - Prickly Bottom and Ned's Point Beaches - *Numenius madagascariensis* (Eastern Curlew); *Notophox novae-hollandiae* (White-faced Heron); *Cereopsis novae-hollandiae* (Cape Barren Goose); *Anas castanea* (Chestnut Teal) - Prickly Bottom Flat - *Phalacrocorax fuscescens* (Black-faced Cormorant); *Pelecanus conspicillatus* (Pelican); *Accipiter cirrocephalus*; *Aquila audax* (Wedge-tailed Eagle) - Mount Munro -; *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (White-breasted Sea Eagle); *Falco berigora* (Brown Falcon); *Falco cenchroides* (Nankeen Kestrel); *Ninox novae-seelandiae* (Spotted Owl); *Calyptorhynchus funereus* (Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo); *Platycercus caledonicus* (Green Rosella); *Cuculus pallidus* (); *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus* (Fantailed Cuckoo); *Petroica multicolor* (Scarlet Robin); *Petroica pheonicia* (Flame Robin); *Petroica rodinogaster* (Pink Robin) - Mount Munro -; *Amaurodrias vittata* (Dusky Robin); *Rhipidura fuliginosa* (Grey Fantail); *Coracina novae-hollandiae* (Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike); *Acanthiza ewingii* (Tasmanian Thornbill); *Sericornis humilis* (Brown Scrub Wren); *Colluricincla harmonica* (Grey Shrike-Thrush); *Pachycephala pectoralis* (Golden Whistler); *Turdus merula* (Blackbird); *Oreocincla lunulata* (Ground Thrush); *Strepera fuliginosa* (Black Currawong); *Zosterops lateralis* (Eastern Silvereye); *Pardalotus punctatus* (Spotted Pardalote); - Big Hill Run -; *Melithreptus validirostris* (Strong-billed Honeyeater); *Melithreptus affinis* (Black-headed Honeyeater); *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris* (Eastern Spinebill); *Gliciphila melanops* (Tawny-crowned Honeyeater) - Prickly Bottom and Chimney Hill Flats -; *Meliphaga flavicollis* (Yellow-throated Honeyeater); *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera* (Crescent Honeyeater); *Meliornis novae-hollandiae* (Yellow-winged Honeyeater); *Carduelis carduelis* (Goldfinch); *Passer domesticus* (House Sparrow); *Zonaeginthus bellus* (Fire-tailed Finch); *Sturnus vulgaris* (Starling); *Corvus mellori* (Little Raven).

References :

- Green, R. H. : THE BIRDS OF FLINDERS ISLAND (Records of the Queen Victoria Museum No. 34, 1969).
 Leach, J. A. : AN AUSTRALIAN BIRD BOOK (Melbourne 1961)
 (The raven on Cape Barren is probably the Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus* which has only recently been recognised as a separate species - Ed.).

PURPLE-CROWNED PIGEON IN TASMANIA

Michael Sharland

NEWS of a recent occurrence of the Purple-crowned Pigeon Ptilinopus superbus in Tasmania came to me in an unusual way. While staying in a caravan park at Atherton, North Queensland, during September I met a visitor from Victoria, Mr. C. R. Mellor, 213 Anderson Street, Yarraville, who, on learning that I was interested in birds, told me that he had photographed what appeared to be a small pigeon when he and his wife were visiting Eddystone Lighthouse, on the north-eastern coast of Tasmania, towards the end of last April (1970). He remarked upon the fact that as a former Tasmanian, having been born at Mathinna, he had not seen any Tasmanian bird like this one before.

That evening he screened the colour slide in his caravan. From this I was able positively to identify the bird. The little pigeon was seen by them both, "flying round as if lost" among the low trees about the lighthouse keeper's house. Mr. Mellor was able to approach it to within a few feet and take two photos as it sat on a paling fence.

The Purple-crowned Pigeon is an infrequent straggler to Tasmania. It is mainly a rain-forest bird, inhabiting the jungles along the eastern coast of New South Wales and Queensland, feeding on native fruits and berries. Evidently it reaches Tasmania by being blown down on strong winds, or takes refuge from storms on ships which carry it south. One imagines that with the lack of native bush fruits in Tasmania such stragglers as come here must find themselves short of food.

A RECORD OF AN ALBINO TAWNY FROGMOUTH

D. P. Alexander

A recent interesting addition to the study skin collection of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery was a true albino with red eyes Tawny Frogmouth Podargus strigoides. This is the first of this form of Frogmouth to be added to the collections. The bird was collected at "Windfalls" by Mr. Burns of Campbell Town, Tasmania, and presented on 8 January 1970.

Particulars : Tawny Frogmouth - Podargus strigoides. Preparation Skin, Preparator D. P. Alexander : Date 7/10/1970. Total Length: 365 mm. Tail Length: 186 mm; Wing Span: 800 mm; Wing: 246 mm. Weight: 243.5 gms. Sex: (female). Ova approx. 1 mm. Tag No: 0948; Accession No: B3335.

Entanglement of Birds' Legs: In the journal British Birds Vol. 61 nos. 6 and 10 June and October 1968 there are references to sheeps' wool and other fibres causing injuries to legs and feet of Oystercatchers Haematopus ostralegus and other species, in Kent, England and other areas. Evidently on some Channel islands the sheep are shorn late and consequently may shed some wool. In low-lying areas which have a high density of sheep and breeding birds, a considerable number of young birds may have wool around their legs to a greater or lesser extent, and in some cases this results in permanent injury. In districts where cotton is manufactured birds have been noted with legs entangled in cotton fibres.

Oystercatchers in Australia appear to breed on beaches only (inland records would be most interesting), although some breed inland in the south island of New Zealand. It is possible that other species, for example Spur-winged Plover, may be placed in similar circumstances, i. e. breeding on the ground in close proximity to sheep. Are there any Tasmanian records of such wool-entanglement?

BOOK REVIEW

COMMON Australian Birds of Towns and Gardens, by Graeme Chapman -
 Lansdowne Press Pty Ltd. Melbourne. Price \$2.95.

THIS is the latest of many books published in recent years with the aim of introducing birds to the casual observer. The author has confined its scope to the common birds which are likely to be seen in the vicinity of our towns and cities and gives a brief description of each, an indication of its range within Australia and short notes on its habits. Only in selected cases is there reference to nesting sites and behaviour.

Fifty seven species are dealt with and illustrated with high quality colour photographs, mostly the work of the author. Of these, thirty-five are found in Tasmania though not all of them are common here. An appendix at the back of the book shows which of the birds illustrated may be found in each State capital, and this is a most useful guide.

Five short chapters on the general subject of birds are full of good material, defining what a bird is and its relationship to the rest of the animal kingdom, its structure, general habits and distribution, how to study birds and the need for conservation.

This book is highly recommended to the beginner in bird studies.

- L. E. W.

MINOR AMENDMENTS TO "ORCHIDS OF AUSTRALIA"

Pat Palmer

(concluded from No. 22, August 1970)

PTEROSTYLIS cucullata - the existence of this species in Tasmania alpine locations seems doubtful, and further study of Tasmanian recordings is needed.

PTEROSTYLIS decurva (plate 327) - plants collected from Mt. Wellington and from near Triabunna appear to match this illustration more than that of the typical specimens illustrated in plate 326. It would seem that both forms could be recorded for this State.

PTEROSTYLIS rufa appears to be the only one of the "rufa" group found in Tasmania. This group has long been in need of revision, and it seems that acceptance of the published work by S. Clemesha and J. Blackmore in 1968 has resulted in the three previous Tasmanian recordings of P. rufa, P. squamata, and P. pusilla being regarded as one - P. rufa, sub-species rufa.

SARCOCHILUS australia has been recorded from several eastern Tasmanian localities, as well as from western and north-western Tasmania.

SWIFT PARROTS WINTERING IN TASMANIA

D. G. Thomas

THE Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor is unusual for a species endemic to an island because it is migratory. Some would perhaps not consider the Swift Parrot to be endemic to Tasmania because it occurs in eastern Australian states to as far north as Queensland. However, it is not known to breed outside Tasmania and on this ground, I regard it as a Tasmanian endemic species. Several other Tasmanian endemics are also migratory - Yellow-tipped Pardalote Pardalotus striatus, Grey Fantail Rhipidura fuliginosa, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike Coracina novaehollandiae and Eastern Silvereye Zosterops lateralea. The first of these is recognised as a distinct species (although a member of a superspecies), the others are subspecies (geographical races of more widely distributed species).

Sharland (Tasmanian Birds 1958) states that there are no Hobart records for May, June and July. During the winter of 1970 Swift Parrots (up to 11) were recorded in all months at Lutana. They frequented Blue Gums Eucalyptus globulus but, as these were not flowering it appears as if the birds were seeking insects rather than nectar.