



The Tasmanian Naturalist

NO . 48

FEBRUARY, 1977

Registered at the G. P. O. Hobart, Tasmania, for transmission by post as a periodical

Supplement to the Bulletin of Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club

Editor : D. G. Thomas

Annual Subscription \$ 2.00

PUFFINUS HUTTONI ON TASMANIA'S EAST COAST

R. M. Tyson and C. R. White

DURING the first three months of 1975, six Shearwater specimens were collected between Diana's Basin and Peron Dunes. These specimens included one fresh, one desiccated and four skulls, and they are numbered as follows and will be referred to by the numbers in the following article.

Fresh (skin)	2/8
Desiccated	5/5
Skulls	4/22, 4/23, 4/24, 4/25

All specimens were initially thought to be Puffinus gavia. On further examination, and consultation with Mr. W. B. Hitchcock, specimen numbers 5/5, 4/23, 4/24 and 4/25 were found to be P. huttoni.

Comparing bill sizes and shapes to diagrams presented by Slater (1970) there is no doubt that these specimens are P. huttoni. Furthermore on taking measurements from the end nares (nearest to the tip of bill) to the tip of the maxillary unguis the following results were obtained.

<u>Specimen Number</u>	<u>Measurement (mm)</u>
4/22	23.5
2/8	24.0
4/23	26.0
4/24	26.5
4/25	26.0
5/5	27.0

According to The Handbook of Australian Sea-Birds (Serventy et al 1971) the average of the culmen of P. huttoni is greater than that of P. gavia. It is therefore concluded that due to the differences between specimen numbers 4/22 and 2/8 and specimen numbers 4/23, 4/24 and 5/5 that the latter must be P. huttoni.

From these observations and discussion with Mr. R. H. Green, specimens at the Queen Victoria Museum have subsequently been identified as follows.

<u>Registered Number</u>	<u>Species</u>
1969/2/103	<u>P. gavia</u>
1970/2/17	<u>P. gavia</u>
1973/2/75	<u>P. huttoni</u>
1974/2/29	<u>P. huttoni</u>
1976/2/1	<u>P. huttoni</u>

Previous records show that P. huttoni has not been recorded in this State. However, the above results show that in two collections P. huttoni is more common than P. gavia.

References

- Serventy, D. L., Serventy, V. N., Warham, J. 1971: The Handbook of Australian Sea-Birds.
 Slater, P. 1970: A Field Guide to Australian Birds Non Passerines. P193.

CHANGES IN THE AVIFAUNA OF HOBART

Peter Fielding

INTRODUCTION

Times have changed since 1838 when naturalist John Gould started his Australian field work in the streets of Hobart Town. Gould frequently observed flocks of between four and twenty Swift Parrots Lathamus discolor passing over the town. Other species found in Hobart Town are mentioned by Gould in his Handbook to the Birds of Australia. The species mentioned were Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena, Tree Martin Petrochelidon nigricans, Tasmanian Thornbill Acanthiza ewingii, Flame Robin Petrocia phoenicea, Dusky Robin P. vittata, Yellow-tipped Pardalote Pardalotus striatus, Grey-breasted Silvereve Zosterops lateralis and Yellow Wattle-bird Anthochaera paradoxa. Undoubtedly Gould observed other species in Hobart Town but unfortunately didn't list them. Hobart Town in 1838 consisted of low buildings trees and shrubs. Now Hobart Town has grown to a city of tall buildings with little vegetation.

Between April 1974 and December 1976 I made a study of one city block in the main business centre. The study block was bounded by Collins, Elizabeth, Macquarie and Argyle Streets. Observations were made from ground level and from various floors of the fourteen storey high Australian Mutual Provident Society building on the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets. Some vegetation can be found in small gardens located in courtyards on rooftops and in front of the A. M. P. building. My thanks to Mr. L. E. Wall who provided some valuable information.

ANNOTATED LIST OF SPECIES

- White-faced Heron Ardea novaehollandiae. A single bird observed flying above the A. M. P. Building 17 May 1976.
 Silver Gull Larus novaehollandiae. Common. Many birds observed daily flying overhead and perched on ledges of buildings etc.
 Domestic Pigeon Columba livia. Common. Often observed perched on the Clock Tower of the G. P. O.
 Spotted Turtle Dove Streptopelia chinensis. One record of a bird flying above Argyle Street on 15 May 1975.

- Swift Parrot Lathamus discolor. Two birds rooftop level 27 December 1976. Gould found this species common in 1838.
- Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo Calyptorhynchus funereus. Three birds slowly flying at rooftop level 28 August 1976 was the only record.
- Budgerigar Melopsittacus undulatus. One record of an aviary escapee in the A. M. P. garden possibly after seeds on the ground 25 March 1976.
- Spine-tailed Swift Hirundapus caudacutus. Occasionally observed flying above the city between February and April.
- Welcome Swallow Hirundo neoxena. One or two birds occasionally observed flying above streets and buildings between September and March. This species once regularly nested in the old A. M. P. building which was demolished during 1967. No nests have been found in the new building which was built on the old site. Gould found this and the following species common in 1838.
- Tree Martin Petrochelidon nigricans. Occasional birds observed flying above streets and buildings between September and March. M. Sharland (Tasmanian Birds 1958) believes that nests are built occasionally in ventilators on buildings.
- Blackbird Turdus merula. Common, with an increase in numbers during the wet winter of 1975. Occasional birds observed in the A. M. P. front garden.
- Satin Flycatcher Myiagra cyancleuca. One record of a dead female bird that was found on the third floor podium roof of the A. M. P. building early April 1975.
- House Sparrow Passer domesticus. Common, regularly observed in the A. M. P. front garden.
- Goldfinch Carduelis carduelis. Two birds occasionally observed on the podium roof and in the A. M. P. garden. A pair of birds successfully nested across the road from the study block on the A. N. Z. Bank corner in Elizabeth Street. The nest was located in an ornamental tree beside the banks main entrance. Food for the young was mostly obtained from the A. M. P. garden.
- Starling Sturnus vulgaris. Common throughout the day with large flocks gathering at dusk and roosting on building ledges etc. One bird was observed carrying nesting material to a tall neon sign, September 1974. A dead freshly hatched chick and an egg with a nearly hatched chick, was found on the A. M. P. podium roof 30 Oct. 1975.
- Forest Raven Corvus tasmanicus. Common, with one or two birds observed flying at roof top level daily.

CONCLUSION :

Sixteen species of birds were found, ten of them native. Only two native species are regular year round inhabitants. Three native species are regular migrants. The other five native species were only observed once. All except two of the introduced species are common. The number of introduced birds are far greater than native species. No introduced birds were recorded by Gould in 1838.

References

THE PREY OF A NATIVE CAT IN SOUTH-WEST TASMANIA

by

R. L. Wallis, R. N. Drew, G. F. Duke, and S. J. Forbes

Department of Environmental Studies

Rusden State College

Clayton, Victoria, 3168

THE use of predator scat analysis in mammal surveys has become more popular in Australia since the publication of Brunner and Coman (1974). The technique involves identifying mammalian hairs (as well as examining bones, teeth and claws) using keys in the above book. Subsequently, the results of some surveys have been published which highlight the advantages of scat analysis over the conventional survey techniques of trapping, direct observation and spotlighting. (Brunner, Lloyd and Coman, 1975; Brunner, Amor and Stevens, 1976). These latter authors list these advantages as :-

- (i) more species are often detected;
- (ii) field collection is rapid;
- (iii) the scats can be stored and processed at a convenient time.

During May, 1976 some mammalian scats were found in a butongrass (*Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus*) community at the start of the old Lake Pedder walking track by the Strathgordon road. Three sets of scats of different ages were found lying side by side and are thought to be either of a quoll (*Dasyurus viverrinus*) or tiger cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*). Although the habitat may be more suitable for the quoll, the large size of the scats could indicate they belong to the tiger cat. One of the scats contained a lower jaw bone of the broad-toothed rat (*Mastacomys fuscus*), while the others contained fur of a pigmy possum (*Cercartetus nanus* or *C. lepidus*). *M. fuscus* is generally regarded as a difficult mammal to trap when living sympatrically with other small mammals (Reed and Wallis, 1975). However, use of predator scat analysis in a forest park in Victoria has shown this species to be much more common than was previously supposed (Brunner and Bertuch, 1976). Finally, data from such analyses provides some information (albeit limited) on the ecology of the predator and prey species so concerned.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank Mr. R. H. Green for information on the *Dasyurus* spp. and Mr. H. Brunner for assistance with the scat analysis.

References

- Brunner, H. and Coman, B. J. (1974), The Identification of Mammalian Hairs, Inkata Press, Melbourne.
- Brunner, H., Lloyd, J. W. and Coman, B. J. (1975), Fox scat analysis in a forest park in south-eastern Australia, Aust. Wildl. Res., 2, 147-154.
- Brunner, H. Amor, R. L. and Stevens, P. L. (1976), The use of predator scat analysis at Dartmouth in north-eastern Victoria, Aust. Wildl. Res., 3, 85-90.
- Brunner, H. and Bertuch, I. (1976), The broad-toothed rat still in Sherbrooke Forest. A successful search for *Mastacomys fuscus*, Thomas, Vic. Nat., 93, 55-56.
- Reed, G. F. and Wallis, R. L. (1975), Studies of *Antechinus swainsonii* and other small mammals in the...

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

In the course of preparing A Bio-bibliography of Australian Ornithology: 1951-1975, I am gathering a great deal of biographical data on many of the people who, in numerous ways, have contributed to Australian ornithology.

I am happy to report that people are already drawing on this material for a variety of purposes, and I would like to advise that the information is available should it be required.

SPOONBILLS IN TASMANIA

L. E. Wall

Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*).

The first record for Tasmania was of a pair at Brown's River, just south of Hobart, on 5 May 1957 and they were there for two weeks before moving on. This was recorded in "The Emu" 57 p. 234 by M. Sharland, with a footnote that nine more had been seen at Little Swanport on the East Coast but no date was given.

On 31 August 1957 P. Bolger found one at Stanley and another at Forth. Early in October 1957 two re-appeared at Brown's River but stayed only a few days. I photographed them on 6 October.

The nine birds at Little Swanport were seen by me on 4 November 1957 and on 4 April 1958, and by P. Bolger on 23 November 1957 and 16 March 1958.

At Swansea a single bird appeared at "The Bend" on 2 September 1959 and I saw it there two days later. S. Stanfield, living on the property told me that one or two had appeared regularly at intervals of some months during the past three years, and Mrs. Lyne, of the neighbouring property "Riversdale", also saw two of them for a couple of months in 1957.

From 1959 no reports were received until 2 July 1966 when M. McGarvie saw one at Pass River, King Island (see Tas. Naturalist No. 7). The only recent occurrence was recorded in Tas. Bird Report No. 5, when two were seen at Golden Fleece Sanctuary, St. Helens from 8 to 11 September 1975.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*)

King Island has produced the first records for the State of Tasmania, one in June 1965 near Cape Wickham where it remained for a couple of months, two at Bungaree Swamp in May 1972, and one at Yellow Rock River in July 1972. In 1975 the first report came to me verbally from Mr. and Mrs. J. Cole of Swan Point on the Tamar River, and this was confirmed by R. Cooper (see Tas. Bird Report No. 5). Mr. Cole also told me that he had seen one at St. Helens on 27 October 1972.

On 11 August 1975 H. Hale told me by phone that Mrs. W. Don, of "Coswell" Swansea, had a Yellow-billed Spoonbill about their property. I called there on 9 September but was unable to find it although I was assured it was still in the neighbourhood. I have no doubt about the identification of these records.

THE THIRD SIGHT RECORD OF THE BLACK-TAILED GODWIT IN TASMANIA

O. M. G. Newman

THIS note concerns a sight record of the Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa at

wader count made by the Bird Observer's Association of Tasmania. The tide was high and the weather fine and bright with no wind.

A large number of waders was resting on an island in Orielson Lagoon. On wading out to the island, I flushed a large flock (c. 90) of Bar-tailed Godwits L. lapponica, which flew off towards the Sorell tip. However, two godwit-sized birds returned to the island and settled among a flock of c. 200 Curlew Sandpipers Calidris ferruginea. One of the godwit-sized birds had a wide white central bar on the upper wing, and a long straight bill.

I viewed the resting birds through 10 x 50 binoculars for approximately 5 minutes at a distance of 50 m. Three godwit-type birds, obviously much larger than the Curlew Sandpipers were present. I could not distinguish between these three birds which each had long straight bicoloured bills. On closer approach the three godwits flushed before the Curlew Sandpipers. Only one of the godwits had any wing or tail bars. This bird had a wide white central wing bar and a broad white band above a black terminal tail band. (These field characters were noted by other more distant observers).

On the basis of the above field characters I have no doubt that the bird with the white wing and tail bars was a Black-tailed Godwit Limosa limosa, the only possible confusing species being the Hudsonian Godwit L. haemastica, which has an indistinct white upper wing bar.

My previous experience of the Black-tailed Godwit has been limited (2 observations), but very recent. On the previous weekend I visited the I.C.I. salt fields at St. Kilda, Adelaide, with two local ornithologists, Drs. R. Sothman and J. Hatch, and saw a flock of 35 Black-tailed Godwits in flight. The Black-tailed Godwit is much commoner than the Bar-tailed Godwit at the St. Kilda salt fields, the converse of the situation in the Hobart area.

The two previous Tasmanian records of the Black-tailed Godwit were also made in the Hobart area, at Ralphs Bay on 28th January, 1965, (Thomas 1966) and at Sorell on 19th November, 1966, (Anon. 1968).

Anon Tas. Nat. 12 (1968)

Thomas, D. G. Emu 65, 222 (1966)

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF MOUNT FIELD NATIONAL PARK

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
1. Black cormorant	<u>Phalacrocorax carbo</u>	o	1
2. White-faced heron	<u>Ardea novaehollandiae</u>	o	1
3. Black duck	<u>Anas superciliosa</u>	o	1
4. Grey goshawk	<u>Accipiter novaehollandiae</u>	o	2,3
5. Australian goshawk	<u>Accipiter fasciatus</u>	u	2,3
6. Wedge-tailed eagle	<u>Aquila audax</u>	u	4,5
7. Swamp harrier (2)	<u>Circus approximans</u>	o	2
8. Lewin water rail	<u>Rallus pectoralis</u>	u	1
9. Tasmanian native hen (1)	<u>Tribonyx mortierii</u>	c	2
10. Spurwinged plover	<u>Vanellus milos</u>	c	2
11. Brush bronzewing	<u>Phaps elegans</u>	c	3
12. Pacific Parakeet (2)	<u>Yuthymus discolor</u>	c	2

<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Habitat</u>
13. Yellow-tailed black cockatoo	<i>Calyptorhynchus funereus</i>	c	3,4
14. Sulphur-crested cockatoo	<i>Cacatua galerita</i>	o	3
15. Green rosella (1)	<i>Platycercus caledonicus</i>	vc	3,4,5
16. Pallid cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>	o	2
17. Fan-tailed cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis pyrrhophanus</i>	u	3
18. Golden Bronze cuckoo (2)	<i>Chrysococcyx plagusus</i>	u	3
19. Superb lyrebird	<i>Menura novaehollandiae</i>	c	3
20. Welcome swallow (2)	<i>Hirundo neoxena</i>	c	1,2
21. Tree martin (2)	<i>Petrochelidon nigricans</i>	u	2
22. Pipit	<i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	c	5 (2)
23. Black-faced cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina novaehollandiae</i>	o	2,4
24. Ground thrush	<i>Zoothera dauma</i>	c	3
25. Blackbird	<i>Turdus merula</i>	u	2
26. Superb blue wren	<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>	c	2
27. Tasmanian thornbill (1)	<i>Acanthiza ewingi</i>	vc	3,4,5
28. Yellow-rumped thornbill	<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>	o	2
29. Scrub tit (1)	<i>Acanthornis magnus</i>	vc	3,4,5(1)
30. Brown scrub wren	<i>Sericomis humilis</i>	vc	3,4,5
31. Scarlet robin	<i>Petroica multicolor</i>	u	2
32. Flame robin	<i>Petroica phoenicea</i>	c	2,3,4,5
33. Pink robin	<i>Petroica rodinogaster</i>	c	3,4
34. Dusky robin (1)	<i>Petroica vittata</i>	u	2,4
35. Grey fantail	<i>Rhipidura fuliginosa</i>	vc	3,4,5
36. Satin flycatcher (2)	<i>Myiagra cyanoleuca</i>	u	3
37. Golden whistler	<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>	c	2,4
38. Olive whistler	<i>Pachycephala olivacea</i>	c	3
39. Grey shrike-thrush	<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>	c	3,4
40. Spotted pardalote	<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>	c	3,4
41. Yellow tipped pardalote (3)	<i>Pardalotus striatus</i>	u	4
42. Grey-breasted silveryeye	<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>	c	3,4
43. Yellow-throated honeyeater (1)	<i>Meliphaga flavicollis</i>	c	3,4,5
44. Black-headed honeyeater (1)	<i>Melithreptus affinis</i>	u	3,4
45. Strong-billed honeyeater (1)	<i>Melithreptus validirostris</i>	c	3,4
46. Crescent honeyeater	<i>Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera</i>	vc	3,4,5
47. Eastern spinebill	<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	u	4
48. Yellow wattletbird	<i>Anthochaera paradoxa</i>	u	3,4
49. House sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	c	2
50. Black currawong	<i>Strepera fuliginosa</i>	vc	2,3,4,5
51. Clinking currawong	<i>Strepera arguta</i>	o	3
52. Forest Raven	<i>Corvus tasmanicus</i>	c	5,4,5

(1) Tasmanian endemic species (2) Summer visitor

(3) A summer visitor confined to Tasmania

Status

o - occasional

u - uncommon

c - common

vc - very common

- Habitats**
- 1 - water - streams, River Tyenna, lakes & tarns
 - 2 - cleared land (around picnic area & caravan park)
 - 3 - rainforest (shown as heavy timber on Mt. Field National Park map)
 - 4 - sub-alpine forest (shown as light timber on Mt. Field National Park map).
 - 5 - moors & sedgelands.

This checklist has been compiled by the Bird Observers' Association of Tasmania. While every effort has been made to ensure that the list is as accurate as possible it is not claimed to be complete. If you have any additional information it would be appreciated if you would contact: The Secretary

Bird Observers' Association of Tasmania,
G.P.O. Box 68A, HOBART ... TAS. 7001

NOTES ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF ENDEMIC PLANTS

A. Moscal

The following list of endemic plants of Tasmania, compiled on bushwalking trips from 25-12-'75 to 1-3-'76.

LYELL HIGHWAY TO TULLAH

- Epilobium perpusillum*: Banks of Collingwood River.
Richea scoparia, *Richea milliganii*, *Richea curtisae*, *Richea pandanifolia*; Rocky Hill, High Dome, Eldon Bluff, Eldon Range and Peak.
Diplaspis cordifolia: Rocky Hill Plateau, Eldon Bluff, Eldon Peak.
Milligania densiflora: Rocky Hill (Eastern Rock ledges) Eldon Range.
Milligania lindloniana: Eldon Bluff Plateau, abundant, I regard it as the main stronghold of this plant within the state.
Dichosciadium ranunculaceum var *tasmanicum*: Eldon Bluff.
Aciphylla precumbens: Eldon Peak, abundant, growing in prostrate cushion formation.
Abrotanella forsterioides: Eldon Peak, Eldon Range north Bluff Plateau.
Trochocarpa cunninghamii: Southwest of High Dome.
Olearia pinifolia, *Peremitya tasmanica*, *Orites milliganii*, *Ewartia meridithae*,
Pterostylis dubia: Rocky Hill.
Athrotaxis cupressoides: Rocky Hill eastern lower Plateau, Lake Ewart.
Anemone crassifolia: Rocky Hill, High Dome, Eldon Range, Eldon Bluff.
Spyridium gunnii: Common at the base of north-eastern cliffs.

FROM ELDON RANGE NORTHWARDS ALONG THE CREST OF UNNAMED RANGE TO THE MURCHISON RIVER FOUR KM. EAST OF WHITE CLIFF HILLS

- Abrotanella forstioides*, *Campinema lineare*, *Epacris mucronulata*, *Agastachy odorata*, *Nothofagus gunnii*, *Tetracarpaea tasmanica*, *Olearia pesonoides*, *Persoonia gunnii*, *Anemone crassifolia*, *Helichrysum pumilum*, *Helichrysum antennarium*, *Leptomeria glomerata*, *Euphrasia diemenica*, *Euphrasia striata*, *Cyathodes petiolaris*, *Baekia leptocaulis*, *Leptospermum rupestre*, *Rubus gunianus*, *Acaena montana*, *Eriostemon virgatus*, *Blandifordia punicea*, *Isophysis tasmanica*, *Eucalyptus vernicosa*, *Fucalyptus coccifera*, *Erigeron stellatus*, *Xyris operculata*.

(Cont'd.)