

**Additions to the Birds Recorded from the
Illawarra District**

**BY
A. R. SEFTON and J. A. DEVITT**

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By A. R. SEFTON, Thirroul,
and J. A. DEVITT, Wollongong, N.S.W.

Considerable time has elapsed since members of the R.A.O.U. held the 1954 Congress and Camp-out at the picturesque Scout Camp at Mount Keira, and compiled a comprehensive list of birds observed in the Illawarra district during their 12-day residence. Those observations, and a supplementary list of species recorded from the district, but not seen during the camp-out, were published in *The Emu* (55: 49-71, 1955) by Sydney ornithologists A. R. McGill and S. G. Lane. The bulk of the text from that valuable paper was subsequently reprinted as a booklet under the auspices of the Illawarra Natural History Society, re-titled "Birds Recorded from the Illawarra District", and published later the same year.

Since that time several R.A.O.U. members residing in the Illawarra district have periodically gathered to screen films and discuss avian ecology and literature. From records of observations and specimens collected, 33 species can now be added to the 263 listed in 1955, making a total of 296 for the Illawarra to date. Only definite occurrences have been included, the majority of the additions being derelict sea-birds found on the tide-line during the course of organized patrols along the sea-shore.

ANNOTATED LIST OF ADDITIONS TO SEPTEMBER 1961

Porzana pusilla. Marsh Crake.

A bird of this species was brought in by a domestic cat at Thirroul on October 4, 1957.⁷

Puffinus assimilis. Little Shearwater.

A specimen collected from Thirroul Beach on March 26, 1958, constitutes the only Illawarra record to date.⁶

Puffinus carneipes. Fleshy-footed Shearwater.

Fourteen specimens have been collected from Illawarra beaches to date.⁵ The closest breeding locality is Lord Howe Island, but it is quite possible that some individuals cross the Tasman from the New Zealand region.

Procellaria westlandica. Westland Petrel.

The first Australian example of this large, dark-plumaged petrel was found on Corrimal beach on January 1, 1956.² It is a rare species, and is only known to breed in Westland Province on the south island of New Zealand.

Pterodroma macroptera. Great-winged Petrel.

The first Illawarra specimen was found on Bellambi beach on April 11, 1955.¹ Since that time eight additional specimens have been collected from Illawarra beaches. Two live birds were observed off Windang Island on December 26, 1958.¹⁰

Pterodroma leucoptera. Gould Petrel.

Four beach-washed specimens were collected from Illawarra beaches after a period of very rough weather during late February and early March 1956.³ This small and extremely rare petrel is known to breed only on Cabbage Tree Island, off Port Stephens (now the John Gould Faunal Reserve).

Daption capense. Cape Petrel.

Members of a banding party on the Five Islands, off Port Kembla, observed a bird of this species feeding in sheltered water close inshore on November 2, 1958.⁹ Specimens have been collected from Thirroul, Bulli, and Fairy Meadow beaches.

Pelecanoides urinatrix. Common Diving Petrel.

An example collected from Bellambi beach on August 27, 1961, is the only New South Wales record to date. By a strange coincidence, the remains were only a few hundred yards from the spot where the only Australian specimen of the Georgian Diving Petrel (*P. georgicus*) was found in December 1958.

Pelecanoides georgicus. Georgian Diving Petrel.

The only Australian specimen was collected from Bellambi beach on December 28, 1958.¹¹

Diomedea epomophora. Royal Albatross.

The first known Australian specimen of this large albatross from the New Zealand region was captured at sea off Bellambi during banding operations on July 17, 1960.¹³

Diomedea chlororhyncha. Yellow-nosed Albatross.

Observed at sea off Bellambi during the course of banding operations.

Phaethon rubricaudus. Red-tailed Tropic-Bird.

An adult, with characteristic red tail-streamers clearly visible, was observed flying over the Five Islands by bird-banding personnel on November 13, 1955.⁹

Phaethon ~~rubricaudus~~ ^{lepturus White}. Red-tailed Tropic-bird.

An immature bird of this species was found on Bellambi beach on April 1, 1961.

Sterna fuscata. Sooty Tern.

A beach-washed example in very immature plumage was collected from Fairy Meadow beach on February 24, 1957.⁴ Several adults were observed over the Five Islands by bird-banding personnel on November 2, 1958.⁹

Larus dominicanus. Dominican Gull.

First recorded from the Five Islands on November 2, 1958.⁹ Since that time, two birds have frequented that area and the adjacent coastline, and have been noted by a number of observers.

Haematopus ostralegus. Pied Oyster-catcher.

Two birds were recorded from the Windang area on August 8, 1959.⁸ Prior to that, a group of five birds was seen on a sandspit at the entrance to Tom Thumb Lagoon, just south of Wollongong.

Pluvialis squatarola. Grey Plover.

Observed on tidal sand-flats at Windang on October 7, 1959.⁸

Himantopus leucocephalus. White-headed Stilt.

First seen in the Tom Thumb Lagoon area in April 1958. A group of five birds was noted on an ocean reef at Coledale on August 21, 1959.⁸

Calidris tenuirostris. Great Knot.

Recorded from the Windang area on three occasions.⁸

***Crocethia alba*. Sanderling.**

This small wader has been observed on the ocean beaches at Windang and Shellharbour,⁸ and at Bellambi.

***Limicola falcinella*. Broad-billed Sandpiper.**

First recorded in company with other migratory waders on a deserted section of beach between Wollongong and Port Kembla on October 3, 1955. Since that time the species has been observed at the entrance to Lake Illawarra at Windang.¹²

***Grus rubicundus*. Brolga.**

This graceful bird was seen on three occasions during the dry winter of 1957, a period when several inland species were reported from the coastal districts of New South Wales.⁷

***Plegadis falcinellus*. Glossy Ibis.**

Observed on three occasions during the winter of 1957 on parched paddocks in the Shellharbour and Albion Park areas.⁷

***Nycticorax caledonicus*. Nankeen Night-Heron.**

Recorded on several occasions in the Loddon and Cordeaux River areas.

***Botaurus poiciloptilus*. Brown Bittern.**

This species appeared in considerable numbers during the dry winter of 1957, and has remained relatively common in areas of suitable habitat since that time.⁷

***Anas rhynchotis*. Blue-winged Shoveler.**

First recorded on Coomaditchy Lagoon at Port Kembla in June 1957. Many observations, usually during the winter months, have been made on this lagoon since that time. The species has also been noted several times on the Albion Park swamp.⁷

***Sphecotheres vieilloti*. Southern Figbird.**

This species was found nesting at Shellharbour in November 1956. Since that time it has been seen at Kiama, the southern limit of its known range.⁸

***Smicrornis brevirostris*. Brown Weebill.**

Recorded by camp-out personnel in the Wilton/Appin area to the west, and not included in the Illawarra list. Since then, however, the species has been recorded in the Loddon River area near Bulli, and at Mangerton just west of Wollongong.

***Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*. Rufous Songlark.**

Observed on several occasions in the Albion Park area during 1957.

***Artamus superciliosus*. White-browed Wood-Swallow.**

Relatively common about Albion Park, and the highlands to the west of the district, during the spring and early summer of 1957. Many nests were found during that period.

***Gliciphila indistincta*. Brown Honeyeater.**

Observed feeding on a flowering shrub in a Thirroul garden on three occasions during October 1959.⁸

***Taeniopygia castanotis*. Zebra Finch.**

Recorded from Port Kembla and Dapto, and now relatively common in scrubby areas on Bass Point, just south of Shellharbour, where it breeds. It is possible that local birds originated from escaped aviary stock.

INTRODUCED SPECIES

***Acridotheres tristis*. Common Myna.**

First observed in the Thirroul area on November 6, 1960. Since that time the species has been recorded nesting in the Wollongong area.

ADDENDUM

Three additions have been made during the twelve months that have elapsed since the foregoing notes were submitted for publication making a total of 299 species recorded from the Illawarra district to September 1962. Details are as follows:

Pterodroma melanopus. Brown-headed Petrel.

Four beach-washed specimens collected on local beaches after cyclonic weather in November 1961 bring the known Australian records of this winter-breeder from Lord Howe Island to nine.

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus. Banded Stilt.

A single bird of this species was first observed on tidal sand flats near the entrance to Lake Illawarra at Windang in December 1961 and was later seen in company with other waders in the same locality during April and June 1962.

Xenorhynchus asiaticus. Jabiru.

A solitary Jabiru was present in the vicinity of the Albion Park swamp for several weeks during May and June 1962. It is assumed that later sightings a little further to the south near Jamberoo were of the same bird.

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