

was grabbed by the Butcher-bird and carried off in the face of a much surprised and disgruntled cat.

Gymnorhina dorsalis. Western White-backed Magpie.—A few pairs of White-backed Magpies frequented the timber near the township. They showed the usual fearlessness of man and his works.

The foregoing list does not claim to be complete. No doubt further research, after a period of good rains, would add other species of waders, Ducks and perhaps the Black Swan.

The northern end of Lake Dundas, with its network of sand ridges clothed with large bushes and low shrubs, may well hide *Stipiturus*, an *Amytornis*, and another species of *Malurus*—but one must search in the undisturbed country for these secretive birds.

The birds of the Stirling Ranges, about 250 miles to the west, with a plentiful and regular rainfall, are well known, but the long stretch of intervening country is, ornithologically speaking, a "terra incognita." As progress eastwards from the Stirlings is made, the rainfall, we know, steadily diminishes, and it would be interesting to learn from a distributional point of view where such species as *Meliornis niger*, *M. novæ-hollandiæ*, *Gliciphila indistincta* and *Meliphaga cratitia* cease. Nothing was seen of *Leipoa ocellata*, *Burhinus magnirostris*, *Myzantha obscura*, *Acanthiza morgani*, *Pardalotus punctatus* and *Rhipidura flabellifera*, at Norseman, and, strange to say, I find no mention in my notes of *Rhipidura leucophrys*. Such an adaptable bird can hardly be absent. Bird notes from the intervening Phillips River goldfield would help to supply some of the missing knowledge.

A New Shearwater for Western Australia

By GREGORY M. MATHEWS,

St. Cross, Winchester, England

Puffinus leptorhynchus Mathews, *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club*,
vol. 57, p. 143, June 30, 1937.

The finding of this bird on Bunbury beach is very interesting. The bird fits into the genus *Puffinus* as restricted. Its wing measurement 228 mm., and the length of the culmen 36 mm., prevent its being put into the sub-genus *Alphapuffinus*. The length of its tail 71 mm., prevents its being in the sub-genus *Reinholdia*.

The question is whether it is a relation of the Manx Shearwater. We must await further specimens before deciding absolutely.

If it is a relation of *Puffinus puffinus* the following should show how it fits into the super-species:

Under tail coverts always white.	} leptorhynchus	Under wing lining with a wide, dark band, bordering the bend of the wing: cheeks dark: axil- laries dark.
Upper parts black to blackish- brown. -----		} newelli -----
Under tail coverts dark, central feathers tipped with white.	} auricularis -----	} Side of neck scolloped.
Under tail coverts, central ones white: outer ones sometimes dark.	} (puffinus and bermudae)	} Under wing lining white or at most with a n a r r o w mottled band around the wing.
	} yelkouan	} Sides of neck not scolloped.
Upper parts brown to brownish.	} opisthomelas	} Axillaries white, with subter- minal dark band and tipped with white (some- times all white in <i>puf- finus</i>).
Under tail coverts always dark.		} mauretanicus -----

Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock has done much to increase our knowledge of Australian birds and about a dozen forms have been named after him, to perpetuate his memory. This last find is not the least, and is probably the most important this century.

It seems that there was a heavy, although brief, cyclonic blow on April 12 and 13, and on April 23, 1937, this Shearwater was picked up near Bunbury. The finder says, in a letter to me, that this specimen has the appearance of having been floating about for some time before being cast ashore. It was much eaten away on the right side of the breast, but the corresponding parts were undamaged: the chin and upper throat were also much damaged and the eyes had entirely disappeared.

Entire upper surface blackish-brown: entire under surface white to the tip of the tail: the dark of the upper surface encroached to a small extent on to the sides of the upper breast, and the dark of the neck occupied at least half. Bill black, lower mandible brownish-black with a narrow line of flesh-pink below the cutting edge, widening towards the base: tarsus flesh colour, edged with blackish-brown; inner toes flesh, outer toe blackish-brown; webs cream; nails black. Total length 370 mm, wing 228, tail 71, culmen 36, width of bill at base 9.

In the drawing the throat and chin have been added as white, and another specimen must tell us how the dark on the cheeks is distributed.

A New Petrel of the Genus *Puffinus*

By F. LAWSON WHITLOCK, Bunbury, Western Australia

On April 23, 1937, I was walking along the south beach at Bunbury, when I noticed a dead bird on the tide line. Viewed from a few yards' distance it had the appearance of a small Pied Cormorant, as it lay with extended neck, long slender bill, and white underparts, amongst the little heaps of sea-weed. A nearer inspection, however, revealed a Petrel of a species which I had not previously met with. I was distressed to see it was in places badly damaged. Obviously it had not been ashore long, as the coloration of the soft parts was quite clear. I find that the salt water preserves these delicate colours, but they quickly fade as the specimen dries.

I took home the remains and made careful notes and measurements, but even with the aid of copious extracts from the *British Museum Catalogue* vol. v, Mathews's *Birds of Australia*, Buller's *Birds of New Zealand*, I was unable to identify my find. The nearest I could get to it was *Puffinus obscurus* (*B.M.Cat.*) said to be not uncommon in