

Third Report of the Checklist Committee

SUPPLEMENT No. 3

Genus *Pachyptila*

While it is recognized that knowledge of the classification of the genus is, as yet, by no means complete, it is considered that the following arrangement is more in accordance with present information. It is, however, considered premature at this stage to indicate the geographical races occurring in Australian seas.

No. 82.—*Pachyptila vittata*, Broad-billed Prion, is divided into two species—

No. 82.—*Pachyptila vittata* (Gmelin, 1789), Broad-billed Prion.

Synonyms: *Prion v. macgillivrayi* Mathews, 1912; *Prion v. gouldi* Mathews, 1912; *Prion v. missus* Mathews, 1912; *Pachyptila v. balaena* Mathews, 1938.

Range: Breeds on mainland, and islands off South Island, New Zealand, on Chatham Island, St. Paul and Amsterdam Islands (Indian Ocean) and on Tristan D'Acunha and Gough Island (Atlantic Ocean). Winter visitor to southern Australian seas.

No. 82A.—*Pachyptila salvini* (Mathews, 1912). Medium-billed Prion.

Synonyms: *Heteroprion desolatus crozeti* Mathews, 1932; *Pachyptila gouldi whittelli* Mathews, 1938.

Range: Breeds on the Crozets and Marion Island (Southern Indian Ocean); winter visitor to southern Australian seas.

No. 83.—*Pachyptila turtur* Kuhl, 1820. Fairy Prion. Remains unchanged. To its synonymy add *Pseudoprion t. dertrum* Mathews, 1938.

No. 84.—*Pachyptila desolata*, Dove-Prion, is divided into two species—

No. 84.—*Pachyptila desolata* Gmelin, 1789. Dove-Prion.

Synonyms: *Heteroprion d. mattingleyi* Mathews, 1912; *H. d. macquariensis* Mathews, 1912; *H. d. alexanderi* Mathews & Iredale, 1921.

Range: Breeds on Macquarie Island, Heard Island, Auckland Islands, Kerguelen, Bouvet, Prince Edward, and Crozets Islands, South Georgia, South Orkneys Islands, Antarctic Continent (region of Cape Denison); winter visitor to southern Australian seas.

No. 84A.—*Pachyptila belcheri* (Mathews, 1912). Thin-billed Prion.

Synonyms: *Heteroprion b. serventyi* Mathews, 1935; *P. b. orientalis* Falla, 1937.

Range: Breeds on Kerguelen and Bouvet Islands, and probably on the Falkland and South Orkneys Islands; winter visitor to southern Australian seas.

References: R. A. Falla, *B.A.N.Z. Antarctic Research Exped.*, ser. B, 2, 1937, 191; G. M. Mathews, *Emu* 37, 1937, 280; R. A. Falla, *Emu* 40, 1940, 218; C. A. Fleming, *Emu* 41, 1941, 134.

Genus *Diomedea*

No. 87.—*Diomedea chionopectera*, Snowy Albatross, is no longer considered to be a distinct species, but a form of No. 86, *D. exulans*, Wandering Albatross.

References: D. L. Serventy, *Emu* 35, 1935, 29; R. A. Falla, *B.A.N.Z. Ant. Res. Exp.*, ser. B, 2, 1937, 14.

Family Stercorariidae

The following arrangement is adopted in place of that in the *Checklist*.

No. 127.—*Catharacta skua* Brunnich, 1765. Great Skua.

Range: Breeds in northern and southern latitudes and during the non-breeding season ranges south and north from the breeding areas.

(a) *Catharacta skua lonnbergi* Mathews, 1912. Southern Skua.

Range: Breeds on the west coast of South Island, New Zealand, Stewart Island, Chatham Island, thence south on the sub-Antarctic islands to Macquarie Island, and the Crozets, Heard and Kerguelen Islands. In winter ranges to the seas off southern Australia.

No. 128.—*Stercorarius parasiticus* Linnaeus, 1758. Arctic (or Richardson's) Skua.

Synonym: *S. p. visitori* Mathews, 1915.

Range: Breeds in northern hemisphere and in summer ranges south, occurring off the Australian coasts.

No. 128A.—*Stercorarius pomarinus* (Temminck, 1815). Pomarine Skua.

Synonym: *Coprotheres p. nutcheri* Mathews, 1917.

Range: Breeds in Arctic regions and then ranges south. Occurrences in Australian waters limited.

References: J. E. Hamilton, *Discovery Reports* 9, 1934, 161; R. A. Falla, *B.A.N.Z. Ant. Res. Exp.*, ser. B, 2, 1937, 240; T. Iredale, *Emu* 40, 1940, 177.

Family Charadriidae

No. 160.—*Terekia cinerea*, Terek Sandpiper, becomes *Xenus cinereus*. Although it was recognized that under the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature *Xenus* was not invalidated by the prior *Xenos*, use of the generic name *Terekia* was adopted in the *Checklist* in order to conform with British usage. See footnote on page 26. However, *Xenus* has since been generally adopted—J. L. Peters, *Check-List of Birds of the World* 2, 1934; *Hand-book of British Birds* 4, 1940; E. Mayr, *List of New Guinea Birds*, 1941.

Stray Feathers

Hybridism in Wood-Swallows.—In a recent article I gave details of a bird seen in north-western New South Wales, which was possibly a hybrid between the White-browed Wood-Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*) and Masked Wood-Swallow (*A. personatus*)—*The Emu*, vol. 44, pp. 59-60. I further remarked that "I know of no previous mention of a hybrid of these two species."

A short time ago Mr. J. S. P. Ramsay, of Sydney, favoured me with the loan of a diary kept by his late father, Dr. E. P. Ramsay. Detailed therein under the date September 25, 1885, was a list of skins forwarded by Mr. George Barnard, of 'Coomooboolaroo,' Duaringa, Queensland. Amongst comments written by Dr. Ramsay in connection with these various skins was the following—"... also skins of a male *Artamus superciliosus* and of a female *personatus*, which had paired, and had a nest with eggs—it is to be regretted that they were not allowed to hatch them out; we might then have had a 'new species'! As these species nearly always travel together, and breed near each other, often in the same tree, it is not unlikely that they often interbreed. Nevertheless I have never found any that might be taken for hybrids among many hundreds shot at different times extending over a period of 25 years, and in the different colonies. Their range extends from southern Australia to the central parts of north Queensland. Mr. G. Barnard says the eggs 'are scarcely to be distinguished,' i.e. of the two aforementioned species. The eggs of these pair of different species so mated 'differ very slightly from' those of *A. superciliosus*."

This instance of mating between these closely-related species, apparently is repeated briefly by A. J. North in *Descriptive Catalogue of the Nests and Eggs of Birds Breeding in Australia and Tasmania*, pt. 1, 1889, p. 44. This work is also known as *Catalogue No. 12, Australian Museum, Sydney*. I am indebted to Mr. K. A. Hindwood for forwarding information on the above; also for drawing