

the last few years" by a correspondent who undertook "the patrolling of a comparatively short line of shore in Western Victoria"—doubtless in the Portland district. The following species are mentioned—*Diomedea melanophris* and *D. cauta*; *Puffinus tenuirostris*, *P. griseus* and *P. gavia*; *Pterodroma lessonii* and *Pt. macroptera* (the only Victorian record known to me); *Macronectes*; *Daption*; *Pachyptila* spp., and *Pelecanoides urinatrix*. Wood Jones wrote (*ibid.*, p. 139)—"There is little or nothing of a wave-cast member of the Tubinares that is not of use to the ornithologist whose interest in avian structure is not limited to feathers." This statement warrants repeated stressing.

Some recent additional records are worth listing briefly.

*Diomedea melanophris*—Ricketts Point, Port Phillip Bay, September 1952 (ad. ♂ skin, K. Glance).

*Diomedea chlororhynchos*—Waratah Bay, December 1952 (ad. skull and sternum, W. B. Hitchcock).

*Puffinus gavia*—(a) Corio Bay, December 1952 (skin, Fisheries and Game Department); (b) Portland, January 1953 (skeleton, A. G. C. Bingham); (c) Lakes Entrance, January 1953 (skin, two skeletons, N. J. Favaloro); (d) Mallacoota, January 1953 (three skeletons, W. B. Hitchcock).

*Puffinus griseus*—Nelson, January 1953 (skull, sternum, J. M. Temple Watts).

## Some Additions to the Macquarie Island List of Birds

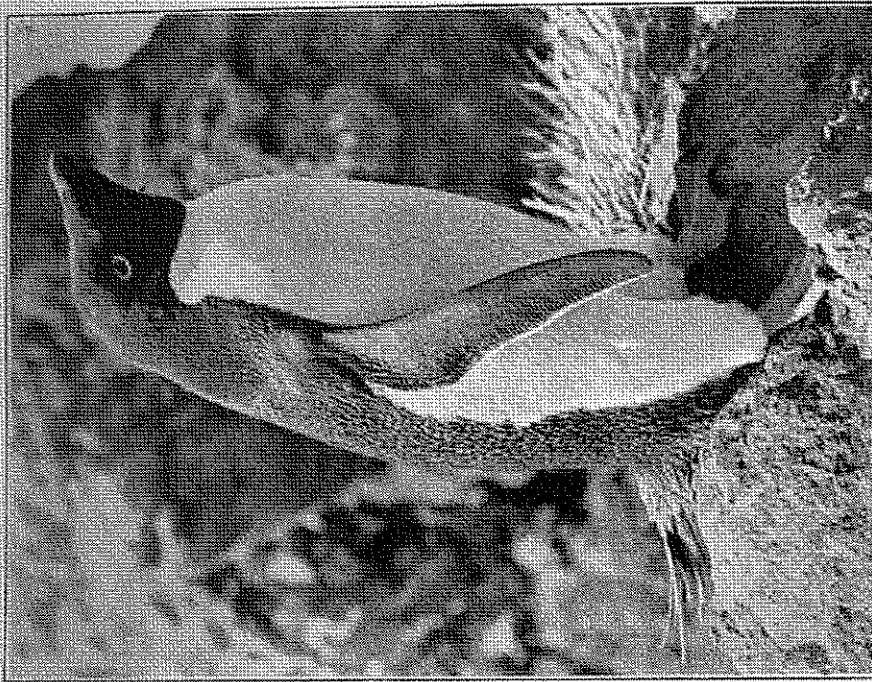
By A. M. GWYNN, Melbourne, Vic.

It seems desirable to put on record the following additions to the list of Macquarie Island birds. Other additions to this list have been published in recent numbers of *The Emu* (Serventy 1952; Lindholm 1952). It is now evident that over-carried migrants and other stragglers reach Macquarie Island with some frequency.

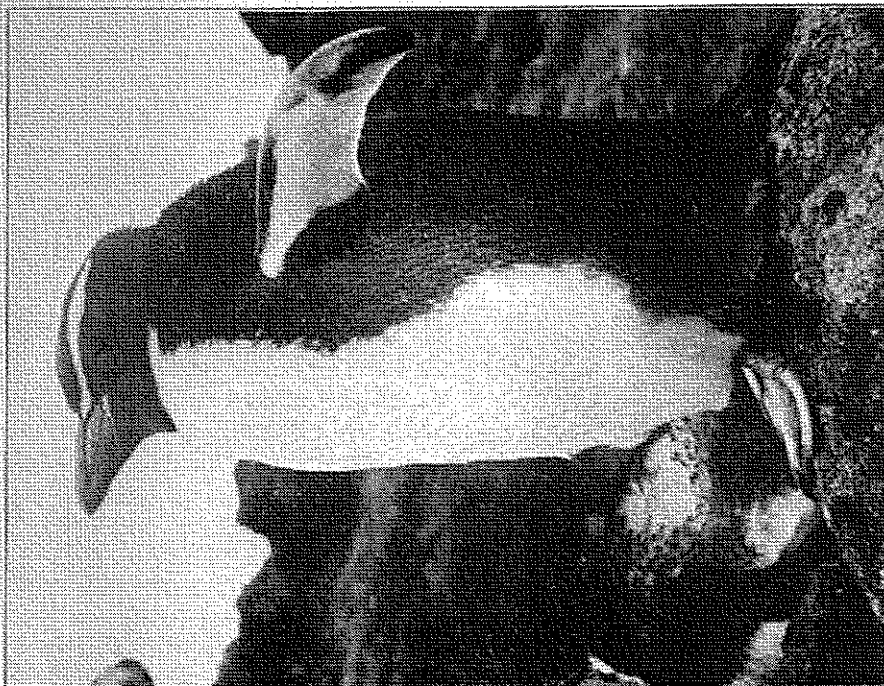
The writer is personally responsible for all of the following records except the first, details of which were supplied by Mr. Eric Shipp, biologist at Macquarie Island in 1950-51.

### ADELIE PENGUIN (*Pygoscelis adeliae*)

A single adult female was found on the beach near the ANARE Station on November 19, 1950. Its weight was 7 lb. 11 ozs., and in its photographs the bird looks emaciated, though it was not noted to be in poor condition at the time of its capture. The skin is now in the National Museum, Melbourne (reg. no. B 4121).



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Snares Island Penguin.

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SNARES ISLAND PENGUIN (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus atratus*)

A single specimen of this penguin wandered into the ANARE Station on February 5, 1950. It was at first thought to be a specimen of *E. sclateri*, a species already recorded as a straggler to Macquarie Island (Falla, 1937), but after the description in Alexander's *Birds of the Ocean* was checked, it was identified as a specimen of *E. pachyrhynchus*. As the writer was not at the time aware that Falla (1935) had described the Snares Island form as distinct, notes and photographs were considered sufficient to establish the bird's identity and it was released. It was extremely tame and remained on some rocks near the station for two or three days. Three weeks later, on March 1, it reappeared in the same place, having completed its moult in the interval. It was noted that the plumes on its head were then decidedly more prominent.

On the expedition's return to Melbourne, photographs of the bird taken when it was first found were submitted to Dr. R. A. Falla, who very kindly diagnosed it as a "sub-mature example of the Snares Island Penguin".

SNIPE (*Gallinago* sp.)

While I was crossing the coastal bog on the raised beach terrace on November 20, 1949, I put up a snipe at close range. Its long bill, striped head, bold markings and erratic flight were all plainly seen. It was not observed again. It was presumably a specimen of *Gallinago hardwickii*.

MALLARD (*Anas platyrhynchos*)

On August 15, 1949, a Mallard drake in full breeding plumage was seen in company with twenty-five Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) on a small lake south of Brothers Point. They were under observation for some time from a position of advantage overlooking the lake, through 6 x 30 binoculars, and all the Black Duck appeared quite typical.

SWAMP HARRIER (*Circus approximans*)

On October 29, 1949, a large hawk was sighted sailing over North Head. It then flew along the cliff face below where the writer was standing. Here it was attacked by a Skua (*Stercorarius skua lonnbergi*) and in evading the attack did a perfectly-executed roll on to its back. The following notes were made at the time—"... a Harrier: wing span greater than the Skua, but lighter build: wings broad, rounded in outline, primaries splayed. Tail long, not forked; base of tail light, chestnut or rufous. Head and nape golden brown." Not being familiar with the Australasian birds of prey, the writer submitted his notes to Dr. D. L. Serventy and to Mr. N. J. Favaloro, and each

independently identified the bird as probably a Swamp Harrier. As this is a well known wanderer to outlying islands, including Campbell Island, there seems little doubt that this identification is correct.

The bird was last seen flying over the sea towards Handspike Point.

## REFERENCES

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 Falla, R. A., 1937. 'Birds'. *B.A.N.Z. Antarctic Res. Exped. 1929-31*, Reports, Series B, vol. 2, 288 pp.  
 Lindholm, Earl, 1952. 'Bar-tailed Godwit at Macquarie Island', *Emu*, vol. 52, pt. 3, August 1952, p. 213.  
 Serventy, D. L., 1952. 'White Egret at Macquarie Island', *Emu*, vol. 52, pt. 1, February 1952, p. 66.

## Notes on the Life History and Population Trends of the Gannet (*Sula serrator*) at the Plateau Gannetry, Cape Kidnappers\*

By K. WODZICKI, Wellington, and Rev. F. H. ROBERTSON, Hastings, New Zealand

## INTRODUCTORY

Comparatively little has been recorded on the life history of the Australasian Gannet, *Sula serrator* (Gray). Fleming and Wodzicki (1952), in their census of the Gannet in New Zealand, summarized existing information and suggested that continuous observation of at least one gannetry should be carried out to determine the variables affecting a Gannet census and the trends in Gannet population.

This paper is a report of observations at Plateau gannetry, Cape Kidnappers, for seven breeding seasons from 1945/46 to 1951/52.

The Hawkes Bay gannetries comprise three nesting sites: Cape Kidnappers, Black Reef and the Plateau (Wodzicki and McMeekan; 1947, pp. 433-436). Fleming and Wodzicki (1952, pp. 67-71) have outlined their history and assessed their population in 1946. Plateau gannetry (fig. 1) was selected for this study because it is accessible and because it offers several interesting aspects for research. In the first place, it is an overflow colony, established between 1931 and 1944, close to the Cape Kidnappers gannetry which numbers two to three thousand pairs; secondly, for several weeks during the nesting season numbers of birds roost on the Plateau, detached from the nesting colony proper; thirdly, in recent years a new detached

\* Contributed from the Animal Ecology Section, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Wellington.

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