

## Report of the Checklist Committee

Partial revision of the Second Edition of the *Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia* (1926) commenced soon after the appointment of a new Checklist Committee on December 20, 1938. Six Supplements to the *Checklist* were issued up to 1950 and a further one is now presented. As with previous Supplements, only matters of a more urgent nature have been disposed of, and it has been found impracticable to deal with the large numbers of inaccuracies, errors and omissions in the current *Checklist*. Four additional species are recognized as being more than casual visitors to Australia, and other items deal with changes in nomenclature, distribution and occurrence. It is anticipated that further changes of a similar nature will be dealt with in a future Supplement.

This Committee has encountered many difficulties and in some instances we are no closer to a solution of certain controversial issues than was the original Committee in the year 1926. The policy of restricting changes to those which have gained acceptance amongst ornithologists is continued. To date, eleven species have been added to or allotted numbers in the Australian list and sixteen full species (nos. 87, 194, 242, 243, 244, 262, 298, 474, 476, 477, 478, 479, 483, 534, 573, 649) have been suppressed or reduced to sub-specific rank.

The total number of species recognized for Australia has therefore been reduced from 707 to 702: the inclusion of foreign birds which have become established in the wild is a matter still under consideration.

The Sixth Supplement appeared in *The Emu*, vol. 50, pp. 132-134.

H. T. CONDON,

Convener and Secretary.

Other members of Committee: C. E. Bryant, R. A. Falla, W. B. Hitchcock, A. R. McGill.

## Seventh Supplement to the Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia (Second Edition)

### ADDITIONAL SPECIES

- 4A. *Eudyptes schlegeli* Finsch 1876 (*Trans. N.Z. Inst.*, 8, p. 204; Macquarie Island), Royal Penguin, is added to the Australian list having been obtained at least twice in Tasmania and once in South Australia.

References: Hindwood and Sharland, 1944, *Emu*, p. 81. Sharland, 1946, *ibid.*, p. 177. Condon, 1950, *ibid.*, p. 59-60.

- \*77A. *Pterodroma brevirostris* Lesson 1831 (*Traité d'Orn.*, 8, p. 611), Kerguelen Petrel, is added to the Australian

list, having been obtained on a number of occasions in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, and New South Wales.

References: Coues, 1875, *Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus.*, 2, p. 28. Godman, 1908, *Monogr. Petrels*, p. 216, pl. 60. Campbell, 1927, *Emu*, 26, p. 153, pl. 24. Mathews, 1928, *Bds. Norfolk and Lord Howe Is.*, etc., p. 102, pl. 38. Mathews, 1935, *Ibis*, p. 885. Mathews and Hallstrom, 1943, *Notes on the Order Procellariiformes*, p. 9. Mathews, 1946, *Working List Aust. Bds.*, p. 8. Serventy, 1948, *Emu*, 47, p. 260. Condon, 1951, *S.A. Orn.*, 20, p. 10; 1954, *ibid.*, 21, p. 49. Crawford and Serventy, 1952, *Emu*, 52, p. 78. Rand, 1954, *Ibis*, 96, p. 195. Grant and Mackworth-Praed, 1954, *Bull. B.O.C.*, 74, pp. 71-73. Davenport and Sibson, 1955, *Notornis*, pp. 115-117. Learmonth, 1955, *Emu*, 55, p. 101. Hirdwood and McGill, 1955, *ibid.*, p. 152.

- 112B. *Sterna macrura* Naumann 1819 (*Isis*, 1819, p. 1847), Arctic Tern, is added to the Australian list, having been taken in Western Australia, South Australia, and Victoria.

References: Hitchcock, 1952, *Emu*, p. 68; 1954 *S.A. Orn.*, 21, pp. 45-46. Morgan, 1954, *Emu*, 54, p. 58.

- 112A. *Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern, is removed from the accidental list and allotted the above number. The birds which visit Australia belong to the race *longipennis*. Distribution: Breeds north-east Asia (Kamchatka, Sak-

\* Numerous specimens of this problematical bird have now been taken after winter storms. The characters of the species are shown in the coloured plates published by Campbell in 1927 and Mathews in 1928; Godman's figure (plate 60 in the *Monograph of the Petrels*) also refers here. The birds are thought to breed on Marion Island (cf. Crawford and Serventy, 1952; Davenport and Sibson, 1955) and are probably conspecific with forms breeding at Kerguelen and Tristan da Cunha. Mathews (1935, 1943) has attempted to show that the name *brevirostris* Lesson 1831 should be used for a species breeding on some of the Mascarene Islands, but Grant and Mackworth-Praed (1954) think this name is a synonym of *Pterodroma lugens* Kuhl 1820, and give the breeding range as "without doubt Tristan da Cunha and Kerguelen Islands". In 1875 Coues named a bird *Oestrelata kidderi* from Kerguelen, and some authors have advocated this name for the Kerguelen Petrel.

The identity of the birds taken in Australia remains obscure, but it is thought that they are the same as specimens gathered in New Zealand. R. W. Rand (1954) has used *lugens* for Kerguelen birds and *brevirostris* for the form on Marion Island, whilst Mathews (1946) has proposed the name '*Pterodroma whitlocki*, Little Black Petrel' for the bird taken at Cottesloe, Western Australia, and identified by Campbell in 1927 as *brevirostris*. Mathews gives the distribution for this 'new' species as 'Western Australian Seas'. He further lists *Pterodroma lugens*—'Short-billed Petrel'—as a visitor to Australia and New Zealand and breeding at Kerguelen.

In Australia only one form appears to be involved and therefore the name *whitlocki* is superfluous. For the present it seems preferable to employ the name *brevirostris* now in general use by authors.—H.T.C.

halien); rare summer migrant to coastal eastern and south-eastern Australia.

Reference: Hitchcock and Favaloro, 1951, *Mem. Nat. Mus. Vict.*, 17, pp. 207-214.

## NAME CHANGES

3. *Eudyptes cristatus*, Crested (Rockhopper) Penguin, becomes **Eudyptes chrysocome** (Forster) 1781, as it is considered that this name is not invalidated by the composite description accompanying Forster's plate.

Reference: Mathews and Iredale, 1921, *Austral Av. Rec.*, 4, pp. 145-6.

336. *Cuculus optatus*, Oriental Cuckoo, becomes **Cuculus saturatus** 'Hodgson' Blyth 1843 (*Journ. As. Soc., Bengal*, 12, part 2, p. 942; Nepal). The birds which migrate from Asia to Australia will be known as *Cuculus saturatus horsfieldi* Moore 1857 (*Cat. Bds. Mus. Hon. East-Ind. Co.*, 1856-57, p. 703; Java).

References: Junge, 1937, *Temminckia*, 2, pp. 198-202. Mayr, 1944, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 83, p. 134.

338. *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, Fan-tailed Cuckoo, becomes **Cacomantis pyrrhophanus prionurus** (Lichtenstein) 1823 (*Verz. Doubl. Mus., Berlin*, p. 9; New South Wales).

References: North, 1906, *Ibis*, p. 53. Hartert, 1926, *Norv. Zool.*, 33, pp. 55-6. Amadon, 1942, *Amer. Mus. Novit.*, 1176, p. 15.

339. *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*, Brush (Square-tailed) Cuckoo, will become **Cacomantis variolosus** V. & H. 1827.

546. *Artamus melanops*, Black-faced Wood-Swallow, will become **Artamus cinereus** Vieillot 1817 (*Nouv. Dict. d'Hist. Nat.*, 17, p. 297; Timor), as it is considered to be a race of that species.

Reference: Mayr, 1944, *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, 83, p. 137.

575. *Zosterops australasiae*, Western Silvereye, becomes **Zosterops gouldi** Bonaparte 1850, as the name *australasiae* Vieillot (1817) refers to a bird which inhabits some of the Lesser Sunda Islands and replaces *citrinella* Bonaparte 1850.

Reference: Stresemann, 1951, *Emu*, 51, pp. 69-70.

## DISTRIBUTION CHANGES

302. **Neophema pulchella**, Turquoise Parrot. Under distribution the reference to South Australia is to be deleted, as the specimen which formed the basis for the inclusion of that State, and now preserved in the Australian Museum, Sydney, has proved on examination to be a female of *Neophema splendida*. Other alleged specimens from South Australia are cage-birds.

330. **Eurostopodus mystacalis**, White-throated Nightjar, does not occur in South Australia, and reference to that

State should be deleted from the distribution given; all published records are based on misidentifications.

References: Sutton, 1923, *S.A. Orn.*, 7, p. 101; 1934, *ibid.*, 12, p. 188. Condon, 1951, *ibid.*, 20, p. 36.

#### SUPPRESSION OF GENERIC NAMES

The following generic names are suppressed on the grounds that there are insufficient characters of importance to warrant their separation. The names which replace them are given in parentheses.

*Priocella* (*Fulmarus*); *Microcarbo* (*Phalacrocorax*); *Gabianus* (*Larus*); *Baza* (*Aviceda*); *Uroaëtus* (*Aquila*); *Lamprococcyx* (*Chalcites*).

The name *Owenavis* Mathews 1912 is a synonym of and is to be replaced by *Misocalius* Cabanis and Heine 1863 (*Mus. Heine, Th.* 4, 1862-63 (1863), h. 1, p. 16, note. Type, *Cuculus palliolatus auct., nec* Latham, equals *Chalcites osculans* Gould).

Reference: Mathews, 1912, *Aust. Av. Rec.*, 1, p. 3; *id.*, 1918, *Bds. Austr.*, 7, 331, 337.

**Babbler Mating with Two Hens.**—Are there any records of the male Grey-crowned Babbler mating with more than one hen bird at the same time? At East Nanango (four miles from Nanango) in southern Queensland, a male mated with two nesting hen birds. This was in October and November of 1946.

It was on my father's farm. There was a flock of nine Grey-crowned Babblers, which used to stay around the house and yards. One day some lads from the town started to shoot them and by the time my father could order them off there were only three of the flock left. For the next two years I did not know them to nest, and they would not join any other flock of Babblers which now and again invaded their territory.

In October of 1946 I noticed there were only two instead of the three birds about, and after investigating all the Babblers' nests around, I found one bird sitting on three eggs about a chain from the house. She hatched two of the eggs a week later.

While the young of this bird were still in the nest, I noticed that there were only two birds attending the young and found the third bird sitting on two eggs in a nest about a quarter of a mile away. This bird left the eggs after I had disturbed her—or something frightened her—because when I went back a week later, there was only one egg in the nest, which was deserted. The egg had a half-formed chick in it.

I left the farm that Christmas and did not have the chance to go back to observe the birds until February 1952, when I found that there were still only three birds in the flock.—M. T. TEMPLETON, Cohuna, Vic., 26/10/54.