

Blue-billed Ducks are not so shy as some writers have stated. They are distinctly curious. I have stood still for five minutes and watched a flock of seventy or so Blue-bills swim in gradually from sixty yards to within thirty yards of me eyeing me in sheer curiosity.

Perhaps even more remarkable is a playful tendency. My son drew my attention to a Blue-billed female which climbed two feet up a log inclining into the water, then, from several inches above water level it calmly dived in. This it repeated three times in as many minutes. It was not feeding and no other ducks were near, so the incident appeared to be simple self-entertainment.

The Noddy in New South Wales—Additional Observations.—As the Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) has only been recorded from New South Wales on five previous occasions, another occurrence is of some consequence and the relevant details are here chronicled.

I saw a bird of this species on Sandon Point, Bulli, a rocky headland jutting some 300 yards into the sea about 40 miles south of Sydney, on March 17, 1957. The bird allowed a close approach and was observed quite clearly without the aid of binoculars, even though it merged readily into the immediate surroundings. It showed no interest whatever in a group of Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) and Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) resting close by and seemed extremely reluctant to fly. The plumage had a somewhat mottled or 'blotchy' appearance, due possibly to the bird moulting from juvenile to adult plumage; it closely resembled a Noddy photographed by K. A. Hindwood at Long Reef, Sydney, on April 16, 1951, and by V. Kelaher a few days later—*Emu*, vol. 52, pl. 16.

The bird was not present when I returned to the locality a week later, and time did not permit a thorough search of the nearby beaches and rocky headlands.

The weather prior to the appearance of the Noddy was fine and mild, although a cyclone which passed close to Lord Howe Island about February 17, 1957, then veered towards the New South Wales coastline, could have blown the bird from the region of Lord Howe Island, which is the closest breeding-place of the species to New South Wales.

A bird, thought to be a Noddy, was seen by G. Marshall off Bradley's Head, Sydney Harbour, on January 19, 1951. It was in company with a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*), another species rarely recorded from New South Wales. The weather for several days had been wet, with rough seas and stormy conditions generally (K. A. Hindwood, *in litt.*, 28/3/57).

Earlier occurrences of the Noddy in New South Wales have been recorded by K. A. Hindwood (see *The Emu*, vol. 52, pp. 155-8, pl. 16, and vol. 54, p. 145) and by A. R. McGill and S. G. Lane (see *The Emu*, vol. 55, p. 69).—A. R. SEFTON, Thirroul, N.S.W., 20/4/57.