

although it could easily be mistaken for the more common *T. brevipes*, which it resembles very closely in plumage. For field observations on both species see Hindwood and Hoskin,³ pp. 237-239. The two species may be separated by the relative lengths of the narial grooves, that of *T. brevipes* extending about half-way along the length of the beak, that of *T. incana* about two-thirds. This feature is impossible to see in the field except under ideal conditions.

The calls are stated to be diagnostic, that of *T. brevipes* being described as 'troo-eet', and 'ter-wee', and of *T. incana* as a series of six to ten individual notes, 'whee-we-we...', uttered in the same pitch and rapid succession, but each of shortening duration.¹

On the basis of the call we believe both individuals recorded were of the Grey-tailed species.

REFERENCES

1. Condon, H. T., and McGill, A. R. (1952), *A Field Guide to the Waders*.
2. Glover, Brian (1954). 'Recent Observations on South Australian Migratory Waders', *Emu*, 54, pp. 51-57.
3. Hindwood, K. A., and Hoskin, E. S. (1954). 'The Waders of Sydney (County of Cumberland), New South Wales, *Emu*, 54, pp. 217-255.
4. McPherson, C. Leo (1957). 'Greater Knot: New Record for South Australia', *Emu*, 57, pp. 346-347.

Woodhens on Lord Howe Island.—Visiting the island in April 1957, my wife and I were particularly interested in this species. Despite many more visitors nowadays than a few years ago, the numbers who traverse the Erskine Valley and climb Mt. Gower are not increasing relatively. We were assured that the Woodhen did not now occur in the valley but only high on the two mountains. (There is a local 'prohibition' on attempting to climb Mt. Lidgbird, after a fatal accident a few years ago).

We saw no sign of the Woodhen during our ascent of Mt. Gower—on a bad weather day when the low clouds obscured sight of the steep falls from the narrow ridge by which we ascended. On the top of Mt. Gower a fox terrier dog that had attached himself to our party put out a bird from a hollow at the base of a tree, and, despite the rain, we followed it some distance through the wet scrub. We saw no sign of the species as we descended—though we did encounter thousands of the Brown-headed Petrels 'grounded' and fluttering at our feet—but, as we turned the shoulder of Mt. Lidgbird to creep along the narrow ledge under the mighty cliffs, a Woodhen suddenly appeared. It stood stationary, except for a flicking tail and inclined head, for something more than two minutes, while we watched it from less than six feet away. This appearance gave the lie to the statement that the species is now confined to the 'tops'.—C. E. BRYANT, Melbourne, Vic., 12/6/57.