

await reports by suitably-placed observers, inspired by the general plea, stated somewhat mildly in Hindwood's 1956 Summary as "It is suggested that field workers report obvious movements of large numbers of small honeyeaters, particularly of the White-naped and Yellow-faced species".

**Eastern Australian Records of the Little Shearwater.**—Definite occurrences of the Little or Allied Shearwater (*Puffinus assimilis*) in eastern Australian seas to date number only four, therefore another record is of considerable interest. A bird of this species was found on Thirroul beach, some 40 miles south of Sydney, on March 26, 1958. Other records are as follows:

Specimen No. 234,216, Gibson/Sefton collection. Skeletal remains only. Culmen 24.6 mm., tarsus 36.5 mm., middle toe and claw 42.6 mm. Collected Gary Sefton. Loss of the longest primaries and rectrices precluded wing and tail measurements respectively. The remains are of a bird deep in moult with whitish tips to several of the wing coverts.

The first three eastern Australian recoveries of *P. assimilis* were made on Cronulla Beach, 10 miles south of Sydney, and it is possible that they, like the Thirroul bird and a specimen from southern Queensland, belong to the nominate Norfolk Island race, which also breeds on Lord Howe Island and is therefore the form most likely to be forced into eastern Australian waters during periods of inclement weather. The above dimensions conform to those quoted by W. R. B. Oliver for the nominate race, which are smaller generally than the other Pacific subspecies—*New Zealand Birds*, 1955, pp. 126-128.

The finding of a Little Shearwater at Discovery Bay in south-western Victoria on November 21, 1957 (*Emu*, vol. 58, p. 138), is extremely interesting. The origin of this specimen, which is the first recorded from Victoria, is purely a matter for conjecture, as is the case with most beach-washed sea-birds, but it is interesting to note that another subspecies, *P. a. tunneyi*, breeds in south-western Australia from the Recherche Archipelago to the Houtman Abrolhos.

Only systematic banding on a large scale in their breeding haunts will finally settle the perplexing question of the origin of the derelict sea-birds found upon the ocean beaches.

Since 1942, when D. L. Serventy authentically established the presence of the Little Shearwater in eastern Australian inshore waters, much has appeared in the pages of *The Emu* regarding the nomenclature of the widely-distributed geographic races of this interesting species.

Further details of specimens of *P. assimilis* from eastern Australia may be found in *The Emu*, vol. 42, pp. 49-50; vol. 49, pp. 291-2; vol. 55, pp. 77 and 186.—A. R. SEFTON, Thirroul, N.S.W., 31/5/58.