

not call while it was being watched, a period of about fifteen minutes.

No member of our party was familiar with the bird, but it tallied in all respects with Condon & McGill's description and illustration of *Orthorhamphus magnirostris*, the Beach Curlew. This species apparently has not been recorded in New South Wales, though it does occur in southern coastal Queensland. Mr. McGill informed me that he had examined an egg of the species said to have been collected many years ago near the mouth of the Tweed River, New South Wales, close to the Queensland border.

I have recently inspected a skin of the Beach Curlew in the National Museum, Melbourne, and am able to confirm our identification of the bird seen near The Entrance. This note, therefore, is submitted as a sight record of that species on the central coast of New South Wales.—BRENDAN WILSON, Canberra, A.C.T. 28/5/1960.

Nesting of the Short-tailed Shearwater on the Five Islands, N.S.W.

By S. G. LANE, Lane Cove, N.S.W.

A visit was made to the Five Islands, off Port Kembla, 50 miles south of Sydney, on November 1-2, 1958, for the purpose of banding Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*) and Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*). On the night of November 1, some 40 shearwaters were caught above ground on No. 1 Island and brought to a central spot for banding under the light of a pressure lantern. It was noticed that one of the birds captured was a Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*), the remainder being Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*P. pacificus*). The latter species was known to breed in numbers on the Five Islands and on the mainland opposite at Red Point. However, there was no previous record of the presence of living Short-tailed Shearwaters on the group, though dead birds had frequently been noted washed up on the shoreline of No. 1 Island by observers in past years.

The egg-laying period of the shearwaters normally commences towards the end of November, so it was assumed that the single bird found on the island early in November 1958, was a straggler from the vast numbers that migrate down the coast of New South Wales at that time of the year to their main breeding grounds in Bass Strait.

I was not then aware that the species had been found breeding on the Tollgates Islands, 150 miles to the south (Davies, 1959). The recent discovery (in December 1959) of numbers of nesting birds on Broughton Island, 155 miles north of the Five Islands, indicated the distinct possibility that the species also bred on other islands along the coast of New South Wales. Furthermore, the earlier finding

(Gibson, 1955) in April and May 1955, of six immature birds with down still adhering to their feathers, on beaches adjacent to the Five Islands, became significant. Previously it had been assumed that these young birds originated from the Bass Strait breeding grounds of the species and had been blown off course during their migration to the North Pacific. It now seems fairly evident that they could have come from a nesting colony on the Five Islands.

In view of the foregoing facts it was decided to investigate No. 1 Island, which is the largest of the Five Islands group, as soon as possible. Thus a trip was arranged on January 16, 1960, the party comprising H. Battam, C. B. Campion, G. K. Lane and the author. The first four hours of searching produced very few birds—all of them Wedge-tailed Shearwaters. However, during the next two hours we located and banded 24 Short-tailed Shearwaters, and as many Wedge-tailed Shearwaters, in a mixed colony in an area approximately 75 yards by 50 yards at the western end of the island.

The following details relating to *Puffinus tenuirostris* have been taken from information gathered by our party—

Six burrows each contained a sitting bird and a well-incubated egg.

Three burrows each contained a sitting bird and an addled egg.

Three burrows each contained a bird without an egg.

Five burrows each contained two birds, but no eggs were present.

Measurements in millimetres of three birds were—

	<i>Culmen</i>	<i>Tarsus</i>	<i>Wing</i>	<i>Tail</i>
(a)	34.5	55	278	83
(b)	30	54	278	83
(c)	31	54	280	85

Dimensions in millimetres of four eggs were—

(a)	71 x 44
(b)	75 x 47
(c)	71.5 x 48
(d)	73 x 46

REFERENCES

- Gibson, J. Douglas, & Sefton, A. R. 1955. "Mortality of Shearwaters", *Emu*, 55: 259-262.
 Davies, S. J. J. F. 1959. "A note on the Shearwaters Breeding on the Tollgates Islands, N.S.W.", *Emu*, 59: 287-8.