

breeding existed between plateau and coastal-nesting Skuas because of differences in the availability of local food. Observations in 1974-75 indicated large regional differences in diet, which related to the availability of local food. No Skuas nested in areas devoid of local food. A similar parallel exists on the Antipode Islands near New Zealand. There burrow-nesting petrels were the most important food of inland-nesting Brown Skuas and penguin eggs or chicks for coastal-nesting Skuas (Moors 1980, Notornis 27: 133-146). Remains of penguin eggs or chicks were not found in inland territories.

The number of Skuas nesting on the plateau on Macquarie Island will probably continue to decline as long as rabbits remain scarce, to the point where local food is sufficient for the remaining pairs. Apart from rabbits the only other source of food on the plateau for Skuas is burrow-nesting petrels, particularly Antarctic Prions *Pachyptila desolata*. Less frequently predated are White-headed Petrels *Pterodroma lessoni* and Sooty Shearwaters *Puffinus griseus*, while Blue Petrels *Halo-*

*baena caerulea*, Fairy Prions *Pachyptila turtur* and Common Diving Petrels *Pelecanoides urinatrix* are insignificant because they nest in such low numbers (Brothers 1984, Aust. Wildl. Res. 11: 113-131). The populations of these petrels on Macquarie Island have been decimated by the introduction of feral cats *Felis catus* and Wekas *Gallirallus australis scotti*. The density of burrows is low and some species are confined to off-shore stacks in such low numbers that predation by Skuas is a significant check on increase. Skuas were major predators of these petrels before the abundance of rabbits alleviated predation on the petrels. However as the rabbit population is reduced by control measures such as myxomatosis, overall predation on Antarctic Prions may increase, particularly in areas where petrels are abundant and Skuas continue to breed.

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### FIRST SPECIMENS OF CAMPBELL'S FAIRY-WREN, *MALURUS CAMPBELLI*, FROM NEW GUINEA

Since the description of this species from field notes and photographs (Schodde & Weatherly 1982, 1983), I have been able to examine skins of one adult male, one sub-adult male, and one adult female plus two fledglings in spirit. They were taken by R. W. Campbell and R. D. Mackay at the type locality, Bosavi, at c. 700 m altitude on 2-3 November 1982. All are lodged in the Papua New Guinea Museum and Art Gallery, Port Moresby, except the sub-adult male which is being held on permanent loan by the Australian National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Canberra. Regrettably, none of the adults can be identified as a syntype (or selected as a lectotype) because none is from the banded birds on which the original description was based. That description first appeared in "The Fairy-Wrens A Monograph of the Maluridae" (Schodde 1982), and takes its date from the issuing of the first numbers of that work in August 1982.

**Full-grown birds** - The sex and age of the three full-grown birds was determined from dissection and skull ossification, by the enlarged ovary and convoluted oviduct of the female, and by the fact that the female (PNG 17591) was paired with one male (PNG 17590) as the

apparent parents of the two fledglings (R. W. Campbell, pers. comm.). Their plumages confirm those already putatively described for adults of each sex, and no redescription is necessary. A point to be added, however, is the tone of the thighs which are tawny-brown in both sexes and match the under-tail coverts in the female and sub-adult male. The sub-adult male (ANWC 26467), with incompletely pneumatized cranium, is identical to the adult male except for its tawny under-tail coverts and faint white wash on the very centre of the lower belly. This suggests that young males moult directly into a permanent adult "nuptial" plumage at post-fledging moult, as apparently happens in allospecific *Malurus grayi* and other New Guinean malurids, without passing through a hen or "eclipse" plumage as do Australian species of *Malurus* (Schodde 1982).

In body, both males and the female are slightly larger than those recorded previously, the males having wings 56, 57 mm and the female 53 mm (flattened chord measured from bend of wing to tip). Their bills, nonetheless, are all a little shorter (exposed culmen 13-14 mm in males, 13 mm in female) and correspondingly narrower; and as such they are distinctly finer

than in allospecific *M. grayi*. Weights are 9, 10 g (males), 8 g (female).

**Fledglings** - With well-developed legs, nearly full-grown wings and only one-third grown tails, the fledglings are in the cryptic phase of young less than two weeks out of the nest (*cf.* Schodde 1982:20). Their bills are broad and flat but very short and furnished with vestigial rictal bristles less than half the length of the maxilla. Plumage, predictably, resembles that of fledgling *M. grayi* and lacks blue. The crown is dusky-brown quickly grading over the nape and upper mantle to plain cinnamon-brown on the scapulars and back. Remiges and wing coverts are dusky-brown edged cinnamon-russet on the outer vanes, and the shooting rectrices are of the same tone but tipped buff. Ventrally, the chin is whitish grading to plain dull tawny over the throat and breast, and thence to rich cinnamon-tawny down the flanks to the crissum and whitish over the belly. Facial marks are present but dull: there is a dark dusky line running from the lores through the eyes across the side of the head, presaging the black stripe of adulthood; and the black malar stripe is vague. Above the dark eye stripe a paler buff-grey line is the first indication of the blue superciliaries of adulthood, and below it are ear tufts that are equally pale buff-grey and already with a hint of blue. The half ring of feathers on the lower eye rim is distinct as well, but white as in *Amytornis* (grasswrens) and *Stipiturus* (emu-wrens), not blue as in adults of *M. campbelli* and nuptial males of other species of *Malurus*. Indeed, the overall plumage toning of the fledglings resembles that of juvenile *Stipiturus* and members of the *Amytornis striatus* group more than Australian species of *Malurus*. Regrettably, no information on the colours of soft parts was furnished with the material.

**Affinities** - When collecting their specimens, Campbell and Mackay observed the Wrens holding their tails mostly horizontally when moving and while perching in the undergrowth. This, together with morphological features now clearer to me from specimens, sheds further light on the affinities of Campbell's Fairy-Wren. Apart from its allospecific pairing with *Malurus grayi*, *M. campbelli* seems to have links as close to Wallace's

Wren *Sipodotus wallacii* as to any other members of *Malurus*; and the corollary, that *Sipodotus* is closer to *M. campbelli* - *grayi* than to any other group in *Malurus*, seems even clearer. *M. campbelli* and *Sipodotus wallacii* share a common dorsal pattern of a black head (flecked blue in *Sipodotus*) grading to russet brown on the back and edges to wing coverts and remiges. They also combine long, pointed ear tufts on a black face and an unpatterned ventral surface with brownish, pale-tipped, horizontally-held tails and thickened bills flanked by much prolonged rictal bristles. In fact, in the compression of its bill, *campbelli* is intermediate between *Malurus grayi* and *Sipodotus wallacii*. All three have, like other species of *Malurus*, ten-feathered tails in which the outermost pair of rectrices is vestigial. Obviously, inter- and intra-generic groupings in *Malurus* (*sensu* Schodde 1982) need further investigation.

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#### REFERENCES

- SCHODDE, R., & R.G. WEATHERLY. 1982. In Schodde, R. The Fairy-Wrens A Monograph of the Maluridae. Illustrated by Richard Weatherly, Melbourne: Lansdowne Editions.  
 ———, & ———. 1983. Campbell's Fairy-Wren *Malurus campbelli*, a new species from New Guinea. Emu 82: 308-309.

#### CORRECTION

The caption to plate 1 of *Malurus campbelli* in the supplement to Vol. 82 of Emu requires correction to read, after "putative male": "by Richard Weatherly, from original drawing conceived and resolved from a series of colour photographs of individuals of two hand-held putative males and two hand-held putative females taken by R.W. Campbell". The caption as it presently reads gives the false impression that the painting was copied from a single photograph.

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