

remainder of the summer. Two were seen in the vicinity of the colonies in November and December of 1961 but in neither case could the nest be found, all breeding birds having the usual dark napes and throats.

Attempts subsequently to secure specimens of atypical birds have been unsuccessful. It remains of great interest however to follow up this variation and to observe also how the Antarctic Petrel with its nesting adaptability, polar wintering habits, and earlier breeding cycle can maintain its place in the Windmill Islands alongside its bullying seasonal neighbour, the Silver-grey Petrel.

Mean measurements and estimated dates for the Antarctic Petrel are as follows:

Bird: Length 17", Wing 12", Weight 480 gm

Egg: Length 70 mm, Width 48.8 mm, Weight 90 gm

Return to breeding ground: October 10

Laying commences: November 30

Hatching commences: January 15

Chicks depart: February 26

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Manuscript received: November 14, 1966.

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Mistaken identification of the two "red-tailed" Black Cockatoos.

—Writing in the *Emu* Vol. 58, part 4, page 271, N. A. Wakefield queried the occurrence of the Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksii*, in Gippsland, Victoria. The record appears to have been based on three specimens collected during the R.A.O.U. Campout at Mallacoota in November 1914, two by the late S. A. White and one by the late J. W. Mellor.

Recently, by the courtesy of Mrs S. A. White, the writer was able to examine these three specimens and to identify them, without a shadow of doubt, as the Glossy Black Cockatoo, *C. lathami*. This error, on the part of two very eminent ornithologists, has remained uncorrected for the past fifty-odd years.

It seems probable that many field identifications of these two species are erroneous and yet this should not be the case, although possibly excusable with male birds. Females of *C. banksii* are extensively spotted and streaked with yellow whilst females of *C. lathami* have a variable number of asymmetrically placed yellow

feathers on the head and neck and are not spotted and barred with yellow over the rest of the body.—ALAN LENDON, 163 North Terrace, Adelaide.

Tree-Martins heading out over Bass Strait.—At 10.00 on January 27, 1967, I observed a flock of 18 Tree-martins, *Hylochelidon nigricans*, flying over the coast at Cape Portland, Tasmania and reading directly out into Bass Strait. They crossed the coast at about 50 feet and by the time they passed over me, on a small island 100 yards from the shore, they had reached a height of some 200-250 feet and were still climbing when lost to sight.

Cape Portland is the northernmost point in north-east Tasmania. The birds crossed the coast at right angles some two miles from, and at a point further south than, the actual Cape. They made no attempt to follow the coast to its northernmost extremity nor was their course influenced by the Furneaux Group of islands clearly visible to the north-east.

The weather during this and the previous day was influenced by a high-pressure system with clear skies, good visibility, and a light to moderate easterly wind of approximately 5 knots. The birds' track was NW. and, assuming an air-speed of 20 knots they would have been flying on a WNW. by W. heading. Allowing for wind drift they would have reached the Victorian coast in the vicinity of Wilsons Promontory.

Mollison (*Emu* 60: 55) has recorded birds flying across Franklin Sound, which separates Tasmania from the numerous islands of the Furneaux Group, in February. His birds were flying just above the water into a head wind of 15-20 knots. The difference in behaviour is quite marked but is as expected in view of the different wind conditions. The conditions in January, 1967 were favourable for long distance migration.—D. G. THOMAS, 9 Lallaby Road, Moonah, Tasmania.