

in Australia as the Fork-tailed Kite. The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was also seen, indeed, in winter the birds of prey are numerous in both species and numbers in Korea.

On the voyage home in March-April 1956 an interesting observation was a small flock of birds which could only have been phalaropes, resting on the water off the Admiralty Islands. No doubt these birds will one day turn up on Australian shores.

A rather amusing anecdote was provided by a Pied Wagtail (*Motacilla alba*), obviously headed north from its stay in southern Asia, which alighted on the ship at dusk, off Cheju-do (Quelpart Island). On the next day we encountered rough weather and the Wagtail remained with us. The rough weather turned into a typhoon, so the Wagtail stuck fast to its new home. When the weather cleared the bird finally took leave of us—at Yap in the Carolines—2,000 miles south. Quite a puzzling discovery, perhaps, for some local bird watcher!

## Measurements of Victorian Prions

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Notes on the first Australian record of *Pachyptila crassirostris*, based on a specimen identified by Dr. D. L. Serventy, were published by N. F. Learmonth (*Emu*, vol. 57, pp. 57-9). Reference is there made to a 'crassirostris-type' bird found near Cape Otway in August 1956, and donated by Mrs. Denney of Glen Aire to the National Museum of Victoria.

The following notes on that skin and on Victorian specimens of *P. turtur* may therefore be of general interest.

When I first saw the bird brought by Mrs. Denney I was of the opinion that its bill proportions, more so than its bill dimensions, differed somewhat from those of typical *turtur* and that the bird might prove to be *crassirostris*. Also, in view of the range of variation obviously existing in the National Museum series of *turtur*, it was felt that more data on the range of variation occurring, or possibly occurring, in *P. crassirostris*, were at least desirable before the bird could be confidently identified.

Following my examination of the Portland *crassirostris* specimen, kindly returned to Victoria by Dr. Serventy, and the publication (as previously referred to) of Serventy's notes and measurements of this bird, the questionable Cape Otway specimen and all skins of *turtur* (taken in Victoria) in the National Museum collections have been re-examined and measured, the system of measuring being the same as that used by Serventy. In order to obtain consistency in measuring technique and to make comparisons as objective as possible, the Portland *crassirostris* specimen has been

re-measured by the writer. This, of course, is not intended to imply inaccuracy in the former author's measurements.

Skeletal material has been excluded. Nineteen Victorian *turtur* skins, including one quoted by Serventy in the paper by Learmonth, but excluding the Cape Otway bird, give the following minimum and maximum measurements. All measurements in millimetres.

*P. crossirostris* (Portland skin B6840).

Serventy measurements, *Emu*, vol. 57, p. 59. Culmen 24.3, bill width 12.3, bill depth 7.7, wing 178, tail 89, tail band c.41, tarsus 31, middle toe and claw 39.

McEvey measurements. 24.5, 12.3, 8, 177 and 182, 93, c.41, 30, 39 (estimated).

*P. turtur* (nineteen skins, minimum and maximum measurements in same order).

20-24, 7.5-11, 6.5-8.5, 155-184, 81-93, c.31-c.48 (this last maximum a remarkable individual example), 29-33, 36-40.5 (estimated).

Cape Otway skin.

22.5, 10.5, 8.5, 172, 86, c.41, 32, 41.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the Cape Otway specimen falls readily within the range of *turtur* in all measurements excepting the last, and there is no justifiable reason for further doubting its identity as *P. turtur*. It has accordingly been so registered, as No. B6985.

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**Tree Sparrow in the Riverina.**—In *The Emu*, vol. 56, p. 434, I wrote that the Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) did not occur in the Riverina west of a line Tocumwal/Jerilderie/Hay. It now appears this remark was a little premature, as on March 14, 1957, I saw three Tree Sparrows in the main street of Tocumwal and have seen them there subsequently. In 1955 I resided for a month in Tocumwal and, in fact, had many of my meals at the cafe outside which the birds are usually to be seen. Since then I have been a frequent visitor to the town, but had not recorded the Tree Sparrow there until March. The obvious inference is that the birds are new arrivals. Since March I have examined every sparrow seen in Finley, my present home town, but am convinced the Tree Sparrow has not reached here yet. It will be of interest to see how long it takes the Tree Sparrow to bridge the 13 miles between the two towns.

In August 1956, I found the Tree Sparrow quite common at Wagga Wagga, and in November 1956, although in a different area, I saw ten Tree Sparrows in the main street of Orbost, Victoria.—JOHN N. HOBBS, Finley, N.S.W., 7/5.57.

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The death has occurred of Dr. W. R. B. Oliver. An obituary notice will be published shortly.