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A Note on the Type Specimens of *Prion* Subspecies

By C. A. FLEMING, Wellington, N.Z.

In a recent publication (1) Mathews has given names to a number of insular populations of prions, and, in one case, to storm-killed birds, basing the names upon published dimensions in recent papers by Falla (2) and Buddle (3). It is not my intention critically to examine the systematic status of such alleged subspecies at present, but it seems desirable, in conformity with standard taxonomic practice, to designate type specimens, where possible, in order to give the named subspecies more stability for future investigation. The tendency to base subspecific descriptions upon populations rather than on individuals does not affect the value of nominated type specimens.

Pachyptila salvini muriwai Mathews (1, p. 23)

Based on Falla's measurements of two specimens in Auckland Museum from Muriwai (2, p. 225). Of these I designate A.M.Av. 1386.2, the first specimen listed by Falla, as lectotype.

Pseudoprion turtur mangerei Mathews (1, p. 23)

Based on Falla's measurements of two Canterbury Museum specimens from Mangere (= Mangare), Chatham Islands (2, p. 230), of which Cant.Mus. 1201·3 is here designated lectotype. It is possible that Mangare specimens are topotypes of *huttoni* Mathews.

Pseudoprion turtur benchi Mathews (1, p. 23)

Based on measurements of live birds from Bench Island by Richdale, quoted by Falla (2, p. 230). There are no skins of prions from Bench Island preserved in New Zealand collections, nor anywhere so far as is known.

Pseudoprion turtur armiger Mathews (1, p. 23)

Based on measurements by Buddle (3, p. 60) of live birds at the Poor Knights Islands. Fortunately there is a small series of skins from that locality in various collections, and I select Auckland Museum, Av. 209·54, ♂ ad., breeding, Aorangi Island, Poor Knights, December 1940, as neotype. The measurements of the specimen are:

Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Mid. toe and claw	Culmen	Width of bill	Depth of bill
117	92	34	42	25·4	11·5	10·6

Fulmariprion crassirostris antipodes Mathews (1, p. 26; first citation, p. 25, as '*P. antipodes*.')

Based on measurements of two Canterbury Museum Antipodes Island skins by Falla (1, p. 228), of which the male, Cant.Mus. 1200·1, is here designated lectotype.

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Albino Kookaburra.—A white Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) occurs in the Wallangara district, Queensland, where I am at present camped. The bird is practically white all over, with the exception of a very slight brownish tinge on the back. Local farmers state that the bird was first observed here about six years ago.

The white bird appears to be quite solitary in its habits, and, as yet, I have not heard it give the familiar jocular call notes of its conventionally-clad comrades. A whitish feathering, covering the sides and upper parts of several other Kookaburras, has also been noted in this district.—
LAWRENCE C. HAINES, Sydney, N.S.W., 3/11/44.