

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KOORAGANG ISLAND

SUPPLEMENT No. 1

BY

F. VAN GESSEL AND T. KENDALL

INTRODUCTION:

Further discoveries and observations make it desirable to present this supplement to the checklist which appeared in August, 1972 (*Hunter Natural History*, Vol. 4:3).

Opportunity is also taken to update the status of several species and maximum numbers recorded.

The progressive destruction of mangroves in which the egret colony was situated has resulted in the egrets deserting their former breeding grounds confirming our earlier fears. However the loss of mangroves and associated egret colony is not compensated for by the acquisition of a "temporary habitat", caused by man in his continual effort to reclaim these wetlands, to satisfy his ever demanding industrial needs.

An unusually high number of crane sightings has been made during the past 3 months resulting in the addition to the checklist of *Porzana tabuensis* and *Rallus philippensis*.

The new records, which are all based on "sight records" have been numbered in the checklist sequence and a reference to their status, order and family is given to assist in placing of the proper sequence. Change of status and additional information of species will be referred to in the numbered sequence already employed in the checklist with page number shown in brackets.

Records are mainly based on our own observations, but also incorporate information submitted by other observers and visiting ornithologists. Throughout the checklist initials are used to indicate where information has been supplied by the following observers:

BF - Mr B. Finch	SGL - Mr S.G. Lane
DG - Mr D. Gosper	AM - Mr A.K. Morris
GH - Mr G. Holmes	GS - Mr G. Standring
	AR - Mr A. Rogers

New Species for Kooragang Island:

PROCELLARIIFORMES

PROCELLARIIDAE

158. (p.197) *Puffinus pacificus*

Casual visitor.

A single bird observed on 28.10.72 near Stockton Bridge. Shearwater species were recorded on previous occasions but positive identification as to species was not possible.

PETRELS & MUTTON BIRDS

Wedge-tailed Shearwater

CICONIIFORMES

ARDEIDAE

159. (p.198) *Botaurus poiciloptilus*

Casual visitor.

One single bird observed on 13.8.72 (DG), 19.8.72, 3.9.72, 2 on 2.10.72 and 1 on 4.11.72. Recorded on previous occasions by GH (pers. comm.) with a maximum of 4.

HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS

Brown Bittern

A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island--Supplement No.1 (cont.)

160. (p.198) *Ixobrychus minutus* Little Bittern
 Casual visitor.
 On 29.10.72 a single bird (male) in full breeding plumage was captured, banded and released after full particulars had been taken.

ANSERIFORMESANATIDAESWANS, GEESE & DUCKS

161. (p.200) *Anas platyrhynchos* Mallard
 Introduced--casual visitor.
 A male hybrid recorded on 12.8.72.

GRUIFORMESRALLIDAERAILS, CRAKES, COOTS

162. (p.202) *Porzana tabuensis* Spotless Crake
 Casual visitor.
 Recorded on several occasions 2 on 11.9.72 (DG), 1 on 23.9.72 (GS), 1 on 30.9.72, 2 on 1.10.72 and 1 on 4.11.72
163. (p.202) *Rallus philippensis* Banded Landrail
 Casual visitor.
 One single bird recorded on 30.9.72 and 4.11.72.

CHARADRIIFORMESRECURVIROSTRIDAESTILTS AND AVOCETS

164. (p.206) *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus* Banded Stilt
 Casual visitor.
 One record of an immature during the months August and September 1972 and an earlier of the same bird by D. Gosper on 25.5.72.

CUCULIFORMESCUCULIDAECUCKOOS

- 165 (p.209) *Cacomantis variolosus* Brush Cuckoo
 Passage migrant.
 A single bird recorded on 21.10.72 (SGL and others), 3 on 29.10.72 and 1 on 12.11.72.

STRIGIFORMESTYTONIDAEBARN OWLS

166. (p.209) *Tyto alba* Barn Owl
 Irregular non-breeding visitor.
 A single bird recorded on 23.9.72 confirming the earlier record by J. and O. Ralston.
 This species is possibly more common than these records suggest.

A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island--Supplement No.1 (cont.)CORACIIFORMESCORACIIDAE

167. (p.209) *Eurystomus orientalis*
 Passage migrant.
 A single bird recorded on 21.10.72.

ROLLERS

Dollar-bird

PASSERIFORMESCAMPEPHAGIDAE

168. (p.210) *Lalage tricolor*
 Passage migrant.
 A single bird recorded on 1.10.72 and by DG
 on 15.10.72 confirming the earlier record by G. Holmes.

CUCKOO SHRIKES

White-winged Triller

ARTAMIDAE

169. (p.214) *Artamus cyanopterus*
 Passage migrant.
 A flock of approx. 100 birds recorded on
 14.10.72 (BF).

WOOD-SWALLOWS

Dusky Wood-swallow

SYLVIIDAE

170. (p.211) *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*
 Passage migrant.
 A single bird recorded on 21.10.72 (SGL & others).

OLD WORLD WARBLERS

Rufous Songlark

Change of Status for the Following Species:

12. (p.198) *Egretta Alba* White Egret
 Former breeding summer visitor
 now becomes a regular non-breeding visitor.
13. (p.198) *Egretta intermedia* Plumed Egret
 Former breeding summer visitor
 now becomes an irregular non-breeding visitor.
16. (p.198) *Nycticorax caledonicus* Nankeen Night Heron
 Former breeding summer visitor
 now becomes an irregular non-breeding visitor.
43. (p.201) *Falco cenchroides* Nankeen Kestrel
 Former regular non-breeding visitor
 now becomes breeding summer visitor--scarce.
98. (p.208) *Columba livia* Domestic Pigeon
 Introduced.
 Former regular non-breeding visitor
 now becomes breeding resident.

A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island--Supplement No.1 (cont.)

9. (p.198) *Ardea pacifica* White-necked Heron
 Casual visitor.
 Additional records of a single bird during the months August-October.
 Status is likely to change to irregular non-breeding visitor in the very near future.
20. (p.199) *Plegadis falcinellus* Glossy Ibis
 Casual visitor.
 Additional record of a single bird during the months August-September, 1972; 12 recorded on 22.10.72, 14 on 29.10.72 and 50 on 4.11.72 and 25.11.72.
26. (p.200) *Anas gibberifrons* Grey Teal
 Maximum number recorded 200 on 18.7.72 (DG).
27. (p.200) *Anas rhynchotis* Blue-winged Shoveler
 Maximum number recorded 23 on 12.8.72.
28. (p.200) *Malacorhynchus membranaceus* Pink-eared Duck
 Casual visitor.
 Additional records of a single bird on 1.10.72, 4 on 14.10.72, 1 on 28.10.72, 12 on 4.11.72 and 20 on 11.11.72.
- 30 (p.200) *Chenonetta jubata* Wood Duck
 Casual visitor.
 Additional records of 4 on 9.8.72 and 26.8.72.
53. (p.203) *Vanellus tricolor* Banded Plover
 Casual visitor.
 Additional record of 6 on 26.8.72.
59. (p.203) *Charadrius leschenaulti* Large Sand-dotterel
 Casual visitor.
 Additional record of 4 on 2.9.72.
63. (p.204) *Gallinago hardwickii* Japanese Snipe
 Maximum number recorded 6 on 1.10.72 and 14.10.72.
67. (p.204) *Tringa stagnatilis* Marsh Sandpiper
 This species is probably more common than generally suspected and likely to be confused with Greenshank. A large flock of 70 recorded on 13.10.72 (AM and others), 210 on 14.10.72, 30 on 22.10.72, 14 on 4.11.72 and 150 on 25.11.72. Other records of two birds during the months October and November.
70. (p.204) *Tringa hypoleucos* Common Sandpiper
 Additional maximum number of 4 on 23.9.72.

A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island--Supplement No.1 (cont.)

73. (p.205) *Calidris canutus* Knot
Maximum number recorded 400 on 30.9.72 and 500+ on 13.10.72 (AM & others).
74. (p.205) *Calidris tenuirostris* Great Knot
Additional record of 4-8 during September and 6 for October, 1972.
81. (p.205) *Limosa lapponica* Bar-tailed Godwit
Maximum number recorded 1000 on 8.10.72 (DG).
84. (p.206) *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* Red-necked Avocet
During the months September and October 15 and 12 respectively.
87. (p.207) *Chlidonias hybrida* Whiskered Tern
Maximum number recorded 42 on 14.10.72 and 120 on 21.10.72.
90. (p.207) *Gelochelidon nilotica* Gull-billed Tern
Maximum number recorded 65 on 16.9.72.
107. (p.209) *Chrysococcyx basalus* Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo
Classed as passage migrant, however, now suspected to be an irregular breeding visitor.
During the months August-November 2 birds recorded regularly.
125. (p.211) *Malurus lamberti* Variegated Wren
Additional record of one immature male on 10.9.72.
154. (p.215) *Cracticus nigrogularis* Pied Butcher Bird
Additional records of 2 and 1 bird on 3 and 9.9.72 respectively.
Earlier records by D.G. of a single bird on 1.8.70, 4.11.70 and 4.3.72.
145. (p.213) *Philemon corniculatus* Noisy Friar-bird
Additional records by DG, of 2 on 19.8.72 and 30 on 25.8.72.

Alterations and Corrections:

24. (p.199) *Anas superciliosa* Black Duck
For Very large numbers read Large numbers.
87. (p.206) *Chlidonias hybrida* Whiskered Tern
For Casual visitor read Passage migrant.
99. (p.208) *Glossopsitta pusilla* Little Lorikeet
For Casual visitor read Passage migrant.
107. (p.209) *Chrysococcyx basalus* Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo
For Casual visitor read Passage migrant.

A Checklist of the Birds of Kooragang Island--Supplement No.1 (cont.)

144. (p.213) *Meliphaga chrysops* Yellow-faced Honeyeater
Read: Recorded in small numbers during the months March-May and August-October.
145. (p.213) *Philemon corniculatus* Noisy Friar-bird
For Casual visitor read Irregular non-breeding visitor.
154. (p.215) *Cracticus nigrogularis* Pied Butcher Bird
For Casual visitor read Irregular non-breeding visitor.

ADDENDUM

21. (p.199) *Platalea leucorodia* Royal Spoonbill
Maximum number recorded 190 on 13.1.68 (AR).
57. (p.203) *Charadrius bicinctus* Double-banded Dotterel
Maximum number recorded 65 on 18.3.72 (AR, AM and others)
78. (p.205) *Calidris ferruginea* Curlew Sandpiper
Maximum number recorded 2000 on 18.3.72 (AR, AM and others) and 13.10.72 (AM and others).
93. (p.207) *Sterna albifrons* Little Tern
Maximum number recorded 400 on 18.3.72 (AR and others) and 500 on 25.11.72 (GS).

New Species for Kooragang IslandLARIDAE

171. (p.206) *Larus dominicanus* Dominican Gull
Casual visitor.
A single (3rd year) bird recorded on 13.1.68 and on 17.2.68 one adult and one 2nd year bird recorded (AR and others) confirming the earlier record by G. Holmes (*Hunter Natural History* 1972 Vol.4 No.3).