

A CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KOORAGANG ISLAND
SUPPLEMENT No. 2

BY

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INTRODUCTION:

In view of the fact that more observers have responded to our request and have submitted their records for publication, we would like to present this second supplement to the Checklist which appeared in Hunter Natural History 1972, Vol.4:194-215.

In Supplement No. 1 (Hunter Natural History 1972 Vol.4:256-261) reference was made to the destruction of mangroves and associated egret colony. In 1973 a successful attempt was made by the egrets to re-establish a colony in the area. However, further destruction of available mangrove habitat, the construction of a chemical plant and roads near the nesting site, created so much disturbance that the egrets again deserted the area.

Since the publication of the Checklist a total of 34 new species have been added to the list of which 14 have already been dealt with in Supplement No.1.

The new records which are mainly based on sight observations have been numbered in the checklist sequence with page number shown in brackets, and reference to their status, order and family is also given to assist in placing of the proper sequence. Taking into account six introduced species, the present list now contains 191 numbered species of which a total of 58 have been found breeding. Species marked * have not acquired full status (for status requirements see Hunter Natural History 1972, Vol.4), and therefore have not been included in the numbered checklist.

One species *Falcunculus frontatus* has not been numbered as the specimen obtained dated to 1859, at which time, from reports, forest habitat prevailed, which would have supported other species that are no longer present.

So far 15 species have changed their status due to reclamation either destroying suitable feeding and breeding areas or in certain instances creating suitable habitat on a temporary basis.

A revised "status list" is summarised below showing the new number of species in each faunistic category and for comparative purposes the original number in brackets.

The checklist is mainly based on our own observations, but also incorporates information supplied by other observers and visiting ornithologists, whose records are gratefully acknowledged.

STATUS LIST

Breeding Resident	- 28 (27) Species
Breeding Summer Visitor	- 13 (16) Species
Irregular Breeding Visitor	- 10 (4) Species
Regular Non-breeding Visitor	- 18 (18) Species
Winter Visitor	- 5 (6) Species
Passage Migrant and Non-breeding Summer Visitor	- 40 (26) Species
Irregular Non-breeding Visitor	- 22 (18) Species
Casual Visitor	- 49 (37) Species
Introduced Species	- 6 (5) Species

TOTAL -191(157) Species

(Number in brackets refers to number of species in original Checklist, Hunter Natural History, 4, 194-215, August, 1972.)

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- SULIDAE PELECANIFORMES GANNETS & BOOBIES
 172 (p.197) *Morus serrator* Australian Gannet
 Casual visitor.
 One observation of a single bird on 5.7.73.
- ARDEIDAE CICONIIFORMES HERONS, EGRETS & BITTERNS
 173 (p.198) *Dupetor flavicollis* Black Bittern
 Casual visitor.
 One observation of a single bird on 15.12.72.
- ANATIDAE ANSERIFORMES SWANS, GEESE & DUCKS
 174 (p.199) *Tadorna tadornoides* Mountain Duck
 Casual visitor.
 A group of four birds was first observed on 10.3.73 (E. Hoskin and K. Avery). Subsequent observations during the months April and May revealed the presence of five birds.
 On 1.6.73 two birds were last observed in the area.
- ACCIPITRIDAE FALCONIFORMES EAGLES, GOSHAWKS, ETC.
 175 (p.200) *Hieraaetus morphnoides* Australian Little Eagle
 Passage migrant.
 One single bird observed on 1.9.73 being attacked by five ravens (*Corvus coronoides*) and two Whistling Kites (*Haliastur sphenurus*) and one observed by E. Hoskin et. al. on 16.2.74
- PHASIANIDAE GALLIFORMES QUAILS, PHEASANTS
 * *Excalfactoria chinensis* King Quail
 Two in November 1973 (anon.). No further details.
- ROSTRATULIDAE CHARADRIIFORMES PAINTED SNIPES
 176 (p.202) *Rostratula benghalensis* Australian Painted Snipe
 Casual visitor.
 Recorded on two occasions; 2 on 22.12.72 and 1 on 31.3.73.
- CHARADRIIDAE PLOVERS & DOTTERELS
 177 (p.203) *Pluvialis squatarola* Grey Plover
 Passage migrant.
 A single bird observed on 24.11.73 and 5.1.74.
- SCOLOPACIDAE CURLEWS, SANDPIPERS, ETC.
 178 (p.205) *Calidris alba* Sanderling
 Passage migrant.
 One single bird recorded on 4.11.73 confirming the earlier record by G. Holmes on 27.11.65 (Hunter Natural History, 1972, Vol.4).
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LARIDAE

GULLS AND TERNS

- 179 (p.207) *Sterna striata* White-fronted Tern
 Irregular non-breeding visitor.
 One observation of two birds on 10.3.73 (E. Hoskin, et. al.)
 confirming the earlier record by G. Holmes (Hunter Natural History,
 1972, Vol.4).

COLUMBIDAE

COLUMBIFORMES

PIGEONS & DOVES

- 180 (p.207) *Megaloprepia magnifica* Wompoo Pigeon
 Casual visitor.
 On 1.8.73 one bird suffering from a broken wing and shock was found
 in the area. The bird was cared for but unfortunately died soon
 afterwards.
- 181 (p.207) *Geopelia striata* Peaceful Dove
 Casual visitor.
 One record of two birds on 13.1.68 (G. Holmes).

PSITTACIDAE

PSITTACIFORMES

PARROTS

- 182 (p.208) *Trichoglossus haematodus* Rainbow Lorikeet
 Casual visitor.
 On 6.4.74 a flock of 12 birds observed, and a flock of 20 on 7.4.74.
 (R. McDonald)
- 183 (p.208) *Neophema pulchella* Turquoise Parrot
 Casual visitor.
 One observation of three birds by A. McGill and R. Orienstein in
 November 1972.

CUCULIDAE

CUCULIFORMES

CUCKOOS

- 184 (p.209) *Eudynamys scolopacea* Koel
 Passage migrant.
 One observation of two birds on 12.12.67 (G. Holmes) and one single
 bird on 13.12.73.

APODIDAE

APODIFORMES

SWIFTS

- 185 (p.209) *Apus pacificus* Fork-tailed Swift
 Passage migrant.
 One observation of four birds on 22.12.72.

PODARGIDAE

CAPRIMULGIFORMES

FROGMOUTHS

- 186 (p.209) *Podargus strigoides* Tawny Frogmouth
 Casual visitor.
 One observation of a single bird on 21.1.73 (R. Thornton).

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- PASSERIFORMES
- MUSCICAPIDAE OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS
- 187 (p.212) *Eopsaltria australis* Southern Yellow Robin
 Casual visitor.
 A single bird observed from July 1973-January 1974.
- FALCUNCULIDAE SHRIKE-TITS
- * *Falcunculus frontatus* Eastern Shrike-tit
 One specimen reportedly having been obtained on Ash Island in June 1859. (ex. Dobroyde Collection Spec. No, O.17699) and examined by the late K.A. Hindwood at Sydney (Aust. Museum) on 17.10.67.
- MELIPHAGIDAE HONEYEATERS
- 188 (p.213) *Melithreptus lunatus* White-naped Honeyeater
 Passage migrant.
 One observation by E.S. Hoskin and K. Avery of six birds amongst a flock of Yellow-faced Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga chrysops*) on 7.4.73.
- ESTRILDIDAE GRASS FINCHES
- 189 (p.213) *Poephila bichenovii* Banded Finch
 Irregular breeding visitor.
 Two were first observed on 23.6.73 and five were regularly observed from July 1973-April 1974.
- 190 (p.213) *Lonchura castaneothorax* Chestnut-breasted Finch
 Casual visitor.
 Observed during the months June-September 1973 with a maximum number of 150, 60 in October 1973 and a flock of 30 on 16.2.74.
- ORIOLIDAE ORIOLES
- 191 (p.214) *Sphecootheres vieilloti* Southern Figbird
 Casual visitor.
 One observation of two birds on 4.11.67 (G. Holmes).
- CHANGE OF STATUS FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIES:
- 192 (p.198) *Egretta alba* White Egret
 Former breeding summer visitor.
 Now considered to be a regular non-breeding visitor.
- 193 (p.198) *Egretta intermedia* Plumed Egret
 Former breeding summer visitor.
 Now considered to be an irregular non-breeding visitor.
- 194 (p.198) *Nycticorax caledonicus* Nankeen Night Heron
 Former breeding summer visitor.
 Now considered to be a regular non-breeding visitor.
- 195 (p.200) *Anas gibberifrons* Grey Teal
 Former regular non-breeding visitor.
 Now considered to be an irregular breeding visitor.
- 196 (p.200) *Elanus notatus* Black-shouldered Kite
 Former winter visitor.
 Now considered to be an irregular breeding visitor; found nesting in July (2 nests) and November 1973 (1 nest).

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- 43 (p.201) *Falco cenchroides* Nankeen Kestrel
Former regular non-breeding visitor.
Now considered to be a breeding resident.
- 67 (p.204) *Tringa stagnatilis* Marsh Sandpiper
Former casual visitor.
Now considered to be a non-breeding summer visitor and passage migrant.
- 87 (p.206) *Chlidonias hybrida* Whiskered Tern
Formerly classed as casual visitor, now considered to be a passage migrant.
- 98 (p.208) *Columba livia* Domestic Pigeon
Former regular non-breeding visitor, now considered to be an introduced breeding resident.
- 99 (p.208) *Glossopsitta pusilla* Little Lorikeet
Former casual visitor.
Now considered to be a passage migrant.
- 107 (p.209) *Chrysococcyx basalis* Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo
Former casual visitor,
Now considered to be an irregular breeding visitor.
- 114 (p.210) *Petrochelidon nigricans* Tree Martin
Former irregular non-breeding visitor.
Now considered to be an irregular breeding visitor.
- 145 (p.213) *Philemon corniculatus* Noisy Friar-bird
Former casual visitor.
Now considered an irregular non-breeding visitor.
- 154 (p.215) *Cracticus nigrogularis* Pied Butcher-bird
Former casual visitor.
Now considered irregular non-breeding visitor.
- 160 (p.198) *Ixobrychus minutus* Little Bittern
Former casual visitor.
Now considered to be an irregular breeding visitor; nest containing three eggs in December 1972 (Birds 1973 Vol.7:6.)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE FOLLOWING SPECIES:

- 17 *Xenorhynchus asiaticus* Jabiru
Casual visitor.
Additional records of one during the months August and September 1973, two on 23.12.73 (R. McDonald), one on 4.2.74 (R. McDonald) and one on 27.4.74 (D. Trounson et. al).
- 30 *Chenonetta jubata* Wood Duck
Casual visitor.
Additional record of a single bird on 30.6.73.
- 36 *Accipiter cirrocephalus* Collared Sparrowhawk
Casual visitor.
Additional records of a single bird on 23.6.73 (G. Standring) and 4.8.73.

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- 38 *Haliaeetus leucogaster* White-breasted Sea-eagle
Regular non-breeding visitor.
Maximum number recorded 12 on 27.1.73.
- 57 *Charadrius bicinctus* Double-banded Dotterel
Winter visitor.
Maximum number recorded 260 during the months July-mid-August 1973.
- 59 *Charadrius leschenaultii* Large Sand-dotterel
Casual visitor.
A single bird captured on 27.12.73, one observed on 5.1.74 and 13.1.74
3 on 20.4.74 and 1 on 25.4.74.
- 67 *Tringa stagnatilis* Marsh Sandpiper
Passage migrant and regular non-breeding summer visitor.
During the months October and November 1973 a flock of 15, on 27.12.73
a flock of 60 and 30 during the month of January 1974.
- 69 *Tringa glareola* Wood Sandpiper
Casual visitor.
Additional record of two birds on 3.3.73 (S.G. Lane).
- 71 *Tringa brevipes* Grey-tailed Tattler
Passage migrant and regular non-breeding visitor.
Maximum number recorded 40 during the months August and September 1973.
- 75 *Calidris acuminata* Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
Passage migrant and regular non-breeding summer visitor.
Maximum number recorded 800 on 2.1.73.
- 76 *Calidris melanotos* Pectoral Sandpiper
Casual visitor.
Additional records of 2 on 17.2.73, one on 24.3.73, one on 22.12.73
(captured and banded), two on 13.1.74, one on 26.1.74 and three on
23.3.74.
- 78 *Calidris ferruginea* Curlew Sandpiper
Passage migrant and regular non-breeding visitor.
Maximum number recorded 2200 on 12.1.74.
- 81 *Limosa lapponica* Bar-tailed Godwit
Passage migrant and regular non-breeding visitor.
Maximum number recorded 1500 on 9.1.73.
- 82 *Philomachus pugnax* Ruff
Casual visitor.
A single bird recorded on 1.12.73 feeding amidst Curlew Sandpipers
and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, again observed on 5.1.74 and 12.1.74.
On 22.1.74 the bird was captured, banded and released after full
particulars had been taken.
- 89 *Sterna albifrons* Little Tern
Non-breeding summer visitor.
Maximum number recorded 700+ on 10.12.72 (Birds 1973 Vol.7;6).
- 95 *Lopholaimus antarcticus* Topknot Pigeon
Casual visitor.
Additional record of five birds on 5.10.73.

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- 158 (p.197) *Puffinus pacificus* Wedge-tailed Shearwater
 Casual visitor.
 A single bird was found on 27.4.74 under the Stockton Bridge,
 presumably having flown against the bridge structure during the night.
- 162 (p.202) *Porzana tabuensis* Spotless Crake
 Casual visitor.
 A single bird observed on 9.3.74 (R. McDonald).
- 163 *Rallus philippensis* Banded Landrail
 Casual visitor.
 Additional record of two birds on 4.8.73, and one on 26.12.73.
- 165 *Caçomantis variolosus* Brush Cuckoo
 Passage migrant.
 Additional records of two birds on 12.2.72 and one on 11.11.72
 (E. Hoskin, et. al.) and three during the months October and November
 1973 and one during December 1973, suggesting that this species
 might well be an irregular breeding summer visitor.
- 170 *Cinclorhamphus mathewsi* Rufous Songlark
 Passage migrant.
 Additional record of 3 birds in January 1973, believed to have
 nested in the area.
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