

**An isabelline White-capped Albatross.** At about 0945 hrs. d.s.t. on October 17, 1978, among several hundred White-capped Albatross *Diomedea cauta cauta* I observed a colour-aberrated bird. This bird was observed for some two hours about our boat. The albatross was completely white; however all parts of the bird that would normally be grey or black, were instead a light to dark fawn. The fawn colour varied in intensity, where the normal grey would vary in intensity, and was darkest where the normal colour on the bird should have been black. The overall impression was of a fawn albatross above and white below. The bird was easily observed and stood out among the other normal-coloured birds. There was no evidence of the bird's colouring in any way affecting or being affected by the other albatrosses.

The only other Isabelline bird so far noted by the writer was a Short-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris* which was obtained as a specimen No. 19759 for the National Wildlife Collection, CSIRO, Canberra on December 6, 1977, 11.3 miles south-east of Tathra, N.S.W. This was an adult male bird very slightly in moult with the same fawnish colouring, somewhat similar in colour to some Pomarine Skuas *Stercorarius pomarinus* noted in immature light-phase birds.

By DAVID BARTON, 35 Ida Rodd Drive, Eden, N.S.W., 2551.

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**First record of the Powerful Owl for the Victorian Mallee.** On September 6, 1978, Bill King, Ted Schurmann and the writer were driving along the Patchewollock-Hopetoun road. At approximately 0900 hrs. e.s.t. a large owl was sighted perched near the top of a bull mallee on the edge of an open and grassed glade, much frequented, from the evidence of many fresh scratchings and droppings, by rabbits.

It was seen to be a large, immature Powerful Owl *Ninox strenua*, with much white in the plumage, and was observed, perched, for some moments at a distance of about twenty metres. It then flew and was seen flying over the tops of the mallee for some time. Particularly impressive was the long wing-span, relatively longer, apparently, than in owls otherwise known to the observers.

All three observers are acquainted with Powerful Owls, King and the writer having had several years' observational experience of the pair which used to rear one young a year at Parslow's Bridge at Yellingbo, Victoria.

W. R. Wheeler does not record the Powerful Owl from the Mallee District in *A Handlist of the Birds of Victoria*, V.O.R.G., Melbourne, 1967, and assures us (pers. comm.) that no record of this species has been made in the Mallee since that year. His *Handlist* includes a southern range across the State which incorporates the Grampians. North of Portland, the species is known to occur in relatively dry country. This, therefore, is probably the first record of the Powerful Owl in the Victoria Mallee District.

By JACK HYETT, 39 Alwyn St., Mitcham, Victoria, 3132.

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### Corrigendum:

An error crept into my draft of "More Pelican Colonies in Tasmania". (*Australian Bird Watcher* 7 (6): 208, 1978) soon after the sighting was made. It happened before I began the practice of transferring records to systems cards prior to starting each article.

The number in the seventh line of the second paragraph should be "about 20" instead of "about 40". — JOHN WHINRAY, Flinders Island, Tasmania, 7255.