

will either succumb to the environmental changes or be forced to go elsewhere. The Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service should proclaim the Claudie River District a full sanctuary, before it is too late.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank Mr. Roy P. Cooper for reading this paper and offering criticism and advice on various aspects.

REFERENCES

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The Ruff in New South Wales. Since the first Australian specimen of the Ruff, *Philomachus pugnax*, was taken at Port Gawler, South Australia. on January 14, 1962, the species has been recorded each northern wintering season, being now formally recognised on specimen or observational evidence in Western Australia. South Australia. Victoria and Tasmania. The not inconsiderable number of known occurrences indicate the Ruff to be an annual if somewhat rare visitor to Australia, having been observed between September 24 and April 1; the latter was of a male in breeding plumage.

The observation of an individual at Stockton, Newcastle, on February 27, 1972, consolidates its status in New South Wales where three earlier observations have been considered to be tentative. On each of these occasions an individual was sighted. the first at Kooragang Island, Newcastle, on November 11, 1967, by Glenn Holmes, the second also at Kooragang Island about October, 1969, by Stephen Gore-Langton (*in litt.*) and the third at the Refinery Swamp, Kurnell, on September 25, 1971, by Fred Johnston (*in litt.*). Each individual was associated with smaller sandpipers. *Calidris* spp. on a freshwater swamp.

On the day of the occurrence at Stockton there were four observers: Dennis Gosper, Glenn Holmes, Jim Hone and Graeme Stevens. During the period of observation, late morning, which lasted about an hour. light conditions were good and there was but a slight breeze. The bird, which was finally approached to within about 20 yards, first attracted attention as it rested amongst a mixed assemblage of waders waiting for the receding tide to expose the adjacent mud-flats. This assemblage included the Golden Plover, *Pluvialis dominica*, sandpipers and knots, *Calidris* spp., and godwits. *Limosa* spp. The Ruff approximated the Golden Plover in size and was of the general appearance of the Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, *Calidris acuminata*, having a similar scalloped patterning of the upper parts. The crown was brown and finely

streaked; the cheeks, ear-coverts and a pale eyebrow were buffish, and there was darker feathering immediately behind the eye. The sides of the breast were dark brown, the centre of the breast was very lightly streaked, and the remaining under parts were white. There was a narrow white wing-bar and the tail, otherwise black, had an elliptical white area on each side. The beak was of medium length, black and only slightly decurved; the legs were yellowish and the toes were moderately long. When disturbed the bird showed a deliberate, plover-like gait before flushing about 50 yards with a low, gliding flight to disappear among the many other species present.

Glenn Holmes, Newcastle, New South Wales, 27/3/1972

Scarlet Robin Breeding at Mount Eliza, Victoria. In September 1970, we built a new house at Mount Eliza, Victoria, in an area that was also the territory of a pair of Scarlet Robins, *Petroica multicolor*. The vegetation was mainly open forest, with a predominance of Narrow-leaved Peppermint, *Eucalyptus radiata*, which had been almost virgin country until subdivided for houses.

After we had been in residence for a few weeks, the male Robin began sitting on the window sills of the house and flying at his reflection in the windows. This continued for about one month, and it appeared at one stage that the bird would severely injure itself, so great was the assault on the glass.

One day the window was left open, and the bird flew straight into the kitchen. It was captured and taken to a similar habitat two miles away, but one that was without houses. Thinking that the Robin would be away from harm in this area it was released and, rather sorrowfully, we drove home.

We had not been back for more than 15 minutes when we were amazed to find the bird back at the same window, fighting its reflection. Realizing that it would not easily give up its territory we tried to forget about the assaults on the window, and gradually the bird appeared not to be so vicious in its bashings against the glass.

The birds were then fed with meal-worms, and by March 1971, we had both the male and a female Robin feeding from our hands, accepting the proffered meal-worms.

During July and August we were absent from the house and returned on September 8, when we found the Robins nesting in the fork of a eucalypt tree, about 20 yards from the house.

On September 28, the female was feeding two young, but the male bird appeared to be getting disinterested in the nest. The female continued feeding the young on her own, but on October 1, the male chased her away from the nest each time she came near it. Four days later the female abandoned the nest, which we found contained two dead young birds that, apparently, had died through lack of attention.

Another female was found in the garden on the same date, October 5, and it was readily identified by it not being familiar with accepting