

RECENT LITERATURE

Compiled by M.J. IMBER

STIS, Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 10 420, Wellington, New Zealand.

Email: mimber@doc.govt.nz

Evolution and systematics

· Systematic and conservation implications of geographic variation in pipits (*Anthus*: Motacillidae) in New Zealand and some offshore islands. M.N. Foggo, R.A. Hitchmough, C.H. Daugherty. (*Dept.Sci., Central Institute of Technology, P.O. Box 40-470, Upper Hutt, New Zealand.*) *Ibis* 139: 366-373. 1997.

Analyses of 23 allozyme loci and morphometry showed significant divergence between NZ mainland and island (Chatham, Antipodes, Auckland, Campbell) populations as a group of *Anthus novaeseelandiae* (Gmelin). Differences were sufficient to suggest species status for each group but less support was found for taxonomic separation between island populations. There is now a need for comparisons with other populations of this widespread, predominantly eastern hemisphere taxon.

Movements and migration

· At-sea distribution of Shy Albatrosses *Diomedea cauta cauta* derived from records of band recoveries and colour-marked birds. N.P.Brothers, T.A.Reid, R.P.Gales (*Tasmanian Parks & Wildlife Service, GPO Box 44A, Hobart, TAS. 7000, Australia.*) *Emu* 97: 231-239. 1997.

Adults were relatively sedentary, whereas birds up to five year old were more dispersive - to W.Australia and South Africa. Overlap of their range with that of long-line fishing is discussed. One band recovery (near Waikato River mouth) in 1989 adds this subspecies to the New Zealand list. This may be the same recovery as that shown in HANZAB, pt 1A, p.306, though the position marked on this map is in the Bay of Plenty. The authors erroneously refer to *D. c. steadi* as laying in autumn(!) - it lays in early summer (Nov.-Dec.) (see Tennyson *et al.* 1998, *Notornis* 45: 160).

· The occurrence of three species of shearwater at Broome, North-western Australia. P.Collins, R.Jessop. (*P.O. Box 97, Cowes, VIC. 3922, Australia.*) *Australian Bird Watcher* 17: 94-96. 1997.

Based on specimens, including Hutton's Shearwater (*Puffinus buttoni*).

· Post-breeding flight to Antarctic waters by a Short-tailed shearwater *Puffinus tenuirostris*. D.G. Nicholls, P. Stampton, N.I. Klomp, M. Schultz. (*Peninsula Institute of TAFE, Bonbeach Campus, Carrum, VIC. 3197, Australia.*) *Emu* 98: 79-82. 1998.

The annual post-breeding migration of *P. tenuirostris* to the North Pacific, reaching 71° N, may begin with a visit to the Antarctic ice-edge zone near 63° S. This satellite telemetered bird, having fed its chick, flew south over six days, spent ten days in Antarctic seas, presumably foraging, before heading east tending north (probably beginning migration), when signals ceased prematurely.

· Distribution and movements of Buller's albatross (*Diomedea bulleri*) in Australasian seas. J.C. Stahl, J.A. Bartle, N.G. Cheshire, C. Petyt, P.M. Sagar. (*Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa, P.O. Box 467, Wellington, New Zealand.*) *N.Z. J. Zool.* 25: 109-137. 1998.

During the breeding season, concentrated over shelves/slopes of southern New Zealand from The Snares shelf to 41° S, around Chatham Islands, and over oceanic subtropical waters east of New Zealand. Disperse mainly outside the zone during non-breeding season (e.g. eastern tropical Pacific). Very few immatures were seen in the study area.

Conservation

· Failure of translocated, captive-bred North Island Weka *Gallirallus australis greyi* to establish a new population. G.N. Bramley, C.J. Veltman. (*Dept. Ecology, Massey Univ., PB 11-222, Palmerston North, New Zealand.*) *Bird Conservation International* 8: 195-204. 1998.

Between 1992 and 1996 101 Weka were released in Karangahake Gorge, near Paeroa, but most were killed by predators, mainly dogs. Only one of 17 monitored by radio-telemetry survived for 242 days post-release. Predator control will be essential for future introductions to succeed.

· Low reproductive success of the endangered Takahe *Porphyrio mantelli* on offshore island refuges in New Zealand. J.S. Bunin, I.G. Jamieson, D. Eason. (*Dept. Zool., Univ. Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.*) *Ibis* 139: 144-151. 1997.

Adult survivorship high but breeding success low on islands relative to native Fiordland. Breeding success on islands improved considerably with age (to three years) of the pair-bond. Island productivity is expected to improve with time, as pair bonds stabilise and locally-reared birds increase proportionately.

· Parental investment and the management of an endangered penguin. K.-A. Edge, I.G. Jamieson, J.T. Darby. (*Dept. Zool., Univ. Otago, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.*) *Biological Conservation* 88: 367-378. 1999.

Yellow-eyed Penguins (*Megadyptes antipodes*) adjust their level of parental effort according to brood size (one or the normal two), at least under conditions of favourable food supply. Parents of single chicks were in better condition and guarded their offspring longer. Though neither adult survival, nor rates of fledgling resighting, were found to be affected by brood reduction, this may not be so in years of low food availability (particularly with regard to adult survival).

