

and enjoy the beauty and complexity of this island ecosystem. What the outcome of the current copper prospecting will be is unknown, but it must be made clear that from the viewpoints of both wildlife interest and scientific study the Chicken Islands are irreplaceable.

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SHORT NOTE

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE IN SOUTH WESTLAND

On 14/9/67 I received a message from Mr. C. Eggeling that he had seen a strange bird near his home at Okuru on September 1st. He described it as follows. The bird had a body about the size of a Tui's; a short, thickish neck, a beak about the thickness of a Bush-pigeon's, but not quite as long. The tail was about as long as a Tui's or slightly longer. The colour on the breast and under the wings was a greyish white, and the back was a light blue or bluish grey, darkest towards the head, which was short and stumpy.

A short time afterwards, Mr. Eggeling's brother and his two sons saw a bird of the same description about one mile and a half from where the first sighting occurred. They followed it to the first corner from the bridge. It was making a number of short flights, several times crossing the road. It would flap its wings a little, then glide to a perch, at times making a piping call. They noted that the feathering about the head was dark or black; and they estimated its length as about a foot.

Later when Mr. Eggeling and his sons were shown a number of books, they all picked Kokako as the nearest; but the colouring was wrong. As I thought this bird could be a vagrant from Australia, I discussed it with H. R. McKenzie and B. D. Bell, both of whom suggested that it was an immature Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*). This was the species picked out by the Eggelings when I showed them a copy of Cayley's "What Bird is That?"

The weather before the sighting had been rough with strong north-westerly gales.

— ALAN WRIGHT