

SHORT NOTES

FIRST RECORD OF BULLER'S MOLLYMAWK IN THE KERMADECS

On 1 July 1972 Mr Evan McGregor, then Officer in charge of the Meteorological Observatory on Raoul Island, found a dead Buller's Mollymawk (*Diomedea bulleri*) on the beach at Denham Bay, Raoul Island. The bird was judged to have been dead about a week. Mr McGregor cut off the head and the skull was later sent to the Auckland Museum. This is the first record of Buller's Mollymawk in the Kermadec group. The weather map for 22 June 1972 shows a trough of low pressure in the Tasman with moderate to fresh westerly winds. There were no storms or very strong winds in the area over the period 21 to 24 June. The skull is now registered in the Auckland Museum as AV Skel. No. 455.

SYLVIA REED

*Auckland Institute and Museum,
Private Bag,
Auckland, 1.*



MYNAS ON THE POOR KNIGHTS

In January 1973 a small research party spent 18 days on Aorangi, the southern island of the Poor Knights group and saw up to 16 mynas (*Acridotheres tristis*) along the N.E. coast of the island. The birds were most often seen either feeding among dried algae around the rock pools or in the canopy of the coastal pohutukawa trees. On one occasion a bird flew to Tawhiti Rahi Island, some 500 metres to the north. We found no evidence of mynas breeding on the island.

This, the first record of mynas from the uninhabited Poor Knights Islands, is surprising since on the mainland the species is usually associated with man. The effect of these aggressive, hole-nesting birds on the islands' parakeets and other native fauna should be observed closely in the future. Mynas present and breeding on Cuvier I. in 1964 had disappeared by 1966 (Blackburn 1967: 6).

REFERENCE

BLACKBURN, A. 1967. A brief survey of Cuvier Island. *Notornis* 14 (1): 3-8.

P. D. GAZE

*Ecology Division,
DSIR,
Lower Hutt*

NOTORNIS 20: 166-170 (1973)