

The next day was unsettled with a strong southerly blowing, and I felt the bird would be blown northwards towards Napier. This was confirmed when a kestrel was sighted by a duty air traffic controller, Mr F. Benfall, on the following Tuesday. He was showing a group of young schoolchildren over the control tower when the bird was seen flying around outside. A friend of mine, also a controller at Napier Airport, has since told me that the bird was seen many times around the airport buildings for about two weeks up until about 25 May. He said it spent quite long periods sitting on one of the light standards near the tower, occasionally making quick forays out into flocks of sparrows or finches. However, it did not seem to catch any of these birds.

At the same time as this bird was being observed at Napier Airport it was also spending some time at the adjacent Lands and Survey farm where it was watched by another friend of mine who works there. He saw it twice on Thursday 1 May, the first time at 11 a.m. whilst he was mowing a paddock. It was in sight for an hour sometimes coming very close. The second time was about 3 p.m. at the same paddock as he was finishing the mowing. It was in view again for about an hour.

This bird seems to have settled, at least temporarily, in this area since it has been sighted regularly by other employees on this farm. Fortunately, the first sighting was given good publicity by the local press and radio because it was feared that the bird might be shot by uninformed duck shooters.

The presence of this Australian Kestrel in Hawkes Bay leads to some speculation as to its arrival here. This bird was either blown here from Australia by the strong westerly winds which preceded its first sighting for a few weeks or else it is a straggler from the other areas in New Zealand in which this species has also been reported.

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#### STREAKED SHEARWATERS (*Calonectris leucomelas*) IN THE CORAL SEA

Although there is an early specimen of the Streaked Shearwater (*Calonectris leucomelas*) in the British Museum labelled "N. Australian Seas" (Serventy *et al.* 1971: Handbook of Australian Sea-birds: 119), current references place the southern extent of its wintering range in the equatorial waters north of New Guinea.

While southbound on S.S. *Chitral* from Rabaul to Brisbane I observed Streaked Shearwaters, singly or in groups of up to four, on 29-30 January 1974 between 8°13'S 153°30'E and 14°20'S 154°18'E, i.e. centrally in the Coral Sea about 800 km east of Cape Melville on the Queensland coast.



FIGURE 1 — Hand-held Streaked Shearwater photographed in mid Coral Sea.  
Photo: J. D. Gibson

This species, though rarely presenting close views due to its complete disinterest in shipping, is distinctive enough to be easily identified from a considerable distance. To provide confirmation, however, one was conveniently stranded on board at night and was released next morning when the accompanying photograph was taken.

The Streaked Shearwater breeds on the Bonin Islands, Izu and other islets off the coasts of Japan and Taiwan.

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#### BULLER'S MOLLYMAWKS ASHORE IN OTAGO

On the afternoon of 9 September 1973, a bird, dead, bleeding at the bill and still warm was found in the hills near Earnsclough, Central Otago, by an officer of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Alexandra.

The following day the bird was sent to me for identification and was found to be a juvenile Buller's Mollymawk (*Diomedea bulleri*). It was in good condition, except for a few ticks around the eyes and head, and was believed to have died from a broken neck.

Gale force winds had been experienced on the previous days with south west winds up to 50 knots. At the time of recovery the bird was 80 miles from the sea.