



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.

The specimen was deposited with National Museum, Wellington, and the ticks with Entomology Division, DSIR, Auckland.

On the following day, 11 September 1973, a message was received from Mr T. Walker of Balclutha to say that a live albatross in a healthy condition was on the property of Mr Ligget of Tuamata, near Clinton (12 miles south of Balclutha).

When collected, it was found to be another juvenile Buller's Mollymawk. The bird was held overnight, measurements taken, banded M-24018 and released at the Royal Albatross Colony, Taiaroa Head, at 9 a.m. 13 September 1973.

As with the previous bird, wind conditions had been much the same, and, at recovery time, the bird was 30 miles from the sea. It is interesting to note that other Mollymawks have been recovered (Wright 1973, *Notornis* 20: 72) from this area and from the Invercargill area (Sutton, R.R., pers. comm.).

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NEST OF MARSH CRAKE

On 25 November 1974, Messrs Ian Mathieson and Stuart Sutherland, Southland Acclimatization Society field officers, were banding a brood of Paradise Ducks (*Tadorna variegata*) on Mr Gibson Soper's property near Athol, Southland, when they found the nest of a Marsh Crake (*Porzana pusilla affinis*).

The nest of this species has never been described in the literature, the only evidence of nesting (apart from the presence of the species!) being an egg from Awanui in the Buddle collection, now deposited in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. (Falla *et al.* 1967, Field Guide to the Birds of New Zealand: 107).

On 30 November 1974, we visited the area with Mr Neil Henderson. Mr Soper's property is on the flat and extends to low foothills, with the 1450 m high mass of Mid Dome towering above it. The pond measures 37 m by 11 m approximately. This is a well-stabilized pond man-made about five years ago. Bordering vegetation includes rushes, *Carex* species, flax, manuka, toitoi, sweet briar and introduced grasses with *Chrysobactron* and musk among them. The rushes and *Carex* predominate. In the water itself, *Potamogeton cheesmanii* and *Azola rubra* are growing. The pond is fed by a small marshy creek which, at the time of our visits, had no flowing water and was little more than a narrow marsh overgrown with *Carex*, manuka, introduced grasses and bushes of black currant, flowering currant and raspberrry.