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SHORT NOTE

LONG-TAILED FRUIT BATS AS PEREGRINE PREY

The hunting of insectivorous bats by Peregrines (*Falco peregrinus*) has been recorded in several parts of the world (Porter & White 1973, *Brigham Young Univ. Sci. Bull., biol. Ser.* 18: 30). Studies at a Peregrine eyrie at Joske's Thumb in southern Viti Levu, Fiji Islands, proved that the large Flying Fox fruit bat (*Pteropus tonabus*) which weighs over 700 g. was the staple food of the falcons there (Clunie 1972, *Notornis* 19: 302-322; 1976, *Notornis* 23: 8-28).

Bones collected from the Joske's Thumb eyrie reveal that the considerably smaller Long-tailed Fruit Bat (*Notopteris macdonaldi*) was also taken quite often by the Peregrines. The Long-tailed Fruit Bat, like the Flying Fox, is not strictly nocturnal, frequently venturing out of its roosting caves several hours before sunset to feed on yaqoyaqona (*Piper puberulum*) flowers growing along creek banks near Joske's Thumb.

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