

bats (*Mystacina tuberculata* and *Chalinolobus tuberculatus*). Rainbow lorikeets are strong flyers (Higgins 1999) and dispersal over water to sensitive offshore island habitats (3.5-24 km from the mainland) does not appear to be a barrier. Many of the species at threat from competition with Rainbow lorikeets have limited dispersal abilities and find water a significant barrier to movement.

Recent reports from South Australia suggest that rainbow lorikeets are quickly developing as the principal

pest of commercial orchards (Lamont 2000). Local residents on the North Shore already report damage to their fruit trees from the birds. Should they be left to establish a population in the wild they would have an economic impact on NZ horticulture industry.

Rainbow lorikeets in the wild have been declared an "Unwanted Organism" under the Biosecurity Act 1993. The Department of Conservation has now initiated a live capture eradication program aimed at removing all of the lorikeets from the wild.

Round the world with the northern royal albatross (*Diomedea sanfordi*)

Christopher J.R. Robertson
P.O. Box 12397, Wellington, New Zealand
100244.1012@compuserve.com

David G. Nicholls
Chisholm Institute, Bonbeach Campus, Breeze Street, Carrum, Victoria 3197, Australia

Northern royal albatross (*Diomedea sanfordi*) have been tracked from Taiaroa Head and the Chatham Islands in New Zealand during parts of their biennial breeding cycle using satellite PTTs and a prototype data logger. Records analysed total 2620 days (6000 records) and 500 days (75000 records of time, temperature and light) respectively. A PTT attached by harness was successfully deployed and transmitted for 564 days using intermittent transmissions to conserve battery life. Distinctive patterns of behaviour away from the nesting colonies will be demonstrated; short distance foraging over shelf and shelf break while nesting; express dispersal to non-breeding 'holiday' locations in South American waters; 'rest and recreation' over shelf and shelf break; express migratory

return to the breeding location. When not at the nest site, birds are only in flight from 25-50% of the time depending on the behaviour pattern selected. In spite of this, while on migration, point to point progression at the rate of 10 degrees longitude day⁻¹ are common, indicating regular mean flight speeds of over 90 kmh⁻¹. When on migration most flying is in the daytime, but is more often at night while on 'rest and recreation'. The full migratory route demonstrated by transmitters and logger is circumpolar and downwind. The northern royal albatross spends the majority of its feeding life in the EEZs of New Zealand, Chile, Argentina, Uruguay, and migratory transition through South African and Australian waters.

Corrigendum

Rare Birds Committee – Combined Report for 1992-1999 *Notornis* 47(1): 64-70.

In record 94/10, the name for the Oriental dotterel should be *Charadrius veredus* and not *Charadrius orientalis*.