

continued to feed in the same limited area for most of their stay. It is also tempting to suggest that the solitary Black-tailed Godwit which was so loyal to the Vatuwaqa beach was the same individual in both years.

A large proportion of Least Golden Plovers and tattlers was in prenuptial moult or near to full breeding plumage in the autumn in Fiji. By contrast, only a low percentage of Bar-tailed Godwits and Turnstones showed easily recognisable prenuptial moult at any time.
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SEABIRD RECORDS FROM TONGA — FURTHER NOTES FROM THE LITERATURE

Whitney South Sea Expedition

In a previous paper on Tongan seabirds (Jenkins 1980), I noted that I had not seen the journals of the Whitney South Sea Expedition. Through the good graces of Mary LeCroy, I now have photocopies of those parts of the journals that refer to Tonga. They are Rollo Beck's daily journal (Whitney vol. F: 144-170), his summary of Tongan birds (Whitney vol. F: 188-200), and Jose Correia's daily journal (Whitney vol. O: 7-18). They refer to visits to various islands, apparently all made during daytime, between 1 July and 26 August 1926.

For convenience, I have grouped records of the more frequently reported birds in Table 1. These records further emphasise the importance of 'Ata, Hunga Tonga, Hunga Ha'apai, and Fonualei as seabird breeding islands.

The journals correct some of my claims as to first records and first breeding records for Tonga, as follows.

Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*): One was seen on the evening of 13 July 1925 when the *France* was standing off 'Ata. "Its plumage was brown, with the head of a lighter colour." This is almost certainly the first record for Tonga.

Short-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus tenuirostris*): Of his visit to Hunga Tonga Beck recorded "Shearwater burrows were everywhere in the soft ground and we sank in to our knees every few steps. One downy young dried specimen nearly ready to fly was picked up. It was probably *P. tenuirostris* as E. W. Gifford in November saw lots of that species ? fifty miles north of here in 1920." If the birds seen by Gifford were indeed *tenuirostris*, and we now know that both it and *griseus* can occur in these waters in November, it is the first record for Tonga. Beck's unoccupied burrows and dried chick corpse found on Hunga Tonga were almost certainly those of *Puffinus pacificus*.

Wedge-tailed Shearwater (*Puffinus pacificus*): Unoccupied burrows found on four islands (see Table 1) probably all belonged to

TABLE 1 — Seabirds seen on or near Tongan Islands during the Whitney South Sea Expedition

Island	Herald Petrel	Audubon's Shearwater	Burrows	Red-tailed Tropicbird	White-tailed Tropicbird	Brown Booby	Blue-faced Booby	Red-footed Booby	Greater Frigatebird	Lesser Frigatebird	Crested Tern	Sooty Tern	Black-naped Tern	White Tern	Common Noddy	Black Noddy
Tongatapu					s	s					s	s				
'Eua	s	s		a	s	s						s				
'Ata				b	b	b	b	b		s						
Kelelesia (Nomuka Gp.)			x		a											
Hunga Tonga	b		x	b	b		b	a?b					b			
Hunga Ha'apai	b		x	b	b		b						b			
Off Tofua		s						s					s			
<u>Ha'apai Group</u>																
Fotuha'a												s				
Lauhoko														a		
Mo'unga'one												s				
Fotumanga					a		b	a	a						s	s
<u>Kotu Group</u>																
Tokulu													b	a		
Putaputa												a		a		
O'au												a				
Maninita (Va'vau Gp.)								b			a					
Late					a	b										
Toku														a	a	a
Fonualei			x	b	b	b		b				b			b	
Niuafu'ou					a									a	a	
Niutoputapu											s			a	s	
Tafahi					a		s				s			b		

s = offshore a = ashore b = breeding x = unoccupied burrows

pacificus. One of these islands was Kelelesia, where Gifford had collected Wedge-tails in 1921. Gifford wrote "The birds were obtained for me by natives . . . they reported the birds nesting in burrows about a yard long" (Davidson 1931). I have already suggested the other three islands as Wedge-tail breeding islands, based on sea observations (Jenkins 1979).

Tropicbirds and boobies: Beck was the first to record the breeding of the Red-tailed Tropicbird, and he recorded breeding on four islands, contrary to my suggestion (Jenkins 1980) that the only probable breeding ground was at 'Ata. He was also the first to record the breeding of the three species of booby that occur in Tonga.

Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*): Beck recorded their breeding on four islands, with the largest colony on Fonualei, of which he said "I counted one hundred young Sooty Terns walking and scrambling before me in one depression. Over fifty thousand terns were present, without doubt, on the island. One colony is half a mile long by a hundred yards wide, and a couple of smaller ones were seen nearer the smoking crater."

Brenchley's voyage in HMS *Curacao*

The *Curacao* visited Tonga and many other Pacific islands in 1865, and later Brenchley presented 135 bird specimens, collected during the voyage, to the British Museum (Sharpe 1906). I previously suggested that there might be more *Curacao* birds at Maidstone Museum (Jenkins 1980). However, E. G. Philip, Keeper of Natural History at Maidstone, noted (pers. comm.) "I have checked through the records of the Museum here and cannot find any reference to the birds collected by J. L. Brenchley on his cruise in HMS *Curacao*. This is a bit strange as most of the other collections made on the cruise are housed here I should point out that we did have a rather serious fire at this Museum in 1977 when quite a few documents and some specimens were lost so that I cannot be 100% sure that some bird specimens never came here, but I am sure that there is no record of them being housed here now, nor are there any bird specimens collected in the cruise housed here."

When the *Curacao* returned to Sydney after her Pacific Islands voyage the material collected was exhibited. Mr Philip has kindly sent me a photocopy of that part of the catalogue of the Exhibition (Anon 1865) which dealt with the bird specimens. It records 218 bird specimens numbered from 426-643. Unfortunately they are listed by genera only and no dates of collection are given. The last four are seabirds, but none can be said to be from Tonga. The entries are as follows:—

- | | | | |
|-----|----------------------|------------|--|
| 640 | <i>Sula</i> | young male | caught at sea |
| 641 | <i>Sterna</i> | female | M'bau, Fiji Group |
| 642 | <i>Tachypetes</i> | female | shot at sea 19° 15'S 161° 40'E
(north-east of New Caledonia). Over this entry is "aquila —
frigatebird" handwritten by Brenchley (E. G. Philip, pers. comm.) |
| 643 | <i>Phalacrocorax</i> | female | caught at sea |

Only one seabird was amongst those presented to the British Museum, of which Dr I. C. J. Galbraith (pers. comm.) said “. . . fortunately that one is clearly Wiseman's number 641 . . . though number 641 does not appear on the specimen labels nor in the register, our number 1870.3.31.70 was entered as *Sterna poliocera* from M'bau. It is a female Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii* collected in August 1865.” Dr Galbraith also notes “It is possible that we have one or more of the other three, received through some third party; but there is no way of tracing this through our registers . . .”

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FIORDLAND CRESTED PENGUIN

The delivery of a road-killed bird to the Taranaki Museum towards the end of 1981 produced a most interesting record for the Taranaki Region. The resident District Nurse at Mokau, Margaret Fairhall, on 15 October 1981 noticed the dead bird lying on SH3, south of the Mohakatino River. Realising it was unusual, she sent it to the Taranaki Museum, where it was readily identified as a Fiordland Crested Penguin (*Eudyptes pachyrhynchus*). The area of state highway in question travels parallel and very close to the coastline, which is in general rugged and steep. The location of the specimen prompted me to inquire further, and I found that the owners of a holiday property in the area, Mr & Mrs L. Miller of Inglewood, had been aware of the bird's presence for some time. Apparently the penguin had been a familiar sight in the area for about 2 years and had become quite tame, responding to calls and readily approaching the holiday cottage. Fearing for the bird's safety, the Millers did not tell others of its presence and were saddened at its death. Some excellent photographs are evidence of its existence.

It is the first record of a Fiordland Crested Penguin in Taranaki to my knowledge. A penguin, later identified as an Erect-crested Penguin (*E. sclateri*), was photographed by Mr G. Munro at the end of the Lower Timaru Road, south of New Plymouth, during early February 1966.

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