

and on 18 December 1979, although 9 scrapes and a nest and egg were found spread well apart on the island, no birds were present and laying had been abandoned.

In spite of at least three attempts, therefore, no chicks were reared at the colony after the July 1978 storm, and the situation will probably not improve until the nesting ridge builds up again to the 1977 level.

I do not know when this colony site was first occupied, but it was certainly in use by 1956. The tidal waves that followed the 1960 Chilean earthquake created chaos in Whitianga Harbour further south with tides reaching a peak at least 2 metres above normal high-tide level. If the tern colony managed to recover from that event, it certainly should from the present lesser damage.

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GIANT PETREL RECORDS FROM FIJI

Since 1965 there have been four reports of the occurrence of giant petrels *Macronectes* sp. in Fiji. Morgan & Morgan (1965: 158) reported seeing an exhausted giant petrel wearing an Australian band near Suva, Viti Levu, on 22 August 1961. This bird had been banded (band number 130-25137) by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions as a nestling on Macquarie Island on 8 January 1961. King (1967: 104) listed two records of giant petrels from Fiji. One was the banded giant petrel reported by the Morgans, but no information was provided about the other. Clunie (1980: 95) reported the occurrence of another two giant petrels in Fiji: one of these was found at Natadola Reef on the south-west coast of Viti Levu during the first week of July 1979; and the other was captured by villagers of Namara on Waya Sewa Island, north-west of Viti Levu on 11 August 1979. Jenkins (1980: 95) reported the sighting of a fifth giant petrel on 6 August 1976 at sea 40 km from the south-west corner of Viti Levu.

In addition to these reports of five giant petrels on or near Fiji, the recoveries of two other banded giant petrels on Fiji were reported by Hitchcock & Carrick (1960: 71, 72), but this report has not been referred to in papers published since 1965. Both had been banded as nestlings on Macquarie Island on 24 February 1959 by the Australian National Antarctic Research Expeditions. One (band number 130-15158) was found dead at the mouth of the Sigatoka River, Viti Levu, on 11 June 1959 and the other (band number 130-15212) was found dead near Bua, Vanua Levu, on 26 June 1959.

It is not possible, from the banding records, to identify to species level the three giant petrels that were banded on Macquarie Island and recovered on Fiji. They were banded on Macquarie Island as *M. giganteus* before the recognition by Bourne & Warham (1966) of

M. halli, which is sympatric with *M. giganteus* on Macquarie Island. Therefore, they can now be identified only as giant petrels *Macronectes* sp.

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REVIEWS

Children of Tane (VP 429); *Friends of Maui* (VP 444); *Birds of New Zealand* (VP 445). Also as cassettes.

The first of these three discs was released to coincide with Conservation Week 1979. It consists of 19 bird species heard on Radio New Zealand's early call programme with Robert Taylor, and songs in Maori by Sydney Melbourne about each species. For me, it's too much music and not enough bird song, and I don't like the blending of music into bird song. The birds take a definite third place to the music and to Robert Taylor's instructive comments. The second disc, released for Conservation Week 1980, has 19 seabird species and the Long-tailed Cuckoo, included because of its place in Maori mythology. It has 3 species not previously available on disc; the first one has 4 such species. The field recordings are by John Kendrick of Wildlife Service and are of high standard.

The third disc, released in August 1980, has all the birds of the other discs plus Taylor's comments. The playing time for each bird is greatly expanded, and so this is the choice for the ornithologist, unless you like Maori music and mythology for preference. All three make a great souvenir for tourists in New Zealand.

— LES McPHERSON

NEW RATITE FROM NEW CALEDONIA

Sylviornis neocaledoniae n.g., n.sp. (Aves, *Ratite eteint de la Nouvelle-Caledonie*, by Poplin, Francois 1980. *C.R.Acad. Sc. Paris Vol. 290, Serie D*, pp. 691-694.

A medium-sized lightly built ratite, like *Rhea*, *Casuarius* and *Dromaius* (the emu) but most like the last two, is described from a first phalange, the body of a left femur, two tibiotarsi and a tarsometatarsus. They represent a bird resembling an emu, cassowary or rhea in general profile, of the size of a small emu (such as Black Emu).