

that the gender of an anagram is that "expressly attributed to it by its author, or implied by an originally associated species group name." Furthermore *Daption* is actually cited in the Code as an example of a neuter anagram!

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The Editor,
Sir,

In his wide-ranging study of the Reef Heron (*Ardea sacra*), A. T. Edgar (Notornis 25 (1): 25-58, 1978) states that this species "is dimorphic, having a white and a dark phase." This is inaccurate; through parts of the species' range there are three colour morphs — grey, white and mottled (Mayr & Amadon, 1941, Wodzicki & Laird, 1970), but only the grey phase is resident in New Zealand. A single New Zealand record of a white phase bird which remained on the Wairau Bar for at least 18 months (Wodzicki & Eyles, 1945, a and b), was probably a straggler from the north (Fiji?).

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19 July 1978

- MAYR, E.; AMADON, D. 1941. Geographical variations in *Demigretta sacra*. Amer. Mus. Nov. No. 1144, October 13, 1941.
WODZICKI, K. A.; EYLES, J. R. 1945a. White phase of the Reef Heron (*Demigretta sacra*) in New Zealand. The Emu, 54 (3): 181-182.
WODZICKI, K. A.; EYLES, J. R. 1945b. White phase of the Reef Heron or Matuku-Moana *Demigretta sacra* (Gmelin) at Wairau Bar. N.Z. Bird Notes 1 (10): 115-117.
WODZICKI, K.; LAIRD, M. 1970. Birds and bird lore in the Tokelau Islands. Notornis 17 (4): 247-276.

The Editor,
Sir,

Mr R. B. Sibson's difficulty in accepting the neuter gender of *Daption* will, I am sure, vanish when he reads the Note on this subject published over four years ago by Dr G. E. Watson 1974 (Auk 91: 419-421). The error perpetrated over the last 100 years or so by the use of *capensis* instead of *capense* as the specific epithet associated with *Daption* for the Cape Petrel or Pigeon has now been thoroughly exposed and there is nothing more to be added.

As Mr Sibson rightly points out (though for the wrong reason), the recent Australian checklist (Condon, H. T. 1975. Checklist of the Birds of Australia, I. Non-passerines. Melbourne: RAOU) is in error in listing *Daption capense australis*; it should, of course, be *australe*. This has already been noted in a review by G. M. Storr 1976 (Australian Wildlife Research 3: 91-92) and will no doubt be corrected in any future edition.

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