

During my involvement in a bird survey of Nelson Lakes National Park (Butler, in prep.) the 43 parakeets identified to species were all Yellow-crowned, as were the five others seen to date in Big Bush. This was the only species observed at Mt Misery, Lake Rotoroa, during ten recent years of bird surveys by DSIR Ecology Division, Nelson. The one known recent sighting of a Red-crowned Parakeet in the region was made by the author in beech forest on the east side of the St Arnaud Range in the Upper Wairau, Marlborough, on 18 September 1985, a single bird accompanied by two Yellow-crowned Parakeets.

It is considered that Red-crowned Parakeets now occur in such low numbers in the Nelson region (note: little information available for North-west Nelson Forest Park) that some interbreeding with Yellow-crowned Parakeets is a likely consequence. A significant pure-bred population of Red-crowned Parakeets has yet to be found here.

I am grateful to Rowley Taylor for his comments on this note.

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Second record of a Manx Shearwater in New Zealand

On 25 January 1985, Mrs B. A. Tennyson found a decaying medium-sized shearwater on Waikanae Beach, Wellington west coast, after several days of strong northwesterly winds. This bird was later identified as a Manx Shearwater (*Puffinus p. puffinus*). Comparisons with skins in the National Museum confirmed the identification (J. A. Bartle, M. J. Imber, A. J. D. Tennyson).

Description

Many feathers from the head, neck and inner wing were missing. Otherwise the plumage was fairly complete.

Head and body: Forehead, back, scapulars, rump and remaining crown, nape and hindneck feathers sooty brown. Breast, belly, flank and remaining throat feathers white.

Wings: Upperwing coverts, secondaries and primaries sooty brown. Inner vanes of primary undersurfaces somewhat silvery. Underwing coverts white, except for the conspicuous dark feathering along the leading edge, widest at the elbow region and poorly developed past the carpal joint. Some dark dusting of the greater-underwing-covert tips. Long axillaries white with pointed tips, terminally black for 2 cm, nearly reaching the trailing edge of the wing. Shorter axillaries white with black tips.

Tail: Upper tail-coverts and tail feathers sooty brown. Exposed under tail-coverts mostly with black on outer vane, some with a dusting on the inner.

Otherwise, exposed under tail-coverts white. Remaining longest concealed under tail-covert almost entirely dark grey.

Bill: Grey, a little paler on ramicorn and lower latericorn. Rami meet 2 cm from tip of lower mandible.

Legs and feet: Outer edge of tarsus black distally; otherwise pale pink. Inner toe pale pink; middle toe pale pink on inner side, mostly black on outer side; outer toe black. Webs very pale pink. Claws black.

Moult: No active moult and some wear of wing, tail and contour feathers. Several remaining feathers on the hindneck emerging from sheaths.

Measurements (mm)

Culmen	35.6	Wing	237
Tail	77.3	Tarsus	45.6
Mid-toe and claw	52.6		

Lice: Six specimens (3 males and 3 females) of *Halipeurus (H.) diversus* (Kellogg, 1896) were collected by R. L. Palma from the shearwater.

Discussion

This specimen is the third Australasian and second New Zealand record of a Manx Shearwater. The first Australasian record was a British-banded bird found dead at Venus Bay, South Australia, in November 1961 (Spencer 1962). The other New Zealand record was a bird found dead near Pukerua Bay, Wellington west coast, in June 1972 (Kinsky & Fowler 1973).

The appearance of this specimen closely agrees with that given by Kinsky & Fowler (1973). The presence of a dark triangular area in the elbow region of the underwing coverts, described and figured by them, is still not clearly given in standard works (e.g. Cramp & Simmons 1977; Harrison 1983). J. Warham (pers. comm.) confirms that the wing linings of Welsh Manx Shearwaters often have smudgy grey suffusions on the anterior third of the underwing.

This specimen is immature, like both previous Australasian records (Spencer 1962; Kinsky & Fowler 1973). The nominate race of the Manx Shearwater breeds in the North Atlantic and most migrate to the southwest Atlantic from July onwards, returning mainly in March (Blake *et al.* 1984). Immature birds do not return to the North Atlantic colonies in their second year (Cramp & Simmons 1977) and thus have more time to wander widely in the southern oceans than adults do. However, this must be a tentative hypothesis because most beach specimens of shearwaters are immature (J. A. Bartle, pers. comm.).

Lice collected from this specimen support its identification as a Manx Shearwater. Known host species of *Halipeurus (H.) diversus* are Sooty Shearwater (*Puffinus griseus*), Short-tailed Shearwater (*P. tenuirostris*), a supposed race of Little Shearwater (*P. assimilis boydi*) and three races of Manx Shearwater (*P. p. puffinus*, *P. p. yelkouan* and *P. p. newelli*) (R. L. Palma, pers. comm.). Of these, the Waikanae specimen resembles only *Puffinus p. puffinus*. Several plumage features, such as colour of axillaries and under tail-coverts, preclude this specimen from being any other race of Manx Shearwater (J. A. Bartle, M. J. Imber, pers. comm.).

Kinsky & Fowler (1973) suggested that Manx Shearwaters may associate with flocks of Fluttering Shearwaters (*P. gavia*) while in New Zealand waters. From 1985 Beach Patrol Cards so far received (R. G. Powlesland, pers. comm.) there is no evidence of any unusual seabird species being off the Wellington west coast at the time this specimen was found. However, low numbers of at least six shearwater species were found, including Fluttering Shearwaters.

Manx Shearwaters closely resemble Fluttering Shearwaters and Hutton's Shearwaters (*P. huttoni*), and New Zealand beach specimens may easily be confused. A useful table for distinguishing between these species is presented by Kinsky & Fowler (1973). Features most helpful in distinguishing this specimen from Fluttering and Hutton's Shearwaters were

- (a) Relatively white underwing,
- (b) Extensively black-tipped white axillaries,
- (c) Exposed under tail-coverts with lateral black bars, and
- (d) Longer wing and tail measurements.

The record has been accepted by the OSNZ Rare Birds Committee, with whom a report and photographs are filed. I am grateful to J. A. Bartle, J. F. M. Fennell, M. J. Imber, R. L. Palma, R. G. Powlesland and J. Warham for their help and encouragement, and to J. A. Bartle for his comments on and modifications to this note.

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Occurrence of disease in Tui

During a study on the behaviour of colour-banded Tui (*Prosthemadera novaeseelandiae*) on Auckland's North Shore during 1984 a number of unexplained Tui deaths occurred. In July and August 1984 two banded Tui were found dead below trees where they had been feeding. No obvious cause for death could be found in birds of otherwise good condition (Colwyn Smith, veterinary surgeon). At the end of November, a Tui rescued from a cat in Beachhaven, Auckland, was found to be suffering from some disease, the symptom being inability to perch firmly, reluctance to fly, and wing shuffling, head flicking and, later, clouding of the eyes. Four more cat-killed banded Tui were reported between August and November 1984, one from the Whangaparoa Peninsula and three in Birkenhead, Auckland.

During the same period two Tui were found unable to fly by the ranger on Little Barrier Island. One of these later died, and one seemed to recover and was released.

Further reports of similar symptoms and deaths came in from Birkdale, Coatesville, Whenuapai, Titirangi, Hillsborough and Remuera, all within 30 km of Auckland. In three of these instances the Tui, which was feeding, suddenly dropped to the ground and then convulsed or appeared partly paralysed. The symptoms common in sick birds were inability to fly or perch followed by