

Bobtails eating *Patersonia* flowers — On October 18, 1982, at Thompson Lake Nature Reserve at about 0930 hours my wife and I observed two Bobtails among clumps of *Patersonia*. Ignoring us, they stood almost erect, flicking a tongue towards the purple-blue flowers. When they couldn't reach them they (independently) forced themselves against the stem of the flower nearest, bending it down to the ground, then straddling and moving along it. Each then bit off and swallowed the whole flower. Then they lay still and watched us. There did not appear to be any insects or other arthropods on the flowers.

HARRY SHUGG, Applecross, W.A.

Streaked Shearwater *Calonectris leucomelas* in Australia. — In *West. Aust. Nat.* 15(2): 22 (1982), Johnstone reported sightings of Streaked Shearwaters ".... in the Geelvink Channel about 60 km NNW of Geraldton....". Reference was made to ".... the only formal Australian record...." being three beach-washed specimens collected on North Stradbroke Island, Qld, in March 1975.

There is a further "formal" record for Australia. On 5 March, 1978, Barton (Australasian Seabird Group Newsletter No. 11, Nov. 1978) collected a specimen ".... 30.4 miles south of Gabo Island, Victoria". The specimen, an immature female (S. 1101) is in the National Wildlife Collection, Canberra.

There is also a previous record, from the north-east coast of Australia (Salvin 1896. Cat. Bds Brit. Mus. 25:371). Unfortunately, the exact location and date are not recorded.

There have been further sightings off the eastern coast of Australia: Barton (loc. cit.) one bird ".... 15.3 miles south of Gabo Island", 17 March, 1978; Izzard (*Aust. Birds* 16:4, Sept. 1981) one bird 6 km off South Ballina Beach, NSW, 9 March, 1980; Roberts and Corben (*NSW FOC Newl.* No. 60, March, 1982) "Streaked Shearwaters" (no numbers given) Crowdy Head near Harrington, NSW, 24 February, 1982. Roberts (pers. comm.) provided the following information on the birds seen by him at Crowdy Head: One 23 Feb.; one 24 Feb.; at least ten 24 March; one 29 March; and two 30 March 1982. The birds were always amongst large mixed flocks of Wedge-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus pacificus*) and Fleshy-footed Shearwaters (*P. carneipes*).

— S.G. LANE, Lot 6, Fairview Road, Moonee, via Coffs Harbour, N.S.W. 2450.

Grass Owl near Broome. — The Grass Owl (*Tyto longimembris*) has rarely been recorded in Western Australia. The following observation is therefore worthy of note.

During August and September 1981 I participated on a wader excursion in North-western Australia. While not engaged on the special project we were able to do bird watching. Under the leadership of Roger Jaensch some party members were fortunate to observe approximately 16 kms south-east from Broome, on 1 September a Grass Owl. The locality was an extensive short grass savannah through which the party proceeded in a widely spaced line. We flushed one bird.

It appeared to be a light coloured owl with varying shades of brown and had long dangling legs. The owl disappeared into an adjacent open bushland from where it was flushed a second time, again from the ground. The bird seemed to be a quite competent daylight flier.

Soon after we continued our search in a similar manner and succeeded in flushing a second owl which flew off into the bushland. A party member, who trailed somewhat behind, noted the point of alightment and discovered the bird's roost. It consisted of a cavelike, yet open structure about 300 x 500 mm in some closely growing grass tufts. The grass, generally 0.5 m high, appeared to hang over in a canopy fashion. At least 20 pellets of approximately 25 x 50 mm plus feathers were collected and the former submitted to the W.A. Museum for identification.

— OTTO MUELLER, 7 Hamer Avenue, Wembley Downs 6019.

[A detailed report of this sighting will be published by R. Jaensch in a future issue - Ed.]



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