

PALLID CUCKOO *Cuculus pallidus*

Omarama, Otago, 1 on 12/1/90 (A. Anderson). Bird sitting on a power line by the roadside. As it flew, the white scallops down the outside edge of the tail feathers were clearly visible. Only the 5th record of this species.

SHINING CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx lucidus*

Ocean Island, Auckland Is, 1 on 30/11/89 (P.J. McClelland and P.J. Moore). The first record of this species from the Aucklands. The bird was seen feeding on the ground. The NZ subspecies *C.l.lucidus* is the most likely subspecies.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

New Plymouth, Taranaki, 1 found dead in streamside bush within city, 17/8/90 (R. Lambert). This find followed 10 days of 30-50 knot winds of unusual consistency (NZ Met. Service). The specimen, which is held in the Taranaki Museum, is the 6th record of the species in New Zealand.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina novaehollandiae*

Tarras, Central Otago, 1 on 4/3/90 (A. Anderson). An adult noted after a prolonged period of strong westerly winds. The 13th record of the species and the 10th this century.

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**Further comments on J.R. Forster's observations of helicoidal intestines in the Procellariidae**

Storrs Olson (1990) drew attention to J.R. Forster's observations of helicoidal intestines noted by him in specimens of Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*, White-headed Petrel *Pterodroma lessonii* and Grey Petrel *Procellaria cinerea* collected some two centuries ago in the course of Cook's second voyage. Because this morphological condition supposedly occurs only in most *Pterodroma* species (Imber 1985:199), Olson considered that perhaps faulty recollection or editorial reordering of the sequence of the relevant Forster species would account for the apparent discrepancies.

The four volume manuscript of Reinhold Forster's *Descriptiones Animalium*, edited by Lichtenstein and published in 1844, is in the Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz in Berlin under Ms.lat.qu.133-136. The descriptions of the five Forster procellariid species referred to by Olson, namely *Procellaria antarctica* (= *Thalassoica antarctica*), *Procellaria inexpectata* (= *Pterodroma inexpectata*), *Procellaria tristis* (= *Puffinus griseus*), *Procellaria leucocephala* (= *Pterodroma lessonii*), and *Procellaria haesitata* (= *Procellaria cinerea*), appear in Volume 2 (Ms.lat.qu.134) at folios 129,130, 131, 132 and 133 respectively. The observations on the intestines, quoted and translated in Olson, are at folio 134.

We know that *Procellaria antarctica* and *Procellaria inexpectata* of Forster were taken together on 23 December 1773 and that they were drawn and described the next day (see e.g. Hoare 1982:440). The manuscript folios bearing their descriptions have the headings: "1773 Oceanus Pacificus australis. Procellaria antarctica" and "1773. Oceanus pacificus antarcticus Decembr. Procellaria inexpectata". It has now been established, for reasons which need not be traversed here, that the descriptions of these two species were in fact the work of George Forster.

The specimens which formed the basis for the descriptions of *Procellaria tristis*, *Procellaria leucocephala* and *Procellaria haesitata* of Forster were taken together on 10 January 1774 as was described by Reinhold Forster (Hoare 1982:445):

...killed 16 birds of 3 kinds, all of the Petrel kind or related to the Shearwaters, but rather bigger & two seem to be new, if not all 3 of them... We drew & described 3 kinds of Petrels; which all seem to be new, or at least different from the known ones."

The manuscript folios bearing the descriptions of these three kinds of petrels have the headings: "1774. Jan. 10. Oceanus pacificus antarcticus. Procellaria tristis.", "1774. Jan. 10. Oceanus pacificus antarcticus. Procellaria leucocephala" and "1774. Oceanus pacificus antarcticus Jan. 10. Procellaria haesitata." The manuscript folio bearing the observations on the twisted intestines has the heading: "1774. Jan 10. Oceanus pacificus Antarcticus Procellariae". It has been established that these descriptions were in fact the work of Reinhold Forster and no doubt the intestinal observations relating to the species described were also his.

It is thus quite clear that *Procellaria antarctica* and *Procellaria inexpectata* were described by George Forster on 24 December 1773 from specimens taken on 23 December 1773 and that *Procellaria tristis*, *Procellaria leucocephala* and *Procellaria haesitata* were described by Reinhold Forster on 10 January 1774 from specimens taken that day. No faulty recollection or editorial reordering is involved. Reinhold Forster is clearly referring only to the latter three species when he discusses the intestinal twisting that he obviously observed in the specimens he described on 10 January 1774.

This then leaves us with the problem of helicoidal intestines observed by Reinhold Forster in species of two procellariid genera, *Puffinus* and *Procellaria*, in which intestinal twisting supposedly does not occur. Reinhold Forster was a most competent and careful zoologist. It is doubtful that the intestinal morphology of the three procellariid species he described in 1774 has changed much in the succeeding two centuries.

LITERATURE CITED

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 HOARE, M.E. (ed.). 1982. *The Resolution Journal of Johann Reinhold Forster 1772-1775*. 4 vols. London: The Hakluyt Society.
 IMBER, M.J. 1985. Origins, phylogeny and taxonomy of the gadfly petrels *Pterodroma* spp. *Ibis* 127:197-229.
 OLSON, S.L. 1990. A very early observation of helicoidal intestines in the Procellariidae. *Notornis* 37:24-25.

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