

Roger Sutton acted as a sounding board for ideas, contributed some of his own, and provided practical help. He cut the tracks and designed and built the ladder. More than once when I was away from Southland he helped with data collection.

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## SHORT NOTE

### SONG THRUSH FAR AT SEA

On 31 March 1983 at 1 p.m., a Song Thrush (*Turdus philomelos*) was observed from the frigate HMNZS *Otago* near the Pukaki Rise. The bird was also seen and identified by four other members of the scientific party en route to the subantarctic. As the bird was blown eastward across the stern of the vessel it made an effort to return and land. This may have been successful as a thrush was again seen 30 minutes later. The bird was not subsequently seen and presumably perished at sea.

Our position was 173°E, 49°31'S, approximately 400 km south-east of the South Island of New Zealand and 400 km north-west of the Auckland Islands. Although a strong north-westerly was blowing at sea, conditions in Southland were not particularly adverse. The Meteorological Office reports light to moderate northerlies at Invercargill on the morning of the 31st, reaching 20 knots at Dog Island in the eastern approaches to Foveaux Strait.

The subantarctic islands in this region were rapidly colonised by many of the passerines introduced to New Zealand in the late 19th century. The Song Thrush has been recorded from all groups of outlying islands in the New Zealand region, with the exception of Macquarie and the Bounty Islands (Williams 1953, Warham & Bell 1979). This observation shows that dispersal of passerines from New Zealand still occurs and that the process is not dependent on extreme weather conditions.

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