

quite clear to us when two or more birds were singing simultaneously. Figure 2C provides an example of this. Here, the first bird's moan ended at Y with an abrupt upturn in frequency which overlapped the downwards glissade of the second bird. This bird's call was of slightly higher pitch than that of the first, had an intercalated shrill squeak (Z), and differed also in the greater waver of both fundamental and harmonics.

In all the calls analysed, the fundamental contained most of the energy, as shown by the greater intensity of the lowest trace on the spectrogram. Also, the second harmonic was weak, often not registering at all (e.g. Fig. 2A & B). The three to five harmonics were variously stressed and no doubt such variation forms another aspect of the individual differences noted between calls and which presumably have adaptive value in individual and/or sexual recognition.

These low flutings and their intercalated squeaks were the only kinds of call we associated with *Pterodroma mollis*. They are rather different from those of the Mottled Petrel (*Pterodroma inexpectata*) figured by Warham *et al.* (1977), although the extended *gor-wik* of that species shows some similarities to the Soft-plumaged Petrel's moan. Very similar calls of this species can be heard on M. K. Swales's recording of "Night atmosphere of birds on Gough Island" (BBC disc 25009), an audiospectrograph from which is reproduced in Cramp and Simmons (1977: 131).

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SHORT NOTE

GOLDEN PLOVERS SETTLING ON ROOFS

I was interested to read the note on this topic by Jenkins & Sibson in *Notornis* 26 (2), and the quote from Dr N. W. Cusa. While in Kuching, Sarawak, from October to December 1976, my attention was drawn to Golden Plovers (*Pluvialis dominica fulva*) which regularly roosted at night on the roofs of suburban houses in groups of up to a dozen or so. It seems, therefore, that this habit may be widespread in the Asiatic race of the Lesser Golden Plover. It is interesting to note that nothing similar has been noted for either the American race of this species (*P. d. dominica*) or for the Golden Plover of the Western Palearctic (*P. apricaria*). As this behaviour is probably of recent origin, further observations on the subject may be of considerable interest.

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