
Birds Seen at the South Neptune Islands.

By C. E. Perryman.

9th July, 1936.

I arrived here on the 22nd February, 1936, so I do not know any particulars with regard to the arrival of the Mutton-Birds (*Puffinus tenuirostris*). The chicks were well forward by that time and were very plentiful. The adult birds were very numerous at the time, but after 4th March they seemed to disappear gradually, and by the 26th March there were only a few returning. By this date the chicks had developed wing and tail feathers, except for a few belated chicks that were still in the down stage. I made weekly visits to certain nests and noted the

rapid growth of the feathers. By the middle of April many of the young birds were leaving the nests at night and attempting to fly. On some nights the track up to the tower and behind the cottages was thickly strewn with them and one had difficulty in trying not to step on the birds, especially about four until five in the morning. After that time they disappeared, probably some flew away as they got the use of their legs and wings, whilst others went into the bushes to try again the next night. On 6th May was the last date I saw one, except for a few immature ones lying dead beside the nests. I hope to be able to record the arrival, etc., of this species about the end of this year. The following species I have also seen since my arrival:—

Crested Terns, *Sterna bergii*.—There was a number of half-fledged Terns on the northern island in March; and a large flock was on the eastern end of the island on 17th May.

Silver Gull, *Larus novae-hollandiae*.—There are plenty of Silver Gulls here, and they are arrant thieves, robbing the fowls of their food. There is always one bird on guard waiting for some scraps to be thrown out.

Pacific Gull, *Gabianus pacificus*.—These are residents, and are now six in number. Some of them are in the immature plumage of mottled brown.

Turnstone, *Arenaria interpres*.—On 16th May I counted twelve in a flock along the sandy beach near the jetty; they were turning over stones and shells in quest of food. This species has not been seen for the past two weeks.

Sooty Oystercatcher, *Haematopus unicolor*.—Birds of this species have been about since my arrival here.

Spur-winged Plover, *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*.—On two occasions I heard this Plover calling in the evening, before rough weather came.

Banded Plover, *Zonifer tricolor*.—On the 17th June, I noticed a pair running about on the bare hillside leading down to the jetty.

Cape Barren Goose, *Cereopsis novae-hollandiae*.—I saw three birds on 15th May. They settled upon the rocks beside the jetty, were very quiet, and took very little notice of me when I was walking about on the sand. I noted two flying past the lighthouse at daylight on 23rd June and five on 30th June