

Cephalopods (squid, cuttle-fish, etc.) usually come to the surface at night, and, as frigate-birds are neither crepuscular nor nocturnal in their feeding habits, it seems that the presence of cephalopod beaks in their stomachs can best be explained by assuming that other birds were the original captors of the squid or cuttle-fish and were later forced by the frigate-birds to disgorge their food.

The closest breeding-place of the Lesser Frigate-bird to Port Stephens appears to be Raine Islet, near Cape York, and it is significant that three species of gannets, or boobies—the Masked, the Brown and the Red-footed—also nest on that islet.¹ Of these three species, the Red-footed, particularly, is a very late feeder and may even capture its food on moonlit nights. Both flying-fish and squid were present in about equal quantities in the stomachs of Red-footed Boobies from the Pacific examined by Rollo H. Beck.² Thus it is probable that the indigestible chitinous beaks found in the stomach of the Lesser Frigate-bird from Port Stephens came from cephalopods originally captured by boobies in the region of Cape York, well over a thousand miles to the north.

Earlier records of frigate-birds in the coastal waters of New South Wales have been summarized in *The Emu*.³ It may be pointed out that both the Greater and the Lesser Frigate-birds have been recorded from Port Phillip Bay, Victoria.⁴ Both species have also been taken in New Zealand following cyclonic weather.⁵

REFERENCES

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4. Kershaw, Jas. A. 'The Lesser Frigate-bird: An Unusual Occurrence', *The Emu*, vol. 29, 1929, p. 112.
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A Southern Record of the Dollar-bird.—While on a visit to Nagambie Weir on the Goulburn River on February 17, 1957, I observed four Dollar-birds (*Eurystomus orientalis*) in the gums below the spillway. Two of the birds displayed bright red bills and brilliant plumage but the other two were much more drab in plumage and the red was lacking from the bills. The latter were thought to be young of the year. Although they could fly strongly, they were much less active than the brighter birds.

Other interesting species present were Little Friar-bird, Darter and White-breasted Wood-Swallow. — HOWARD JARMAN, Parkville, Vic., 10/4/57.