

the beach. The scats were oval, about 80 x 40 mm in section, and up to 150 mm long. Each was composed entirely of the feathers and bones of Short-tailed Shearwaters (*Puffinus tenuirostris*) and subsequent inquiries revealed that a seal had been seen in that locality for some days. Although no clue was obtained as to its specific identity, it was probably *Arctocephalus poriferus*.

Muttonbirds had been drifting, most of them dead or in a moribund condition, in the offshore waters for some days. Anecdotal accounts of seals taking Fairy Penguins (*Eudiptula minor*) are fairly common, although no penguin remains were found in the scats examined. Most *Puffinus* spp. are well aware of the dangers from below and are often observed to rise from the water on the approach of a porpoise, large shark, or seal. Leopard Seals (*Hydrurga leptonyx*) are known predators of the larger penguins in the Antarctic, and local seals probably vary their diet with an occasional seabird, particularly when the birds are weakened, as in this case, by lack of food or by disease.

Injuries among Waders.—My stay at Ballina between February 4-9, 1961, produced much of interest, including the hand capture of a Bar-tailed Godwit (*Limosa lapponica*), one of many waders frequenting, at low tide, the sand flats in North Creek, a tributary of the Richmond River, and only a few hundred yards from Miningham Bridge. An examination of the bird revealed an injury, only recently sustained, under the elbow of the left wing. The feathers and skin over a small area had been lost and, although it did not seem serious, it restricted the bird's powers of flight; the muscles appeared to be injured and it could manage only a few wing beats. As there seemed to be ample food and cover in the area the bird was released.

Late on the evening of February 9 this year a Bar-tailed Godwit was observed bathing in a small pool at low tide in North Creek, preening its feathers and using its long, slightly up-curved bill with masterly effect. Minutes later it rose from its squatting position in the pool and, balancing itself with beak and right leg, began to scratch its neck with no apparent effect. A closer examination revealed that its left foot had been amputated at the ankle, and perhaps the impulse to check an irritating itch was still strong. On the following afternoon at approximately the same time and place the bird was again observed bathing and preening.

On February 8 this year I noticed a Golden Plover (*Pluvialis dominica*) that had lost the left foot. The amputation seemed not to affect the bird in any way because it used the "stump" to good purpose. Another Golden Plover was observed two days later with a broken leg. It was fractured near the thigh and in flight the leg dangled loosely.—L. M. HOLLAND, Woolgoolga, N.S.W., 14/2/62.