

VI. REFERENCES

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A Record of the Masked Gannet in New South Wales.—Lord Howe Island, which is situated 300 miles east of Port Macquarie, New South Wales, is a known breeding station of the Masked Gannet, *Sula dactylatra*, and eleven other pelagic species (Hindwood 1940). Two other species, White Tern, *Gygis alba*, and White-capped Noddy, *Anous minutus*, probably breed there also. Of these species only one, the Wedge-tailed Shearwater, *Puffinus pacificus*, is known to breed off the New South Wales coast. The majority of the other species have occurred on the New South Wales coast, with at least one species, the Flesh-footed Shearwater, *P. carneipes*, occurring on a regular basis (McKean and Hindwood 1964).

On the basis of counts of breeding birds taken at different times of the year over a seven-year period, we consider the annual breeding population of *Sula dactylatra* on Lord Howe Island to be between 900 and 1300 breeding pairs. We do not have enough data to give an accurate figure for the number of non-breeders present annually but think it would be no greater than 400 birds.

In view of the foregoing, it seems surprising that until just recently *S. dactylatra* had not been authentically recorded from New South Wales.

On February 22, 1964, a dead Masked Gannet was found washed up on Valla Beach, approximately six miles north of Nambucca Heads, N.S.W. The bird carried a CSIRO bird band No. 140-20597 and according to the finder, Mr. R. A. Murdock, appeared to be freshly dead. The dead bird had been banded by us as a breeding adult on Roach Islet off Lord Howe Island on November 20, 1962.

Results of banding *S. dactylatra* on Lord Howe Island (McKean and Hindwood 1964) indicate that, while birds moved long distances during the first two to four years of their lives, once established as breeders they remain sedentary. Nambucca Heads could conceivably be within the normal foraging range of a Lord Howe Island *S. dactylatra*. It certainly is within the foraging range of *P. carneipes*. However, if this was so, surely there would be more records of *S. dactylatra* from New South Wales.

Information kindly made available by the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology at Canberra, showed that, while in the two weeks preceding February 22 wind conditions were consistently favourable for the passage of a bird to travel from Lord Howe Island to New South Wales, there were no abnormal conditions that may have forced the Gannet to undertake such a movement.—JOHN L. MCKEAN, CSIRO, Division of Wildlife Research, Canberra, A.C.T. and D. MORONEY, 15a Herbert St., St. Kilda, Vic.

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