

Some wader observations from New Guinea.—The already-rich bird list of New Guinea appears to be very deficient in wading bird species. Conspicuously absent are many species known to visit Australia in migration. Furthermore, one would reasonably expect New Guinea to be the wintering ground of at least some of the species known to migrate to South-east Asia. This deficiency is not surprising when one considers that our knowledge of New Guinea birds is based almost solely on the work of the great Museum expeditions. Such organizations tend to concentrate on endemic species rather than on Palearctic waders, already well-covered by their respective institutions. There are, however, hopeful indications that the small but steady increase in local resident observers will remedy this deficiency.

On an outing of the New Guinea Bird Society, to Moitaka Agricultural Station near Port Moresby, on December 19, 1965, another bird was "gathered" to the local list in the shape of the Marsh Sandpiper, or Little Greenshank, *Tringa stagnatilis*. The bird, a lone one, circled the sewage treatment works in full view of the gathering and then put down on the edge of one of the malodorous ponds. The species has hitherto not been found in New Guinea, although it is a regular (if rare) visitor to Australia. Of course, a specimen will be needed to "officially" confirm the record. On the same day a flock of 30 Black-tailed Godwits, *Limosa limosa*, was flushed. This species has been but rarely recorded, and not previously from Port Moresby.

A Bird Observers' Club member, Mr. Michael Freer, at Ihu in the Gulf District of Papua, has also reported two "new" species of waders. One is the Wood Sandpiper, *Tringa glareola*, already recorded from Australia, and the Redshank, *Tringa totanus*. The latter species is already predicted by Condon and McGill (Field Guide to the Waders 1952) as a possible future addition to the Australian list. It is a well-known visitor to Malaysia and the Philippines. Freer is familiar with both species, in Europe, and there is little reason to doubt his observation. In addition he reports the Spurwinged Plover, *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*, in a flock of Masked Plovers, *L. miles*, at Port Moresby.

Another probable future addition is the Southern Stone-curlew, *Burhinus magnirostris*. Mr. Roy D. Mackay, of the Papua-New Guinea Museum, has seen what he is sure is this species, at dawn, in light timber on the Moitaka station. Only recently, December 10 1965, I was queried by a former employee of Moitaka, who enquired as to the identity of "a long-legged, spotted bird, which lays its eggs on the ground, and which lays down and opens its wings when you go near the eggs."

One may confidently predict that these notes are the forerunner of many to follow.—H. L. BELL, 1st Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment, Taurama Barracks Port Moresby, Papua.