

Recent efforts to trace them again have proved fruitless. The only additional information to that noted by Chisholm is from a pencil mark on each egg, '7/12/84'. But this adds little enlightenment, for the date is ambiguous; the interpretation that the eggs had been collected on 7 December may be wrong as breeding records suggest that 12 July would be more accurate. Be that as it may, Caldwell collected, or had collected for him, eggs from at least three nests, possibly in the same season, in an area where it is now difficult to be certain that the species continues to exist; it must have been fairly common in 1884.

R. B. Sharpe also included this northern population of the Albert Lyrebird in the Museum Catalogue of Birds 1890, vol 13, when he noted Wide Bay in its distribution, although not on the evidence of specimens in the Museum collection.

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10 August 1968.

Acrocephalus arundinaceus orientalis, **first record in
New Guinea**

In early 1962 L. and S. Quate collected a few birds while engaged in entomological studies in the Kebar Valley, Vogelkop, West Irian. Thirty of these are now in The American Museum of Natural History, New York; and one is a new record for the island.

According to Rand & Gilliard (1967, *Handbook of New Guinea Birds*: 351), previous records of the Great Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus arundinaceus* in New Guinea have been of the small widespread race *sumbae*, which has been recorded from a few widely scattered localities on the island and measures (mm): wing, ♂ 65-70, ♀ 61-65; tail, ♂ 60-68, ♀ 58-59; culmen from base, ♂ 20.5-21.5, ♀ 20.5-21; tarsus, ♂ 25-26, ♀ 24. The Kebar Valley bird is much larger: wing 92, tail 76, culmen from base 24, tarsus 31. It agrees in size and colour with *A. a. orientalis*, which breeds from northern Mongolia and Japan south to the lower Yangtze Valley and which has been recorded as wintering as far south and east as Celebes, the Moluccas and Melville Island (Vaurie 1959, *Birds of the Palearctic Fauna*: 246-247).

The Kebar Valley is inland from Mubrani, on the north coast of the Vogelkop, at an altitude of 550 m. Quate writes (*in litt.*): 'All the collecting that we did in the Kebar Valley was at a fairly low elevation. About a mile to the north of our camp was a low, moist area of considerable expanse. It was not a true swamp, but had a sluggish stream running through a forest and the soil was permanently moist or muddy for several hundred feet on each side of the stream.' This seems to be the area in which the bird was collected. Hoogerwerf (1964, *Bull. Br. Orn. Club* **84**: 157), who

visited the Kebar Valley between October 1962 and April 1963; did not record this species.

Dr G. F. Mees has called to my attention the fact that Salvadori (1881, *Ornitologia della Papuasias e delle Molucche* 2: 426) mentions a specimen from the Aru Islands but doubts the locality because it had been obtained through a dealer. He also writes that there is in the Leiden Museum a male of *orientalis* labelled as being from Soek (= Biak) Island in Geelvink Bay, collected by von Rosenberg. This specimen was formerly mounted and the original label is missing. Von Rosenberg collected on Biak in 1869, but because the specimen is undated, Mees felt it unwise to base an addition to the avifauna on a questionable record. Now that the subspecies has been collected on the Vogelkop, the Biak and Aru Islands records are probably also valid.

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19 August 1968.

Cloncurry Parrot in Northern Territory

On 18 August 1967, during a faunal survey of the Nicholson River area, Northern Territory, by a team from the Animal Industry Branch, NTA, and the Division of Wildlife Research, CSIRO, I collected a Cloncurry Parrot *Barnardius barnardi macgillivrayi* at Springvale, a deserted cattle station 40 km west of the Queensland border and about 160 km north-west of Camooweal. The specimen, an immature female, is now No. NTM 3733 in the Northern Territory Museum, Alice Springs. It measured (mm): wing 152, tail 180, tarsus 20; and weighed soon after death 106 gm. The bird was with several Northern Rosellas *Platycercus venustus* feeding on the fruits of *Melaleuca* trees. During the following eight days I saw several other Cloncurry Parrots with Northern Rosellas in the Springvale area. This is the first record of *B. b. macgillivrayi* for the Northern Territory, though *zonarius* (Port Lincoln Parrot) occupies a large area in the south-western part of the Territory. I am grateful to Mr W. B. Hitchcock for identifying the specimen.

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