

The Egg of Wahnes' Parotia *Parotia wahnesi* (Paradisaeidae)

MARGARET D. MACKAY

C.M.B 16, Paluma, Qld. 4816

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Of the four species of the genus *Parotia*, only the egg of Lawes' Parotia *Parotia lawesi* (including the subspecies *helenae*) has been described (Hartert 1910; Schönwetter 1929; Harrison & Frith 1970).

I now describe two eggs of Wahnes' Parotia *Parotia wahnesi* which have been added to the collection of bird of paradise eggs at Baiyer River Sanctuary, Papua New Guinea. This collection was formerly described by Bishop & Frith (1979). Both eggs were laid by the same captive female at the Baiyer River Sanctuary on 1 and 2 January 1986. The eggs were laid in a bare wire cup provided for nesting. No attempt was made by the bird to make a nest or brood the eggs.

The first egg measures 39.6 x 26.7 mm and is pale cream with heavy streaking at the large end becoming sparser half way along the egg and practically absent at the small end. The marks vary from small dots to elongate broad streaks and are grey or tan in about equal proportions, with the tan marks in some places overlying the grey. The second egg measures 40.2 x 25.3 mm and is similar in colour to the first. On one side, the grey streaks predominate, interspersed with short tan streaks. This egg is badly cracked at the small end. Both eggs have a dull gloss surface. While most birds of paradise in the wild lay only one egg, some of the smaller ones lay a clutch of two or three. This can vary in captivity (see Cooper & Forshaw 1977, p. 28). Previous records show only one egg is laid by *P. lawesi* and *P. l. helenae*.

This is the first description of the egg of *P. wahnesi* and it shows it to be typical of those of the Paradisaeinae (Gilliard 1969; Cooper & Forshaw 1977) and similar to the egg of *P. lawesi* (including *P. l. helenae*), though slightly larger (*P. lawesi*: 33.0 x 24.0 mm [Hartert 1910], 33.1 x 24.1 mm [Schönwetter 1929]; *P. l. helenae*: 38.4 x 27.8 mm [Harrison & Frith 1970]).

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Which Small Noddies Breed at Ashmore Reef in the Eastern Indian Ocean?

T. STOKES¹ & M. HINCHEY²

Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service, GPO Box 636, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601

Present addresses: ¹ Australian Heritage Commission, GPO Box 1567, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601

² Department of Primary Industries and Energy, Canberra, A.C.T. 2601

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Until recently it has been accepted that noddies of the genus *Anous* comprise three distinct forms — *stolidus*, *minutus*, *tenuirostris* — separable on the basis of geographic distribution, size and plumage (Pringle 1987, Serventy *et al.* 1971). The Common Noddy *A. stolidus* has a pantropical

distribution and is larger than the other two. Although the Black Noddy *A. minutus* is reported to be restricted to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, it has bred, and possibly still does, on Kebabuan Island in the Indonesian Archipelago near the Indian Ocean (De Korte 1984, Voous 1989). The