

Eggs of Hybrid Shaw Mayer's Bird of Paradise: The Ribbontail *Astrapia mayeri* x ?

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Bishop & Frith (1979) record descriptions of six bird of paradise eggs laid in captivity and collected by FWSM while he was responsible for the management of the Hallstrom Fauna Sanctuary at Nondugl in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea. However, in their report two of these eggs are incorrectly referred to the Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise *Astrapia stephanie*.

Unfortunately FWSM is now unable to recall the details or circumstances of these eggs but stresses that he knew of and used the names *Astrapia stephanie* and Princess Stephanie Bird of Paradise at the time the eggs were collected. Consequently, had the female that laid the egg been of that species they would have been recorded under one or both those names, as similarly occurred in respect of the other four eggs.

Bishop & Frith (1979) quoted verbatim the data sheets stored with these two eggs; but have inexplicably overlooked the additional data recorded, by FWSM, on the label affixed to the lid of the tobacco tin in which Egg B (laid about 27 November 1963) and its data slip remain stored. This label reads:

1 egg (3rd egg)
data enclosed

yg. ° Ribbon-tail X
laid Nondugl,
3.12.63.

This label, together with the data slip, leave no doubt the two infertile eggs referred to are those of a hybrid aviary-bred 'Long-tail' female, whose parents were a male Shaw Mayer's Bird of Paradise: The Ribbontail *A. mayeri* and a female of parentage uncertain to FWSM.

Only two of the three successive eggs laid by this female were collected, presumably the other was destroyed in the nest. Egg B was the third egg laid (about 27 November) and was collected on 3 December 1963.

Acknowledgement

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Reference

Bishop, K.D. & Frith, C.B. 1979. A collection of eggs of birds-of-paradise at Baiyer River Sanctuary, Papua New Guinea. *Emu* 79, 140-141.