

SOME BIRDS RECORDED AROUND THE COAST OF  
THE COROMANDEL PENINSULA

By. B. S. Chambers

The Coromandel coast is a feeding ground for a great variety of birds. The long coastline is rugged with many indentations. On the western side there are the mudflats of the Firth of Thames whilst the eastern has deep water well stocked with fish. Because of a prevailing westerly wind at the time of compiling these notes, the number of wading birds recorded from the western shore was not as great as would be expected under normal conditions. The eastern coastline covered in this report extends from Kennedy's Bay to Waihi Beach with some notes from the hills behind the coast and continuing back into the ranges in places. The information was collected in December, 1956 and January, 1957.

The following species were recorded:

NORTHERN OYSTERCATCHER - (*Haematopus unicolor reischeki*)

Two birds, presumably a pair, with Pied Stilts on estuary at Kennedy's Bay.

PIED STILT - (*Himantopus himantopus leucocephalus*)

Some birds at the Thames, others on a paddock with Terns sheltering near Manaia Harbour; 4 on mudflats at estuary at Kennedy's Bay.

KINGFISHERS - (*Halcyon sancta vagans*)

These were seen from the road between Thames and Coromandel. They were present at Kennedy's Bay, and in the hills behind where Kauri milling was in progress, around Whitianga, Kuaotunu, and generally south to Whangamata.

BLACK BACK GULL - (*Larus dominicanus*)

Records were obtained from Thames to Coromandel and from Kennedy's Bay to Whangamata. At no time were many seen together.

RED BILLED GULL - (*Larus novaehollandiae scopulinus*)

These were seen on the fields behind Manaia Harbour, at Kennedy's Bay and down coast to Waihi Beach. A colony at Kuaotunu was visited. There were about 300 adult birds present. The breeding appeared to be at the height, with eggs or young of various ages, present in every nest. Only 9 dead young could be found. The colony is on the coast on a rocky outcrop, not of great height.

CASPIAN TERN - (*Hydroprogne caspia*)

About 40 birds on beach at Kennedy's Bay. On a rocky isle at Hahei, further birds were seen, and together with white fronted Tern drove off an attacking Harrier. The fight lasted some time and continued right inland about half a mile.

WHITE FRONTED TERN - (*Sterna striata*)

Many seen at Hahei and at Whangamata; occasional sightings at Whitianga.

BLUE REEF HERON - (*Egretta sacra sacra*)

One bird seen at each of the following places: Kennedy's Bay, Hahei and Whitianga.

N.I. PIED FANTAIL - (*Rhipidura fuliginosa placabilis*)

Records were obtained in Kauraranga Valley behind Thames, Hahei and were heard at Kennedy's Bay.

TUI - (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*)

These were heard down most of the Eastern Coast and in the centre of the peninsula, where the road crosses through the saddle. Only one was actually seen; this at Whangamata on the north side of the harbour entrance, on the edge of the State Forest, near the top of a cliff.

RED FRONTED PARAKEET - (*Cyanoramphus novaezelandiae novaezelandiae*)

Only one record, this was seen by party at Whangamata in scrub at the top of a cliff on the North side of entrance to the harbour, near State Forest. No information has been found regarding other records of such sighting.

NEW ZEALAND PIGEON - (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*)

Seen near Kauri stand on road between Coromandel and Whitianga. Also one bird seen in camp at Waihi Beach.

MOREPORK - (*Ninox novaeseelandiae novaeseelandiae*)

Heard regularly over whole Peninsula. Few sightings.

SHINING CUCKOO - (*Chalcites lucidus lucidus*)

Heard at Kauaranga Valley, Kennedy's Bay, Whitianga and Hahei.

BELLBIRDS - (*Anthornis melanura melanura*)

Seen at Kennedy's Bay. Heard also at Whitianga.

MYNA - (*Acridotheres tristis*)

Appear to be quite common on the farmlands down the Eastern Coast.

HARRIERS - (*Circus approximans gouldi*)

Seen daily down Eastern Coast. One attacked by Caspian and White Fronted Tern, at Hahei, and after fight, driven inland about half a mile before attacking birds left.

GANNET - (*Sula bassana serrator*)

Two seen diving in Whitianga Estuary; other coastal sightings.

PIED SHAG - (*Phalacrocorax varius varius*)

Odd bird at Whitianga. Three at Hahei and further birds at Whangamata.

WHITE THROATED SHAG - (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucos brevirostris*)

Two records in Whangamata Harbour.

BLACK SHAG - (*P. carbo novaehollandiae*)

One record in a stream in gully behind Kennedy's Bay.

BANDED DOTTEREL - (*Charadrius bicinctus*)

Four birds seen on beach at Kennedy's Bay. One nest found with three eggs on beach.

NEW ZEALAND DOTTEREL - (*Charadrius obscurus*)

Two birds seen at Whitianga.

GOLDFINCHES - (*Carduelis carduelis britannica*)

Regular sightings at Whitianga, Kuaotunu and at Hahei.

#### REFERENCE

Ornithological Society of New Zealand, 1953: *Check List of New Zealand Birds*, A.H. and A.W. Reed.

#### A RECORD OF PUMPELLYITE FROM WAIPAPA ROCKS IN THE HOKIANGA DISTRICT, NORTHLAND, NEW ZEALAND.

By. E.N. Milligan

Pumpellyite was recognised by the writer in a thin section (ref. no. 5349 in Geology Department coll.) of greywacke from Waipapa Group, collected from the junction of Omahuta State Forest main road and a north branching track (grid. ref. N14/142562), during the study of the rocks of the North Hokianga district.