

A further 23 species breed on New Ireland but not its satellites. A few require habitats that are not adequately represented on the satellite islands, i.e. wetland species (Red-throated Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*) and grassland species (Pied Chat *Saxicola caprata*, Clamorous/Australian Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus/australis*, and Forbes' Mannikin *Lonchura forbesi*). The others are either poor colonists, require a larger area of forest to sustain a population and/or are montane.

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to Jared Diamond for his ongoing help and his list of *Noona Dan* specimens. I am very grateful to the many advisors, friends and sponsors of my fieldwork, who are more fully acknowledged in Dutson (in prep.). I am especially grateful to David Monten and the community of Leon village on Djaul, where I stayed.

References

- Dutson, G (2005) New distributional records from Melanesia. *Emu*.
Coates, B. J. (1985) *The birds of Papua New Guinea. Volume I*. Alderley, Australia: Dove Publications.
Coates, B. J. (1990) *The birds of Papua New Guinea. Vol II*. Alderley, Australia: Dove Publications.
Eastwood, C. (1996) Kavieng, Djaul and Mussau island, New Ireland: a trip report. *Muruk* 8: 28-32.
Meyer, O. (1934) Die vogelwelt auf der Inselgruppe Lihir. *J. Orn.* 82: 294-308.
Salomonsen, F. (1964) Some remarkable new birds from Dyaul island, Bismarck archipelago, with zoogeographical notes. *Biol. Skr. Vid. Selsk.* 14: 1-37.

Author's address: c/o Birds Australia, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia. (Submitted Sept 2001).

Bulwer's Petrel (*Bulweria bulwerii*) New to Papua New Guinea and Melanesia

by Guy Dutson

During numerous boat trips in 1997-8, I observed Bulwer's Petrel *Bulweria bulwerii* on three dates around Mussau in Papua New Guinean seas and another two dates in the Solomon Islands (Dutson in prep.). On 1 July 1997, I saw single birds on three occasions between Kavieng (New Ireland) and Tench; on 3 July, I saw two singles between Tench and Mussau; and on 6 July, I saw one between Mussau and Kavieng. All were seen with binoculars at 30-100m range from

motor-canoes or (on 6 July) a small ship. As I am familiar with the species from Indonesia, and the identification appeared obvious, I only made brief notes:

Plumage uniformly dark brown/black except rather indistinct pale upperwing panel. Long tail appeared rounded. Rather long wings flexed at carpal joint. Distinctive direct flight: flapping about ten times, gaining height above the water, then gliding back down, rocking from side to side. When flapping, flicks wings down quickly, faster and shallower than nearby noddy *Anous* spp. (which were never seen gliding).

This species is perhaps most likely to be confused with Wedge-tailed Shearwater *Puffinus pacificus* in PNG waters. Although I saw no Wedge-tailed Shearwaters on these boat trips, I saw many in subsequent trips around New Britain and the Solomons. These two species share the wrist-forward, flap and glide flight but Wedge-tailed Shearwater is much larger, with a shorter tail, a smaller and less distinct upperwing bar and longer bill. The very similar Jouanin's Petrel *Bulweria fallax* of the Arabian Sea (but recorded once in Hawaii) usually lacks the pale upperwing bar and usually flies like a gadfly petrel *Pterodroma* spp., but may be indistinguishable in some conditions. Fiji Petrel *Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi* also lacks the upperwing bar and has a shorter tail and presumably a different flight action. More likely to occur in northern PNG waters are Swinhoe's *Oceanodroma monorhis* and Matsudaira's *O. matsudairae* Storm-petrels. Both are much smaller, have forked tails and the more rounded wings and flight action of storm-petrels.

Bulwer's Petrel is a pantropical petrel breeding in the Pacific on the Marquesas, Phoenix and Hawaiian groups and small islands east of China and south of Japan. Its non-breeding marine distribution and movements are not well known but it is thought to disperse across the central and northern tropical Pacific and into the Indian Ocean. In Indonesia, it is a migrant through Wallacea in September to November, with fewer summering birds recorded in May to July (Argeloo & Dekker 1996). The lack of previous Melanesian records is probably largely a result of few observations but the paucity of records off Australia (Marchant and Higgins 1990) suggests that it rarely ranges into the south-west Pacific. The fact that birds were seen on these three consecutive boat trips but on none of the other 16 boat trips made in PNG waters, suggests either that there was a brief passage in early July or that the species is localised in PNG to the most northerly waters.

References

- Argeloo, M. & Dekker, R. 1996. Bulwer's Petrel in Indonesia *Kukila* 8, 132-135.
- Dutson, G (in prep.) New distributional records from Melanesia. *Emu*.

Marchant, S. & Higgins, P. J. 1990. *Handbook of the Australian, New Zealand and Antarctic Birds. Volume I: Ratites to Ducks*. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press.

Author's address: c/o Birds Australia, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia. (Submitted Sept. 2001)

Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) New to Papua New Guinea

By Guy Dutson

A male, probably first-winter, Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* was seen on small pond near Tokua airport, Rabaul, New Britain on 14 January 1998.

These ponds appear to be the result of mining gravel from the beach at the end of the airstrip and are were seen from the air. I visited them briefly on 11 January and for several hours on 14 January with Kester Wilson. Only the one duck was seen but many species of heron, rail and wader were recorded. The duck was watched on the water and on land through binoculars at a range of 15-30 m. The brown-black plumage contrasting with white flanks and a yellow iris enabled instant identification. It was aged as first-winter by the glossy dark brown plumage, dirty brown mottling on the rear of the white flanks and the absence of a nape tuft. Other pied congeners were eliminated by close examination of head-shape and bill-pattern. The rather smooth head-shaped was assessed as identical to that of Tufted Duck which both observers were all too familiar with. The bill was blue, slightly paler on the lower mandible and terminally, a very pale narrow subterminal band and a small black tip.

This Palearctic species winters across northern south-east Asia to Japan. The closest records of vagrants are from Sulawesi (White & Bruce 1986) and Micronesia and Hawaii (Pratt *et al.* 1987). As with the Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope* (which has two New Guinea records), it is as yet unrecorded from Australia.

References

- Pratt, H. D., Bruner, P. L. and Barrett, D. G. (1987) *The birds of Hawaii and the Tropical Pacific*. Princeton, USA: Princeton University Press.
- White, C. H. M. & Bruce, M. D. 1986. *The birds of Wallacea*. BOU checklist no.7. London: British Ornithologists Union.

Author's address: c/o Birds Australia, 60 Leicester Street, Carlton, Vic 3053, Australia. (Submitted Sept. 2001)