

The birds were seen on a fine clear morning at 6.30 a.m. and recorded along with eleven other bird species. A single bird was also recorded on 14 November 1976. These observations were made close to water within the lower areas of the Bickley Valley.

Over this time I regularly observed the Sacred Kingfisher in the area and these were distinct from the Azure Kingfisher, being both larger and of different colouring.

The distinguishing features of the Azure Kingfisher were iridescent blue back and wings, tangerine breast and dark brown bill. The striking difference from the Sacred Kingfisher was the absence of white markings at the shoulders.

Conclusions

The observations of the Azure Kingfisher are far removed from the presently accepted West Australian distribution of the Kimberley Ranges. Although no migration has been reported for the species, the observations in all three years (1973, 1974 and 1976) of its presence in the Bickley Valley have coincided with the presence of the Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*. This species

migrates from northern areas and is found in territory associated with the Azure Kingfisher. There was no evidence of nesting or other indications of the extent of this species in the lower west of Western Australia. However, it may well be that the range of the Azure Kingfisher now extends down the western coast of Australia.

References

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Breeding Seabirds on Statis Rock, New South Wales

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In 1970 Robert Edden showed me several photographs of breeding seabirds that he obtained about 1965 at Statis Rock, near Seal Rocks, on the central coast of New South Wales. These depicted the Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor*, Silver Gull *Larus novaehollandiae* and Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*. This Seabird Island is described for the first time.

Statis Rock is situated 50 m offshore at the eastern end of Sugarloaf Bay (32°27' S., 152°32' E.). It is about 225 m long by 100 m wide and consists of two steep, parallel ridges orientated north-south, rising to 12 m elevation at the southern end. Most of the surface is bare rock, but the western ridge supports a limited vegetation, mainly of grasses.

On 3 January 1976 I examined the island through binoculars from the adjacent headland. About ten pairs each of Silver Gull and Crested Tern were breeding. I landed on the island on 3 January 1977. Approximately 100 disused nests of Silver Gulls were scattered along the western side of the island, but only two pairs with eggs were still present. Six pairs of Crested Terns had eggs, but there was no indication of greater numbers earlier in the season. Five adult Little Penguins were located in crevices at the south-western corner of the island. One was on two eggs and another had two young, but the others were too deep to remove from their nests.

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