

it to move out of its hole. According to K. Thaler (pers. comm.), who was present during the first observation, the bird was initially seen vigorously probing a deep opening in a dead branch of a stringybark with its bill. It then hopped away and soon returned to the site with a strip of wood which was used to probe the opening. However, it was not certain whether the bird obtained the food from the end of the strip (when held under its foot) or directly from the opening.

As I never observed any instances of tool-using in the sittella in over 20 hours of detailed foraging observations in north-eastern New South Wales and Queensland, I suspect that such behaviour is infrequent and possibly limited to fairly small populations of this species. Similarly I have seen only one possible instance of twig-using by shrike-tits. In view of this, it is surprising that the regular and apparently widespread habit of both species of using the foot to handle prey and potential food sources has hitherto escaped the attention of ornithologists. More foraging observations of both species

would be desirable to determine the consistency of tool-using, as Chisholm (1972) suggests, but it is unlikely that accurate information of this sort can be obtained under field conditions. Avian observations of food handling by these two species, and other members of the pachycephalid assemblage (e.g., shrike-thrushes; see Mitchell 1972), might prove useful in clarifying the role of the feet and the degree of lateralisation in the brain of passerines, as well as plasticity of foraging techniques.

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## NOTES ON THE BIRDS RECORDED DURING A VISIT TO ISLANDS OF THE SIR JOSEPH BANKS GROUP, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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On 20 November 1981 accompanied by my wife, I visited Winceby (1.5 hours), Reevesby (45 minutes), Roxby (1 hour), Blyth (1 hour) and Lusby (30 minutes) Islands in the Sir Joseph Banks Group, Spencer Gulf, South Australia. Time spent on each island was far too short to complete a thorough survey, and the lunch visit to Reevesby was restricted to observations from the beach. On 21 November a visit was made to

Lipson Island in Lipson Cove; although no count was made of numbers of birds present, except penguins, species observed are included below. Ten large penguin chicks were banded during this visit. A description of Blyth Island appeared in *Corella* 8(5): 113-114 (Lane 1985).

The following are notes on the species recorded and the islands on which each occurred.

**Little Penguin** *Eudyptula minor*

Found on all islands except Reevesby. Winceby (1 adult), Roxby (14 burrows checked; 1 contained an adult, 2 each contained 2 large chicks), Blyth (2 adults were in one burrow and 2 dead nestlings in another), Lusby (only 7 burrows found, one containing a large chick) and Lipson (some 40 burrows were searched; 14 were empty, 6 were too deep to check, 8 contained chicks too small to band, 8 contained large chicks and 3 had an adult in each).

**White-faced Storm-Petrel** *Pelagodroma marina*

Freshly activated burrows were found on Winceby (c100), Blyth (between 500 and 1000 estimated; few were checked to avoid damage in the sandy soil; two of those checked each contained an adult on an egg; there were numerous remains, usually wings and sternum, no doubt the result of predation by Pacific Gulls) and Lusby (numerous burrows — not counted).

**Australian Pelican** *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

Seen only on the beach on Reevesby (3).

**Black-faced Shag** *Leucocarbo fuscescens*

Winceby (c500 on beach), Roxby (10), Blyth (10) and Lipson.

**Pied Cormorant** *Phalacrocorax varius*

Winceby (2) and Lipson.

**Eastern Reef Egret** *Egretta sacra*

One seen on Winceby.

**Cape Barren Goose** *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*

Evidence found on Winceby (1 dead chick and 1 dead "runner"), Roxby (feathers and droppings, very thick in places; remains of 4 young birds), Blyth (numerous feathers and droppings) and Lusby (droppings and 1 dead young bird).

**Pied Oystercatcher** *Haematopus longirostris*

Two seen on the beach on Reevesby.

**Sooty Oystercatcher** *H. fuliginosus*

Seen on all islands visited. Winceby (4), Reevesby (1), Roxby (1), Blyth (2), Lusby (2) and Lipson.

**Masked Lapwing** *Vanellus miles*

Reevesby (2) and Roxby (2 adults and a dead chick).

**Red-capped Plover** *Charadrius ruficapillus*

Only seen on Lusby (2)

**Ruddy Turnstone** *Arenaria interpres*

Winceby (10), Blyth (25) and Lusby (1).

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

Eight seen on Lusby.

**Silver Gull** *Larus novaehollandiae*

Winceby (c30; 1 nest with 2 eggs), Reevesby (12), Roxby (4), Blyth (20; 1 nest with 4 eggs), Lusby (c100; 8 nests with eggs and chicks; 1 large "runner" dead) and Lipson (old nests and flying young).

**Pacific Gull** *L. pacificus*

Winceby (11), Reevesby (3) and Blyth (c70; 1 nest with 1 egg).

**Caspian Tern** *Hydroprogne caspia*

Winceby (2), Roxby (1), Blyth (2) and Lusby (2).

**Fairy Tern** *Sterna nereis*

Two seen on Blyth.

**Crested Tern** *S. bergii*

Winceby (c30) and Lipson (on eggs).

**Feral Pigeon** *Columba livia*

One seen on Lipson.

**Rock Parrot** *Neophema petrophila*

Winceby (50+), Roxby (50+) and Blyth (at least 40).

**Welcome Swallow** *Hirundo neoxena*

Winceby (6 or 7) and Roxby (4).

**Richard's Pipit** *Anthus novaeseelandiae*

Eight seen on Roxby.

**Little Grassbird** *Megalurus gramineus*

Winceby (1) and Roxby (1).

**White-fronted Chat** *Ephthianura albifrons*

Winceby (5) and Roxby (5).

**Silvereye** *Zosterops lateralis*

Blyth (4) and Lusby (1 adult with a fledgling).

**Common Starling** *Sturnus vulgaris*

Winceby (3) and Roxby (1).

**House Sparrow** *Passer domesticus*

Lipson.

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