

IMMATURE BARE PART COLOURS IN THE PIED MONARCH *Arses kaupi*

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The Pied Monarch *Arses kaupi* is an Australian endemic passerine bird confined to the Atherton Region where it is found in rainforests and adjacent forests (Blakers *et al.* 1984). Adult birds are strikingly plumaged in sharply contrasting areas of black and white, the white areas about the head being near pure white in the male but flecked finely with black, to look greyish, in the female. A neat and clearly defined black breastband in the male is narrower than in the female. Adult males have a complete white collar, formed by the white nape being contiguous with the white chin and throat area: whereas adult females have this white collar broken by the black plumage of the face joining that of the breast at the side of the neck (directly behind and below the eyes). Adults of both sexes have a dull to bright sky blue bill and a brighter, deeper, sky blue orbital ring of bare skin; slightly smaller in females.

Juvenile to immature birds are described/illustrated as having the white hindneck heavily flecked black; mantle grey-brown; no white scapular patch; throat greyish; breastband grey-brown (Pizzey 1980; Schodde and Tideman 1988; Slater *et al.* 1989) or similar to adults but duller (Boles 1988). No mention is made of bare part colours differing from those of adults in recent literature, but North (1904) noted young birds having 'bill yellowish-brown at the base, blackish-brown at the tip.' Slater *et al.* (1989) illustrate an immature by giving it a steel-grey bill with small yellow gape and a very fine yellowish orbital ring (no larger than the usual passerine eye ring).

The purpose of this note is to draw attention to the morphology of an immature bird I mist-netted and photographed (Frith and Frith 1992) at Mt Spec, Queensland, on 3 April, 1980. It should be noted that the photograph of this individual bird in Boles (1988, p. 309) is, in fact, of an immature

male and not of an adult male as stated therein. Whilst the head, breast, mantle, tail and lesser wing coverts were in black or white plumage with a narrow, but white, scapular patch (i.e. clearly not a juvenile, Boles 1988), this immature male exhibited pale brown primaries, secondaries and their coverts; and no moult. The bill was dull yellow, tipped with blackish-grey, and the orbital ring of bare skin was dull lead-grey and of similar proportions to that of an adult female. Its legs were dark blue-grey, weight 12.6 g, wing length 77, tail length 79, bill length (skull to tip) 15.3 and tarsus length 19.7 mm. Published data are few but weights in Hall (1974), measurements in Boles (1988) and measurements of 10 adult and two immature specimens in the Australian Museum collections kindly made available to me by John Disney (pers. comm.) suggest this immature male was of typical weight and measurements for an immature of the species. The bill measurements of Boles (1988) are for the exposed culmen.

Hall (1974) described an immature female Pied Monarch as 'first year' with a 'creamy white bill tinged blue' which would suggest this individual was older than the immature male discussed above.

Coates (1990, p. 163) describes the immature of the closely related Frilled Monarch *Arses telescopthalmus* as similar to the adult female but duller, with the bill light horn-colour and legs light brown. Juvenile and immature *Arses* spp. have a yellowish bill, which in at least one form is black-tipped at some stage, and a dull lead-grey eye ring; distinctly different from adult soft part colours. This is similar to many small song birds. The degree of change may provide an indication of bird age.

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Walter Boles, Brian Coates and Dawn Frith kindly commented on a draft of this note, as did John (H. J. De S.) Disney, who provided reference to literature and specimen measurements.

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RECOVERY ROUND-UP

This section is prepared with the co-operation of the Secretary, Australian Bird and Bat Banding Schemes, Australian Nature Conservation Agency. The recoveries are only a selection of the thousands received each year; they are not a complete list and should not be analysed in full or part without prior consent of the banders concerned. Longevity and distance records refer to the ABBBS unless otherwise stated. The distance is the shortest distance in kilometres along the direct line joining the place of banding and recovery; the compass direction refers to the same direct line. (There is no implication regarding the distance flown or the route followed by the bird). Where available ABBBS age codes have been included in the banding data.

Recovery or longevity items may be submitted directly to me whereupon their merits for inclusion will be considered.

Hon. Editor.

The following abbreviations appear in this issue:

AWSG — Australian Wader Study Group.

VWWSG — Victorian Wader Study Group.

Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus*

- (a) 170-01987. Adult (1+) banded by J. A. K. Lane at Peel Inlet. WA on 29 July 77. Recovered dead at South Yunderup. WA in Nov. 92. over 15 years 3 months after banding. 5 km NE.
- (b) 170-15311. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman on North Pelican Island, Coorong, SA on 3 Nov. 91. Recovered dead at Grong Grong, NSW on 24 Aug. 92. 670 km ENE.
- (c) 170-17205. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman on North Pelican Island, Coorong, SA on 9 Nov. 91. Recovered dead near Ballina, NSW on 1 Sep. 92. 1 535 km NE.

- (d) 170-17712. Nestling banded by M. H. Waterman on North Pelican Island, Coorong, SA on 9 Nov. 91. Recovered, later died, at Ourimbah, NSW on 12 Aug. 92. 1 117 km ENE.

Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

- (a) 071-86417. Immature (1) male banded by AWSG at 80 Mile Beach, WA (19°15'S, 121°20'E) on 2 Apr. 90. Recovered dead at Miaogang, Nanhui County, Shanghai, China (31°14'N, 121°28'E) on 12 Apr. 92. 5 612 km N.
- (b) 071-86578. Adult (2+) female banded by AWSG at 80 Mile Beach, WA (19°15'S, 121°20'E) on 4 Apr. 90. Recovered dead at Zheling, Hangzhou Bay, China (30°48'N, 121°27'E) on 15 Apr. 92. 5 564 km N.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

- (a) 051-42655. Immature (1) banded by VWWSG at Yallock Creek near Kooweerup, Vic. (38°13'S, 145°28'E) on 12 Jan. 91. Recaptured (released alive) at Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand (37°09'S, 175°19'E) on 4 July 92. 2 617 km E.
- (b) 051-53018. Adult (2) banded by VWWSG at Stockyard Point, Westernport, Vic. (38°22'S, 145°32'E) on 11 Aug. 91. Recaptured (released alive) at Taramaire, Firth of Thames, New Zealand (37°09'S, 175°19'E) on 4 July 92. 2 610 km E.
- (c) 051-54415. Adult (2+) banded by AWSG at Roebuck Bay, Broome, WA (18°00'S, 122°22'E) on 9 Apr. 90. Recovered dead at Miaogang, Nanhui County, Shanghai, China (31°14'N, 121°28'E) on 16 Apr. 92. 5 474 km N.