

Bedout I. (area 20 ha). No non-vagrant passerine species present in 1901 (Tunney 1902), 1949 (Serventy 1952), 1972 (Bush and Lodge 1977), 1975 (Kolichis 1977), or 1978 (this report).

In this respect, these tropical islands are no different from several islands in temperate Western Australia (Abbott 1978).

Acknowledgements

I thank Captain J. Gault, Master of M.V. *Cape Don*, for many courtesies. Permission to travel aboard this ship was granted by the Commonwealth Department of Transport. R. E. Johnstone and G. M. Storr kindly advised on identification of the *Gerygone* and *Epthianura* species.

References

- Abbott, I. (1978), 'Factors determining the number of land bird species on islands around south-western Australia', *Oecologia* 33: 221-233.
- Abbott, I. (1979), 'The distribution and abundance of seabirds at sea and on islands near the mid- and north-western coasts of Australia', *Corella* 3: 93-102.
- Bush, T. E. and G. A. Lodge (1977), 'Birds of Bedout Island — a visit in May 1972', *W. Aust. Nat.* 13: 189-190.
- Kolichis, N. (1977), 'Birds of Bedout Island — a visit in May 1975', *W. Aust. Nat.* 13: 191-194.
- Serventy, D. L. (1952), 'The bird islands of the Sahul shelf', *Emu* 52: 33-59.
- Smith, L. A., R. E. Johnstone and J. Dell (1978), 'Birds of the islands of the north-western Kimberley', *W. Aust. Wildl. Res. Bull.* 7: 29-41.
- Tunney, J. T. (1902), 'Field notes on Bedout Island', *Emu* 1: 73.
- Walker, J. (1892), 'The bird-life of Adèle Island, north-west Australia', *Ibis* 6(4): 254-261.

I. Abbott,
Institute of Forest Research and Protection,
Hayman Road, Como, W.A. 6152

Eye Colour of the Brown Thornbill

Disney (1976, *Bird in the Hand*, Bird Banders Assoc. Aust.) gave the iris colour of the Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla* as full red-brown in adults, in sub-adults chestnut surrounded by olive-grey. Juvenile birds were said to be chestnut brown iris with a grey outer ring. "As bird matures olive grey outer ring disappears and iris becomes full red-brown". A bird re-trapped recently does not seem to fit this pattern.

Alan Morris banded a Brown Thornbill at Munghorn Gap Nature Reserve near Mudgee N.S.W. on 1 February 1976. He recorded it as a free flying bird. I re-trapped the bird at the

banding place on 10 April 1982, over six years after banding. The iris was red-brown as in other adult birds, except it still retained the greyish outer ring. This bird had either taken an extraordinary long time to mature or is aberrant in some way.

Banders are advised to take notice of the colour of the iris of Brown Thornbills to see how long it takes to turn completely red-brown.

D. I. Smedley,
21 Ula Crescent,
Baulkham Hills, N.S.W. 2153