

BIRDS OF MORETON ISLAND AND ADJACENT WATERS

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ABSTRACT

One hundred and twenty birds are listed from Moreton Island and adjacent waters, southeastern Queensland. This list includes the first specimen record from Queensland of the Fleshy-footed shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*.

Moreton Island, situated at Lat. 27° 10' S and Long. 153° 25' E., forms with Stradbroke Island a natural eastern boundary protecting the waters of Moreton Bay.

The island (18615 hectares) is composed predominantly of siliceous sand which forms massive dunes, the highest being Mount Tempest at 282 metres. These present a low to hilly terrain, while the only older rocks are Ipswich coal measures in the northeastern tip of the island. Acidic peats overlay most of the wetlands, which consist of many inland and coastal freshwater lakes and swamps.

Dominant vegetation is eucalypt open forest and wallum with mangroves and associated vegetation on tidal mudflats, and strand vegetation on coastal dunes. Unlike Fraser Island and North and South Stradbroke Islands, Moreton Island has no rain forest flora (L. Durrington, pers. comm.).

Moreton Island receives a high rainfall (average 1448 mm per annum at Cape Moreton) and during the wet season numerous streams drain from the freshwater swamps into the sea. Elsewhere, water is absorbed quickly, leaving a porous soil deficient in organic material.

Weatherill and Tryon (1908) published a list of 29 species of birds from Moreton Island after a short visit to the settlement of Bulwer, and Geissmann, (1924), added 13 species in her list of 27 species noted in the Cowan Cowan area. Straw, (1968), by the addition of 12 species, brought the island total to 54. This paper brings the current number of species recorded to 120, including those

listed by the previous authors. This compares with 254 species recorded for Stradbroke, (Vernon and Martin 1975), and 200 recorded for Fraser (Vernon and Barry 1972).

Moreton Island is approximately 26 km from the mainland and closely adjoins North Stradbroke and Peel Islands which are situated somewhat closer to the mainland. Many species recorded from the former by Vernon and Martin (1975), and from the latter by Agnew (1913, 1921), also occur on Moreton Island. However, 134 species recorded from Stradbroke are not yet recorded from Moreton Island. The present relatively low number of recorded species can be explained in terms of reduced habitat diversity, lack of trained observers and the moderately difficult access to, and on, the island.

The most common bush birds on Moreton Island are the resident Brown honeyeater, *Lichenmera indistincta* and the Noisy friarbird, *Philemon corniculatus*, and these are the most common on Stradbroke Island (Vernon and Martin, 1975). Their prevalence could be attributed to the ready availability of nectar from the flowering Banksias (*Banksia aemula*, *B. integrifolia* and *B. serrata*), which are well distributed throughout the coastal fringes and inland. Three pigeons, the Brown pigeon, *Macropygia phasianella*, the Green-winged pigeon, *Chalcophaps indica*, and the Purple-crowned pigeon, *Ptilinopus superbus* occur in the more densely wooded areas of open forest. They probably migrated from the mainland via Stradbroke Island as all three have been observed on that

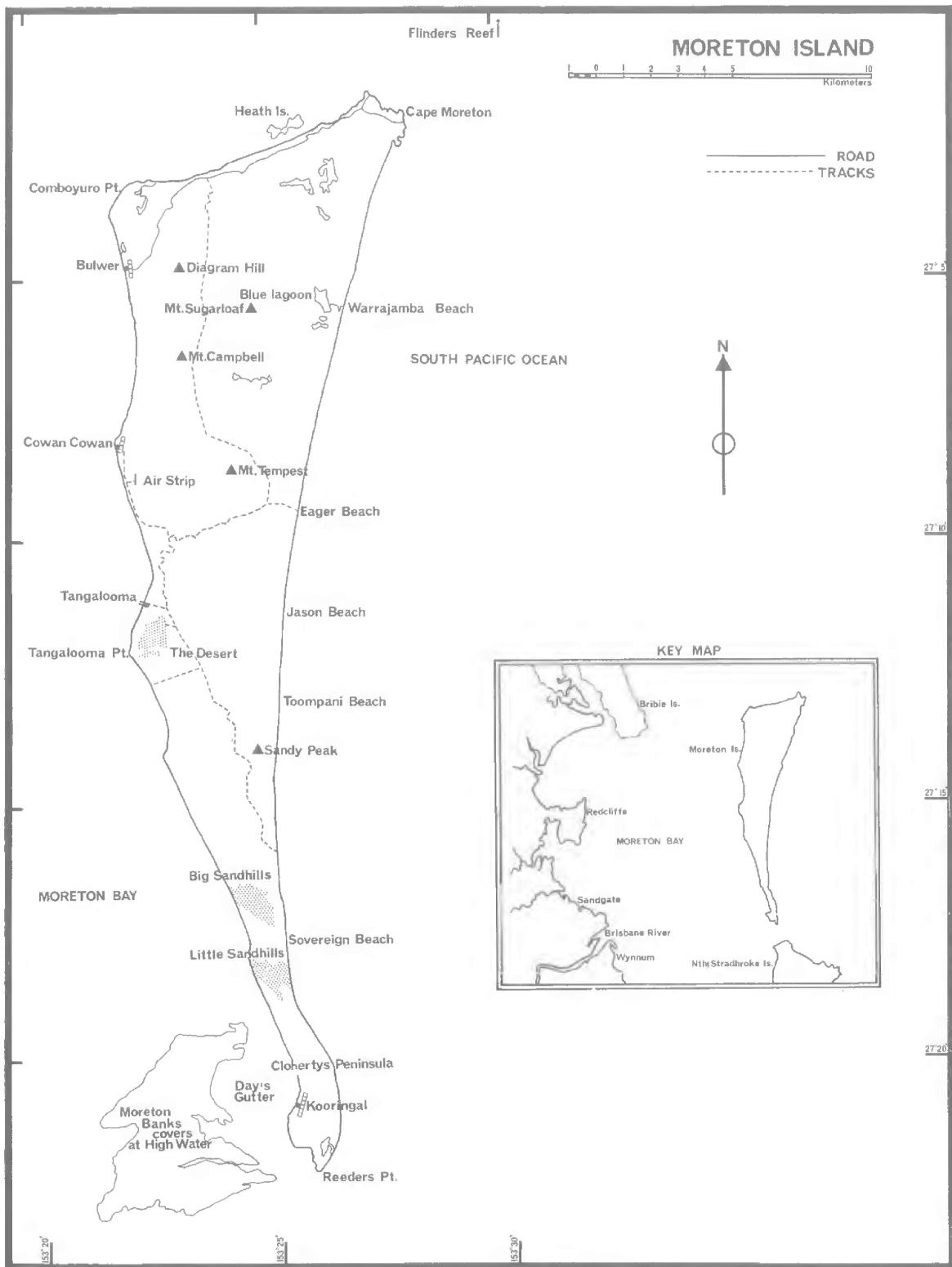


FIG. 1: Moreton Island, showing localities mentioned in the text.

island intermittently. The occurrence of *M. phasianella*, usually a rain forest inhabiting species, is surprising here.

A specimen of the Fleshy-footed shearwater, *Puffinus carneipes*, is recorded for the first time from Queensland. This was found as a beach-washed specimen and confirms sightings of this species in coastal waters (Elks 1966, Hindwood 1945, McKean and Hindwood 1964).

Many of the species which occur on the nearby mainland have not been observed to date. Although no insular forms have been found on Moreton Island, continued work is justified and should proceed in conjunction with the study of all major off-shore islands from Fraser Island to South Stradbroke Island.

The nomenclature used in the list follows Lavery (1969). Where records are based on Queensland Museum specimens, registration numbers (e.g. O11531), locality, and date collected are listed. References to previous records are given in full or abbreviated as follows: W.W. and H.T. = Weatherill and Tryon, 1968; H.G. = Geissmann, 1924; P.S. = Straw, 1968. Where neither registration number nor reference is given, the record is based on sighting by the authors. Prevalence of a species on the island is listed as abundant, common, moderately common, uncommon, or rare; other brief annotations regarding specimens are included where necessary.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Diomedea exulans Wandering Albatross. O11531, east coast, 1.iv.1971. (Uncommon).
Diomedea melanophris Black-browed albatross. Flinders Reef, Oct. 1970, G. Ingram pers. comm. (Uncommon).
Macronectes giganteus Giant petrel. O11812, Cape Moreton, 12.vii.1971. (Uncommon).
Fulmarus glacialisoides Silver-grey petrel. O14802, Eager Beach, 9.x.1973. Vernon and Martin 1974. (Rare).
Daption capense Cape petrel. O15679, Cape Moreton, 23.viii.1974. (Rare).
Pterodroma rostrata Tahiti petrel. 2 km E. of Tangalooma Point, 8.x.1973, D.P.V. (Rare).
Puffinus carneipes Fleshy-footed shearwater. O14803, Eager Beach, 11.x.1973. (Rare, first specimen record for Queensland).
Puffinus pacificus Wedge-tailed shearwater. O14830, Eager Beach, 9.x.1973. (Uncommon).
Puffinus tenuirostris Short-tailed shearwater. O14912, O14913, Ocean Beach, Dec. 1973. (Uncommon).
Puffinus gavia Fluttering shearwater. O15439, Eager Beach, Jan. 1974. (Uncommon).
Puffinus huttoni Huttons shearwater. 1 km E. of Reeders Point, 12.viii.1973., Corben, Roberts and Ingram 1974. (Rare).
Morus serrator Australian gannet. O14914, Warrajamba Beach, Nov. 1973; O15490, Warrajamba Beach, 14.iv.1974. (Moderately common).

Phalacrocorax carbo Black cormorant. (Uncommon).
Phalacrocorax sulcirostris Little black cormorant. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
Phalacrocorax varius Pied cormorant. O15449, 6 km S. of Tangalooma Point, W.W. and H.T. (Moderately common).
Phalacrocorax melanoleucus Little pied cormorant. O14162, Blue Lagoon, 28.iii.1973; O15451 Reeders Point, 11.iv.1974; W.W. and H.T. (Common).
Ardea pacifica White-necked heron. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
Ardea novaehollandiae White-faced heron. O15440, 8 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 16.iv.1974; P.S. (Moderately common).
Butoroides striatus Mangrove heron. (Moderately common).
Egretta alba White egret. (Uncommon).
Egretta intermedia Plumed egret. O15436, Heath Island, 16.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
Egretta sacra Reef heron. (Uncommon).
Ixobrychus minutus Little bittern. (Uncommon).
Threskiornis molucca White ibis. (Common).
Platalea regia Royal spoonbill. (Moderately common).
Anas superciliosa Black duck. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
Anas gibberifrons Grey teal. O14822, Clohertys Peninsula, 9.x.73. (Uncommon).
Biziura lobata Musk duck. (Moderately common).
Haliastur indus Red-backed sea eagle. W.W. and H.T. (Moderately common).
Haliastur sphenurus Whistling eagle. W.W. and H.T., H.G.; P.S. (Uncommon).
Accipiter fasciatus Australian goshawk. O15435, 6 km N. of Mount Tempest, 17.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
Aquila audax Wedge-tailed eagle. (Uncommon).
Haliaetus sphenurus White-breasted sea eagle. W.W. and H.T.; H.G.; P.S. (Moderately common).
Pandion haliaetus Osprey, O15434, 6 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 14.iv.1974. P.S. (Moderately common).
Falco cenchroides Nankeen kestrel. O15437, Cape Moreton, 16.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
Falco berigora Brown falcon. (Uncommon).
Coturnix ypsilonphorus Brown quail. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
Turnix varia Painted quail. O15450, 3 km N. of Mount Tempest, 30.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
Rallus philippensis Banded landrail. P.S. (Uncommon).
Haematopus ostralegus Pied Oystercatcher. O14142, Eager Beach, 27.iv.1973; O14791, O14799, Eager Beach, 8.x.1973; O14142, Jason Beach, 6.iv.1973; P.S. (Common).
Vanellus novaehollandiae Spur-winged plover. O14817, 4 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 9.x.1973. W.W. and H.T. (Common).
Pluvialis squatarola Grey plover. Moreton Banks, 12.viii.1973, C. Corben pers comm. (Uncommon).
Charadrius ruficapillus Red-capped dotterel. O14173, Sovereign Beach, 27.iii.1973; O14789, O15469, Eager Beach, 8.x.73. (Common).
Charadrius mongolus Mongolian sand dotterel. O14166, O14167, Sovereign Beach, 29.iii.1973; O14798, Eager

- Beach, 8.x.1973; O15466, Eager Beach, 8.iv.1974. (Common; summer migrant).
- Numenius minutus* Little whimbrel. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Numenius phaeopus* Whimbrel. O15438, 6 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 16.iv.1974. (Moderately common; summer migrant).
- Numenius madagascariensis* Eastern curlew. O14165, Sovereign Beach, 29.iii.1973. (Common; summer migrant).
- Limosa lapponica* Bar-tailed godwit. O15462, 6 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 16.iv.1974. (Common; summer migrant).
- Tringa nebularia* Greenshank. (Moderately common; summer migrant).
- Tringa brevipes* Grey-tailed tattler. O15463, O15464, 8 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 16.iv.1974. (Common; summer migrant).
- Tringa incana* Wandering tattler. O14792, 4 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 10.x.1973. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Arenaria interpres* Turnstone. O15473, Sovereign Beach, 11.iv.74. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Calidris alba* Sanderling. O14800, 2 km S. of Cape Moreton, 11.x.1973. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Calidris ruficollis* Little stint. O14221, Sovereign Beach, 29.iii.1973. (Common; summer migrant).
- Calidris acuminata* Sharp-tailed sandpiper. O14789, Cloherty's Peninsula, 9.x.1973. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Calidris ferruginea* Curlew sandpiper. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Burhinus magnirostris* Southern Stone Curlew. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
- Esacus magnirostris* Beach stone curlew. O14776, Eager Beach, 11.x.1973. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon; summer migrant).
- Stercorarius skua* Southern skua. (Uncommon).
- Stercorarius parasiticus* Arctic skua. (Uncommon).
- Larus novaehollandiae* Silver gull. O14156, 3 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 28.iii.1973. W.W. and H.T.; H.G.; P.S. (Common).
- Chlidonias leucoptera* White-winged black tern. O15443, Sovereign Beach, 11.iv.74. (Uncommon).
- Gelochelidon nilotica* Gull-billed tern. (Uncommon).
- Hydroprogne caspia* Caspian tern. (Uncommon).
- Sterna hirundo* Eastern common tern. O15445, Sovereign Beach, 11.iv.1974; O15446, Sovereign Beach, 11.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
- Sterna albifrons* Little tern. O14163, Sovereign Beach, 29.iii.1973. H.G. (Moderately common).
- Sterna bergii* Crested tern. O14145-7, Eager Beach, 27.iii.1973; O15444, Sovereign Beach, 11.iv.1974; W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Common).
- Ptilinopus superbus* Purple-crowned pigeon. O15743, Cape Moreton, 28.xi.1974. (Rare).
- Columba livia* Feral pigeon. (Uncommon).
- Macropygia phasianella* Brown pigeon. O14793, 3 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 11.x.1973. (Rare).
- Geopelia humeralis* Bar-shouldered dove. O13771, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14174, O14175, 2 km S. of Mount Tempest, 27.iii.1973; O14780, II4818, O14819, 2 km W. of Warrajamba Beach, 8.x.1973. W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Common).
- Chalcophaps indica* Green-winged pigeon. O14784, O14785, 4 km SE. Tangalooma Point, 9.x.1973. (Uncommon).
- Trichoglossus chlorolepidotus* Scaly-breasted lorikeet. P.S. (Moderately common).
- Trichoglossus haematodus* Rainbow lorikeet. W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Common).
- Cuculus saturatus* Oriental cuckoo. Reeders Point, 10.iv.1974, D.P.V. (Rare).
- Cacomantis pyrrhophanus* Fan-tailed cuckoo. O13774, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O15546, Reeders Point, 18.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
- Chrysococcyx lucidus plagosus* Golden bronze cuckoo. O15460. Reeders Point, 11.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
- Centropus phasianinus* Pheasant coucal. O14164, Bulwer, 28.iii.73; O15461, 2 km E. Bulwer, 11.iv.74; O15532, Reeders Point, 18.iv.74; W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Moderately common).
- Ninox novaeseelandiae* Boobook owl. O14152, 4 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 26.iii.1973; O14788, SE. of The Desert, 8.x.73. W.W. and H.T. (Moderately common).
- Podargus strigoides* Tawny frogmouth. (Uncommon).
- Dacelo gigas* Laughing kookaburra. O14161, 10 km SE. Tangalooma Point, 28.iii.1973; W.W. and H.T.; H.G.; P.S. (Moderately common).
- Halcyon macleayii* Forest kingfisher. O13773, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14157, O14160, Blue Lagoon, 27.iii.1973; O14158, 3 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 28.iii.1973; O14777, 7 km S. of Tangalooma Point, 8.x.1973; O14831, 2 km N. Mount Tempest, 11.x.1973; O15529, 3 km N. Mount Tempest, 18.vi.1974; W.W. and H.T.; H.G.; P.S. (Moderately common).
- Halcyon australasiae* Sacred kingfisher. O15470, Kooringal, 11.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
- Merops ornatus* Rainbow-bird. O14783, Eager Beach, 8.x.1973; H.G. (Moderately common).
- Eurystomus orientalis* Eastern broad-billed roller. (Moderately common).
- Hirundo tahitica* Welcome swallow. O14795, 4 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 8.x.1973; O14796, 3 km S. Tangalooma Point, 9.x.1973; W.W. and H.T.; H.G.; P.S. (Common).
- Petrochelidon nigricans* Tree martin. P.S. (Uncommon).
- Anthus novaeseelandiae* Australian pipit. O14155, Jason Beach, 28.iii.1973, O14826, Toompani Beach, 9.x.1973. O15472, Eager Beach, 10.iv.1974; W.W. and H.T. (Common).
- Coracina novaehollandiae* Black-faced cuckoo-shrike. O15524, 3 km S. Mount Tempest, 18.iv.1974; P.S. (Moderately common).
- Lalage sueurii* White-winged triller. (Uncommon).
- Cisticola exilis* Golden-headed fantail-warbler. O14143, O14144, O14821 Blue Lagoon, 27.iii.1973; O14827, O14832, Eager Beach, 9.x.1973; W.W. and H.T. (Moderately common).
- Acanthiza pusilla* Brown thornbill. (Uncommon).
- Dicaeum hirundinaceum* Mistletoe-bird. O13776, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972. H.G. (Uncommon).
- Pardalotus punctatus* Spotted pardalote. (Uncommon).
- Rhipidura fuliginosa* Grey fantail. O13775, Bulwer,

- 22.viii.1972; O15467, 3 km S. of Mount Tempest, 8.iv.1974; O15468, 3 km E. Tangalooma Point, 17.iv.1974; H.G. (Moderately common).
- Rhipidura leucophrys* Willie wagtail. O15471, Reeders Point, 10.iv.1974; H.G. (Moderately common).
- Myiagra rubecula* Leaden flycatcher. O13777, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O15477, Mount Tempest, 10.iv.1974; O15441, 8 km S. Tangalooma Point, 16.iv.1974; W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
- Myiagra cyanoleuca* Satin flycatcher. O15442, Mount Tempest, 8.iv.1974. (Rare).
- Petroica cucullata* Hooded robin. H.G. (Rare).
- Pachycephala pectoralis* Golden whistler. O13778 Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14786, 3 km S. of Mount Tempest, 8.x.1973; O14829, Mount Tempest, 11.x.1973. (Uncommon).
- Pachycephala rufiventris* Rufous whistler, O13779, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14456, O14787, O15454-7, O15685, Mount Tempest, 9.iv.1974; H.G. (Moderately common).
- Zosterops lateralis* Grey-breasted silvereye. O13772, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O15453, 5 km N. Tangalooma Point, 9.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
- Lichmera indistincta* Brown honeyeater. O13782, O14360, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14149, O14151, 3 km N. of Tangalooma Point, 29.iii.1973; O14781, 4 km NW. Tangalooma Point, 8.x.1973; O14782, O14824, O14825, Kooringal, 9.x.1973; O14823, Mount Tempest, 11.x.1973; W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Abundant).
- Myzomela dibapha* Scarlet honeyeater. O13781, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O15680, O15681, O15683, 5 km NE. of Tangalooma Point, 18.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
- Meliphaga fasciogularis* Mangrove honeyeater. O14794, O14828, 1 km N. Day's Gutter, 9.x.1973. (Uncommon).
- Meliphaga chrysops* Yellow-faced honeyeater. W.W. and H.T. (Uncommon).
- Phylidonyris novaehollandiae* New Holland honeyeater. H.G. (Uncommon).
- Phylidonyris niger* White-cheeked honeyeater. O13780, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972; O14148, O14790, Eager Beach, 27.iii.1973; O15452, 5 km NW. Tangalooma Point, 9.iv.1973; W.W. and H.G.; H.G. (Common).
- Philemon corniculatus* Noisy friarbird. O14141, 3 km SE. Tangalooma Point, 29.iii.1973; O14779, 6 km NE. Tangalooma Point, 8.x.1973; W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Abundant).
- Philemon citreogularis* Little friarbird. H.G. (Uncommon).
- Manorina melanocephala* Noisy miner. (Uncommon).
- Artamus leucorhynchus* White-breasted woodswallow. O14797, Kooringal, 10.x.1973; O15474, 3 km SW. Cape Moreton, 17.iv.1974. (Moderately common).
- Carduelis carduelis* Gold finch. (Uncommon).
- Passer domesticus* House sparrow. (Uncommon).
- Oriolus sagittatus* Olive-backed oriole. O15458, 3 km N. of Mount Tempest, 10.iv.1974. (Uncommon).
- Dicrurus hottentottus* Spangled drongo. O14778, Mount Tempest, 11.x.1973; O15459, Bulwer, 10.iv.1974; H.G. (Moderately common; summer migrant).
- Grallina cyanoleuca* Magpie lark. (Moderately common).
- Cracticus torquatus* Grey butcher-bird. O14361, Bulwer, 22.viii.1972. (Moderately common).
- Gymnorhina tibicen* Black-backed magpie. (Uncommon).
- Coryus orru* Crow. O14153, O14154, 4 km N. Tangalooma Point, 26.xi.1973; W.W. and H.T.; H.G. (Common).

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