

For John Birst
Sincerely
Belli Gill

BIRDS OF INNISFAIL AND HINTERLAND

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SUMMARY

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This paper records 298 native and six introduced species observed since 1954 in a roughly triangular area (80 km base and 100 km height) of North Queensland, from Bramston Beach to South Mission Beach, to Ravenshoe-Kaban on the Evelyn Tableland. Notes are given on the frequency of their appearance and the effect of changes in habitat.

INTRODUCTION

Observations on the birds of Innisfail and its environs and hinterland have been made from 1954 to 1969. At first they were made in and round Innisfail, but later spread out over a roughly triangular area from Bramston Beach to South Mission Beach and to the Ravenshoe-Kaban district (Fig. 1). The area is covered frequently but not necessarily regularly. Most parts of the range were visited at least six times during each year.

The area, about 4,000 km², is roughly an isosceles triangle of base 80 km and height 100 km, and extends from the coast to the Tableland at an altitude of about 1,100 m. The lowlands extend inland for about 25 km, here and there with low hills about 150 m high. Much of this country has been cleared and is now planted with sugar-cane and bananas, or is pastureland. A few swamps, mud-flats and mown grasslands are the only suitable feeding ground for waders. The best of these are Kurrimine Beach, the mouth of the Johnstone River, a small swamp at Innisfail, Eubenangee Swamp and the Innisfail Aerodrome. Isolated patches of tropical rain-forest remain, but hundreds of square kilometres of forest have been destroyed and replaced by crops. Beyond the lowlands the country becomes hilly and in a distance of about 40 km rises to some 1,000 m. For about one third of this distance the country is largely given over to grazing and dairying except for the more rugged parts, from which the rain-forest has not been cleared. The grazing land gives place to the rain-forest of Palmerston National Park for about 20 km, and this in turn is replaced by further grazing and dairying country on the Tableland. West of this is the Evelyn Tableland (south-western part of the Atherton Tableland) cleared in many parts for dairying or growing of crops such as maize, potatoes and fodder. Remnants of highland rain-forest are found, especially on the more rugged parts, including small national parks

and state forests. Rather dry, open forest with many eucalypts and other dry-country trees occurs for 20-25 km on the western limits.

Climate ranges from hot and wet to almost temperate. Average annual rainfall at Innisfail is 3,750 mm with maximum temperatures rarely above 35°C and minimum rarely below 10°C, whereas in some parts of the Tableland average rainfall is as low as 625 mm and temperatures may range from 0 to 40°C, frosts being experienced in most years.

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HABITAT

The following nine divisions are recognized:

Lowland rain-forest

From sea-level up to 300 m; somewhat variable in composition according to the soil in different areas. It consists of tall trees, up to 30 m, providing a dense canopy that largely excludes the light. Prickly vines are common, but undergrowth is sparse and low shrubs such as Lantana and Molucca Bramble are found only at the margins.

Lowland open-forest

Mostly within 10 km of the sea in areas of lower fertility; consisting of medium to tall trees not densely packed, with little undergrowth except grasses and sedges. Commonest trees are melaleucas, eucalypts, tristanias, grass-trees and pandanus.

Lowland grasslands

Cleared areas under crops, the Innisfail Aerodrome and grassy strips along roads, where Guinea Grass and Molasses Grass are common.

Lowland wetlands and watercourses

Swamps, lagoons, the seashore and tidal mudflats;

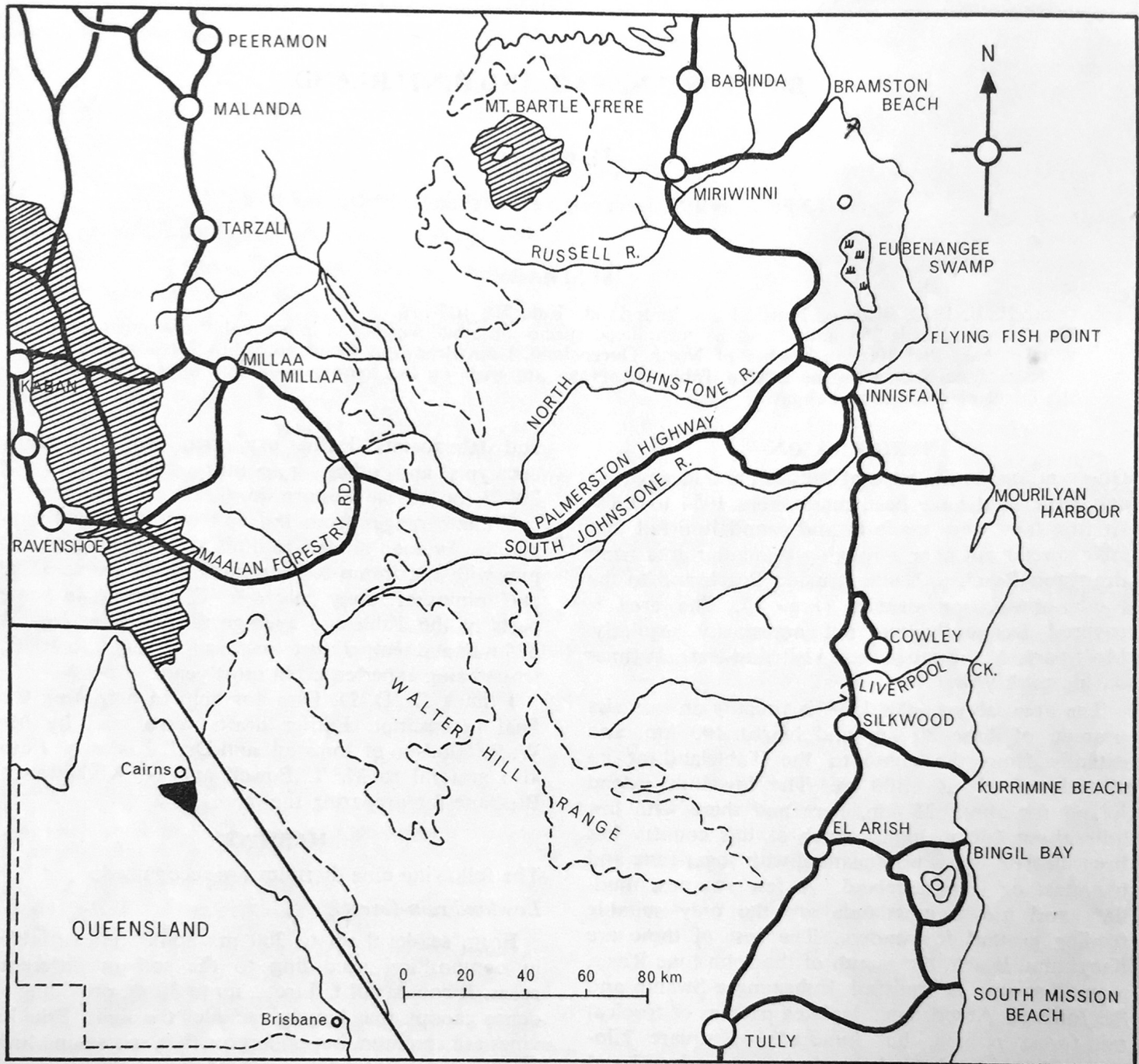


Figure 1. Map of Innisfail area. The dashed line is the 500 metre contour; cross-hatched areas are above 1,000 metres.

vegetation includes sedges, rushes, water-lilies, aquatic plants and mangroves.

Middle altitude rain-forest

From about 300 to 600 m, not otherwise generally distinguished from lowland rain-forest. The somewhat similar trees and vines, with little undergrowth, nevertheless support rather more bird species than does lowland rain-forest.

Tableland rain-forest

Above 600 m; mostly confined to the more rugged

and less accessible areas. Vegetation differs from that of rain-forest at lower altitudes. Cleared margins are overgrown with low shrubs, Wild Tobacco, Devil's Fig and Inkweed.

Tableland open-forest

Medium to tall trees (eucalypts, casuarinas, tristanias and acacias, with callistemons along the streams); light undergrowth, mainly of tussocky grasses. This type of vegetation is found in districts with less than 800 mm annual rainfall.

Tableland grassland

Cleared land given over to dairying, grazing and agriculture; also roadsides and including some natural grassland.

Tableland wetlands

Swamps, lagoons and watercourses, often lined with trees or shrubs or supporting water-plants such as reeds and water-lilies.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

This list consists of 298 native and six introduced species. Native breeding species (160) are marked with an asterisk. More certainly breed in the area. Little previous work has been published about birds of the region, none recently, so that comparison with previous records cannot be made.

***CASUARIUS CASUARIUS** Cassowary

Widespread resident, more common in rain-forest; often killed on roads. On 26 September 1960 a nest 8 km from Innisfail had 5 eggs; hatched shells sometimes seen and newly hatched young on 5 September 1966; young probably stay with parents for about six months. Call is a deep grunt, repeated, and at night a high-pitched long drawn-out whistle.

***PODICEPS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE** Little Grebe

Common resident; downy young 26 October 1965 near Innisfail and 17 November 1964 at Kaban.

PODICEPS CRISTATUS Great Crested Grebe

Twice on a lagoon at Kaban, 17 November 1964 and 1 August 1966.

PELECANUS CONSPICILLATUS Australian Pelican

Regular in small numbers in all suitable habitats.

PHALACROCORAX CARBO Black Cormorant

Irregularly throughout the year, singly and in flocks of up to 12 on the coast.

PHALACROCORAX SULCIROSTRIS Little Black Cormorant

Regular in flocks of up to 50 on the coast throughout the year; up to 15 at Kaban 17 November 1964.

PHALACROCORAX VARIUS Pied Cormorant

Rare, on the coast only; one near Innisfail 11 August 1956; no more than one record each year.

PHALACROCORAX MELANOLEUCOS Little Pied Cormorant

Widespread on coast and Tableland; 57 Innisfail Swamp 17 November 1956.

ANHINGA ANHINGA Australian Darter

Common singly and in pairs wherever water is found on the coast and Tableland.

FREGATA SPP. Frigatebird

Occasionally seen flying high along the coast, often before rough weather. During floods in March 1967 one flock of 500 and another of 50. Both *F. minor* and *ariel* have been identified north and east of the limits of this paper; five *F. ariel* Bingil Bay 15 February 1968.

ARDEA SUMATRANA Great-billed Heron

Rare. Single birds recorded as follows: North Johnstone River 22 November 1964; Eubenangee Swamp 26 March, 12 June and 27 November 1966; Flying Fish Point 27 November 1966, 22 November 1967 and 30 July 1968.

ARDEA NOVAEHOLLANDIAE White-faced Heron

Resident in grasslands and wetlands at all altitudes, singly and up to 22 together.

ARDEA PACIFICA Pacific Heron

Resident in swamps, grasslands and waterholes at all altitudes, usually singly.

ARDEA PICATA Pied Heron

Apparently migrant in small numbers (1-25) on the coastal plain; recorded from 4 October to 21 February; one Kaban 21 October 1964 and 12 September 1965.

BUTORIDES STRIATUS Mangrove Heron

Resident on mudflats, mangrove swamps and along stream banks, usually singly.

EGRETTE GARZETTA Little Egret

Resident on swamps, lagoons and tidal flats, in small numbers, e.g. 1-10 at Innisfail and Eubenangee Swamps.

EGRETTE INTERMEDIA Plumed Egret

Common resident in lowland grassland, along streams, swamps, lagoons and tidal flats; also on grasslands and wetlands on the Tableland; parties up to 32 at waterholes when surface water is scarce; single birds often on the grassy verges of Innisfail streets.

EGRETTE ALBA White Egret

Regular on lowlands and Tableland, usually singly, but when water is scarce in parties of up to 23.

EGRETTE SACRA Reef Heron

Common resident along the coast. Grey-phase seems to outnumber white by about 10:1 along muddy creeks and rivers, but the phases seem about equal on rocky beaches and reefs.

ARDEOLA IBIS Cattle Egret

Introduced

First recorded (25) Innisfail 6 August 1961. Since then the number has not altered by more than two, until November 1969, when 32 present. They attain full breeding plumage each year, but no evidence of breeding.

***NYCTICORAX CALEDONICUS** Nankeen Night Heron

Resident along streams with tree cover. Roost in a dense tree in Innisfail. A bird seen brooding on a nest at Kaban 1 November 1964.

DUPETOR FLAVICOLLIS Black Bittern

Scarce: single birds at Alice River, Eubenangee, 7 November 1964, 8 September 1965 and 7 May 1968; two near the Innisfail Aerodrome 1, 2 and 4 December 1965, and one at the same place 6 January 1968.

THRESKIORNIS MOLUCCA White Ibis

Regular up to 70 together, particularly in dirty muddy places, at slaughter yards and pig sties.

***THRESKIORNIS SPINICOLLIS** Straw-necked Ibis

Regular in fluctuating numbers. From September to April only small flocks (up to 20) have been recorded, but from May to August 900 at a time recorded on ploughed land. More plentiful in some years, especially so in winters of 1956, 1958, 1961 and 1967. One nested in a treetop near Innisfail in November 1967.

PLEGADIS FALCINELLUS Glossy Ibis

Irregular every summer in moderate numbers (1-30). No records from 5 April to 3 August.

PLATALEA REGIA Royal Spoonbill

Regular in wet places at all altitudes, but in larger parties of up to 80 on the coast.

PLATALEA FLAVIPES Yellow-billed Spoonbill

Eighteen at a waterhole south of Innisfail 28 October 1956; one at same place 8, 9 and 12 October 1957; one Kaban 28 October 1960, 12 September 1961, 8 September 1963 and 10 October 1966; two at Innisfail 20 September 1969.

XENORHYNCHUS ASIATICUS Jabiru

Regular resident on lowlands, occasionally on Tableland, at swamps and lagoons, singly, or in pairs, with flying young noted each year.

ANSERANAS SEMIPALMATA Magpie Goose

One Innisfail Swamp 23 October 1957; one from 12 November 1967 to 14 January 1968, and four 21 September 1969.

***DENDROCYGNA ARCUATA** Whistling Tree Duck

Recorded in all months at the Innisfail Swamp in flocks of up to 80, also at Eubenangee Swamp; small parties up to ten at Kaban, where tiny young were noted 6 November 1967.

DENDROCYGNA EYTONI Plumed Tree Duck

One recorded from the lowlands near Innisfail, and 22 on 20 September 1969. Irregular in flocks at Kaban, where it may be a spring or summer visitor; about 3,000 recorded before 3 June 1964 when only one bird remained; September, October and November 1964 again about 3,000; also on 22 May 1965; about 1,500 on 10 October 1965.

CYGNUS ATRATUS Black Swan

Rare at Innisfail and on the south-western part of the Tableland; a pair Innisfail Swamp 17 October 1959; one North Johnstone River 22 November 1964; one Eubenangee Swamp 19 May 1966, and two 30 May 1966; one Kaban 18 February 1967; ten Eubenangee Swamp 30 July 1969, and twenty-one 8 January 1970.

TADORNA RADJAH Burdekin Duck

A pair at Innisfail Swamp 1 October 1969.

***ANAS SUPERCILIOSA** Black Duck

Common widespread resident, parties (1-30) on almost all waters; more common (up to 50) on Innisfail and Eubenangee Swamps. Young Kaban January 1965.

ANAS GIBBERFRONS Grey Teal

Common resident on all waters in small flocks (1-10), seldom more than 40 together.

MALACORHYNCHUS MEMBRANACEUS Pink-eared Duck

Rare: seven Innisfail Swamp 11 August 1956; four Sandy Pocket 23 March 1958; six Kaban 5 and 6 October 1964; two Innisfail 16 May 1966; two Innisfail September, October 1969.

AYTHYA AUSTRALIS Hardhead

Formerly considered regular because up to 30 could be expected on lagoons, but no records since May 1967.

CHENONETTA JUBATA Maned Goose

Sporadic visitor in small parties (4-10) to lowland and Tableland lagoons and swamps.

NETTAPUS COROMANDELIANUS White-quilled Pygmy Goose

Resident on fresh waters at all altitudes, usually in pairs, sometimes in small parties (2-20); easily overlooked because they resemble curled-up lily-leaves.

NETTAPUS PULCHELLUS Green Pygmy Goose

Resident on fresh waters of the lowlands and Tableland; easily overlooked among lily-leaves; usually in pairs or small parties up to 20.

***ELANUS NOTATUS** Black-shouldered Kite

Uncommon resident at all altitudes, but probably on the coast only from May to October; usually singly or pairs. Breeds August, October and March; 22 April 1968 nest on the Tableland with three large young.

***AVICEDA SUBCRISTATA** Crested Hawk

Resident, recorded in small numbers (1-4) in all months in rain-forest or open-forest. Nest and eggs on the Tableland 18 October 1964.

MILVUS MIGRANS Fork-tailed Kite

A few recorded in all months of the year. Large flocks of up to 500 sometimes appear in September, October and November.

LOPHOICTINIA ISURA Square-tailed Kite

Rare: near Ravenshoe and Kaban one 20 May 1965, two 2 May 1966, and single birds 21 May 1966, 26 January and 15 May 1967.

HAMIROSTRA MELANOSTERNON Black-breasted Buzzard-Kite

Single birds near Ravenshoe 16 May and 6 June 1961.

***HALIASTUR INDUS** Red-backed Sea Eagle

Resident, single birds and pairs usually, along the coast and sometimes 12-16 km inland along rivers. Large young in nest 22 April 1961.

***HALIASTUR SPHENURUS** Whistling Kite

Common resident in moderate numbers throughout the year; often along roads in early morning feeding on small animals killed by cars during the night. Occupied nests: 29 September 1964, 3 November 1965, 2 May 1967 and 13 June 1969.

ACCIPITER NOVAEHOLLANDIAE Grey Goshawk

Presumably resident, usually singly at rain-forest edge. White and grey-phases in proportion of about 1: 6.

ACCIPITER FASCIATUS Brown Goshawk

Resident, seen singly in all habitats.

AQUILA AUDAX Wedge-tailed Eagle

Pairs recorded occasionally on the Tableland; one immature at an altitude of about 180 m, 16 km west of Innisfail 16 February 1968.

***HALIAEETUS LEUCOGASTER** White-breasted Sea Eagle

Resident, usually singly along the coast. Nests in December in tall trees on coastal hill-tops. Large young in nest 27 June 1961. Sometimes a bird is seen following rivers upstream. Recorded at Kaban 29 November 1966.

CIRCUS ASSIMILIS Spotted Harrier

One Innisfail Swamp 19 September 1965; single birds Kaban 7 June 1965, 24 May and 18 July 1966, and 17 May 1967.

CIRCUS APPROXIMANS Swamp Harrier

A regular winter-spring visitor (May-October) to the lowlands; singly and pairs in all months at Kaban.

***PANDION HALIAETUS** Osprey

Resident along coast. Young in nest Flying Fish Point 23 October 1964, and another nest with two young ready to fly 6 August 1964; young recently out of nest Bramston Beach 4 July 1969.

FALCO BERIGORA Brown Hawk

A migrant in small numbers singly on the coast each year, arriving about 20 April and leaving about 15 October; occasionally on Tableland in summer and winter.

FALCO LONGIPENNIS Little Falcon

Perhaps a winter to spring visitor; all records, about four each year, between June and October.

FALCO PEREGRINUS Peregrine Falcon

Scarce, but regularly recorded about six times a year, at all altitudes in rain-forest and open country.

FALCO CENCHROIDES Nankeen Kestrel

Migrant to coastal districts; earliest records 26 March, latest 13 October; resident on Tableland, but fewer from 20 October to 30 March than during winter.

***MEGAPODIUS FREYCINET** Scrub Fowl

Common rain-forest resident at all altitudes; often seen in late afternoon at edges of tracks or flying up into trees to roost. On 12 November 1967 a small young bird flew into a neighbour's house at Innisfail.

***ALECTURA LATHAMI** Brush Turkey

Common rain-forest resident, scarce below 300 m. One in October 1964 feeding on the top of a celery-wood tree over 15 m above ground. Small single young seen January 1965, May 1966 and two January 1967.

COTURNIX PECTORALIS Stubble Quail

Female Innisfail Aerodrome 6 November 1968 and pair at same place between 27 January and 4 April 1969.

***COTURNIX YPSILOPHORUS** Brown Quail

Common resident in farmland on the coast and Tableland. Small young or eggs noted October 1962, November 1965 and February 1968.

COTURNIX CHINENSIS King Quail

A pair flushed several times at Eubenangee Swamp 14 November 1964 and December 1966.

***TURNIX MACULOSA** Red-backed Quail

Rarely seen, but regularly heard, near Innisfail in grassland and wetlands, presumably resident. Nests with eggs or tiny chicks, 16 February 1958, November 1963, January 1964, January 1966 and January 1968.

TURNIX VARIA Painted Quail

Common in pairs in open-forest and grassland of the Kaban district.

GRUS RUBICUNDUS Brolga

Rare on coastal plain near Innisfail where seen only in flight, except six for one week in a grass paddock in August 1966; seen on the Tableland.

GRUS ANTIGONE Sarus Crane

A pair feeding on grass paddock between Evelyn Highway and Kaban 16 September 1969.

***RALLUS PHILIPPENSIS** Banded Landrail

Plentiful in open areas at all altitudes; often bathing in roadside puddles. Eggs and tiny young noted all months of year.

***RALLINA TRICOLOR** Red-necked Rail

Apparently nocturnal or crepuscular; plentiful in rain-forest judged by calls heard at dusk. Nests found in November 1964 and March 1965 contained five eggs, one on ground between buttresses of tree and other above ground in heart of small Pandanus bush.

PORZANA FLUMINEA Spotted Crake

One near Innisfail Aerodrome 4 December 1965.

***PORZANA CINEREA** White-browed Crake

Resident in wetlands around Innisfail. Small young October and November.

***AMAUROORNIS RUFICRISUS** Bush-hen

Resident at all altitudes in open areas and wetlands, often along roadsides. All nests found in January and February, in lowlands and on Tableland.

GALLINULA TENEBROSA Dusky Moorhen

Rare, occasionally at waterholes in the Kaban area since first record 20 June 1963.

***PORPHYRIO PORPHYRIO** Eastern Swampphen

Common resident. Small young in all months.

FULICA ATRA Coot

Widespread, usually reasonably common, yet subject to erratic inexplicable fluctuations in numbers; sometimes none is to be found.

***IRENIPARRA GALLINACEA** Lotusbird

Resident on lagoons with water-lilies. Chicks 6 November 1968.

***VANELLUS MILES** Masked Plover

V. m. miles common in grassland and wetlands of coast and Tableland; nests September to December. A pair of Spur-winged Plover *V. m. novaehollandiae* near my home with a flock of the nominate race 24 June to 11 July 1965; later in July an intermediate bird spent a few days with the flock; one 17 March 1966, two intermediates with three *V. m. miles* 2 June and one *V. m. novaehollandiae* 8 August 1966; three intermediates 13 November 1967, all about 5 km west of Innisfail.

PLUVIALIS SQUATAROLA Grey Plover

Single birds at Kurrimine Beach 30 November and 14 December 1964; one Coquette Point 20 November 1965; one Innisfail Swamp 8 November 1966.

PLUVIALIS DOMINICA Eastern Golden Plover

Summer visitor on ploughed paddocks and grasslands from September to May; up to 96 counted on Innisfail Aerodrome; up to 20 noted in June, July and August, often in breeding plumage.

***CHARADRIUS ALEXANDRINUS** Red-capped Dotterel

Pairs and small parties on beaches throughout the year. Bred Coquette Point November 1966, before site was washed away in floods of March 1967.

CHARADRIUS MONGOLUS Mongolian Sand Dotterel

A regular migrant to beaches, Johnstone River, Liverpool Creek and other estuaries where as many as 100 may be seen from September to April; four on Innisfail Aerodrome 26 December 1968.

CHARADRIUS LESCHENAULTII Large Sand Dotterel

Regular in small parties (up to 10) at Kurrimine Beach, Mourilyan Harbour, Flying Fish Point, Bramston and Cowley Beaches from September to April; more than 30 at Kurrimine Beach 10 October 1965 and 52 Coquette Point 8 November 1965.

CHARADRIUS VEREDUS Oriental Dotterel

A pair on the Innisfail Aerodrome 26 September and 3 October 1969.

CHARADRIUS MELANOPS Black-fronted Dotterel

Resident at waterholes, swamps, tidal flats, sandy creeks and occasionally far from water on dry gravel roads, e.g. between Ravenshoe and Kaban.

CHARADRIUS CINCTUS Red-kneed Dotterel

Singly and in small parties (1-6) on swamps and at waterholes on the coastal plain from June to November, and on the Tableland from September to November.

ARENARIA INTERPRES Turnstone

Flying Fish Point: two 14 October 1964, three 5 October 1966.

NUMENIUS MADAGASCARIENSIS Eastern Curlew

Small numbers (1-8) from August to April; occasionally a few from end of April until August.

NUMENIUS PHAEOPUS Whimbrel

Found in mangroves throughout the year; most numerous (15-20) from August to April, but numbers decrease greatly after end of April.

NUMENIUS MINUTUS Little Whimbrel

Summer visitor, up to 130 feeding on Innisfail Aerodrome; earliest 1 October 1966, latest 5 February 1967.

TRINGA GLAREOLA Wood Sandpiper

Rare at swamps and lagoons. Recorded as follows Innisfail Swamp: one 18 and 19 September and 6 October 1964, one 4 January and two 14 January 1968, twelve 20 September 1969.

TRINGA BREVIPES Grey-tailed Tattler

Regular in small numbers August to April on coastal plain; small numbers (1-3) from end of April to August.

TRINGA NEBULARIA Greenshank

Regular summer visitor to wetlands, tidal flats, beaches, sandy creeks and Innisfail Aerodrome from September to April; singles occasionally May to July.

TRINGA STAGNATILIS Marsh Sandpiper

Uncommon, usually at edge of swamps and water-holes; one at Sandy Pocket 24 October 1957; three Eubenangee Swamp 9 October 1965; one Innisfail Swamp 16 October 1965 and 1 October 1968; and two and three Eubenangee Swamp 21 November 1965 and 8 November 1968 respectively.

TRINGA HYPOLEUCOS Common Sandpiper

Usually singly at muddy places, drains and creeks from August to April. Three records of flocks of about 20 flying down the North Johnstone River at dusk: 27 November, 12 December and 16 December 1965.

TRINGA CINEREUS Terek Sandpiper

Summer visitor from September to April in small numbers (1-10) in all muddy habitats near the sea.

LIMOSA LIMOSA Black-tailed Godwit

Five and three at Kurrimine Beach 30 November and 14 December 1964 respectively; two Flying Fish Point 18 December 1965 and 10 January 1966; one Innisfail Swamp 22 December 1967, 14 January 1968 and 20 September 1969.

LIMOSA LAPPONICA Bar-tailed Godwit

Summer visitor; up to 40 from end of August to April; from May to August one to ten occasionally.

CALIDRIS FERRUGINEA Curlew Sandpiper

Uncommon visitor (1-6) to Innisfail and Eubenangee Swamps and Mourilyan Harbour.

CALIDRIS RUFICOLLIS Red-necked Stint

Regular visitor September to April on beaches, mud-flats and swamp edges.

CALIDRIS ACUMINATA Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

Regular visitor in small flocks (1-40) from August to April where suitable muddy habitat exists at Innisfail and Eubenangee Swamps, Flying Fish Point, Mourilyan Harbour and Kurrimine Beach; flock of 80 Eubenangee Swamp 8 October 1966.

CALIDRIS CANUTUS Knot

One Kurrimine Beach 30 November 1964 and 3 February 1965; one Innisfail Swamp 18 September 1965; one Flying Fish Point 20 November 1965 and three 20 September 1969.

CALIDRIS TENUIROSTRIS Great Knot

Seven at an almost dry swamp near Innisfail Aerodrome 16 September 1958; one Coquette Point 20 March 1965.

LIMICOLA FALCINELLA Broad-billed Sandpiper

Rare: five Mourilyan Harbour 12 November 1966.

GALLINAGO HARDWICKII Australian Snipe

Numerous regular passage migrant during September-October and March-April, in swampy wetlands; one noted on the dry aerodrome after it had been mown, 3 December 1967.

***HIMANTOPUS HIMANTOPUS** White-headed Stilt

Pairs and small parties up to 20 on swamps and lagoons or tidal flats. One breeding record (young seen) Innisfail swamp September 1965.

***BURHINUS MAGNIROSTRIS** Southern Stone Curlew

Widespread resident, breeding August-December. A remarkable variation of egg colour was noted in three clutches: almost black eggs on burnt-out ground 7 November 1957, tan eggs on red soil 4 October 1964, and mottled eggs with a greenish tint on short green grass 10 October 1964.

ORTHORHAMPHUS MAGNIROSTRIS Beach Stone Curlew

Fairly regular and presumably resident between Bramston and South Mission Beaches; usually 1-3.

GLAREOLA PRATICOLA Oriental Pratincole

First record at Innisfail Aerodrome, nine 9 December 1964; one and two there from 27 November to 24 December 1965; one again 3 December 1967, 17 and 19 January 1968.

***GLAREOLA ISABELLA** Australian Pratincole

Up to 30 recorded erratically in every month of the year, but may be entirely absent in some years; no apparent pattern. A newly hatched chick on Innisfail Aerodrome 1 October 1966.

LARUS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE Silver Gull

One Mourilyan Harbour 4 March 1964; two Flying Fish Point 14 February 1969; and one Etty Bay 14 September 1969.

CHLIDONIAS LEUCOPTERUS White-winged Black Tern

At Innisfail Swamp during October and November 1964; Eubenangee Swamp November 1964, Kaban October 1965 and October-November 1966; never more than three on any occasion.

CHLIDONIAS HYBRIDA Whiskered Tern

At Innisfail Swamp singly and in pairs throughout the year; small flocks (6-12) flying low over Innisfail Aerodrome November, January and February, and at lagoon at Kaban in October.

GELOCHELIDON NILOTICA Gull-billed Tern

Regular on beaches, mudflats and rivers. Flocks (up to 40) feeding on freshly ploughed paddocks outside Innisfail 13 August 1957, stayed about three weeks.

HYDROPROGNE TSCHEGRAVA Caspian Tern

Common and regular along coast, usually singly; one near lagoon at Kaban 12 June 1962.

STERNA SUMATRANA Black-naped Tern

Four at Kurrimine Beach 30 November 1964.

**STERNA BERGII* Crested Tern

Breeds on Michaelmas and Upolu Cays in October, November and December; commonest tern of the area, noted in all months.

**STERNA BENGALENSIS* Lesser Crested Tern

Breeds on Michaelmas Cay in October, November and December. Recorded at Flying Fish Point, Liverpool Creek estuary and Kurrimine Beach, where more than 100 were seen 30 November 1964.

**STERNA ALBIFRONS* Little Tern

Resides along the coast; up to 82 regularly occur at Kurrimine Beach, while at other beaches only a few pairs are found. Nesting colony at Cowley Beach near the mouth of Liverpool Creek September 1961, and one nest at Coquette Point November 1966.

ANOUS STOLIDUS Noddy

One at Kurrimine Beach 30 November 1964, two washed up on beach 3 February 1965; live bird picked up about 10 km inland 16 March 1967.

**PTILINOPUS REGINA* Red-crowned Pigeon

Resident in rain-forest at all altitudes and in open lowland forest; common, judged by calls. Nests found in October.

**PTILINOPUS SUPERBUS* Purple-crowned Pigeon

Common in rain-forest at all altitudes. Nests containing eggs or young found September to January.

**MEGALOPREPIA MAGNIFICA* Wompoo Pigeon

Common resident in rain-forest at all altitudes. Nests found September to November.

**MYRISTICIVORA SPILORRHOA* Torres Strait Pigeon

Migrant, earliest arrival 2 September, last record 15 March. Nests noted on Green Island October and November.

**LOPHOLAIMUS ANTARCTICUS* Topknot Pigeon

Regular in flocks up to 300 July to April; less frequent in May–June. Nest found 20 November 1965.

**COLUMBA NORFOLCIENSIS* White-headed Pigeon

Status uncertain, not often seen, on lowlands and Tableland. Nests, noted only in October, have always been high.

**COLUMBA LIVIA* Feral Pigeon Introduced

Flock of about 30 birds resident in the main street of Innisfail. Nests September–November.

**MACROPYGIA PHASIANELLA* Brown Pigeon

Widespread resident in rain-forest and secondary growth. Nests September–October in bushes or vines.

**STREPTOPELIA CHINENSIS* Spotted Turtle-dove

Introduced
Resident throughout the settled area; nests August–December.

**GEOPELIA STRIATA* Peaceful Dove

Plentiful widespread resident in small flocks. Nests found in April, June and August.

GEOPELIA CUNEATA Diamond Dove

One at Sandy Pocket after a cyclone 6 March 1956; another there 9 June 1961; one with flock of Peaceful Doves Kaban 16 June 1961. Plentiful, calling everywhere, at Kaban 10 September 1969.

**GEOPELIA HUMERALIS* Bar-shouldered Dove

Resident on the coastal plain and along streams near the sea. Nests noted in August.

**CHALCOPHAPS CHRYSOCHLORA* Green-winged Pigeon

Plentiful resident in rain-forest and partly cleared country at all altitudes. Nests with eggs August and September.

**CALYPTORHYNCHUS MAGNIFICUS* Red-tailed Black Cockatoo

Small flocks (8–30) appear August–November each year in the casuarina thickets at Kaban, feeding on the fruits. A nest with eggs near Ravenshoe 4 October 1965.

**CACATUA GALERITA* White Cockatoo

Resident of rain-forest and sometimes open country in flocks (100–300). A nest with eggs 18 October 1964.

**TRICHOGLOSSUS HAEMATODUS* Rainbow Lorikeet

Locally nomadic, dependent on blossoming of food trees, when flocks of up to 1,000 occur irregularly. A nest on the Tableland 25 September 1966.

**TRICHOGLOSSUS CHLOROLEPIDOTUS* Scaly-breasted Lorikeet

Flocks up to 50 regular on the Tableland; smaller flocks (1–25) on the coast. Nests 25 September 1966 and 18 October 1967.

**GLOSSOPSITTA PUSILLA* Little Lorikeet

Common resident in the Kaban–Ravenshoe district where a nest with young was found 25 September 1966.

**OOPSITTA DIOPHTHALMA* Blue-faced Lorileet

Sparse resident in rain-forest, often found feeding on small fig fruits; pair noted in August 1961 near Innisfail tearing an old stump to pieces and feeding on larvae.

NYMPHICUS HOLLANDICUS Cockatiel

Innisfail district: one 1958, 7 August 1962, 4 June 1963; one on the Tableland 17 December 1967; possibly escapes.

APROSMICTUS ERYTHROPTERUS Red-winged Parrot

Resident in small numbers (1–10) in dry forest between Kaban and Ravenshoe; a male in the same place near Innisfail for two weeks during August 1965.

**APROSMICTUS SCAPULARIS* King Parrot

Common resident on the Tableland; small numbers (1–10) in coastal rain-forest. Nest with eggs on the Tableland 6 October 1964.

**PLATYCERCUS ELEGANS* Crimson Rosella

Common in rain-forest above 600 m, often feeding on ground among dense weeds. Green juveniles have not been noted. Nest with young 25 September 1966.

**PLATYCERCUS ADSCITUS* Pale-headed Rosella

Regular in parties (4–8) in the Kaban–Ravenshoe open-forest. This is the paler blue-cheeked race *cyanogenys*. A nest with young 18 October 1964.

CUCULUS SATURATUS Oriental Cuckoo

Uncommon summer visitor to the coast and Tableland: at least six birds in forest at Sandy Pocket 19 December 1958, remained until 2 February 1959; two near Innisfail 2 December 1959, 3 January, and one 9 January, 3 March, 1961; one near Milla Milla 5 November 1963, one near Innisfail 6 April 1964, and two near Milla Milla 15 January 1967.

CUCULUS PALLIDUS Pallid Cuckoo

Only at Kaban and near Milla Milla: three 23 October 1961, and single birds 5 October 1964, 12 October 1965 and 15 January 1966.

CACOMANTIS PYRRHOPHANUS Fan-tailed Cuckoo

Resident, mostly in the rain-forest on the coast and Tableland; usually in pairs or singly.

***CACOMANTIS VARIOLOSUS** Brush Cuckoo

Resident in all habitats. Parasitism of Brown-backed *Ramsayorius modestus* and White-throated Honeyeaters *Melithreptus albogularis* in November–December noted most years, also once as late as 17 February (1957). At Sandy Pocket 1 November 1957 two young being fed by at least four White-throated Honeyeaters; they were together, but it is doubtful whether they belonged to the same brood.

***CHRYSOCOCYX BASALIS** Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo

Fairly common resident on the coast and Tableland in all habitats. Parasitizes *Gerygone* spp. Eggs noted 26 December 1955, 28 October and 6 December 1958, 12 September and 8 December 1961, 16 December 1964 and 12 May 1967.

CHRYSOCOCYX LUCIDUS Golden Bronze Cuckoo

Usually resident in rain-forest above 300 m, but from 7 October to 30 November 1957 it was the most common bronze cuckoo in the Innisfail district; only other records are of single birds: from 16 December 1956 to 7 January 1957, and 16 July 1965.

CHRYSOCOCYX MINUTILLUS Little Bronze Cuckoo

The only bronze cuckoo with a tan eye-patch. Single birds near Innisfail 17 July 1963 and 12 January 1964, and at Eubenangee Swamp 9 March 1966.

***CHRYSOCOCYX RUSSATUS** Rufous-breasted Bronze Cuckoo

Widespread common resident on coast and Tableland. Parasitizes *Gerygone* spp; eggs often found in October and November.

***EUDYNAMYS ORIENTALIS** Koel

Widespread common summer visitor from 20 August to 20 May, but usually all have left by 25 April. In 1957 none was heard or seen until 2 October. Helmeted Friarbirds *Philemon yorki* are the only species noted feeding young Koels.

SCYTHROPS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE Channel-billed Cuckoo

Earliest arrival date 29 August 1964, but not usually until the end of September and in 1960 first record was 12 October; last record usually about 5 April, but has been noted as late as 6 May; flocks numbering up to 32 noted at time of departure.

***CENTROPUS PHASIANINUS** Pheasant Coucal

Plentiful resident in swampy areas and long grass; often killed on roads. Nest with two young 26 December 1959.

***TYTO ALBA** Barn Owl

Regular resident on the Tableland in all habitats; one on coast May 1967 and August 1969. Nest with eggs October 1965.

TYTO NOVAEHOLLANDIAE Masked Owl

One Palmerston National Park 600 m 27 March 1968.

TYTO TENEBRICOZA Sooty Owl

One Palmerston Park 450 m 15 December 1968.

***NINOX NOVAESEELANDIAE** Boobook Owl

Common resident on the Tableland. Dead birds found in garden at Innisfail 12 May 1963, 27 July 1966 and 6 July 1968, but no live birds seen below 300 m.

NINOX CONNIVENS Winking Owl

Resident on the Tableland, often in casuarina thickets; calling from coastal rain-forest 12 March 1968 and 18 February 1969.

***NINOX RUFA** Rufous Owl

Rare, only at Flying Fish Point and Pingin Hill near Innisfail; calls heard September to November.

***PODARGUS STRIGOIDES** Tawny Frogmouth

Resident, noted in rain-forest and thick patches of open-forest. Nest with eggs 17 October 1964.

PODARGUS PAPUENSIS Papuan Frogmouth

Resident in rain-forest and open-forest, noted only on the lowlands to date; often killed on roads.

AEGOTHELES CRISTATUS Owlet-Nightjar

Resident in all areas, but heard more frequently than seen.

EUROSTOPODUS GUTTATUS Spotted Nightjar

A dead bird near Innisfail 3 April 1968 and an injured bird at Kaban 1967.

***CAPRIMULGUS MACRURUS** Large-tailed Nightjar

Resident, common in all habitats on coast and Tableland. Nests found near Innisfail 16 October in both 1964 and 1965; nest-sites were about 90 m apart.

***COLLOCALIA FRANCICA** Grey Swiftlet

Very common resident of whole area, almost always in sight. Breeds in caves in the Tully River just outside the area of this paper.

HIRUNDAPUS CAUDACUTUS Spine-tailed Swift

Regular migrant in good numbers between early October and the first week in April.

APUS PACIFICUS Fork-tailed Swift

One 26 February 1957, twenty 25 October 1964, near Innisfail; about 3,000 at Kurrimine Beach 17 November 1964; in the summers of 1965-66 and 1966-67 flocks of up to 200 were seen.

***CEYX AZUREA** Azure Kingfisher

Resident, particularly along streams in rain-forests. Nests with young noted 3 and 24 October, 11 December 1964, 2 October 1966, and perhaps with eggs December 1966.

CEYX PUSILLA Little Kingfisher

Probably scarce resident along streams on the coast and Tableland, but seldom seen and easily overlooked.

***DACELO NOVAEGUINAE** Laughing Kookaburra

Common widespread resident. Nests recorded 31 January and 20 August 1968 and 17 January 1969.

DACELO LEACHII Blue-winged Kookaburra

Recorded singly around Innisfail 18 June and 22 August 1961, 25 May and 18 to 27 July 1966, and several regularly from 30 July to 10 September 1969; resident in open-forest on Tableland.

***HALCYON MACLEAYII** Forest Kingfisher

Widespread very common resident in all areas. Nests recorded October to December.

HALCYON PYRRHOPYGIUS Red-backed Kingfisher

Scarce winter visitor: single birds from 5 May to 1 September 1957, and two 22 June 1958 near Innisfail; one near Kaban 11 August 1961, one near Innisfail 18 May to 2 September 1961, and 18 June to 26 July 1968.

***HALCYON SANCTUS** Sacred Kingfisher

Resident and passage migrant at Innisfail and the Tableland; some present throughout the year. Fledglings being fed at Milla Milla and Ravenshoe in January and February 1958; another nest with young near Milla Milla October 1964.

***HALCYON CHLORIS** Mangrove Kingfisher

Common resident near salt water, but easily overlooked. Nests found in October and November 1965 to 1968.

***TANYSIPTERA SYLVIA** White-tailed Kingfisher

Summer arrival dates from 1959 to 1968 varied between 2 and 11 November, except for 1964 when, like all migrants that year, it arrived early, on 12 October. Last records vary from 18 March to 5 April. Normally found from sea-level to about 450 m in rain-forest where the small ground termite mounds used for nesting occur. Nesting tunnels are started as soon as birds arrive; the young hatch in January.

***MEROPS ORNATUS** Rainbowbird

Resident and passage migrant. The local population does not seem to alter, but flocks of several thousands travel north in March and April, often at night. Nesting starts in August.

***EURYSTOMUS ORIENTALIS** Dollarbird

Summer migrant, earliest arrival during first week in October, latest 22 October 1961; last record 16 April. Nests found in December.

PITTA VERSICOLOR Noisy Pitta

Resident in rain-forest at all altitudes; sometimes perch high in trees.

***MIRAFRA JAVANICA** Horsfield Bushlark

Less common breeding resident than *Anthus novaeseelandiae*, but occurs in similar habitats.

HIRUNDO RUSTICA Barn Swallow

One at the Innisfail Aerodrome 12 January 1966 and again 9 March 1966; another single bird also recorded there about eight times between 15 January and 12 March 1968.

***HIRUNDO TAHITICA** Welcome Swallow

Common resident around towns, swamps and along power lines. Nests noted in Innisfail's main street all months from August to April.

***PETROCHELIDON NIGRICANS** Tree Martin

Common widespread resident. Breeding in hollow tree Kaban 25 September 1966.

***PETROCHELIDON ARIEL** Fairy Martin

Widespread common resident breeding under bridges and in culverts. Active nests seen from August to January and 14 May 1965.

MOTACILLA FLAVA Yellow Wagtail

A pair on Innisfail Aerodrome 23 November 1965; during the following weeks, at least seven different birds were seen, the last 11 January 1966; one 21 January 1967, four 5 February 1967, and numerous sightings of one bird during January 1968.

***ANTHUS NOVAESEELANDIAE** Pipit

Common resident in short grassy habitat on coast and Tableland. Nests found October to December.

***CORACINA NOVAEHOLLANDIAE** Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike

Resident on the Tableland; small flocks (20) on the coast May-July; on 24 October 1962, 109 flying south.

***CORACINA PAPUENSIS** Papuan Cuckoo-Shrike

The nominate race *C.p. papuensis* resident everywhere. Young birds very recently out of the nest Kaban 1 January 1966; nest 6 October 1965.

***CORACINA LINEATA** Barred Cuckoo-Shrike

Resident, small flocks up to 12 in all lowland habitats and Tableland rain-forest. Nests noted October, November, and December. On night of 19 May 1966 over 36 roosted in one tree at Eubenangee Swamp.

***EDOLISOMA TENUIROSTRIS** Cicadabird

Migrant: first arrivals between 20 August and 12 October in different years; leaves between 22 March and 25 April. One nest record February 1958.

LALAGE SUEURII White-winged Triller

Rare near Innisfail before 1958, but from June 1958 fairly common throughout the year; not recorded since February 1962; a few regularly seen at Kaban in October and November.

***LALAGE LEUCOMELA** Varied Triller

Plentiful resident in all habitats. Nests seen all months August-November.

ZOOTHERA DAUMA Ground Thrush

Scarce resident in Tableland rain-forest.

***ORTHONYX SPALDINGI** Northern Chowchilla

Plentiful resident of rain-forest above 240 m, where nests found in May and August; scarce on lowlands.

***MEGALURUS TIMORIENSIS** Tawny Grassbird

Resident in marshy and tall grassy places on coast and Tableland. Nesting in October and November.

ACROCEPHALUS STENTOREUS Reed Warbler

Recorded all months except November and December, but rare in October, January, February and March; not uncommon April to September.

***CISTICOLA EXILIS** Golden-headed Fantail Warbler

Plentiful resident in grassy and swampy areas, particularly on coast; also in paddocks of sugar-cane and in fallow paddocks with a leguminous cover where many nest. Nests found October to April.

CINCLORHAMPHUS CRURALIS Brown Songlark

From 12 October 1967 to 14 February 1968 over 20 on Innisfail Aerodrome; also one there 16 February 1969 and two 4 March 1969. I have no other records nearer than Thangool, about 1,240 km south of Innisfail.

***GERYGONE OLIVACEA** White-throated Warbler

Resident as single birds and pairs in Tableland open-forest. One nest December 1966.

***GERYGONE FLAVIDA** Fairy Warbler

Reasonably common resident of rain-forest, lowland open-forest and mangroves. Nests found in November and once in January.

***GERYGONE MAGNIROSTRIS** Large-billed Warbler

Common resident in all habitats except highland rain-forest. Many nests are seen hanging over roads, tracks and streams from August to March.

***GERYGONE MOUKI** Northern Warbler

Very numerous resident in rain-forest above 240 m. Nests noted October, December and January.

SMICRORNIS BREVIROSTRIS Yellow Weebill

Resident of open-forest between Ravenshoe and Kaban.

ACANTHIZA NANA Little Thornbill

Only recorded in casuarina thickets and nearby eucalypts between Kaban and Ravenshoe.

***ACANTHIZA REGULOIDES** Varied Thornbill

Resident and often in flocks with Little Thornbills in Kaban-Ravenshoe casuarina thickets. Nests in October and November.

***ACANTHIZA KATHERINA** Mountain Thornbill

Resident in pairs and small parties in rain-forest above 450 m. Nest with young 21 October 1964, too high to inspect, but apparently made completely of green moss.

SERICORNIS LAEVIGASTER Buff-breasted Scrub Wren

Resident on higher parts of Tableland especially in the regrowth of cleared rain-forest.

***SERICORNIS LATHAMI** Yellow-throated Scrub Wren

Common resident in rain-forest above 600 m. Nesting in September, October and January.

***SERICORNIS MAGNIROSTRIS** Large-billed Scrub Wren

Resident in all rain-forest and lowland open-forest. Nesting September-October.

***OREOSCOPIUS GUTTURALIS** Fern Wren

Resident of rain-forest above about 360 m. Nests found in August, October and November.

***MALURUS AMABILIS** Lovely Wren

Resident, usually found where fallen trees and growth of weeds occur at edge of rain-forest; sometimes feeding up to 15 m in trees and tall mangroves. Nest with large young July 1956; others August to January.

***MALURUS MELANOCEPHALUS** Red-backed Wren

Widespread resident in all types of country except rain-forest. Nesting September to January, and July 1956.

***RHIPIDURA FULIGINOSA** Grey Fantail

Winter visitor to the coast: earliest record 25 March, latest 1 October, but some years they have not appeared until 15 May, and have left in August; their origin is unknown. Present throughout the year above 500 m. Nest records for the Tableland: 12 November 1958, 8 December 1960, 3 December 1961, 23 November 1963, 8 September 1965 and 8 January 1968.

***RHIPIDURA RUFIFRONS** Rufous Fantail

Absent from the highlands from April to October, while they are plentiful on the coast. Occasionally noticed on lowlands during summer, particularly in cool gullies. Nests found at about 900 m: 16 October 1964, 16 November 1964 and 17 November 1968.

***RHIPIDURA SETOSA** Northern Fantail

Resident on coast in lowland open-forest and melaleuca swamps; on the Tableland in patches of scrubby open-forest and casuarina thickets. Nests: July 1957, February 1958, December 1960, October 1962 and December 1963.

***RHIPIDURA LEUCOPHRYS** Willie Wagtail

Common widespread resident. Nesting between October and January.

***MYIAGRA RUBECULA** Leaden Flycatcher

A common resident throughout the whole area. Nests found from August to January.

MYIAGRA CYANOLEUCA Satin Flycatcher

Occasional visitor: three times in March, once in July, three times in October, and three in November.

MYIAGRA INQUIETA Restless Flycatcher

Singly at Kaban 9 October and 25 September 1966.

***MACHAERIRHYNCHUS FLAVIVENTER** Boat-billed Flycatcher

Very local in coastal and Tableland rain-forest, but plentiful where it occurs. Nests found October and November.

***ARSES KAUPI** Pied Flycatcher

Resident at all altitudes, usually in rain-forest but sometimes in open-forest nearby. Nests from October to January.

***PIEZORHYNCHUS ALECTO** Shining Flycatcher

Resident on coastal plain, along rain-forest streams, mangroves, or melaleuca swamps, seldom far from water. Nesting occurs September to March. Not recorded on Tableland.

***MONARCHA MELANOPSIS** Black-faced Flycatcher

Resident in rain-forest and nearby open-forest throughout the area. Nests found November-January.

***MONARCHA TRIVIRGATA** Spectacled Flycatcher

Common resident usually in rain-forest and scrubby gullies throughout the area. Nests October-December.

***MONARCHA LEUCOTIS** White-eared Flycatcher

Resident, more common in coastal rain-forest than on Tableland. Two nests found, both in January 1966.

***MICROECA LEUCOPHAEA** Jacky Winter

Scarce resident at Kaban, breeding in open-forest; one nest 4 October 1965. No records from other localities.

***MICROECA FLAVIGASTER** Lemon-breasted Flycatcher

Resident in open-forest and melaleuca swamps on coast and Tableland. Nests, each with one young, 23 October 1957 and 7 January 1958.

***PNEOENANTHE PULVERULENTA** Mangrove Robin

Recorded only from a patch of mangroves at the southern outlet of the Johnstone River. Fledglings are seen here each year, and nests with three young on 20 November 1965 and 26 September 1969.

***HETEROMYIAS CINEREIFRONS** Grey-headed Robin

Very common resident in foothill and Tableland rain-forest; not recorded below 240 m. Nests from September to December.

***EOPSALTRIA AUSTRALIS** Northern Yellow Robin

Common resident in open-forest, in gullies and along creeks Kaban and Ravenshoe. Nests noted from August to January.

***EOPSALTRIA CAPITO** Pale Yellow Robin

Common resident of all rain-forest. Nests October-December.

***PACHYCEPHALA PECTORALIS** Golden Whistler

Occasional on the coast; common above 450 m, especially in rain-forest but also in open-forest. Nests September to December.

***PACHYCEPHALA RUFIVENTRIS** Rufous Whistler

Common resident of open-forest in all areas. Nests October to January.

***PACHYCEPHALA SIMPLEX** Grey Whistler

Common resident on the coast, less so on the Tableland. Nests October to January.

COLLURICINCLA HARMONICA Grey Shrike-Thrush

Resident, confined to open-forest and casuarina thickets on the Tableland; very rare in rain-forest.

***COLLURICINCLA MEGARHYNCHA** Rufous Shrike-Thrush

Common resident in rain-forest, also in coastal open-forest and mangroves. Nests September to January.

**COLLURICINCLA BOWERI* Bower Shrike-Thrush

Resident in rain-forest above about 450m. Nests with young November and December.

FALCUNCULUS FRONTATUS Eastern Shrike-Tit

Scarce resident in Kaban area.

**PSOPHODES OLIVACEUS* Eastern Whipbird

Common resident in rain-forest. Nests found August to November.

**NEOSITTA CHRYSOPTERA* Striated Sittella

Resident of open-forest in Kaban-Ravenshoe area. Nests: October 1964 and 27 March 1968.

**CLIMACTERIS PICUMNUS* Black Treecreeper

Resident in Kaban district. One nest 10 December 1968.

CLIMACTERIS LEUCOPHAEA Little Treecreeper

Common resident in rain-forest above 300 m.

**DICAUM HIRUNDINACEUM* Mistletoebird

Common resident, nesting July to December. Mistletoe seeds sometimes germinate on the wire of clothes lines.

PARDALOTUS PUNCTATUS Spotted Pardalote

Resident in open-forest and casuarina thickets on the Tableland.

**PARDALOTUS MELANOCEPHALUS* Black-headed Pardalote

Plentiful resident of dry open-forest round Ravenshoe. Numerous in open-forest south of Innisfail during May and June 1955 (only coastal record). Breeding noted August to November.

**CYRTOSTOMUS FRENATUS* Yellow-breasted Sunbird

Common resident on coast, breeding from August to March, and known to hatch young every month of the year, occasional on Tableland.

**ZOSTEROPS LATERALIS* Silveryeye

Common resident in all habitats. Breeding in all months of the year, but more often from August to November.

**LICHMERA INDISTINCTA* Brown Honeyeater

Common resident near water in open-forest country on Tableland; rare on coast near Innisfail. Nest 27 March 1968.

**MYZOMELA OBSCURA* Dusky Honeyeater

Widespread resident, breeding on coast and Tableland, September and October.

MYZOMELA SANGUINOLENTA Scarlet Honeyeater

Resident on Tableland; in large numbers in blossoming trees, usually July to December; at other times may be seen with difficulty in canopy along creeks and gullies in rain-forest and open-forest.

**MELIPHAGA GRACILIS* Graceful Honeyeater

Plentiful resident on coast, but scarce on Tableland. Nests September to February.

**MELIPHAGA NOTATA* Lesser Lewin Honeyeater

Very plentiful resident on the lowlands, but seldom seen above 400 m. Nests August to December.

**MELIPHAGA LEWINII* Lewin Honeyeater

Plentiful resident in rain-forest and its margins above 450 m. Nests found in October and November.

MELIPHAGA FLAVA Yellow Honeyeater

Resident, seldom far from streams on coast and Tableland.

**MELIPHAGA VERSICOLOR* Varied Honeyeater

Resident in some mangrove areas. Small fledglings seen in June and July.

**MELIPHAGA FLAVESCENS* Yellow-tinted Honeyeater

Common resident; flocks regularly in open-forest at Kaban where nests found September, October and January.

MELIPHAGA CHRYSOPS Yellow-faced Honeyeater

Common resident of open-forest round Kaban and Ravenshoe.

MELIPHAGA MACLEAYANA Macleay Honeyeater

Reasonably common resident in all rain-forest and coastal open-forest; rarely in Tableland open-forest.

**MELIPHAGA FRENATA* Bridled Honeyeater

Never recorded below 450 m, but a common noisy resident in foothill and highland rain-forest and its margins. One nest September 1965.

**MELITHREPTUS LUNATUS* White-naped Honeyeater

Sparse resident round Kaban and Ravenshoe. Nests found in November 1965 and 25 September 1966.

**MELITHREPTUS ALBOGULARIS* White-throated Honeyeater

Common resident in open-forest on coast and Tableland. Nests: with young in June; August to January, and once in April 1967.

MELITHREPTUS GULARIS Black-chinned Honeyeater

Rare, noted in the Kaban district in January 1965, 16 September 1965 and 22 May 1966.

**ENTOMYZON CYANOTIS* Blue-faced Honeyeater

Resident in the Kaban-Ravenshoe area. One nest 31 January 1968.

**PHILEMON CITREOGULARIS* Little Friarbird

Resident, apparently only in open-forest from Kaban to Ravenshoe; but from August to October 1961 plentiful around Innisfail, where they bred.

**PHILEMON NOVAEGUINEAE YORKI* Helmeted Friarbird

Common resident on coast and recorded in Tableland rain-forest and margins. Nests November to February.

**PHILEMON CORNICULATUS* Noisy Friarbird

Resident, normally in the Kaban-Ravenshoe open-forests. From August to October 1961 an influx occurred around Innisfail, where they bred. Smaller numbers about Innisfail September-December 1962 and September-October 1969.

**PHYLIDONYRIS NIGRA* White-cheeked Honeyeater

Resident in the Kaban and Ravenshoe district along creeks lined with callistemon. Nests found August, September and October.

**RAMSAYORNIS MODESTUS* Brown-backed Honeyeater

Common migrant on coast, appearing between 2 and 24 August, and remaining till 22 May; occasionally seen at Kaban. Nests from September to February.

CISSOMELA PECTORALIS Banded Honeyeater

Common round Kaban when the eucalypts are in bloom; rare when there is no blossom.

**ACANTHORHYNCHUS TENUIROSTRIS* Eastern Spinebill

Resident, but not recorded below 360 m. Breeds in rain-forest; nests noted in November and December.

**MYZANTHA MELANOCEPHALA* Noisy Miner

Scarce resident between Kaban and Ravenshoe. One nest 5 January 1965.

***AEGINTHA TEMPORALIS** Red-browed Finch

Common resident at all altitudes; small parties noted along roadsides and inside rain-forests on coast and Tableland. Nesting September to March.

EMBLEMA GUTTATA Zebra Finch

Seven near my home 15 April 1967; probably escapes.

***NEOCHMIA PHAETON** Crimson Finch

Widespread resident on coast, and a few on Tableland. Breeds September to May.

POEPHILA BICHENOVII Banded Finch

Four at Kaban 16 June 1961 and one 21 May 1966.

***POEPHILA CINCTA ATROPYGIALIS** Black-tailed Finch

Resident in open-forest and grasslands of the Kaban district. Nest found 15 November 1967.

***LONCHURA PUNCTULATA** Spice Finch Introduced

First recorded 28 April 1956; now common, e.g. a flock of over 200 at the aerodrome 4 June 1965.

***LONCHURA CASTANEOTHORAX** Chestnut-breasted Finch

Common resident on lowlands, sparse on Tableland. Breeding September to April.

PASSER DOMESTICUS House Sparrow Introduced

First recorded 18 September 1964, a pair at Innisfail; since then rapid increase in the town, where flocks are now regular; small flocks also noted in Ravenshoe.

***APLONIS METALLICA** Shining Starling

Some birds resident throughout the year. Majority migrate, usually arriving in last week of August, though sometimes as early as 13 July, and leaving by about 22 May. Large post-breeding flocks: 5,000 March 1960, 3,000 January–February 1962 and February 1964. Nests in communities from August to March.

STURNUS VULGARIS Starling Introduced

One at Innisfail 4 September 1965, four 3 December 1967 and one 22 December 1967; all in the same place at the edge of a swamp.

***ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS** Indian Myna Introduced

Common resident in all settled areas.

ORIOULUS SAGITTATUS Olive-backed Oriole

Regularly recorded on coast and Tableland; probably more numerous in the winter.

***ORIOULUS FLAVOCINCTUS** Yellow Oriole

Resident along streams in rain-forest, especially where remnants remain from clearing. Nests found 11 November 1963 and September 1968.

***SPHECOTHERES FLAVIVENTRIS** Yellow Figbird

Common resident; tends to flock from May to August. Nests are common from September to March, when more than one is often found in the same tree.

***CHIBIA BRACTEATA** Spangled Drongo

Plentiful resident in all habitats. The local population appears resident, nesting in September to March and taking no part in southward spring migration; on 27 October 1963, 720 passed in one hour. In other years the migration seems more evenly spread over October and November, about 20 to 60 passing daily.

***GRALLINA CYANOLEUCA** Magpie-Lark

Widespread common resident except rain-forest; sometimes in flocks of up to 200 between April and August on the coast, in paddocks where sugar-cane has recently been harvested. Nests August to January.

MRS H. B. GILL, M/S 216, Innisfail, Q. 4860.

***ARTAMUS LEUCORHYNCHUS** White-breasted Woodswallow

Common resident on coast; sometimes a few on the Tableland; twelve at Kaban 22 May 1966. Nests commonly on coast, often on iron telegraph poles, from September to January.

ARTAMUS PERSONATUS Masked Woodswallow

About 200 Kaban 16 June 1961, resting in a clump of dead trees; 15 there October 1965 and about 200 21 May 1966.

ARTAMUS SUPERCILIOSUS White-browed Woodswallow

About 20 Kaban 16 June 1961, 28 near Ravenshoe 4 October 1965, and two Kaban 33 May 1966.

***ARTAMUS CYANOPTERUS** Dusky Woodswallow

Local resident, found breeding Kaban November 1963 and, since then, in all years from November to January. On 26 December 1964 five seen at junction of Maalan Forestry Road and Palmerston Highway; seen there regularly since.

ARTAMUS MINOR Little Woodswallow

Only recorded at the South Johnstone River bridge along the Maalan Forestry Road July 1960 and near Milla-Milla October 1960.

***STREPERA GRACULINA** Pied Currawong

Plentiful resident on Tableland; evidence of breeding in September. A few birds (1–6) appear regularly from May to September in the Innisfail area.

***CRATICUS NIGROGULARIS** Pied Butcherbird

Resident on Tableland, more plentiful in cleared farming areas than in open forest. Nest, December 1966.

***CRATICUS QUOYI** Black Butcherbird

Shy resident in coastal and highland rain-forest; also in mangroves and coastal sand-plain habitat. Young birds unable to fly were noted 8 February 1958.

***CRATICUS TORQUATUS** Grey Butcherbird

Scarce resident between Kaban and Ravenshoe in dry open-forest. Nest, 18 January 1968.

***GYMNORHINA TIBICEN** Black-backed Magpie

Common, but not plentiful; resident in all areas on Tableland except rain-forest. Nest found 5 January 1965.

***AILUROEDUS CRASSIROSTRIS** Spotted Catbird

Common resident in rain-forest. Breeding records September to December.

***SCENOPOEETES DENTIROSTRIS** Tooth-billed Bowerbird

Common resident above 600 m, but a few as low as 350 m. Nest found 11 November 1967.

PRIONODURA NEWTONIANA Golden Bowerbird

Fairly common resident above 900 m; recorded as low as 600 m on 20 June 1965, 27 May 1967 and 24 July 1967.

PTILONORHYNCHUS VIOLACEUS Satin Bowerbird

Scarce resident from 600 m upwards, but much more numerous in highland rain-forest.

***PTILORIS VICTORIAE** Victoria Riflebird

Common resident of coastal and Tableland rain-forest. Nests found in October and November.

***CORVUS ORRU** Crow

Resident around Ravenshoe and occasionally seen at Kaban. A few birds (1–7) recorded on coast most years, May to October.