

QUEENSLAND DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES
DIVISION OF PLANT INDUSTRY BULLETIN No. 360

THE MOVEMENT PATH OF SOME WATER-BIRDS IN
NORTH QUEENSLAND

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SUMMARY

Banding and recovery data support the existence of a prominent movement path from the eastern coast of Australia as far north as Cairns, thence to New Guinea by way of western Cape York Peninsula.

In the course of investigations in North Queensland for conservation purposes, waterfowl (Anatidae) and other water-birds were banded individually. Twenty band recoveries were made in the region between Townsville in North Queensland and New Guinea; these are recorded below. The locations involved are illustrated in Figure 1, together with the recovery sites of 17 water-birds (white egret (*Egretta alba* (L.)), little egret (*Egretta garzetta* (L.)), Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis molucca* (Cuvier)), straw-necked ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis* (Jameson)), and grey teal (*Anas gibberifrons* Muller), taken in the north after banding in southern Australia (Carrick, Keith, and Keith 1957; Hitchcock and Carrick 1958, 1960; Hitchcock 1961, 1963, 1964; Downes *in litt.* 1964; Anon. 1965).

The existence of a prominent movement path from the eastern coast of Australia as far north as Cairns, then westwards along the basins of the Nassau-Mitchell-Alice-Palmer-Walsh Rivers and Gilbert-Einasleigh-Staaten Rivers to western Cape York Peninsula, and finally northwards to New Guinea, is supported by personal observations of birds and habitats throughout the area (Lavery 1963, and unpublished), and by bird and habitat distributions and observations of bird movements as recorded in the literature (*e.g.* Thomson 1935; Mack 1953; Warham 1962).

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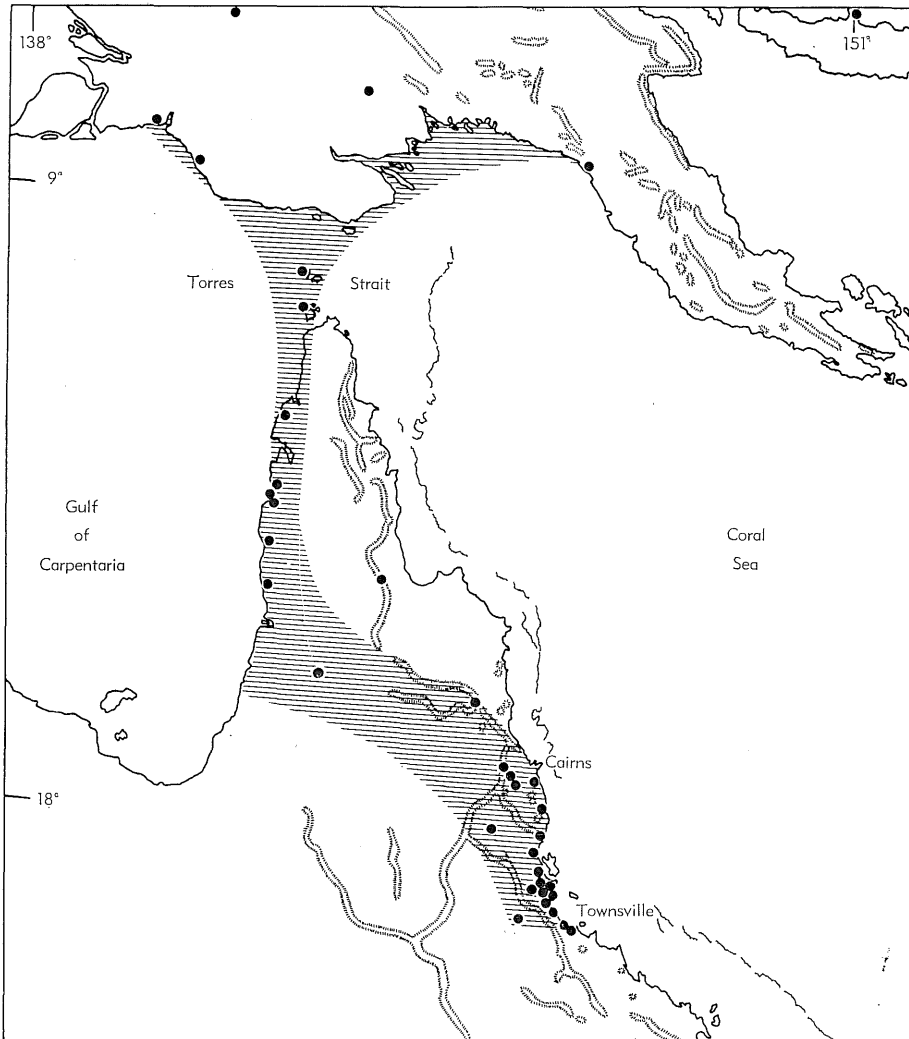


Fig. 1.—Locations of band recoveries from water-birds in North Queensland and New Guinea, 1955 to 1965; each locality marked once irrespective of number of bands recovered.

Banding and Recovery Data

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A00284	o	Black duck, <i>Anas superciliosa rogersi</i> Mathews Adult	M	4.x.58	Town Common, Townsv Ile, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	+			5.vii.60	Ollera Creek, via Rollingstone, Q.		640
A00287	o		F	5.x.58	Town Common, Townsville, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	?			9.ii.61	Rudd Creek, "Gunnawarra," Q.	17°56'S, 145°10'E	858

Banding and Recovery Data—continued

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A00360	o		F	16.x.58	Town Common, Townsville, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	?			28.x.59	Portion 18v, parish of Tyson, Upper Murray district, Q.	18°06'S, 145°16'E	377
A00365	o		F	16.x.58	Town Common, Townsville, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	?			20.ix.61	Trebonne, <i>via</i> Ingham, Q.		1,070
A00382	o		F	17.x.58	Town Common, Townsville, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	?			0.xii.60	1 mile S. of Ingham, Q.		775+
A00403	o		F	18.x.58	Town Common, Townsville, Q.	19°14'S, 146°47'E	
	?			29.xi.58	Barron River, near Mareeba, Q.	16°56'S, 145°26'E	42
A00430	o		F	26.xi.58	"Mt. St. John," <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			15.viii.59	Cattle Creek, <i>via</i> Ingham, Q.		323
A00475	o	Adult	M	4.xii.58	"Mt. St. John," <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			8.xii.58	b-p		4
	?			8.xi.61	"Black Rock," <i>via</i> Ingham, Q.		1,009
A00515	o	Adult	M	7.xii.58	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			21.vii.61	"Yarraden", <i>via</i> Coen, Q.	14°55'S, 143°17'E	957
A00565	o		F	13.xii.58	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	+			25.vi.59	Kirke River, Gulf of Carpentaria, Q.	13°19'S, 141°47'E	194
A00756	o	Adult	M	6.xi.60	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	(speared)						
	?			22.vii.61	Black River, <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.		258
A00800	o	Adult	M	10.xi.60	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			10.ix.61	"Bronte", <i>via</i> Ingham, Q.		304
A00832	o		F	15.xi.60	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			14.vi.61	Barron River, near Tinaroo Dam, Q.	17°13'S, 145°35'E	211
A00855	o	Adult	M	11.xii.60	"Mt. St. John", <i>via</i> Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			21.vii.62	"Waup's swamp", <i>via</i> Ingham, Q.		586

Banding and Recovery Data—continued

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
A00872	o	Adult	M	13.xii.60	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			20.xii.60	b-p		7
	?			9.xi.61	Bambaroo, via Ingham, Q.		331
A00874	o	Adult	M	13.xii.60	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			5.ix.64	Leslie Creek, near Malanda, Q.	17°51'S, 145°36'E	1,423
A00896	o		F	4.v.61	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			4.viii.61	9 miles E.S.E. of Ingham, Q.		92
				Grey teal, <i>Anas gibberifrons gracilis</i> Buller			
C00210	o	Juvenile	F	30.vii.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			5.ix.59	Bohle River, near Townsville, Q.		402
C00235	o	Adult	M	2.viii.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			6.viii.58	b-p		4
	?			21.viii.58	"Orient", via Ingham, Q.		19
C00265	o			8.xii.59	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	?			0.xii.60	Colbie, via Ingham, Q.		357+
				Swamphen, <i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i> (L.)			
A00436	o			27.xi.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			30.xi.58	b-p		3
	v			3.xii.58	b-p		6
	v			4.xii.58	b-p		7
	?			17.xii.58	Herbert River, near Ingham, Q.	18°35'S, 146°12'E	20
A00446	o			27.xi.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			29.xi.58	b-p		2
	v			3.xii.58	b-p		6
	?			27.xii.58	Russell River, near Babinda, Q.	17°20'S, 145°58'E	30
A00567	o			13.xii.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	+			21.iv.61	Koerik, West Irian, New Guinea	8°21'S, 140°15'E	860
A00576	o			13.xii.58	"Mt. St. John", via Townsville, Q.	19°15'S, 146°45'E	
	v			19.xii.58	b-p		6
	v			20.xii.58	b-p		7
	?			4.x.60	Feluga, via Tully, Q.	17°52'S, 145°59'E	661

The sequence of data and symbols used conform substantially to the international recommendations adopted in other parts of Australia (Carrick and Turnbull 1956).

Banding Data	Recovery Data
1. Band number	2. Method:
2. Resident status: o = caught, not at nest	+ = shot or killed by man v = taken alive and released with band ? = method of recovery unknown
3. Age	3. Age
4. Sex: M = male, F = female	5. Date
5. Date	6. Place: b-p = banding place
6. Place	7. Coordinates: if more than 100 miles from place of banding
7. Coordinates	8. Time: days between first release and recovery of banded bird

For each record, the first line is the basic banding data, subsequent lines the recovery data.

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(Received for publication May 10, 1966)