

NEW RECORDS OF CATTLE EGRET *BUBULCUS IBIS*, BLACKNECKED SWAN *CYGNUS MELANCORHYPHUS* AND WHITERUMPED SANDPIPER *CALIDRIS FUSCICOLLIS* FROM THE SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS, ANTARCTICA

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Several species of birds that are widely distributed in the southern part of South America have been reported as vagrants in the Antarctic Peninsula region (e.g. Strange 1979, Gajardo & Yañez 1982, Banasch *et al.* 1984, Torres *et al.* 1986, Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987, Parmelee & Fraser 1989). This paper provide new information on three species: the Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*, Blacknecked Swan *Cygnus melancorhyphus* and Whiterumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis* observed at King George and Nelson Islands, South Shetland Islands during the 1992/93 and 1993/94 summers.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

This widespread species was first observed in the Antarctic and sub-Antarctic area in 1948 at Marion Island (Crawford 1952 in Watson 1975). Cattle Egrets have subsequently been reported several times at other southern localities, such as the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands (Strange 1979), South Georgia (Prince & Croxall 1983), South Sandwich Islands (Prince & Croxall 1983), South Orkney Islands (Prince 1981 in Rootes 1988), South Shetland Islands (Schlatter & Duarte 1979, Torres *et al.* 1986, Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987, Lange & Naumann 1990, Favero *et al.* 1991) and Argentine Islands (Prince & Croxall 1983).

On December 1993, one dead egret was found close to the mixed penguin colony (*Pygoscelis adeliae*, *P. papua* and *P. antarctica*) at Stranger Point (62° 14'S, 58° 35'W), King George Island. Remains of at least two birds were also founded nearby in the surroundings of Greater Sheathbill *Chionis alba* nests. On 4 January 1994 two birds more were discovered at Duthoit Point (62° 19'S, 58° 48'W), Nelson Island. The ages of the three carcasses suggest the birds had arrived the previous season. The measurements of the specimens were: culmen (58.0, 55.5 and 56.7 mm), tarsus length (86, 82 and 82 mm) and wing length (241, 237 and 246 mm).

Blacknecked Swan *Cygnus melancorhyphus*

The first record for this species in Antarctica was reported by Bennett (1922) at Charlotte Channel (64° 40'S) in 1917. There were no further reports until 1989 when several birds were seen flying at the South Shetland Islands and the Antarctic Peninsula (Lazo & Yañez 1989, Parmelee & Fraser 1989, Lange & Naumann 1990, Favero *et al.* 1991, Orgeira & Fogliatto 1991). On 3 January 1993 a single bird was seen swimming and next flying at the entrance of

Potter Cove (62° 14'S, 58° 38'W), King George Island.

Whiterumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

This North American migrant species was first seen in Antarctica on Livingston Island, South Shetland Islands in 1982 (Gajardo & Yañez 1982). Subsequently, this species has been reported several times at Nelson and King George Islands (Bannasch *et al.* 1984, Bannasch 1984, Trivelpiece *et al.* 1987, Lange & Naumann 1990, Aguirre 1995). At Stranger Point, King George Island, five (G. Daneri pers. comm.) and two birds were observed in December 1993 and January 1994, respectively.

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