So far, descriptions of eleven ooyurkas have been given by D. A. Casey, F. D. McCarthy, K. Kennedy and G. Mack, which may be summarised in order of their description as follows.

CASEY—
2. National Mus., Melb., fine grained schist, slightly patinated, from Mena Creek, G. Kemlin.

3. Australian Mus., Sydney, schist, heavily patinated, from near Cairns.

McCARthy—
5. Australian Mus., Syd., fine grained slate, polished all over, from Mena Creek, G. Kimlin.
6. Australian Mus., Syd., igneous stone, surface patinated, hammer dressed and polished, from Mena Creek, G. Kimlin.
NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST

7. Australian Mus., Syd., slate, ground stone, from Russell River, purchased 1892.

KENNEDY—
8. Personal collection, Townsville, from basaltous rock, from Mirriwini, C. Freeman.

9. Collection, J. Popham, Townsville, basaltous rock, from Herbert River District, S. Fowler.

MACK-Towler.

10. Q. Mus., Bris., from Midgeno, A. B. Stordon, 7.4.1936.


To the above, seven more are here added and illustrated by photographs. These are—

12. (No. 1 in photograph, No. 5050 in collection of N. Q. Naturalists’ Club). It was collected on the Quamaba Estate, Batter Freke, by Mr. Roy Armstrong, and brought in 17.11.1933. Like all other ooyurkas this is of very hard stone, apparently schist. It is damaged at the extreme of one of its arms, and at the extremity of the tang to a lesser degree, the result of being almost perpendicular to the base. The smooth ground edge is almost flat, but the sides, and except at the extremities, of a uniform thickness. The tang, 45 mm. wide, forming a broader than usual, and like the shoulders and summit is uniformly rounded, the shoulder being the only part of the damaged side being rather more sloping than on the other side. Its base measures 15 mm. in length, 10 mm. in height, and weighs 143 g.

13. (No. 2 in photograph), is in the possession of Mr. Douglas Seaton, Cairns, and obtained from the Mirriwini area. It measures 74 mm. in length, 127 mm. broad, 20 mm. in thickness, and weighs 0.55 oz. and is therefore the smallest of the group. It possesses a high tang, the shoulders are very poorly developed, especially upon the right side. Though well rounded upon one side and at the summit of the tang, the other side is poorly finished off.

14. (No. 3 in photograph), is also in the possession of Mr. Douglas Seaton, Cairns, and obtained from the same Mirriwini area. It is 180 mm. in length 123 mm. broad, and weighs 153 oz. The base forms a perfectly straight line, the two shoulders being somewhat symmetrical, but the upright tang has a considerable list to one shoulder and well finished, all borders except the base being evenly rounded off.

15. (No. 4 in photograph), is in the possession of the N.Q. Naturalists’ Club and was collected by Mr. Arthur Locke at the Kowanyra Gold Field on the Russell River. Its base forms a very slight concavity and measures 119 mm. in length, and is formed of very hard rock, apparently slate. The shoulders are nearly symmetrical, one being rather longer and more sloping than the other. The tang, however, is much thinner than usual, 46 mm. and almost perpendicular to the base, attaining a height of 95 mm. While one side of the tang is straight, the other is somewhat convex, the convexity being mostly near the summit of the tang. The stone is fairly well finished and except for the smooth base.

16. (No. 5 of photo), No. 278 of the N. Q. Naturalists’ Club collection, is made of hard stone, apparently slate, and is quite the largest of the series. Its base is distinctly, but slightly concave and shows scratches from shoulder and tang, but smooth from front to back, measuring 193 mm. in length, and the tang 133 mm. There are measurements exceeding all the others, but its thickness is only 16 mm. Its weight is 18 oz. and is the heaviest recorded. The summit of the tang has a feature not noted in the other specimens in that it is bevelled both in front and behind presenting a distinctly sharp straight edge, probably used like a chisel. The tang is almost perpendicular to the base and all other edges except the summit of the tang and base are rounded, but this is somewhat roughly carried out. The shoulders are nearly equal, but one slopes much more than the other.

17. (No. 6 of photo) is in the possession of the N.Q. Naturalists’ Club and was collected by Mr. Tom Carr at the Kowanyra Gold Field on the Russell River. It is of hard rock, apparently schist, but has much list of both shoulders and is broken off and is also somewhat damaged at the apex of the tang. The smooth base is not all in the same plane, thus differing from other specimens, and part of one edge is somewhat rounded. The tang is not only listed towards the broken side, but also has a slight curve to that side. While the broken surface of the shoulder shows a heavier build, the unbroken shoulder is very sloping. All the remaining borders are rounded, and as a whole, the stone is either poorly finished or has been much weathered. Measurements are 105 mm. long, 94 mm. high, weighing altogether 101 oz. It is not all in the same plane, but exceeds that of the others by a great deal, measuring 129 mm.

18. This photograph was taken up about 1944 on Red Arches Farm, Batter Freke, in red alluvial soil, and is in the possession of Mr. T. J. Trombath. The stone appears to be schist, weighing 113 oz. The base is 122 mm. in length, the smooth surface having a slight concavity. The shoulders are nearly symmetrical, one being slightly more rounded than the other. The height is 101 mm., with the tang almost perpendicular. The summit of the tang is fairly well finished and the shoulders are in a little damaged. The thickness of the tool is 17 mm. On the whole, the specimen is not well finished as was many of the above.

19. This has been presented to the collection at the University of Queensland at St. Lucia, by Mr. D. E. Armstrong, who obtained it from Mirriwini. At the moment it is not available for photograph or description. Measurements kindly supplied by Dr. L. P. Winterbotham are: "length of handle" 6 inches (152 mm.), and "length across the face" 6 inches (152 mm.).

NAME—The name ooyurka is applied to this stone as the name as used by the aboriginals as noted by Casey. The name mena has been applied by McCarthy, and this is properly rejected by Kennedy on the following grounds:

(a) Priority. Ooyurka is specially mentioned by Casey, and the specimen, presented by Mr. F. D. McCarthy in a recent letter now acknowledges the unsuitability of the name mena.

(b) Material. The stone is of hard stone, variously described in different specimens as dense metamorphic schist, probably basalt, igneous stone, slate, however, the exact geological nature of the specimen is not accurately determined.

FORM—All specimens are made from flat stone, the front and back surfaces being quite flat and fairly smooth, being one of the finest, although evidently not as fine as the front surface. These stones can best be described as having an upright tang, and two shoulders, one on each side. The tang is symmetrical, and at the point varying much in different specimens. There is, then, nothing to indicate which is the front or back, and which is the right or left. There is no evidence that any two stones are alike in any way. The stone No. 10, weighs 83 oz.

However, No. 7 does not correspond to the above description, and it is not clear whether it should be included. It is figured by McCarthy and is triangular in shape, the base being
depicted above. Each angle would then correspond to a shoulder, and there is no mention of a middle variant, typical of other specimens. Moreover, it is stated that there is no tang. However, one specimen and might be regarded as a tang if compared with other specimens. The following descriptions exclude this particular aberrant specimen.

POLISHED BASE.—This is the most characteristic feature of the stone, being present in all cases. The surfaces are quite smooth, and in some cases it is very difficult to discern any scratches even upon magnification. However, in others, such as No. 16, these are more easily recognized, some running longitudinally from shoulder to shoulder and others directly from front to back, occasionally in both directions upon the same specimen. Sometimes, the surface is almost flat, as in Nos. 9 and 14. In others, a distinct concavity as in Nos. 15 and 16. In thickness it varies from 13 to 29 mm. in No. 17. The polished surfaces are rounded or oval at the extreme tips of the tang, and the use of such implements appears to have been Mr. C. Freeman, who for many years has been an aboriginal use an instrument similar to these for smoothing the haft of the haftless arrow, or an axe head. The appearance of the whole stone supports this idea; the smooth surface being used for smoothing and the tang as a handle. The markings on the back of No. 15 and the instrument moved in both directions, that is, from side to side as well as from before backwards and vice versa. These tools evidently assisted in smoothing the hard wood artifacts fashioned in this area. The locality in which the stones were all found, originally all heavily timbered country, lends support to the use as mentioned above.

LOCATION OF FINDS.—Almost all the stones appear to have been found in clay soil, when the country was being cleared for cultivation for growing sugarcane, except when early rains have already made it marshy. The plains, and the Common is usually dry at the time of its arrival in August or September. Its departure seems to be governed by the rains, which cause it to retreat to drier areas. The bird is not readily observed against its brown background, but it is easily seen from drab. Its attractive colouring, largely pale rufous with a darker chestnut band across the abdomen, and its graceful form and movements, make it one of our loveliest birds.

Breeding of The Australian Pratincole

By NANCY HOPKINS

The Australian Pratincole or Yellow wagtail (Glareola isabellina), a migrant from the islands to the north, visits the Townsville Region each summer, except when early rains have already made it marshy. The plains, and the Common is usually dry at the time of its arrival in August or September. Its departure seems to be governed by the rains, which cause it to retreat to drier areas. The bird is not readily observed against its brown background, but it is easily seen from drab. Its attractive colouring, largely pale rufous with a darker chestnut band across the abdomen, and its graceful form and movements, make it one of our loveliest birds.

In a note in this magazine
be breeding on the mate, chicks not accessible places, aDDroach. Parents breeding much recorded:ation, first pair of Additions of 1947, 1951, a similar group stayed for two days on and in September, 1952, Mr. R. W. White (A.A.O.U.) reported 33 birds at Mt. St. John. It was also reported at Cairns by R.A.O.U. members in September, 1953.

Order Pseudotrioridae: Family Striperidae, Grey Butterfly Bird, Cisticus torquatus. Although refer- ences to quotes Central Queensland as its northern mar-

NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST

The name Echidna aculeata was based on 1758 by Shaw and Nodder upon a species of one of the two genera of survivors of monotremes, and this creature has survived for very many years as such amongst zoologists. As a rule it is quoted as Echidna, and the popular vernacular name echidna was accepted in most cases. A Tasmanian species, Echidna setosa, was described by Geoffre in 1863. The word Echidna in Greek means viper, but it is difficult to understand why this animal should be associated with this serpent. Only in comparatively recent years was it recognised by zoologists that the generic name Echidna, is quite untenable according to the rules laid down for biological nomenclature, because the same name had previously been given to a genus of eels, hence the name of the monotreme was changed to that given by Illiger in 1811, namely Tachyglossus, meaning quick tongue, referring to the rapid movements by which the tongue is operated, and rightly so; zoologists now refer to the above species as Tachyglossus aculeatus and T. setosus respectively.

Plea For Retention Of Vernacular Name Echidna

By H. FLECKEY, P.R.G.S.A., Cahir

Ple sized, though a rare bird, it has appeared near Townsville in flocks of 22. One such flock remained on the Common for a few months in the summer of 1947-48. A similar group was seen in the same locality, still guarded by the parents. If they were two of the original chicks they were only three weeks old, but this agrees with my observations on the 1938 bird, which appeared full-grown and flew well at about three weeks. At this stage they were daller than the parents, but in general, the colouring was similar.

By the end of the year, after rain, all pratincoles seemed to have left the Common, so I was surprised to see one on the road as late as the 1st February, when most of the Common was a marsh. Investigation revealed a familly group occupying one of the few dry, bare patches of land, apparently a case of late breeding. The young were probably three or four weeks old.

To sum up, it seems safe to conclude that the Common is a regular breeding ground, except in years of early rains, breeding normally being completed before the wet season.

In addition to the birds listed by the North Queensland Naturalists' Club in its 1949 publication, the following have been recorded:

Order Balliformes: Family Gal- lidae, Black-faced Native Hen, Tribonyx venralis, One bird was seen at Mt. St. John, Townsville, in April, 1951, when bird life was prolific after a wet year.

Order Podicipediformes: Family Podi- cepidae, Crested Grebe, Podiceps cristatus. During the R.A.O.U. camp-out in September, 1952, ten birds were present on Lake Barrine.

Order Charadriiformes: Family Charadriidae, Red-kneed Dotterel, Erythrogyns cinctus. Small numbers have been recorded at Mt. St. John, Townsville, on several occasions during the summer months.

Family Scolopacidae, Little Whimbrel, Mesolophus minutus. This bird does not appear to be common but is seen at Townsville. I have noticed only one or two birds at a time.

Black-tailed Godwit, Limosa limosa. Though a rare bird, it has appeared near Townsville in flocks of 22. One such flock remained on the Common for a few months in the summer of 1947-48. A similar group was seen in the same locality, still guarded by the parents. If they were two of the original chicks they were only three weeks old, but this agrees with my observations on the 1938 bird, which appeared full-grown and flew well at about three weeks. At this stage they were daller than the parents, but in general, the colouring was similar.

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Alternative vernaculars were and are "Porcupine" and "Spiny Ant-eater." The name porcupine is thoroughly objectionable, and it properly belongs to another group of placental mammals, in no way related to echidna, and few people, other than those who are not particularly interested in any sort of classification, will defend the retention or propriety of such a vernacular.

However, in his "Furred Animals of Australia," has labelled it "Australian Spiny Ant-eater", and adds that the name Echidna "belongs to a well-known genus of eels and that it must therefore no longer be used for the spiny animal." This is all very well, but so does the name of Ant-eater belong to a much better known Order of Mammals in other parts of the world, the Edentata, and includes the Myrmecophaga. The name Spiny Ant-eater implies that it is an Ant-eater as known abroad and the further affix of Australian implies that it is an Australian example of one of these mammals, but no zoologist will under any circumstances, place the echidna in any group even remotely connected with the Edentata.

When one considers the un-
vernally accepted vernacular name of Platypus in use since 1799 for our own peculiar Ornithorhynchus, named in 1800, nobody would dare to suggest that this vernacular name should be changed because the same name has been adopted as the biological name for a genus of weevils, a kind of beetle. If Troughton were consistent he would urge that the name platypus be scrapped for the very same reason that he advocates dropping the name of *Echidna*! If, therefore, the name Platypus is accepted generally for the “Duckbill,” there is no reason why the original name of *Echidna* should not find a similar acceptance. It is therefore urged that this name be permanently retained as a vernacular, and the term Ant-eater—whether qualified or not—be that of the foreign Edentata, be completely abandoned.

**WILLIAM HOSMER, F.Z.S.**

It is with great pleasure that it is learnt that Mr. Hosmer, a member of the N.Q. Naturalists’ Club, has been elected, at a recent meeting of the Zoological Society, London, a Fellow of the Society.

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**North Queensland Naturalists’ Club**

Meets at School of Arts, Shields Street, Cairns, usually on Second Tuesday of month, at 8 p.m.

**MEETINGS**

12th January, 1954: Mr. W. Hosmer gave a talk on method of identifying venomous or non-venomous snakes by noting the number and arrangements of their respective labial plates, with chalk illustrations on blackboard. Attendance 20 members and several visitors. The Herpetological League was warmly commended for their fine exhibition of living reptiles, recently.

9th February, 1954: Decided to raise subscription of town members, adults £1 per annum, younger members, from 16 to 21 years, £2/6. Where two or more members of same family, second and other members to pay half subscription. Agreed to appoint Messrs. Blake and Hendry hon. members in recognition of transport facilities cheerfully supplied. Attendance 13 and several visitors.

9th March, 1954: Questions were answered: (a) How do orchids grow on dry bark? (b) Where do mites in cheese come from? (c) What is heavy water and how was it discovered? Attendance 18.


**NEW MEMBERS ELECTED**

7th December, 1953: Mrs. W. G. Jensen, 78 McLeod St., Cairns; V. J. Lock (Junior), 102 Buchanan St., Cairns.


9th February, 1954: Miss A. E. Anthony, Police Station, Cairns; J. C. Gould, Cairns City Nursery; Edge Hill; Arthur Nilsson, Hambledon Mill Barracks, Hambledon; K. W. Hill, 18 Joan St., Bungalow; Barrie Chalker, Gillies Highway, Edmonton; W. D. Hipworth, 80 Buchanan St., Cairns.


14th April, 1954: Miss E. Chapman, 132 Buchan St., Cairns; J. E. Juniper (Junior), Earlville.

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The Historical Society, Cairns, Nth. Qld. Inc.

P.O. Box 319 Cairns, Q. 4870.