```
Bird Specimens Collected by POBSP on Baker Island
                                                 (1)
Blue-faced Bookg (Sula dactglatra)
493936
Semipalmated Plover (Charadrius semipalmatus)
496785
496786
 American Golden Plover (Plavialis dominica)
 493166 -
 493167
 493168
 493169
                     498351
                     498352 ...
  493176
                     498353.
  493171
                     503636
  493172
                     503637 -
  493173
  494038 -
  496682
Ruddy Turnstone (Arenaria interpres)
493186
 493187 -
 493188 -
493189 -
493190 -
493191
493192 -
493193 -
 493194
496074
496075
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Bird. Sp. Coll. by POBSP. on Baker Is,
Ruddy Turnstone (cont)]
496351 -
 496352 -
 496353
 496904 -
 496918
 496918
  496919 -
  496920
 496921 -
 496922 -
 496923 -
 497284
 497285
 497286
 447387
497288
*******
543132
               498031
 543133 -
Bristle-thighed Curlew (Numerius tahitiensis)
496051-
Wandering Tattler (Heteroscelus incanum)
493220 -
493221
 493222
 494055
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494056-

(2)

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Bird Sp. Coll. by POBSP on Baker Is.
[Wandering Tattler (cont.)]
496059 -
496061
496690 -
 543102 -
 543103 -
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Erolia acuminata)
 496070 -
496694 -
 496695 -
 497273
 Pectoral Sandpiper (Erolia melanotos)
 496066
496067
 Bar-tailed Godwit (Limosa lapponica
 493338
 493339
 496056 -
 496789 _
 Sanderling (Crocethia alba)
 493256 -
 493257 -
 Laughing Gall (Larus atricilla)
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494089

(3)

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Bird Sp. Coll. by POBSP on Baker Is.
                                     (4)
Gray-backed Tern (Sterna lanata)
 497114
 543149 -
 Sooty Tern (Sterna fuscata)
 496041
 497067
 497068
 Brown Noddy (Anous Stolidus)
 493288-
 493289
 493290 -
 493291-
 493292
 493293_
 493294
                   497935 -
1 493295_
                   497936
 443296-
                   497937
 493297
                   498045_
                   498046 -
  497233-
                   498047
  497734-
  497235
 543073
 543074
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	Type	Spec-	imen	
N.			Collector	
j.i.	Ecto.	Co11-	ected	
Island	Sto-	mach	Saved	
Baker	Molt	Data	Rec.	
by the POBSP on			Date collected	
ns collected		Fat Con-	dition	ontinued
specime			Wt.	conti
Bird			Gonad Data	interpres)
		And the second	Sex	Arenaria
			Field #	,
			Museum #	Ruddy Turnstone

	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin	skin		skin		skin	skin		skin		skin		skin	skin	skin	skin	skin		skin	skin		skin	skin
	Sible	Sibley	FC Sibley 2882	Sibley	Sibley	Clapp	Clapp		RL DeLong	RL DeLong	RL DeLong	and the second s	RL DeLong		RL DeLong	LN Huber	,	W Bulmer		R Chandler		R Chandler	R Chandler			-		F Smith	F Smith		F Smith	F Smith
-	i i	8	1	8	ŧ	8	8	3	No	No	8		1		Yes	No		No	.5	No	,	No	No	No	No	No		No	No	•	No	No
	1	8		1	1	2	1	1	Yes	Yes	8	†	Yes			Yes		Yes		Yes	ş e	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
	, 8	8	8	1 1	1	l l		1 1	Yes	Yes	875 A86		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
	0ct. 196	oct. 196	Oct.	0ct. 196	oct. 196	oct. 196	oct. 196	17 Oct. 1963	Nov. 196	Nov. 196	6 Feb. 1966	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	6 Feb. 1966	4	Feb. 16	18 Sept. 1966		14 oct. 1966		20 Nov. 1966		Nov.	20 Nov. 1966	Nov.	Nov.	19 Feb. 1967		9 Feb. 1	Feb. 196		19 Feb. 1967	9 Feb.
	8	8	1	1	t t	:	!	1 1	Heavy	Heavy	Extremely	fat	Extremely	n a t	3 1	Light		Medium		Heavy		Heavy	Heavy	Heavy	Ext.heavy	Medium	:	Heavy	Medium		Moderate	Med-hvy
	06	87	48	102	\$\frac{1}{2}	80	100	63	117.0	114.0	135.0		125.0	c	108.0	72		100		106		66	105	. 901	127	98		118	な	7	1.07	124
2014	mu	Ts: 1 mm	4 mm	8	Ts: N	7 mm 7	7 mm.	6 mm •	5x2	V . S	1t: 2x1		not recogni	zable	ox4;ova gr	6x3;ova	very fine	1t:3x.5;	rt:2x.3	1t:2x1;	rt:1.7x9	hx9	6x3	4x3	1.8x8	1t:2x.5;	rt:1x.5	x3;gr	1t:5x.5;	rt:1x1	6x4 gran	5xl gran
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Baker Climate

not much is known of the climate of Baker Island but the fact that it is situated in a region of with scanty precipitation is abundantly illustrated by the character of its vegetation.

as is the case with many equatorial islands, meteorological records for Baker Island are animality scanty and in the died hading or lacking in many areas . Where They do exist the series of observations are short and discontinuous, But sufficient is known to allow a brief general description of the character of the area. The Baker: area as a whole is dominated by the trade winds, decording to the usual picture of tropical islands, These winds blow from the mortheast in the regions north of the equator, and from the southeast in the regions to

the south of the equator, with the doldrumes or belt of calms, squalls and variable minds at sandwicked in between. In reality, the situation is not this simple, for the trade minds of the Pacific are not as strong or steady as those of the atlantie, the doldrum belt is narrow or nonexistant, and the trade-wind system has a seasonal oscillatory movement northeward and conthward. The result at polis that while the general direction of the winds is from the east, they are apt to vary between north east and southeast enpering on these is the being most variable between January and may, at the Time when the southeast trades have receded to the southwards. It Paker the the stendency is for the trade winds to blow steadily, but with no great force; local squells occur, but severe storms ore rare. Squally weather is more liable

to occur between november and may. (nov. Int. Div. 1945) The highest wind melocity is about the barometric pressure is practically contant except for diurnal variations (Hague, 1862) The amount of precipitation is strongly influenced by the changes in the trade winds. () During the middle of the year, when the easterly and south easterly winds are predominant, rainfall tends to be sparce; then to The fitte year, and in few from nor through may, when north eastery wind are more frequent, the rainey Deason occurs, any interruption of this periodicity by westerly winds, however, is almost invariably associated with heavy precipitation. Another fritor of importance in the world Andre in an island without a lagoer, such as Baker, is the heated column of air which rises from its sandy surface. When conditions are favorable for precipitation over the surrounding ocean, the island.

does not get its share. Heavy rain clouds have been observed to the on their approach toward Baker to Esplit and by the rusing columns of hot are, as pass by to the either side of the island. (Bryan (1942), Ramsay (1974) Otaque, (1862), et The rainfall is highly warriable, not only from month to month but year to year in on equatorial islands such Home as Baker and Howland. Haque (1867) give the following description of Bakers climate: The nat. may, is found the following

March 4-10, 1963: Fairyly dry - ABK personal communication

July 4-10, 1963: Fairly even cover of low grasses. Many eggs washed off Noddy colony.

October 14-18,1963 : Island unchanged since July. No precipitation during our stay.

February 13-14,1964: Island vegetation much more lush than October.

July 21-22, 1964 : Island vegetation unchanged from February.

October 13-15, 1964:

February 3-5, 1965: Vegetation in poor condition on Baker. Mimosa Sida and three species of grass are badly burned from lack of rain. Only Portulaca, B.+T.healthy

May 8-18, 1965 : Rob rang findama from Howland

September 16-20, 1965: Lush vegetation and standing water indicated heavy recent rainfall.

October 15-21, 1965: At about midnight last night we had a downpour.

November 25, 1965 :

February 5-7, 1966: NO COMMENT

February 27-28, 1966:

March 25, 1966 : Vegetation is showing definite signs of drying. Leaves of Lepturus and Digitaria only half green. Leaves dropping from some Sida in bloom.

May 2-3, 1966: At time of visit - cloudy with full moon - Judging for the way

July 12, 1966 : Vegetation shows considerable eviden

: Vegetation shows considerable evidence of prolonged drought. 273 of Mimosa dead. Much of Lepturus along west beach crest dead. Some side blm

August 14, 1966 : Must have had a fair amount of rainfall since July. Most of Lepturus had green growth above dead stalks. Lagoon level risen at least 6 in.

September 18, 1966: Only the Portulaca and Cordia healthy. Other vegetation sparse and brown indicating very little rain fell in past month.

October 13-14, 1966: NO COMMENT

November 20-21, 1966: No sign of extre excessive with or disperse - No marked there

March - Heril 63 - mether wet nor dry

May - June 63 - vain in here somewhere

July - October 63 - mormal

Jon - Februag 64 - increased ramball

July - July - stead vaniful

July - July - stead vaniful

July - Get 64 - 3

Jan - Feb 65 - very dry

May 65 - ramy

August - Sept 65 - Roberton

Nove feb 66 - Roberton

March 66 - Recomptence

May 66 - dry 64

July 66 - dry

Inle July 66 - dry

Late they can be sept - dry

Cet 100 66 - medicin

Baker Island - Appendix D

Summary of Bird Specimens Taken by the POBSP on Baker Island

Range of weights (grams)		92-120	84-98		<u> </u>		Ĭ	192-235	25-27	00	TO BE	157-203	
Mean weight (grams)	1560	104	90	439	91.6	777	52	214	56	1	130	174	
n for weights		M44	0m	Н	4 N	a	Н	CV -I	a	Ĭ	H	07	7-17
Type of Specimen Skins, Skeletons, Alcoholics	·	wr.H	H M9	1—1	70	CJ		CV -I	CA	-		3 3	2 94
Number of Specimens	Н	M M H	49		7 N	CJ		CV H	CV		 l	01	53
FI 021	6.0	0 0+ 00	10 O+ 10 O+	6-0	0 O+ 0 O+	0+	0+	10 O+	000	ъ	ď	*O O+	
Species	Blue-faced Booby	Golden Plover	Ruddy Turnstone	Bristle-thighed Curlew	Wandering Tattler	Pectoral Sandpiper	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bar-tailed Godwit	Sanderling	Laughing Gull	Sooty Tern	Common Noddy Tern	

Pilanaia, A. et al. 1936. (Unpublished) Daily Log of Baker Island August 7, 1936 - October 26, 1936. National Archives Record Group 126, File No. 9-12-17

Aug 14: 11 papio caught.

Aug 15: 4 paulu, 2 uu caught.

Aug 16: 22 papio caught using pièces of flying fish for bait. Flying fish had flown in one band at night and become staranded. Caught also a moana, several pualus.

Aug 23: Caught 27 papios -- a foot long weighing one pound.

Aug 24: Flants watered include ironwood and mangoes brought down last time on the Itasca.

Aug 26: Small Japanese cargo freighter seen offshore.

Aug 30: 5:30 rained 12 minutes .05 inches (Did not rain on Howland same day)

Sept 27: an ulua caught. (40 lbs.)

Oct 4: Searched for rats with clubs, killed 12.

Oct 9: Goconut grove among () at NE section of island.
Trees ()

Oct 11: .88 inches rainfall -- 3 hours -- starting slightly before noon.

Oct 15: 6 squid caught in afternoon.

Oct 23: transplanted two mango trees.

Oct 24: 31 papios caught.

Oct 26: Itasca arrived.



Species	TABLE Avifauna of E	POBSP Maximum Population Estimate	Month in which estimate was recorded Nearest Nesting Area
Red-tailed Tropicbird Blue-faced Booby Brown Booby* Red-footed Booby* Great Frigatebird* Lesser Frigatebird* Sooty Tern Gray-backed Tern* Brown Noddy* Black Noddy* Fairy Tern*	Rare resident Fairly common resident Fairly common visitant Fairly common visitant Common visitant Very common visitant Abundant visitant Rare resident Common resident Fairly common visitant Fairly common visitant Fairly common visitant	19 400 21 16 ca.40 175 1,000 25 1,000 20 10	
Golden Plover Ruddy Turnstone Wandering Tattler*	ARCTIC SHOREBIRD M Common migrant Very common migrant Uncommon migrant	150 250 35	
Bristle-thighed Curlew Sanderling* Pectoral Sandpiper* Sharp-tailed Sandpiper* Bar-tailed Godwit*	Uncommon migrant Rare migrant Rare migrant	15 2	
	VAGRANTS		

VAGRANTS

Laughing Gull*

^{*} previously unreported from the island or no unambiguous records in the published literature.

BAKER ISLAND

PRELIMINARY REPORT

SIC# 14 - AUGUST, 1966

BAKER ISLAND

PRELIMINARY REPORT

SIC# 14 - AUGUST, 1966

Field Party --- Richard S. Crossin (Biologist in Charge), Kenneth C.
Balcomb, Walter Bulmer, Richard D. Chandler, Roger B.
Clapp, David I. Hoff, Lawrence N. Huber, and David L.
Pearson.

Itinerary ---- August 14 - 1215 - Clapp and Pearson arrive Baker.

- 1600 - Clapp and Pearson depart Baker.

Man-days Spent on Baker: 0.3

Upon our arrival at the island we noted that Baker, although very must have had a fair amount of rainfall since our visit in July. Most

Upon our arrival at the island we noted that Baker, although very dry, must have had a fair amount of rainfall since our visit in July. Most of the Lepturus whowed new green growth above the dead stalks and the Mimosa along the west beach crest was far greener than on our previous visit.

Some Portulaca, Boerhaavia, Tribulus and Sida plants were flowering, but only the latter two plants were flowering in most areas where they occurred. The two Cordia at the northwestern end of the island, although possessing several dry and yellowed leaves, seemed to be in good condition.

Another indication of increased rainfall since our last visit was the increased depth of water in the small lagoon which was notably dry on our last visit. The water level had risen at least six inches in the past month.

A single butterfly, a male <u>Hypolimnas</u> bolina, was seen flying over the north end of the island.

The four most notable differences in the avifauna since the previous month were the decrease in the number of tropicbirds, the changing status of the Common Noddy nesting cycle, the increased number of shorebirds, and the presence of two species (Gray-backed Tern and Fairy Tern) not seen on the previous visit.

Three Berlese samples and four bird specimens were collected.

Additional notes on the fauna and specimens are given in the following annotated list.

BIRDS

ANNOTATED LIST

Red-tailed Tropicbird (Phaethon rubricauda)

Estimated population - - - - - : 12 Nest count: Nests/ egg - - - - : 1

Fewer tropicbirds were seen on this visit than in July. The

most seen in the air at one time was two, and none were seen displaying. The nest site under the plane wreck that contained a bird on an empty nest in July has now been deserted. An unbanded tropic bird was found on one heavily incubated egg beneath the larger and northernmost of the two small fordia trees.

Blue-faced Booby (Sula dactylatra)

Estimated (diurnial) population - - - : 20
Nest count: Nests/ 2 eggs - - - - : 20
Nests/ large downy young:
Nests/ immature - - - : :
Berlese samples taken - - - - : :

Although four Blue-faced Booby nests were found, our coverage of the ish land was not complete, and it seems likely that as many as four or five more nests may have been present on the island.

One of the nests (containing a young bird that had almost fully attained immature plumage) was found in the north-central part of the island and was probably the same nest that held a large downy young on the previous visit. The other three nests were found on the open sand of the north-western beach crest about 100 yards north of the lighthouse. The three nests were within about 30 feet of one another.

Three of the four adult Blue-faced Boobies associated with the nests (from the nest containing a large downy young, the one containing an immature, and from one nest with two eggs) were blue-streamered birds from Howland Island.

Lesser Frigatebird (Fregata ariel)

Estimated (diurnial) population - - -: 25

As we first approached Baker Island in the rubber raft, a group of nine unidentified frigatebirds were seen flying towards Baker from the southeast. While on the island we saw five frigatebirds which flew low enough for specific identification. All five birds (three adult males and two adult females) were Lesser Frigatebirds. Later in the afternoon a group of fifteen unidentified frigatebirds were seen flying several hundred feet above the water off the northwestern point of the island.

Golden Plover (Pluvialis dominica)

Shorebird count - -- - - - : 75

Most of the Golden Plover were seen along the northern third of the island perimeter. Only about 6 of the 75 birds counted were first seen in the lagoon.

Most of the plovers were seen in mixed flocks with Ruddy Turnstones and often a few Wandering Tattlers. The three largest flocks (with perhaps some overlap in individual birds) were composed of 52 birds (27 Golden Plovers and 35 Ruddy Turnstones); 37 birds (20 Golden Plovers and 17 Ruddy Turnstones); and 42 birds (13 Golden Plovers and 28 Ruddy Turnstones).

None of the Golden Plovers observed were in breeding plumage.

Ruddy Turnstone
Shorebird count - - - - - - : 136
(Arenaria interpres)
Specimens collected - - - - - : :

Only 15 of the 136 birds counted were first seen in the lagoon, most of the rest being seen either in mixed flocks with Golden Plover or in "pure" flocks of Turnstones. The largest single flock composed solely of turnstones contained 35 birds.

At least 40 or 50 of the turnstones were observed closely with binoculars but none showed any trace of red on the rump. The single specimen collected by Pearson was well into its primary molt which was about 50% complete but had not yet begun to molt in the secondary series.

Wandering Tattler Shorebird count - - - - - - : 22 (Heteroscelus incanum)

Twenty of the 22 tattlers counted were first seen along the outer perimeter of the island. They associated realtively little with the plovers and turnstones, and for that matter, with one another. The largest flock of tattlers seen contained but five birds.

Sanderling Population - - - - - - - 2 (Crocethia alba)

Crossin reported that two Sanderling were seen flying into the island from the south just prior to Pearson's and my departure from Baker.

Sooty Tern

(Sterna fuscata)

Eștimated (diurnial) population - - -: 15

About 15 adult Sooty Terns, mostly in ones or twos, were seen flying over the lagoon, but no evidence of nesting was found.

Gray-backed Tern

(Sterna lunata)

Population - - - - - : 8

Specimens collected - - - - : 1

As we approached the lagoon eight Gray-backed Terns arose from the sandy easternmost edge of the lagoon. One bird at least had long white

by Pearson, had a naked brood patch, no molt in the flight feathers, and enlarged gonads (12 x 8 mm.). About twenty minutes were spent searching for active nests but none were found. These observations, taken in conjunction with the tern's behaviour, suggest that the Gray-backed Terns may be pre-breeding and that some nests may be present later in the month.

Common Noddy	Estimated (diurnial) population:	850
(Anous stolidus)	Nest count : Nests/egg:	
	Nests/ small chicks:	4
	Nests/ large chicks:	60
		133

When Pearson and I first arrived at the lagoon some 600 Common Noddies arose from the central islet. Most flew out to sea to join a flock of about 250 more feeding off the northeasternmost point of the island.

Only a very few small chicks were seen but 3 of 4 were dark phase and 1 of 4 were white phase, a very similar proportion of dark to light to that seen in July.

Most of the nests with eggs were concentrated on the easternmost end of the islet and along the souteasternmost side where small ledges afford some elevation above the water. One nest was found containing two eggs, one egg fresh, the other heavily incubated. In all, nine eggs were examined to determine their stage of incubation. Seven were fresh, one was slightly incubated, and one was heavily incubated.

Judging from the large proportion of fresh eggs present, the very small number of young chicks, and the increased water level in the lagoon it seems likely that either little egg laying occurred between the July and August 1966 visits, or that those eggs laid during that period were inundated and washed off the central islet.

Fairy Tern		Population	n		-	***	-	(0.00	8516	000	ente;	40040	4230	•	dealer	.	5
(Gygis alba)	•	Specimens	C	oll	ect	ted	l	CRIMIN	***	queto	CORN.	6200	-	6006	404.0	•	2

Five Fairy Terns were seen flying over the coral rubble on the ocean side of the lagoon. One of the two specimens collected had a naked brood patch with but one or two feathers growing upon it while the other specimen possessed a nearly completely refeathered brood patch. Neither bird was molting in the major flight fea thers.

MAMMALS

House Mice seemed to be as abundant as on our last visit but we were

unable to collect any in the limited time available.

Two nests were found at the northern end of the island, one inactive, the other apparently active, and Berlese samples were taken from both. The first nest was found under a plank and was an open cup about three or four inches across. It was lined with pieces of grass and was surrounded by bird bones (apparently booby and frigatebird) and by Common Noddy feathers which had apparently been brought under the board by the mice. The other nest was found under a piece of tarpaper near some of the debris left from World War II. It was about the same size as the other nest but was lined with soft brown fibers which were originally some sort of insulating material. Two mice fled from under the tarpaper when it was lifted leading to the supposition that the nest may have been being actively used.

House Cat
(Felis domesticus)

None were seen during our short stay on the island.

LIZARDS

No time was spent on this visit collecting or observing lizards but both Snake-eyed Skinks (Ablepharus boutoni) and Mourning Geckos (Lepidodactylus lugubris) were casually observed during the tour of the island. No turtles were seen.

Baker Island - Appendix D

Summary of Bird Specimens Taken by the POBSP on Baker Island

Range of weights (grams)	8	92-120 85-137	84-98 63-102		73-112.9	40-47		192-235	25-27			157-203
Mean weight (grams)	1560	4 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	90	439	91.6	44	52	299	56	ji.	130	174
n for weights	H	M44	m\o	-4	40	N	. ;- -1	NH	CV.	3	H	64 44
Type of Specimen Skins, Skeletons, Alcoholics	~		H 60		7 0	N		N H	cy.	-1		3 3 3
Number of Specimens	gamed	w ru H	49	H	どた	N	H	N H	CU	r-d		10 6
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Species	Blue-faced Booby	Golden Plover	Ruddy Turnstone	Bristle-thighed Curlew	Wandering Tattler	Pectoral Sandpiper	Sharp-tailed Sandpiper	Bar-tailed Godwit	Sanderling	Laughing Gull	Sooty Term	Common Noddy Tern

\$ 1.

Date No. of Resident No. of No. of Species Total Breeding Pct.of. trans. Present Pop. Seabirds Total seabirds Present Popu. pres.	Pct. of total Pop.	No. of shb. pres.	Pct. of tot Other
March 10-11 226 176 77.9 13	5.8	37	16.4
July 8 1066 1034 97.0 15	1.4	17	1.6
Oct. 16 527 110 20.9 123	23.3	294	55.8 x
Feb. 12 476 40 367	The second	129	1
July 13 1724 350 20.3 1308	75.9	66	3.9
Oct. 13 1272 395 31.0 696	54.7	181	14.2
Fob	22.6	132	10.3
Most	23.5	22	2.6
Cont.	34.6	332	46.3 500
	32.7	450	62.1 250
	19.0	324	41.9
777 - 1	14.7	331	48.3
Mah	10.6	221	31.8
March 10-11 1024 617 60.3 91 1966	8.9	316	30.9
More	11.9	239	38.6
July 8 575 446 77.6 20	3.5	109	19.0
August 11 1170 890 76.1 45	3.8	235	20.1
Sept. 12 718 474 66.0 17	2.3	227	31.6
Oct. 17 803 415 51.6 122	15.1	253 3	31.5 13
Nov. 17 1022 632 61.8 166	16.2	224 2	21.9

^{*} Species known to breed on the island (Gray-backed Tern, Red-tailed Tropicbird, Common Noddy) are considered as residents each time recorded whether or not they may not be breeding. Blue-faced Boobies are considered breeders only for population known to breed since clubs are almost certainly largely composed of non-Baker Island birds.

TABLE

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MEAN NO./	7											
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JULY				T T	0.0	12.0	502.5			0.7		Z 2
JUNE												N)
MAY			-	L.		24.0	27.5					CV S
APR		-							-			0 1
MAR				0. H		16.0	10.0					CU \$
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JAIN		· .										0
	Wedge-tailed Shearwater	Christmas Island Shearwater	Phoenix Island Petrel	Brown Booby	Red-footed Booby,	Greater and Lesser Frigatebird	Sooty Tern	White-capped Noddy	Blue-gray Noddy	White Tern	cent of	or seabird Visitants