

# ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE FISHES OF LORD HOWE ISLAND

G. R. ALLEN,<sup>1,2</sup> D. F. HOESE,<sup>1</sup> J. R. PAXTON,<sup>1</sup> J. E. RANDALL,<sup>3</sup>  
B. C. RUSSELL,<sup>1,4</sup> W. A. STARCK II,<sup>1</sup> F. H. TALBOT,<sup>1,4</sup> AND  
G. P. WHITLEY<sup>5</sup>

## SUMMARY

Lord Howe Island, some 630 kilometres off the northern coast of New South Wales, Australia at 31.5° South latitude, is the world's southernmost locality with a well developed coral reef community and associated lagoon. An extensive collection of fishes from Lord Howe Island was made during a month's expedition in February 1973. A total of 208 species are newly recorded from Lord Howe Island and 23 species newly recorded from the Australian mainland. The fish fauna of Lord Howe is increased to 447 species in 107 families. Of the 390 species of inshore fishes, the majority (60%) are wide-ranging tropical forms; some 10% are found only at Lord Howe Island, southern Australia and/or New Zealand. Less than 4% of the shore fishes are endemic to the Lord Howe region (including Norfolk Island). Some 32% of the inshore species are restricted to the south-western or southern Pacific Ocean.

## INTRODUCTION

Lord Howe Island (31°32'S, 159°04'E), which lies some 630 kilometres off the coast of northern New South Wales (Fig. 1), is of special interest to marine biologists because of its geographic position. Sparse coral growth may be present at other areas farther south, but Lord Howe Island is the world's southernmost locality exhibiting a well developed barrier coral reef community and associated lagoon. The inshore fish fauna of the island is particularly interesting as it is composed of a combination of tropical and temperate forms. The present paper includes a list of the fishes reported from Lord Howe Island prior to 1973 and 39 unreported records based on specimens at the Australian Museum, Sydney. In addition, 169 new records are reported of which specimens were taken or individuals positively observed during February 1973 by a team of ichthyologists from The Australian Museum and Bishop Museum, and financed by the National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. and the Trustees of The Australian Museum. Also, Allen (in press) has recorded 28 new records based on material collected by the expedition.

1 The Australian Museum, Sydney.

2 Present address: Western Australian Museum, Perth.

3 Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu.

4 Present addresses: Macquarie University, North Ryde.

5 Deceased.