

Type Specimens of Birds in the Australian Museum

N.W. LONGMORE

Museum Associate, Division of Vertebrate Zoology,
Australian Museum, PO Box A285, Sydney South, NSW 2001, Australia

Present address: Department of Ornithology, Queensland Museum,
PO Box 300, South Brisbane, Qld 4101, Australia

ABSTRACT. The Australian Museum's collection of avian types holds approximately 340 specimens of about 180 taxa. The majority of these were named by E.P. Ramsay and A.J. North. Hindwood (1946) compiled a type list for Australian taxa in the collection, however it contained a number of errors and omissions, which are corrected here. The types listed by Stanbury (1969) for the Macleay Museum, University of Sydney, have been incorporated in the Australian Museum collection. This list also includes extralimital avian type material, most of which originated from New Guinea and the South Pacific.

LONGMORE, N.W., 1991. Type specimens of birds in the Australian Museum. Technical Reports of the Australian Museum 4: 1-42.

A list of Australian bird types in the collection of the Australian Museum was published by Hindwood (1946). That list has become somewhat dated. Since then, additional material has been discovered and the status of several other specimens has changed through a reassessment of the original descriptions. It is also appropriate to correct the few errors that occur in Hindwood's work to add the departmental holdings of non-Australian type material and to advise the addition of recently described taxa from within Australia and elsewhere. The type collection contains some 340 individual specimens representing holotypes, paratypes, syntypes, lectotypes and a neotype of about 180 taxa, including those on permanent loan from the Macleay

Museum, University of Sydney.

The main collection contains about at most 75,000 registered specimens gathered over the past 130 years; these are principally in the form of skins, skeletons, spirits and eggs. A brief outline of the history of the bird collection can be found in Strahan (1979). Unfortunately, as of yet, there is no detailed account of the department's activities.

It has been a difficult task identifying all the types; neither E.P. Ramsay nor A.J. North (or others) fully documented all their type material. Hindwood (1946) and Cogger (1979) discussed the failure of past workers in the Australian Museum to clearly designate type material and its eventual destination. Finding these data