

ATOLL RESEARCH BULLETIN

NO. 198.

**NOTES ON THE VERTEBRATE FAUNA OF
TONGAREVA ATOLL**

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**Issued by
THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.**

February 1977

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Tongareva (or Penrhyn) Atoll, at 9° S, 158° W in the south central Pacific Ocean, is the northernmost of an isolated group of islands north of the Cook Islands, and like them is administered by New Zealand. Tongareva is a typical ring atoll about 40 miles in circumference and contains a lagoon of about 108 square miles (Buck, 1932).

The vertebrate fauna of the atoll has been little studied despite relatively frequently visits by missionaries, anthropologists, and zoologists. The atoll was visited by the Kaimaloa Expedition in December 1924 and in September 1936 and April 1937 by William F. Coultas and R.W. Smith, respectively. Both Coultas and Smith collected birds but no formal reports on the collections were ever written.

On 13 June 1965, Tongareva was visited for 9 hours by a survey team of the Smithsonian Institution's Pacific Ocean Biological Survey Program (POBSP). Only the "bird islets" including Vaiari Islet at the southwestern corner of the lagoon and portions of the northwestern rim were visited.

Recently Batham and Batham (1973) presented observations on the birds of the atoll made during a visit from 12 August to 20 September 1968. The present paper presents additional information on the vertebrates of Tongareva Atoll and comments on Batham and Batham's useful contribution. Appendix Table 1 lists bird specimens collected in 1936, 1937 and 1965.

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(Manuscript received February 1975 -- Eds.)

