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The ornithology of the Baudin expedition (1800-1804)

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Cover Page



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Chapter 3.3

Towards the resolution of long-standing issues regarding the birds collected during the Baudin expedition to Australia and Timor (1800-1804): the discrepancy in the number of birds collected and their subsequent handling

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Corrections on the published version, see notes¹.

Abstract. This paper is a follow-up of Jansen (2014c) and provides details on discrepancies between the actual number of bird specimens collected on the Baudin expedition (1800-1804) in both the literature as well as in archives and provides a review of how specimens were treated after their arrival and how they were documented. Louis Dufresne (1752-1832) played a key role in the documentation of such specimens; although only a taxidermist in the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris, his role gained significance due to the lack of a curator specifically devoted to birds at that time in the Muséum.

Key words. Dufresne, Baudin, Lesueur, MNHN, birds, taxidermy.

INTRODUCTION

No less than 75+ bird taxa were described as new (including synonyms) because of the specimens brought back by the Baudin expedition (1800-1804) on the ships *Le Géographe* and *Le Naturaliste*, involving no less than 105+ type specimens in total. This expedition can therefore be ranked as one of the most successful expeditions in the 19th century. The expedition docked at multiple locations in Australia and at Tenerife (Canary Islands), Cape Town (South Africa), Mauritius and Timor (see Jansen 2014c).

At least 255 birds were donated to or purchased during the expedition (Jansen 2014c), but the actual number might be much higher, but poor documentation hinders establishing the exact number. The remainder was collected by crew members of the expedition, in particular Stanislaus Levillain, René Maugé and Charles-Alexandre Lesueur. In 1856, 364 birds collected on the Baudin expedition (including those collected by Jean Macé (27 birds) and Jean-Baptiste Dumont (11 birds) (Jansen 2015a, 2016b)) were still in the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle, Paris, France (hereafter MNHN); by 2014, this number had dwindled to roughly 295.

The exact number of specimens collected during the entire expedition, including donations and purchases, is speculative and the various published sources disagree. The same applies for the processing and taxidermy of specimens after arrival. This paper aims to clarify these matters.

Documents were studied at the MNHN on 25 April 2007, 15-17 June 2011, 12-13 June 2012, 2-12 April 2013, 16-20 February 2015 and 8-10 February 2016; the MNHN library on 14 March 2012, 5, 8 April 2013 and 17 February 2015; the Archives Nationales on 18 February 2015 and 9 February 2016; and in Le Havre on 27 June 2013 and 21 May 2015 (MHNH).

NUMBER OF SPECIMENS COLLECTED

Authors disagree on the number of bird specimens collected on the Baudin expedition. Jus-sieu (1804: 10), Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire (1809: 88) and Jansen (2014c: 6) state 912 birds, Girard (1856: 134) gives 803 birds from 279 species, Bartle (1993) mentions “nearly 1000 bird skins”, and Jansen (2015a: 89), 1021 specimens.

Various lists exist, and for the sake of completeness, all known unpublished documents that record the number of specimens brought back by the Baudin expedition found in the archives are reviewed here:

Document 1

A note written (fig. 3-025) by Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire to the director of the museum dated 29 June 1803 (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590), in which he reports the number of birds (599 individuals, 206 species) and mammals (79 individuals, 32 species) brought back by *Le Naturaliste*, which docked in Le Havre at 3 June 1803. He further remarks:

“All of the preparator-artists in the Museum are working on mounting the mammals: the preparation of these animals will not incur any additional expense.

I have given a portion of the birds to be mounted according to the decision of the Assembly: I have made a choice of what needed to be preserved for mounting: the number amounts to 290: this number surpasses that of the species, given that it is necessary to mount the male, female and often the young of the same species.

I have just packed the duplicates, which comes to a number of 309 birds: the administration will be able to dispose of them in favor of whoever is concerned; the separation of these birds cannot hurt us in any way.

Paris, this 10 Messidor, Year 11 [= 29 June 1803].”

This note is annotated at the top of the page in a different hand with the date 19 Thermidor an 11 (= 2 August 1803), evidently added after it was received by the Museum director.

Document 2

An inventory drafted (fig. 3-026) by François Péron on 25 March 1804, of the zoological specimens collected between 1 Frimaire an XI (= 22 November 1802) and 1 Pluiose an XII (= 22 January 1804), and off-loaded from the *Le Géographe* (arrived 24 March 1804), lists 422 birds and 110 mammals (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592). An identical inventory at Lorient, drafted by Milius, captain of the *Le Géographe* at the time of its return, is in Le Havre (MNHN, Bibliothèque centrale, Ms Lettre 305; Collection Lesueur, MHNH21021). Whether one inventory was copied from the other, and if so, which was drafted first, is unknown.

Document 3

This inventory, entitled “Expédition Française de Découvertes. Tableau des Oiseaux” and dated 8 Messidor an XII (= 27 June 1804) includes two lists of the birds brought back by both ships of the expedition (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592). In the first list, “Récapitulation” (“Summary”), the birds brought back are broken down into seven taxonomic divisions (birds of prey, water-birds, passerines, etc.), for a total of 289 species and 804 specimens. In the second list, “Etat où se trouvent les Oiseaux” (“Account of where the birds are found”), the following numbers are listed: 325 (mounted for the galleries in the museum), 478 (in skins not mounted), 85 (donated to the Empress), 5 (exchanged with Brongniard and Faujas) and 19 (living at Malmaison or the Museum menagerie), for a total of 912 specimens. Below this table, a separate line reads: “Total de les Oiseaux qui manquèrent aux galeries 403 Individués” (“Total of the birds that were [previously] lacking from the galleries 403 individuals”). Evidently, the “Récapitulation” table includes only the totals from the first two lines of the “Etat” table, plus one (804 vs 803 (325 + 478)). A separate inventory, “Expédition Française de Découvertes. Mammifères”, dated 8 Messidor an XII (= 27 June 1804), shows that 125 mammals also entered the collection.

Document 4

A long letter on the expedition by François Péron dated 8 Messidor an XII (= 27 June 1804) shows a table that mentions 912 bird-specimens, 289 species and 144 new species (Copy at Archives Nationales AJ/15/596).

Document 5

A list, dated 4 Vendémiaire an XIII (= 26 September 1804), notes that 178 birds were given

to “S.M. l’Impératrice” from the ‘voyage de découvertes’, as well as “a portion of the shells” (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593). The 178 birds probably included 147 expedition birds (see Document 10, below). It also notes that the Baudin expedition “has provided us with 912 birds, of which 403 have been chosen for the galleries.”

Document 6

An undated list (ca. 1804), entitled ‘Tableau des Oiseaux’, mentions 766 specimens from 248 species (Collection Lesueur, MHNH 21005).

Document 7

An undated sheet of paper (ca. 1804) mentions 930 birds and 124 mammals (Collection Lesueur, MHNH 21018).

Document 8

A 3-page list, drafted by Louis Dufresne to É. Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire and dated 7 Messidor an XII (= 26 April 1804), lists 75 genera (with the number of species and specimens per genus), totaling 297 species and 803 specimens. On the last page, two tables of summaries are included. In the first table, titled “Montant”, four lines list the total number of birds that entered the museum (803), birds from the expedition given to the Empress (85 (of a total of 116 given to “Sa Majesté”), birds exchanged with Brougniard and Faujas (5), and birds living at Malmaison and in the Museum menagerie (19), for a total of 912 birds. The second table, titled “Employ”, has five lines. The last three lines repeat the information and figures in the table above, but the first two lines list the number of birds mounted in the Museum galleries (325) and the number of unmounted skins (478). The last two figures, 325 and 478, add up to the figure in the first line of the first table, 803.

In the margin alongside the two tables is written: “Total des oiseaux qui manquèrent à la Collection du muséum 403, individués” (“Total of the birds [previously] absent from the Museum collection 403 individuals”) (Collection Lesueur, MHNH 21036).

Document 9

A small undated (ca. 1804) sheet of paper records: “number of birds / 288 species and 895 individuals / from the expedition of the two corvettes - / of this number 350 individuals were [previously] absent from the collection of the Imperial museum.” (Collection Lesueur, MHNH 21038).

Document 10

This 3-page list (undated, ca. 1804), is very like Document 8. It also lists 75 genera, with the number of species and specimens recorded per genus, totalling 297 species and 803 individuals. There are also two tables on the last page. In the first table are four lines recording the total number of specimens (803), those given to Mme. Bonaparte (85), those given to Brongniard and Faujas (5), and those living at Malmaison and the museum (19), for a total of 912 birds. To the left of this figure are two lines: “plus trente oiseaux envoyé de l’île de France par M. Dumont / d’aux ce nombre 20, ont été choisée pour les galléries -” (“over 30 birds sent from the Île de France by M. Dumont / of this number 20 have been chosen for the galleries”). Below this table, as in List 4, is a table entitled “Employ”, listing the number of birds mounted for the galleries (325), the remaining number in skins (478) (which together add up to 803, the total number of specimens noted above), those living (19), those given to Mme. Bonaparte (85, out of a total of 116 given to her), and to Faujas and Brongniard (5), for a total again of 912 birds. Below this table are three additional lines: “choisée le 7 messidor 62 pour S.M. l’impératrice / plus choisée pour le muséum 78. / de la Collection Dumont ile de france 20” (62 chosen on the 7 messidor [= 27 June] for H.M. the Empress / 78 more chosen for the museum / 20 from the Île de France Dumont Collection”). Evidently, on 27 June 1804, 62 more expedition birds were chosen to send to Josephine; these, added to the 116 already chosen for her, brought the total up to 178 birds, as noted in Document 5. On the same date, 78 more expedition birds were chosen for the galleries; these, added to the 325 birds that had already been mounted for the galleries brought the total up to 403, the number of birds (specimens) noted in Documents 5 and 8 as having been previously absent from (e.g. new to) and chosen for the Museum galleries. (Archives du laboratoire de zoologie Mammifères et Oiseaux MNHN: undated Ms).

Document 11

Another 3-page list (undated, ca. 1804) lists 75 genera, with the number of species and specimens for each genus, totaling 297 species and 803 individuals (specimens). Later, the names of species and the registration numbers of specimens were added in a different hand (Archives du laboratoire de zoologie Mammifères et Oiseaux MNHN: undated Ms).

Document 12

An undated list (ca. 1804) of the “objets rapportés” by Perón and Lesueur, probably written by Dufresne and included with a letter by François Péron, notes 912 birds, 289 species and 144 new species (MNHN, Bibliothèque centrale, Ms Lettre 2528).

TAXIDERMY

Birds collected on the expedition arrived as prepared skins in France, and were subsequently mounted by the museum's taxidermists. Birds were mounted not only in the museum, but also in the taxidermists' homes, as shown by various communications to the museum. To document the progress of turning the Baudin expedition skins into mounts and other activities in the museum, Dufresne made weekly reports to his director, Étienne Geoffroy Saint-Hilaire. Although birds are only randomly described in these reports, they give an idea of what was collected. Dufresne subsequently noted available data – most likely communicated directly by Lesueur and Perón to Dufresne – on the pedestal underside, to be later transcribed onto pedestal labels and into the acquisition books (drafted ca. 1854). Other taxidermists responsible for some of the mounts include M. Perefile and Mlle. Charpentier. Most weekly reports consulted are in the Archives Nationales (AJ/15/590-596 up to 25 June 1806), with some undocumented reports in the Laboratoire at the MNHN in Paris, however, some are lacking and have not been traced by author. The book indicated as ‘Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822’ is ‘Journal par Dufresne, Travaux de laboratoire de Zoologie, (de Vendémiaire an XII à Mars 1806 et de Janvier 1821 à Décembre 1822’ (book 115), that is located unregistered at the laboratory at the MNHN (fig. 3-027).

1803

7 June: *Le Naturaliste* arrives in France.

13-20 July: Birds from *Le Naturaliste* arrive in the MNHN, as reported by Dufresne, the first bird mounted was a Variegated Fairy Wren *Malurus assimilis* from Port Jackson (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590).

18-25 July: Dufresne mounts a large (brownish) albatross *Diomedeidae* ssp and a giant petrel *Macronectes* ssp. By 25 July, the three MNHN taxidermists had already mounted 64 birds from the Baudin expedition. Dufresne mounted nearly half (30) of these, 14 pigeons have been mounted by Mlle. Charpentier and 20 others by M. Perefile (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590).

2 August: Dufresne makes an inventory of the *Le Naturaliste*. Living birds brought back on *Le Naturaliste* include: Emu *Dromaius novaehollandiae* (1) (3 live young Emus loaded aboard *Le Naturaliste* at Port Jackson died en route), Southern Cassowary *Casuarius casuarius* (1), Ostrich *Struthio camelus* (1), guineafowl (2), rails (2), quails (2), Black Swan *Cygnus ater* (2), Secretarybird *Sagittarius serpentarius* (1), Cape Barren Goose? *Cereopsis novaehollandiae* (1), Common Bronze-wing *Phaps elegans* (2), parrots and parakeets, and Tongan Fruit Dove *Ptilinopus porphyraceus* and Samoan Fruit-dove *Ptilinopus fasciatus* (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590, Jangoux *et al.* 2010)

1-7 September: Dufresne mounts Black Swan, a Greater Frigatebird *Fregata minor* and a Grey Goshawk *Accipiter novaehollandiae* (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590 and Ms Dufresne Lab. MNHN).

8-14 September: Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*, Brown Falcon *Falco berigora* and Grey Goshawk are mounted. No less than 100 birds are reported to have been mounted so far (30 up to 7 August, 60 up to 17 August and 100 up to 14 September (and the 40 birds sent to Josephine)) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590).

14 September 1804: 40 Baudin expedition birds were sold per 6 Francs a piece to Empress Josephine (Fr. 240, -) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/590).

21 September: No less than 161 expedition birds had been mounted already, with at least 117 birds sent to Empress Josephine.

27 September: From Australia, a ‘buzzard’, ‘eagle’ and ‘sparrowhawk’ was mounted, Dufresne

remarks: "Jointly with Mr Geoffroy, we have chosen for Madame Bonaparte. 117 birds [unreadable] from the Southern Sea. Sent by the Captain Baudin, about 20 to 25 individuals in this number, all from the voyage of the latter, made in America (= Antilles, Puerto Rico) in year 7. His 20 to 25 birds were part of the collection bought back by the unfortunate Maugé. There are today, in the cupboards of the laboratory, 164 birds that have been mounted from the last shipment of C^{pm} Baudin, and more than 50 mammals" (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

5 October: Sulphur-crested Cockatoo *Cacatua galerita*, Black Swan and Large Black Parrots (3) are mounted (all from Australia) (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

6-12 October: Two birds new from Australia are mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

12-18 October: From Australian an owl and 4 crakes were mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

19-26 October: Four shorebirds, avocet *Recurvirostra ssp*, drongo *Dicruridae ssp*, (bronze) starling, Owl from Australia and Whistling Kite *Haliastur sphenurus* are mounted (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

27 October-2 November: albatross, giant petrel, gull, blackbird, cardinal, Australian Hobby *Falco longipennis* are mounted (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

3-9 November: Australian Pelican *Pelecanus conspicillatus* collected by Maugé in Australia, Cape Petrel, dark petrel, two kites from Timor, Black-necked stork *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus* from Australia, raptor from Australia, Owl from Australia and an Australian passerine are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

8-16 November: Australian eagle, four ducks and a Brown Falcon are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

17-21 November: Two ducks, adult and young Silver Gull *Chroicocephalus novaehollandiae*, Brown Booby *Sula leucogaster*, godwit, young *Accipiter*, curlew/thick-knee, terns (2), Australian White Ibis *Threskiornis moluccus*, Nankeen Nigh-heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*, green pigeon, beautiful passerine, *Muscicapa* (3), avocet and Hardhead *Aythya australis* are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

22-27 November: Two ducks, Australian Shoveler *Anas rhynchos* a good-looking cormorant and a Brown Falcon are mounted (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

30 November-6 December: Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio porphyrio*, Bush Thick-knee *Burhinus grallarius*, Australian Shoveler, two ducks, beautiful heron, swallows/ martins (3), Flycatchers (2), chats (2) and a sunbird (with a yellow eyebrow) are mounted (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

8-14 December: Little Eagle *Hieraaetus morphnoides*, cormorant, Australian Gannet *Morus serrator*, two passerines, Flycatcher (2), parakeet and nightjars (2) are mounted (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

15-28 December: Mounted are 18 Australian birds: Heron (brown), Heron (two), Egret, flycatchers (6), 'shrike', Cormorant, Duck (female), Starling, Beo, Bush Chat, 'Loxia' and a beautiful Tern (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

1803/1804

29 December 1803-4 January 1804: White egret *Egretta ssp*, Royal Spoonbill *Platalea regia*, Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*, Bridled Tern *Onychoprion anaethetus*, Beautiful Firetail *Stagonopleura bella*, passerines (4), *Muscicapa* (3), sunbird and shrikes (5) (all from Australia) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

1804

5-11 January: A Rainbow Bee-eater *Merops ornatus*, 4 shrikes, a flycatcher, a Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*, 2 finches, a Red-capped Plover *Charadrius ruficapillus*, a woodpecker and a quail are mounted. 334 birds and 56 mammals from the Baudin expedition have been mounted. In the months that follow many birds are mounted, but none are from the Baudin expedition (Archives Nationales AJ/15/591).

7 March: Young Australian Gannet from Port Jackson – Australia (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

14 March: Cockatoo from Port-Jackson (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

24 March: *Le Géographe* arrives.

au C. des Sciences, peints et collecteurs des Expéditions
au C. de l'Inde - universitaires - 3 Jans

manus

Expédition Française de Découvertes.
Histoire - Naturelle. Collections Zoologiques.

Résultats généraux de Collections Zoologiques, faites depuis
le 1^{er} Frimaire an XI^e jusqu'au 1^{er} Pluviôse an XII^e.

1 ^o	Anthropologie.....	206. Lignes.	et par
2 ^o	Mammifères.....	110	colleque
3 ^o	Oiseaux.....	422	et
4 ^o	Quadrupèdes - Ovipares.....	166	et
5 ^o	Bijèdes - Ovipares.....	3	
6 ^o	Reptiles.....	36	et
7 ^o	Poissons.....	258	et
8 ^o	Insectes.....	2499	et
9 ^o	Crustacés.....	408	et
10 ^o	Vers.....	129	
11 ^o	Mollusques.....	119	et
12 ^o	Echinodermes.....	151	et
13 ^o	Étaliés.....	18067	et
14 ^o	Leophytes.....	527	
15 ^o	Phytologie Zoologique.....	217	et
16 ^o	Lithologie Zoologique.....	99	
	Total Général.....	23415. Lignes	et

Certifié le présent état véritable par moi soussigné Naturaliste
et finissant par une copie de ce qui est contenu dans
le présent état.

Fig. 3-026 | DOCUMENT 2, registered as Archives Nationales AJ/15/592, 18 February 2015 (Justin JFJ Jansen / © Archives Nationales).

- 28 April:** Dufresne mentions that the 422 birds from *Le Géographe* were collected between 22 November 1802 and February 1804 (he first mentions the arrival of *Le Géographe* in the weekly report of 3 April 1803). Combining the birds from *Le Naturaliste* and *Le Géographe* indicates the Baudin expedition returned to France with a total of 1021 birds. Living birds brought back on *Le Géographe* include: King Island Emu *Dromaius minor* (1), Kangaroo Island Emu *Dromaius baudinianus* (1), South African Shelduck *Tadorna cana* (from the Cape) (2), Spotted Eagle Owl *Bubo africanus* (2), Western Crowned-Pigeon *Goura cristata* (2), Purple Gallinule (3), “lory parrot” (1), and Australian King Parrot? *Aprosmictus scapularis* (5) (Jangoux *et al.* 2010).
- 9-16 May:** The first bird from *Le Géographe*, an African Grey Hornbill *Tockus nasutus* from South Africa, is mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 17-22 May:** Ring-necked parakeet *Psittacula ssp* from South Africa is mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 23-30 May:** Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* and tern from Mauritius, and barbet from Bengal are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 31 May-6 June:** A small gull, shrike and kingfisher from Bengal are mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).
- 7-12 June:** Five emus *Dromaius ssp* of different ages, Ostrich and Knysna Turaco *Tauraco corythaix* from the Cape are mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).
- 13-20 June:** Shearwater (from Australia), Western Corella *Cacatua pastinator* from Australia, 2 South African birds (one Crested Guineafowl *Guttera pucherani*) and a plover from Australia are mounted. In June 1804, 325 mounted specimens and 478 additional skins are reported as being present in the MNHN (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 21-27 June:** Dufresne has one woodpecker from Bengal brought back by the Baudin expedition mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).
- 28 June-4 July:** Two penguins (reportedly two species: Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* and African Penguin *Spheniscus demersus*), Guineafowl (South Africa) and avocet from Australia are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592 & Collection Lesueur, MHNH 19003).
- 5-11 July:** A Thrush from Port Jackson and 4 shrikes are mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).
- 12-19 July:** Two Mascarene Martins *Phedina borbonica* from Mauritius, Grey Sparrowhawk (white morph) from Australia, shrikes (3) from Australia and a cuckoo from Bengal are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 18-27 July:** One of two Spotted Eagle-Owl *Bubo africanus* died in the menagerie, Red-capped Plover and a rail, both from Australia are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 8-15 August:** A Superb Lyrebird *Menura novaehollandiae* from Port Jackson and two albatrosses (one brown, one white) are mounted. Dufresne mentions that his wife mounted 20 of the 50 Baudin expedition birds taken back home at 18 July. He mentions further on the Baudin expedition that two ‘Merops’ and two ‘red-headed parrots’ are in worst condition due to the inhabitants of Islands of the Pacific. Also, Dufresne asks the board for more birds for his wife to be mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 16 August-23 August:** Rainbow Bee-eater, plover, kingfishers (3) and an unknown bird are mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).
- 24-29 August:** Two kingfishers from Australia are mounted as two Secretarybirds *Sagittarius serpentarius* (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 30 August-5 September:** Dufresne notes that two rollers from Bengale, a bird from the Cape and a myna that arrived with *Le Géographe* have been mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 6-12 September:** A shrike and 3 flycatchers (3) from Australia were mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/592).
- 26 September:** Dufresne reports that 178 bird skins were sent to Empress Josephine, 304 birds had entered the bird galleries from the Baudin expedition (it includes specimens from others, e.g. donors, of which 150 were mounted outside the museum with permission from the museum board (e.g. at the taxidermist homes)). By this week, a total of 454 birds from the Baudin expedition have been mounted (so 51 mounted specimens vanished from the museum, as only 403 had entered the museum) (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593).
- 17-24 October:** Superb Lyrebird, Silver Gull, redstart, a duck, plovers (2), terns (2), myna, fairy-wren and two unknown species are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593).

7-14 November: Grey Goshawk (white morph), petrel from Timor, duck (from Australia), and a bird from Mauritius are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593).

15 November-21 November: A Black Bustard *Eupodotis afra* from the Cape is mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593).

4-12 December: Australian Gannet from Port Jackson, Australia (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593).

13-20 December: A bustard from Australia is mounted (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

1805

13 February: Dufresne takes 22 Australian birds for his private collection (Dufresne, Journal, Travaux, 1803-1822).

27 March: Dufresne takes a beautiful parrot from Tahiti for his private collection (Archives Nationales AJ/15/593 & 594).

3-10 April: A moorhen, a kingfisher from the Cape, and a snipe from Bengale are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/594).

12-19 June: Two birds from the expedition are mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/594).

2 October: Lesser Flamingo *Phoeniconaias minor* collected at Mauritius (Collection Lesueur, MNHN 07010 states that it was collected in South Africa) is mounted (Archives Nationales AJ/15/595).

STYLE

In February 2016, two Baudin expedition original skins (Musk Lorikeet *Glossopsitta cinna* MNHN-MO-ZO-2003-3649 and Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo *Calyptorhynchus funereus* MNHN-MO-ZO-2003-3537) and three Baudin expedition mounts (now made skin again) (Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor* MNHN-ZO-2013-1012, Northern Fantail *Rhipidura rufiventris* MNHN-ZO-2013-1149 and White-winged Triller *Lalage suerii* MNHN-ZO-2012-683) were examined after they were X-rayed.

In the skins, less metal is used than general seen in specimens. Obvious are the broken tibias in the two skins. In the mounts the metal was removed, and new metal was brought into the specimens. And mounts had a twisted thin wire that is very equally twisted. Equally on the skins are the broken tibias. No arsenic soap was used in both skins as mounts as far as could be established from the X-rays.

RESULTS

According to Louis Dufresne, taxidermist at the MNHN, *Le Naturaliste* brought back the skins of 599 birds (2 August 1803, Archives Nationales AJ/15/590). *Le Géographe* arrived in France with the skins of 422 birds (Dufresne inventory of 28 April 1804, Collections Mammifères et Oiseaux MNHN). In total, therefore, the Baudin expedition returned with 1,021 bird skins, in addition to at least 34 living birds (so in total 1,055). It's almost certain however that the expedition collected many more bird skins than it brought back to France, as Laurent (1997) stated that the ships were infested with swarms of cockroaches and rats, and that a few skins were thrown away after and before making the various documents as noted in this paper.

In 1805 and 1806 birds from Macé were mounted, now explicitly stated as from Macé, while above, for example at 5-11 February 1804 the Forest Wagtail (accessed 9 February 2016) and a woodpecker from Macé were mounted but mentioned as from the Baudin expedition. That is why it is hard to establish when a Macé specimen was part of the totals from the Baudin expedition or when it was part of the load received in the first half of 1801 (358 specimens) (Jansen 2015a, 2016b). And are the Macé specimens singled out from the Baudin expedition bird in a later stage? So, it remains speculative how many specimens – once included in the 1,055 specimens – do remain. Also, overtime some specimens lost their documentation, and therefore hard to trace and yet been found by author.