

unknown but is expected to vary seasonally and with other weather and tidal events.

The first sighting, in July or August 1990, was of a young female (no spurs being apparent) some 300-400mm long. This animal initially investigated gumboots at a doorway to a dwelling, apparently as a potential nest site, before searching over a quite large land area and eventually returning to the water. Regular sightings, presumably of this same individual, then ensued, often in an area of sea-grass. In February 1991 a dead platypus was seen floating in the estuary. Coincidentally, on the same day an echidna, almost drowned, was rescued from a nearby part of the estuary.

No further sightings were made to my informant's knowledge until July 1991 when two platypus appeared at the site of the above individual's first landing. This pair have been seen regularly over the fourteen months to the date of this report. Although no burrow has been found, they have been observed regularly in two rest sites amongst the foreshore tussocks.

The area in which these observations were made is some four km seaward of a river-dwelling population of platypus. None of the individuals was seen significantly upstream of the general area of where these sightings were reported. It is of interest to note that the individuals reported here were all first observed soon after the first floods of the year.

REFERENCES

Grant, T.R. (1984) *The Platypus*. (New South Wales University Press, Sydney).

A SWIMMING ECHIDNA?

Editors Note: *The following item was extracted from the log book in the Lake Nicholls hut in Mt Field National Park. It was written on February 7 1992, and was penned by 'Anthony and Annette'. The observations of an "aquatic echidna" reported in the previous article lend further interest to this item.*

You're not gonna believe this but you see we were sitting at the lakeside when we saw a funny shaped thing bobbing up and down in the middle of the lake. We watched it for about two hours as it was swept towards us by the wind. It turned out to be an ECHIDNA!! When it reached the shoreline it became wedged between two rocks and couldn't escape. So I lifted one rock (bloody heavy one too) while Annette picked out the poor little echidna. We took him out to the back of the hut and gave him some salami, but all he wanted to do was rest and hide.