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Satin flycatcher: p 203.

Satin Flycatcher *Myiagra cyanoleuca* (Vieillot 1818), Vagrant (2)
12/6/1963 Hexton, Gisborne

Mr Raeburn Hansen phoned Archie Blackburn (1963) to tell him of an unusual bird feeding in his orchard at Hexton, six miles out of Gisborne. Blackburn initially identified the bird as a female Leaden Flycatcher *M. rubecula*, but later re-identified it as a female Satin Flycatcher. There appears to be nothing in his published description to rule out the former species though, with these two being extremely difficult to separate, as this revealing quotation shows:

“Ahh, the perennial Leaden vs. Satin question! There was an excellent article on this by Graeme Chapman in the June 2003 Wingspan. It all seems to boil down to the fact that the female Satin has a bluish sheen on the crown, which the Leaden doesn't have. None of the other features, e.g. amount of rufous on the breast, are reliable and in fact the various field guides seem to contradict each other on some points. However, the female Satin does also tend to be darker on the throat and back than the Leaden.”

A quite unusual record, as the population migrates north to Queensland and New Guinea in the autumn. There has been one further record, a male found dead at Motueka, Nelson in December 1988. The Leaden Flycatcher is perhaps more common on the Australian east coast and is also migratory.