

SUTTON—*Museum Notes.*

## South Australian Museum Notes.

By J. Sutton.

*Pluvialis dominicus*, Golden Plover.—A bird was sent in by F. B. Tilemann, of Millicent, S.A., on 22nd March, 1933, for identification. It was a ♀ of this species in non-breeding plumage. Total length, 25.5 cm.; span of wings, 51.8 cm.; weight, 157 grammes. He stated that it was shot in swamp country, seven miles from the sea, out of a flock of about 60 birds, which appeared to be tired, and were the first specimens seen in the district. On 4th April he advised that the birds had left that place, but a larger flock, or possibly the same with newcomers added, was seen for a day further inland about nine miles from the sea coast.

*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*, White-backed Magpie.—A bird was sent in from Encounter Bay by Mrs. F. W. Tugwell on 20th June. ♂; total length, 44.2 cm.; span of wings, 85.1 cm.; wing, 28.8 cm.; culmen, 6 cm.; tarsus, 6.5 cm.; middle toe and claw, 4.6 cm.; weight, 378 grammes; stomach contents: eight beetles (*Desiantha praemorsa*), beetle grubs, two caterpillars and triturated matter.

*Aegotheles cristata*, Owlet Nightjar.—A ♀ was captured at Waitpinga about 10th June, and lived in captivity for a fortnight.

*Elanus axillaris*, Black-shouldered Kite.—There has been a slight invasion of this species into the southern parts of South Australia, and birds have been seen or taken at the undermentioned places, and in almost every instance identification was requested, thus showing that the bird was evidently a stranger. Those marked with an asterisk were shot. It is regrettable that these birds have been destroyed, as the species is a most useful one. The records of the stomach contents that I have been able to find show that their usual diet consists of mice, grasshoppers, lizards and locusts, and it is also stated that they do not interfere with poultry:—

April.—A bird was seen at Hilltown, via Clare, for the first time.—John B. Shekleton.

\*22nd April.—♂, Booleroo Centre. Total length, 36 cm.; span of wings, 95.3 cm.—M. Maynard.

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\*26th April.—♂, between Salisbury and Smithfield. Total length, 34.2 cm. span of wings, 92.7 cm.; weight, 283 grammes.—L. LeCornu.

May.—About the beginning of May a bird was seen at Lynwood, near Riverton.—J. Neil McGilp.

\*11th May.—♀, sent from Hindmarsh Island to Edwin Ashby.

June.—A bird was seen at Northfield.—H. Brett.

3rd June.—Three birds were seen at Tarlee. One was seen at Alma about 20th May, and a bird was picked up dead\* at Two Wells.—Worsley C. Johnston.

22nd June.—Two birds were seen at Saddleworth.—F. E. Parsons.

23rd June.—Five birds were seen at Onetree Hill during the week.—L. K. McGilp.

\*24th June.—♀, Comaam, S.E., S.A.—J. C. Marshall.

\*30th June.—Two birds were seen at Lockleys for a week by P. W. Mellor. The birds were about a tall gumtree, and he noticed one sitting on a nest. Later he found a bird dead beneath the tree. It had been shot. It was a ♀ in breeding condition.

*Tyto alba*, Barn-Owl.—A specimen was received on 6th April, 1933, from Mrs. E. R. Bittner, Tintinara.

23rd May.—♂, died in captivity, from C. Mackay. The bird was captured on the Nullarbor Plain.

14th June.—♀, Reynella, from J. W. Walters.

17th June.—♂, Encounter Bay, from Mrs. F. W. Tugwell. Total length, 35 cm.; span of wings, 97.5 cm.; wing, 29.4 cm.; culmen, 4 cm.; tarsus, 7 cm.; middle toe and claw, 5.3 cm.; weight, 380 grammes.

*Eurostopodus guttatus*, Spotted Nightjar.—♀, 8th June, 1933, from W. Rogers, Owen. It was found dead (shot) and without the tail.

*Diomedea chlororhyncha*, Yellow-nosed Albatross.—Captured at Dry Creek at 10 a.m. on 29th May by J. E. Whitley. The bird died that night, and was received at the Museum three days later. ♀; iris, dark brown; legs, feet and webs, light flesh colour, joints, darker; bill, dark horn; culmen to nib, light horn, nib dark brown; total length, 77.3 cm.; span of wings, 198 cm.; wing, 47.5 cm.; culmen, 12.3 cm.; tail, 18 cm.; tarsus, 7.7 cm.; middle toe and claw, 10.5 cm.; weight, 1,238 grammes (2½ lb.); inside mouth, light horn colour. Signs of a vertical line of colour at base of lower mandible on both sides.

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Another bird was reported in the daily press as having been captured at Queenstown on the same date. I went there to investigate, and found the bird in captivity. It had been seen close to the front of the house cleaning its wings; after that it put its head under its wing and went to sleep. It was captured with the aid of a clothes basket and placed in a sleep-out. It was a beautiful bird. Total length, 2 feet 4½ inches; span of wings, 5 feet 9 inches; weight, 4½ lb.; iris, brown; right pupil, blue; left pupil, black; no faint dark streak about eye; bill, black, culmen, yellow, blood orange nib; a vertical yellow line at base on both sides of lower mandible. Head, neck, upper back, rump, and under surface of body, white; back, brownish black; tail, brownish; legs and feet, bluish; webs, flesh colour. It was being fed on meat, and was still alive on 30th June.

The following birds died in captivity:—

*Neophema splendida*, Scarlet-breasted Parrot, 11/4/1933.—♂, juv.; total length, 19.8 cm.; span of wings, 32.3 cm.; weight, 32 grammes.—S. Harvey.

*Neophema splendida*, Scarlet-breasted Parrot. ♀, 20/4/1933; ♂, 27/4/1933.—These birds were caught when young in a nest in a tree-hollow some 40 miles north of Yaninee, Eyre Peninsula, in September, 1932. Particulars re ♂—total length, 20.4 cm.; span of wings, 32.5 cm.; weight, 31 grammes.—W. Hunt.

*Neophema chrysostoma*, Blue-winged Parrot. ♂, 6/6/1933.—Total length, 24 cm.; span of wings, 31.5 cm.; weight, 36 grammes.—W. H. Foglia.

*Aprosmictus erythropterus*, Red-winged Parrot. ♂, 18/4/1933.—Total length, 32.6 cm.; span of wings, 59.3 cm.; weight, 110 grammes.—S. Harvey.

*Psephotus dissimilis*, Hooded Parrot. ♀, 3/7/1933.—Total length, 28 cm.; span of wings, 34.9 cm.; weight, 46 grammes.—W. H. Foglia.

*Eudyptula undina*, Fairy Penguin.—♀. This bird was caught at Cape Jervis about Christmas, 1931. The fishermen there considered that it had drifted across from Kangaroo Island. It was fed at first on bread and milk, but afterwards on meat. It refused to eat fish. It was kept at different times by three persons. The bird died on 27th June, 1933, and was presented to the South Australian Museum by Mrs. C. Cook, of Reade Park, having thus lived in captivity some eighteen months.