

Some Additions to the South Australian Museum Collection.

By J. Sutton.

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Pelican, 5th September, 1935.—This bird was found dead near the water's edge on one of the Pelican Islands in the islands-sanctuary in the Coorong, between Wood's Well and Salt Creek, by Messrs. S. E. Terrill and H. T. Condon, who considered that it had been dead from twenty-four to forty-eight hours. It was in good condition. On dissection at the Museum it was found to have been killed by shooting; the size of the shot seemed to be No. 2. ♀. Iris, hazel; bare skin around eye, yellow; bill and pouch, *flesh pink*; an indigo band about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide around the base of the pouch; nib and anterior end of lower mandible, dark horn-colour with yellow edgings; inside mouth, flesh colour; legs, feet, and webs, blue-grey. Total length, 152.7 cm. (5 feet $\frac{1}{8}$ inch); wing-spread, 238 cm. (7 feet $9\frac{3}{4}$ inches); upper mandible—length along the culmen, 36.5 cm.; greatest width, 3.75 cm.; wing from carpal joint to tip, 58 cm.; tail, 17 cm.; tarsus, 12 cm.; middle toe and claw, 11.25 cm.; outer toe, 10.7 cm.; inner toe, 8.5 cm.; hind toe, 5.5 cm.; weight, 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. In the gullet was fish partly-digested—the consistency of anchovy paste.

Aprosmictus erythropterus, Red-winged Parrot.—Presented by D. N. George, of Bararie, via Marree, S.A., with letter dated 22nd July, 1935. He stated that the bird was shot on Clifton Hills Station, River Diamantina, S.A., and added: "It does not belong to these parts, though I have seen it in this district before. The natives tell me that they have seen it nesting at a place called Kooranjirra, in Queensland, about 80 or 100 miles from here."

Oxyura australis, Blue-billed Duck.—Shot on Webster's Tank Swamp, Avoca Station, near Wentworth, N.S.W. It was given to Dr. A. Chenery, who presented it to the S.A. Museum. ♂ in adult plumage. 2nd March, 1936. Upper mandible, brilliant blue (Dr. A. Chenery). General colour above rich chestnut; centre of lower back and upper tail-coverts, brownish black—the feathers of the first-named part tipped with buff, the latter tipped with rich chestnut; wings and tail, dark brown; head and neck, glossy black; foreneck, upper part of chest and flanks, chestnut; remainder of the under surface pale or whitish brown, each feather dark grey tipped with buff, giving the bird a mottled appearance; under the wings the lowest row of wing-coverts is tipped with white, showing as a white band across the

wing. Total length, 41 cm.; wing-spread, 62 cm.; length of a wing, 23 cm.; width of wing at carpal joint, 8 cm.; tail, 7.5 cm.; tarsus, 4 cm.; middle toe and claw, 7 cm.; culmen length, 4.2 cm.; width at base, 1.9 cm.; greatest height of bill, 2.2 cm.

Podargus strigoides, Tawny Frogmouth.—This bird was struck by Mr. E. E. P. Buring's motor-car at about 9 p.m. on 5th March, 1936, near the township of Dublin, S.A., and fell down between the radiator and the mudguard, then rolled on to the running-board. The car was pulled up immediately, and the bird had only a quiver left. The right leg was severed above the "knee" and was held by a strip of skin. ♀. Iris, orange yellow; bill, legs, and feet, dark olive grey; claws, black; total length, 41 cm.; wing-spread, 78.8 cm.; weight, 250 grammes. Stomach contents, identified by Mr. N. B. Tindale, B.Sc., as "Three species of *Gryllacris*, carnivorous crickets, two of the species winged and one apterous; a field cricket (*Gryllus ser-villei*)—(thirteen specimens of crickets, of which three only were winged, twelve of them averaged 1.7 inches in length and one was an inch long); a centipede, unidentifiable, about two inches long; a mantis (*Tenodera australasiae*); a caterpillar of a moth, unidentifiable; a spider (*Isopeda*). All nocturnal except the mantis, which is diurnal.

Ægotheles cristata, Owlet Nightjar.—Some big gumtrees were being felled at Cudlee Creek, and when one had fallen this bird was found dead beside it. Presented by Mrs. J. A. Juett. ♀, 28th May, 1936. Total length, 23.1 cm.; wing-spread, 39 cm.; weight, 49 grammes. Stomach contents—insect remains.

Falco longipennis, Little Falcon.—Obtained by Mr. D. W. Brummitt on 1st June, 1936, four miles from Gawler. ♀; iris, very dark brown; eyelid and nostrils, bluish grey; bill, grey tipped black; legs and feet, yellow; total length, 34.3 cm.; wing-spread, 84 cm.; wing, from carpal joint to tip of longest primary (the second), 26.5 cm.; wing, from body to carpal joint, 8.6 cm.; culmen, 1.9 cm.; tail, 16 cm.; tibia, 6.2 cm.; tarsus, 4.2 cm.; middle toe and claw, 5.1 cm.; weight, 325 grammes. Many peritoneal worms in the body-cavity. Stomach—greatly distended—contents—much flesh; a small part of the tibia (with a few feathers), tarsus and toes of two legs of a Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*)?; and a head of a Finch, probably the Chestnut-eared (*Taeniopygia castanotis*); a small quantity of short body feathers, like those of a Little Wattle-Bird; a wing, abdomen, and several heads of dragon-flies. Plate V shows the beautiful markings of the under-surface—throat, white; upper breast, pale rufous, with the feathers marked with blackish shaft streaks; the remainder of the breast and abdomen

buffish with a rufous wash and brown shafts to the feathers; upper wing-coverts, pale rufous with buffish spots; under ~~parts~~^{primaries}, darkish grey with buff oval spots; flanks, buff; under tail, barred blackish and buff.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.—Picked up dead (shot) at Native Valley on 14th June, 1936, by Mr. L. E. Roake. ♀; total length, 40.4 cm.; wing-spread, 77.7 cm.; weight, 335 grammes. Stomach contents—much triturerated food, amongst which were identified—four earthworms, two each about three inches long; heads and elytrae of beetles; an outer skin of a seed ? wheat. ♂; total length, 44.6 cm.; wing-spread, 84.1 cm.; weight, 373 grammes. Stomach contents—much triturerated food, amongst which were identified—two small earthworms; heads and elytrae of beetles; two small seeds ? wheat.

Three more dead Magpies were seen. The whole five were in the paddocks and close to the fences bordering the main road at Native Valley over a distance of a quarter of a mile. It appeared as if some sportsman (?) had been practising shooting from side to side of the road in a moving motor-car.

Pachyptila turtur, Fairy Prion. 11th August, 1936. Mr. H. J. Tilbrook.—The bird was alive when found at Brighton Beach, S.A., and pecked the finder when handled. ♀; iris; brown; bill, blue grey, base of culmen and tubes, black; inside mouth, bluish white; feet, cobalt blue, webs white with bluish veins, soles whitish; claws, bases, bluish white, black tips; under side of wings, pure white; first four primaries—outer vanes very dark grey; inner vanes very pale, nearly white; remainder of primaries and secondaries blue grey. Total length, 27.3 cm.; wing-spread, 54.2 cm.; wing—from shoulder, 25.1 cm.; from carpal joint, 17.5 cm.; width at carpal joint, 7.1 cm.; tail, 9.2 cm.; tibia, 5.3 cm.; tarsus, 3 cm.; middle toe and claw, 4.1 cm.; bill—total length from lores to tip, 2.1 cm.; width at base, 0.95 cm.; height, not including tubes, 0.65 cm.; weight, 34 grammes.

Pachyptila desolata, Dove-Prion. 19th August, 1936. H. C. D. Collyer.—Picked up dead at Brighton Beach, S.A. ♀; total length, 29.7 cm.; wing-spread, 61.5 cm.; wing, from carpal joint, 18.7 cm.; bill—length, 2.5 cm.; width, 1.3 cm.; height, 0.85 cm.; tibia, 5.25 cm.; tarsus, 3.1 cm.; middle toe and claw, 3.5 cm.; tail, 10.9 cm.; weight, 97 grammes.

Myzantha melanocephala, Noisy Miner. 26th April, 1937. L. E. Roake.—The bird was found dead about 5 p.m. in the middle of the road on the Nairne side of Dawsley. The body was quite warm when picked up. It had most probably been struck by a motor-car. ♀, immature; iris, light brown; bare

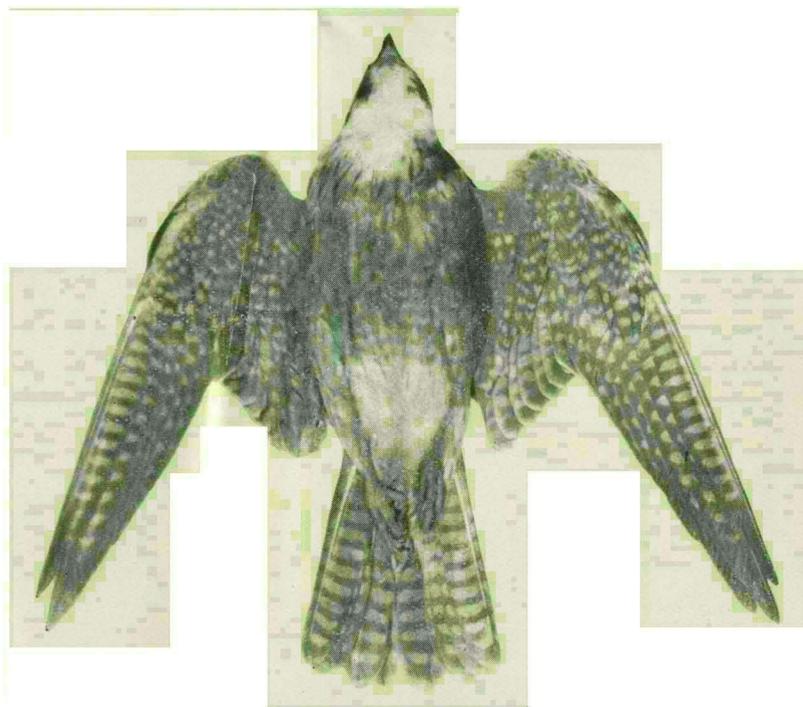


Plate V.—Under-surface of a *Falco longipennis*, Little Falcon.

H. T. Condon.

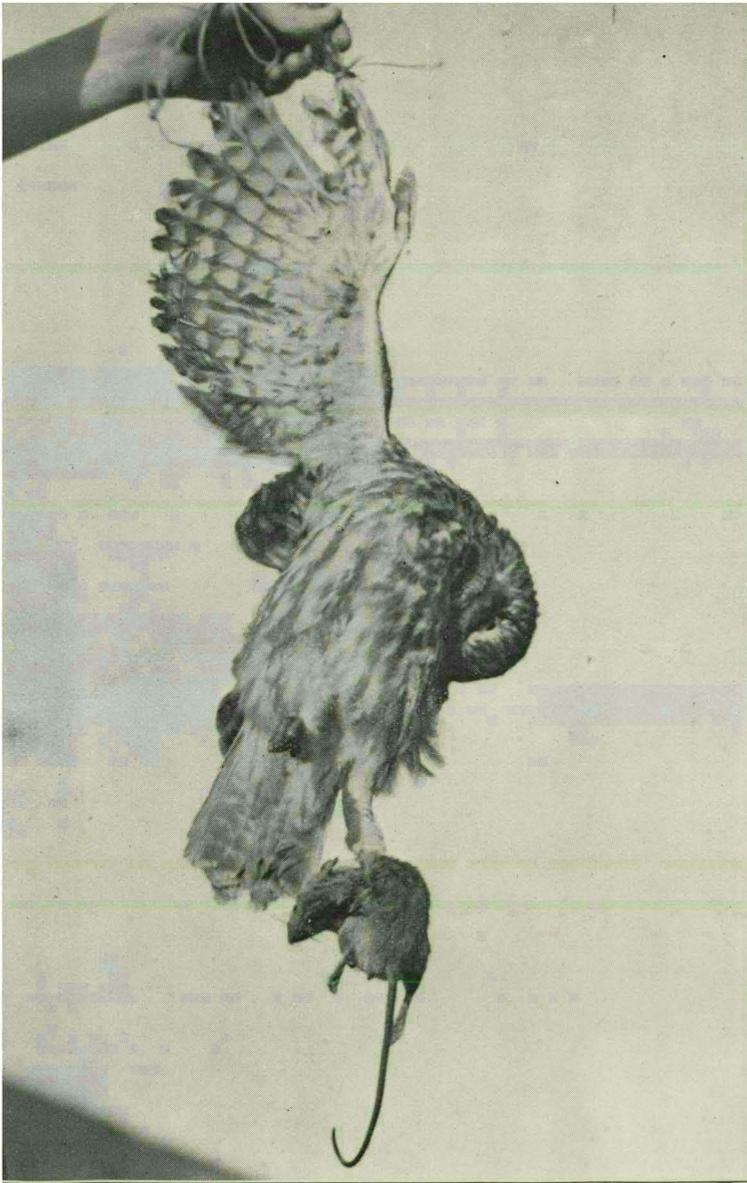


Plate VI.—*Ninox boobook*, Boobook Owl, with a Fruit Rat.

"The News and Mail" photo.

space below and behind the eye, yellow; bill, chrome-yellow, gape, yellow; legs and feet—front of tarsus and feet, grey, sides of tarsus and soles yellow; total length, 23.5 cm.; wing-spread, 38 cm.; weight, 71 grammes. Stomach contents—five small pieces of quartz—two about half the size of a pea, the other three small; remains of a beetle; a seed about the size of a grain of sand; much triturated matter, some of it vegetable.

Sterna fuscata, Sooty Tern. Brighton, S.A. 28th March, 1937.—♀; total length, 39.2 cm.; wing-spread, 86.3 cm.; weight, 130 grammes; exposed culmen, 3.8 cm.; wing, 28.7 cm.; tail, 14.2 cm.; tarsus, 2.3 cm.; middle toe and claw, 2.5 cm. Stomach was empty of food, but contained three parasites.

This bird was presented to the Museum on 30th March by Mr. F. C. Wade, of 9 Dunluce Terrace, Brighton. The bird was captured alive on the roof of the house at midday on Sunday, 28th March. The house is from 200/300 yards from the sea-shore to the west, and the bird was near the gutter on the eastern side of the roof. There are a number of houses between the front of Mr. Wade's house and the sea. It was very active when first captured, and pecked strongly at the hand of its captor. Mr. Wade noticed that after each struggle the bird drooped its wings, probably from exhaustion. The bird was left in the yard in the open over night, in the hope that it would regain strength and fly away, but next morning it was found dead. This is the first record of a specimen having been taken in South Australia.

The other occurrence of the species in this State was reported by A. J. Campbell in the "Emu," Vol. VI., 138, 1907, in a description of his visit to a ternery on the Baudin Rocks, near Robe, on 26th November, 1906. . . . "It was noticed that among the Crested Terns a single Sooty Tern (there might have been more unobserved) had taken up its quarters, apparently far south of its usual track."

The Official Checklist of the Birds of Australia gives the range of *Sterna fuscata* as "Tropical seas. Mid-Western Australia to North Queensland to Southern Australia (accidental)."

The nearest breeding places to South Australia are two islands of the Houtman Abrolhos group, near Geraldton, W.A. some 1,700 miles by sea from Adelaide. Other names for the Sooty Tern are Wideawake, Egg-Bird, and Twa-oo.

Epthiamura tricolor, Crimson Chat. 10th November, 1936.—Obtained at Windsor, forty miles N.N.W. of Adelaide, by T. F. Hall. ♂; total length, 12.7 cm.; wing-spread, 20.6 cm.; weight, 10.5 grammes. The Orange Chats (*E. aurifrons*) were there at the same time.

Neophema splendida, Scarlet-breasted Parrot.—A body of a male bird was found on 6th March, 1936, on a netting fence, and was sent in by Mrs. R. D. Gibson, of Yalymboo Station, via Woocalla, S.A. (sixty miles N.N.W. of Port Augusta).

Ninox boobook, Boobook Owl. 31st May, 1937.—♀; total length, 35.9 cm.; weight, 332 grammes. This bird was sent in by "The News and Mail" Office. It was picked up dead by a motorist in Woodville, where, on the night of 30th May, after capturing a fruit rat (*Rattus rattus alexandrinus*) it had flown against an electric power line and had been killed. The radius and ulna of the left wing were fractured at the distal ends, and there was a slight singe on some feathers of the lower throat. The claws had gone right through the body of the rat, which was still firmly clutched on arrival at the Museum next day. Plate VI.
