

BIRD NOTES

Puffinus tenuirostris, Short-tailed Shearwater or Petrel (Mutton Bird).—In the S.A. Ornithol. for October 1, 1933 (XII, Pt. 4, p. 115), the late Mr. J. Sutton, under the above title, discusses the migrations of this bird, apropos of "an immense flight of this species" seen off Outer Harbour, Brighton, and Marino on May 1, 1933. Amongst his correspondents who had seen this flight was Mr. H. C. D. Collyer, of Brighton. Previously Mr. Collyer had forwarded to the Museum Mutton Birds picked up on the beach at Brighton on April 25 and 26, 1926, and on May 1, 1927. This year, writing on April 20, Mr. Collyer stated that he had been keeping careful watch for these birds for the previous week or so, and on this date, following a westerly gale, they had appeared "a mile or two out from the beach and very
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should replace *N. chrysoptera* on the List.

Alcyone azurea does not occur in the Mallee and the bird observed was probably *Halcyon pyrrhopygius* (Red-backed Kingfisher), which frequently visits the Mallee.

Tribonyx mortieri is a Tasmanian bird. The name was apparently given for *Tribonyx ventralis* (Black-tailed Native Hen).

Alauda arvensis (English Skylark). This bird may have spread out to Alawoona, though it is more than probable that this name was added to the List after observing *Cinchorhamphus mathewsi* (Rufous Song Lark), which the writer has seen in the town. It is a glorious songster. Or it may be that the bird seen was *Mirafra javanica* (Horsfield Bush Lark), another resident of the cleared land and a very fine singer. The Rufous Song Lark sings loudly as it flies almost horizontally from tree-top to tree-top. The writer is inclined to replace *Alauda arvensis* with *C. mathewsi*.

Pedionomus torquatus (Collared Plain Wanderer). It is very pleasing to see this rare species on the List. It has been suspected that the bird visits the Mallee in favorable seasons, but until 1941 it had not been recorded near Pinnaroo. The female has a very distinct white band around the neck and is easily identified through this mark.

Ninox strenua (Powerful Owl). This, in view of the absence of *N. boobook* from the List, is a doubtful record. It is reasonable to suppose that the bird seen was the Boobook Owl.

Chthonicola sagittata (Speckled Warbler).—This is a great surprise and hardly seems possible in the Mallee. It may be that a small colony of these rare birds, rare so far as South Australia is concerned, exists in the district. The writer considers that the birds observed may probably be *Calamanthus campestris*, which bird has been reported from the Mallee. The nest and eggs of the two species are very similar in that the nest is built on or very near the ground and the eggs are of an acorn or chocolate colour, and easily taken for either species unless the eggs are viewed together.

It will be seen by the above comments that there is every reason why the Alawoona pupils should be congratulated on their work and this review is made with every desire to further their fine efforts.

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difficult to observe with the naked eye. By two, three and occasional dozens they could be seen by the glass flying *southward*, every now and then banking and diving behind the waves, seemingly into the water, and re-appearing skimming the surface in a southerly direction." This record of their appearance is five days earlier than hitherto observed by Mr. Collyer.