

### LIST OF BIRDS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Several remarks by E. F. Boehm on the admissibility of certain species' records for South Australia call for explanation in order that his statements (S.A. Orn., XVII, p. 10) may not be inferred to be the "last word" on the subject.

Whitlock Thornbill (*Acanthiza whitlocki*)

It is anticipated that this form (at present listed as a full species in the R.A.O.U. Checklist) will soon be regarded as a race of *Acanthiza pusilla*, Brown Thornbill by the present R.A.O.U. Checklist Committee. Mayr and Serventy (1938) state that birds from Western Australia and northern South Australia "had better for the time being remain as one race, *A. p. whitlocki* (*sensu stricto*)."  
Therefore, although we may tentatively regard the South Australian birds as *A. p. whitlocki*

it would hardly be proper to treat them as *A. whitlocki* in the sense employed in the 1926 Checklist. Using the procedure of the Checklist, which is the authority for the nomenclature used in the List of the Birds of South Australia, *whitlocki* would become a "synonym" of *Acanthiza pusilla*.

Northern Boobook Owl (*Ninox ocellata*)

Mr. Boehm's suggestion that this species should be included in the South Australian list is misleading. The species was first described from a specimen obtained in 1839 near Port Essington, Northern Territory (vide Peters, Checklist Bds. Wld., vol. iv, p. 139). A plate of this specimen was published, and the type was re-examined by several workers and found identical with North Australian birds, but Mathews considered the name

*ocellata* to be indeterminable and employed *mixta* as an alternative name in his 1931 list. In the synonym of *mixta* he gives *Spiloglaux novaeseelandiae everardi* from the Everard Ranges, Central Australia (equals South Australia—H.T.C.). This is Mr. Boehm's authority for including *Ninox ocellata* in the South Australian list. *Everardi* is listed as synonym of *Ninox boobook* in the 1926 Checklist, therefore we can hardly include *Ninox ocellata* in the South Australian list without further confirmatory evidence.

#### Black Petrel (*Procellaria parkinsoni*)

This is an accidental visitor to Australia. Normal distribution appears to be Central Pacific Ocean and New Zealand seas. Although Le Souef distinctly states that he saw a specimen near Adelaide, I think this is a doubtful record. Alexander (Birds of the Ocean) states—"a rare bird, smaller than the White-chinned Petrel but not easily distinguished in life." Except that Le Souef noted that it was "entirely black all over," he gave no other diagnostic characters by which he could have identified the bird.

#### Grey-mantled Albatross (*Phoebastria palpebrata*)

This species invariably occurs south of latitude 45 deg. S. Individuals seen in the Australian Bight by observers quoted by Mr. Boehm are undoubtedly the pale-naped immature phase of *P. fusca*, Sooty Albatross (vide Falla, B.A.N.Z.A.R.E. Reports, Ser. B, vol 2, pp. 131-136, 1937; Serventy, Emu XLIV, p. 328, 1945).

In my opinion none of the above should

at present be included in a list of South Australian birds.

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24/1/1946.

#### Identification of the Glossy Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus lathamii*) in South Australia

The late J. Sutton, in S.A.O. XIV, pt. 4 (Oct., 1937), page 111, describes the tail feathers of a red-tailed Black Cockatoo sent to him from the Bangham Scrub in the S.E. of this State, and concludes that they were derived from the Glossy Cockatoo. In June, 1938, the Adelaide Zoological Gardens received a young red-tailed Black Cockatoo from the South-East and at first, presumably on the strength of the above identification, this bird was considered to be a Glossy Cockatoo. Later, the bird, which proved to be a female and is still in the collection, was correctly identified as the Banksian Cockatoo (*C. banksi*). Apart from the Kangaroo Island records, I have been unable to discover any evidence of the existence of *C. lathamii* in this State. Macgillivray, in North's "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," mentions the Glossy Cockatoo as breeding on the Glenelg River in Western Victoria, but as no skin appears to have been taken, I am inclined to think this identification was also incorrect, and the birds in question were *C. banksi*. I would appreciate any other reference to the occurrence of *C. lathamii*, or for that matter, of *C. banksi*, in Victoria. I might add that the bird previously referred to, mated to a typical male *C. banksi*, reared a young bird in the Zoo last year (1945).

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