

OOLOGICAL DESIDERATA IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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In the course of a study of the history of oology in South Australia, the writer has accumulated a quantity of data on the species of birds known to breed in this State. Of the total number of 384 species recognised by Condon (8) as occurring in the State, about 65 species are migrants or stragglers which do not breed in South Australia. One species, the Kangaroo Island Emu (*Dromaius diemenianus*) became extinct some time prior to 1836, and the only known egg has been described by Mason (9). About 318 species of birds breed, or probably breed, in the State; and of these the eggs of about 284 have been collected or recorded from within the State, leaving only about 34 species of

which South Australian eggs remain to be recorded. The following annotated list of species of which an authentic clutch has not yet been preserved for scientific purposes in this State should be both interesting and helpful to other students.

Brown Quail (*Synoicus australis*).—Eggshells recorded from Encounter Bay district by Cleland (7). King Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*). Red-chested Quail (*Turnix pyrrhoroax*).—Reported by Zietz (18) to have bred near Meningie. Plumed Egret (*Egretta intermedia*). White Egret (*E. alba*). Pied Goose (*Anseranas semipalmata*).—May eventually be found to breed along the Diamantina River. Whistling Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*). Plumed Tree-Duck (*D. eytoni*).—An egg from this State in the Gould Collection, British Museum of Natural History, was presumably obtained by Samuel White, on Cooper's Creek, in 1863. Freckled Duck (*Stictonetta naevosa*). Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*).—Two eggs, Finke R., August 17, 1897. C. E. Cowle, collector. In S.A. Museum. May, however, have been actually taken in Northern Territory. Eggs obtained by A. H. C. Zietz along a creek near Lake Callabonna, Nov., 1894, are considered by McGilp (14) to belong to the Fork-tailed Kite (*Milvus migrans*). Black-breasted Buzzard (*Hamirostra melanosterna*).—Nest ready for eggs, Strzelecki Creek, 1916, reported by White (17). Bred at Moolawatana, L. Frome district, Oct., 1919. See McGilp (10). Letter-winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*).—An egg from this State in Gould Collection, British Museum of Natural History. Nest containing eggs, Tilcha Creek, 1921, recorded by Chenery (6). An apparently incomplete set, 2 eggs, Boolkarie Creek, Moolawatana, Sept., 1931. McGilp Collection, S.A. Museum. Winking Owl (*Ninox connivens*).—One egg, Parallana, July, 1893; R. M. Hawker, collector. In S.A. Museum. A clutch, 3 eggs, Kallioofa, Sept. 7, 1939; W. Cain, collector. In Cain Collection, Port Augusta. Authenticity requires confirmation. Masked Owl (*Tyto novae-hollandiae*). Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus banksii*). Glossy Black Cockatoo (*C. lathamii*).—One egg, Western River, Kangaroo Island, March, 1905. Recorded by Ashby (2). Regent-Parrot (*Polytelis anthopeplus*).—Clutch, 3 eggs, Kingston, Murray R.; H. H. Newell Collection, Port Elliot.

Authenticity requires confirmation. Princess Parrot (*P. alexandrae*).—Breeds occasionally at Lambinna, west of Oodnadatta. Bred in fair numbers at Abminga, 1933. See Cain (4). Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*).—Occasionally breeds along watercourses between Innamincka and Coongy Stations, near Cooper's Creek. See Reese (15). Orange-breasted Parrot (*Neophema chrysogaster*).—Clutch, 3 eggs, Carlet Swamp, Murray R., Oct., 1906. In S.A. Museum. Authenticity doubtful. Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*). Ground Parrot (*Pezoporus wallicus*). Night Parrot (*Geopittacus occidentalis*).—Bred on Cootanoorina Station, S.S.E. of Oodnadatta, prior to 1885. See McGilp (12). Channel-billed Cuckoo (*Scythrops novae-hollandiae*). Nullarbor Quail Thrush (*Cinclosoma alisteri*).—One egg, possibly this species, 40 miles S.W. of Cook, 1931. See McGilp (13). Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*).—Occupied nests at Hamilton Bore, 50-60 miles north of Oodnadatta, 1930. See McGilp (11). Western Warbler (*Gerygone fusca*). Western Whiteface (*Aphelocephala castaneiventris*).—Clutch, 3 eggs, Everard Range, August 8, 1914. Capt. S. A. White, collector. In H. L. White Collection, National Museum, Melb. See White (16). Chestnut-breasted Whiteface (*A. pectoralis*). Robust Thornbill (*Acanthiza robustirostris*). Chestnut-tailed Ground-wren (*Hylacola pyrrhopygia*). Speckled Warbler (*Chthonicola sagittata*). Dusky Grass-wren (*Amytornis purnelli*). Rufous Grass-wren (*A. whitei*). Eyrean Grass-wren (*A. goyderi*).—Eggs from Douglas Creek, near William Creek, 1913, taken by J. R. B. Love, and recorded as this species by Ashby (1), were most likely really those of the Thick-billed Grass-wren (*A. modestus*). Blue-breasted Wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*). White-breasted Wood-Swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*).—Apparently incomplete clutch, 2 eggs, Jervois, Murray R., 1946. H. Morton, collector. White-browed Tree-Creeper (*Climacteris affinis*).—One egg, Mt. Gunson, N.W. of Port Augusta, Aug., 1901. Dr. A. M. Morgan, collector. In S.A. Museum. Golden-backed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga laetior*). Fuscous Honeyeater (*Meliphaga fusca*). Grey-headed Honeyeater (*M. heartlandi*). Little Friar-Bird (*Philemon citreogularis*). Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*). Apostle-Bird (*Struthidea cinerea*). Spotted

Bower-Bird (*Chylamydera maculata*). Australian Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*). Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*).—Campbell (5) recorded having collected a set of three eggs from a nest in a *Casuarina*, in coastal scrub, near Kingston, South-East, Sept. 19, 1899. However, Mr. F. G. Elford, ornithologist to the National Museum, Melbourne, has examined the unpublished manuscript of Campbell's second edition of "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," and finds that there is no South Australian clutch mentioned under this species. Under the Black-winged Currawong (*S. melanoptera*), Campbell records, in the *MS.*, a three-eggs clutch taken at "Kingston, S. Aus.," . . . "nest in *Casuarina* in coastal scrub. Date.—September 19, 1899 (A. J. Campbell Collection)"; but the clutch cannot be satisfactorily recognised in the Campbell Collection at present. It is to be noted that Ashby (3) remarked that in the Grampians, Vict., both the Pied Currawong (*S. graculina*) and the Grey Currawong occur as grey birds; and, therefore, any grey-coloured Currawong seen in the South-East of South Australia need not necessarily be *S. versicolor*. Pied Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*).

- (14) ——— 1934. *Ibid.* XII: 266.
 (15) Reese, L. R. 1927. *Ibid.* IX: 69.
 (16) White, H. L. 1915. "Emu," XV: 36.
 (17) White, S. A. 1917. "Trans. Royal Soc. South Austr.," XLI: 449.
 (18) Zietz, A. H. C. 1907. "Emu," VI: 153.

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REFERENCES:

- (1) Ashby, Edwin. 1915. "S.A. Orn.," II: 10.
 (2) ——— 1926. *Ibid.* VIII: 243.
 (3) ——— 1927. *Ibid.* IX: 137.
 (4) Cain, W. 1934. *Ibid.* XII: 171.
 (5) Campbell, A. J. 1901. "Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds," I: 60.
 (6) Chenery, A. 1922. "S.A. Orn.," VI: 136-137.
 (7) Cleland, J. B. 1929. *Ibid.* X: 124.
 (8) Condon, H. T. 1946. *Ibid.* XVIII: 12-20.
 Also *Ibid.*: 49; 1947.
 (9) Mason, Geo. E. 1936. "Emu," XXXV: 331.
 (10) McGilp, J. N. 1923. *Ibid.* XXII: 275.
 (11) ——— 1931. "S.A. Orn.," XI: 9.
 (12) ——— 1931. *Ibid.*: 68-70.
 (13) ——— 1932. *Ibid.*: 149.