

A HANDLIST OF THE BIRDS OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA SUPPLEMENT No. 1

By H. T. Condon, S.A. Museum.

Further discoveries and observations by local workers, the recording of nine additional species for South Australia, and the introduction of a new "Fauna Conservation Act" by the Government in November, 1964, make it desirable to present this supplement to the *Handlist* which appeared in October, 1962 (*South Austr. Orn.*, vol. 23, parts 6-8). Opportunity is taken to make a number of minor corrections, alterations and additions to the original text, the page numbers of which are referred to below.

For information supplied thanks are due to a number of my friends and associates, especially Mr. M. Waterman.

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BIRD PROTECTION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Delete this section and substitute:—

The Animals and Birds Protection Act (1919-1958) has been repealed and a new "Fauna Conservation Act, 1964" introduced.

The new Act provides legal protection for the majority of native bird species as well as various non-feathered animals, all of whose numbers can be added to or reduced by "regulation" at any time.

All birds not native to Australia are unprotected, except in prohibited areas, fauna reserves, fauna sanctuaries and game reserves, where also, those species subject to "open seasons" may not be taken, except in the case of special proclamations for game reserves.

The Australian Magpie is specially mentioned, it being lawful for any person to "take" a bird which has attacked or is attacking any person (Section 43).

There is no mention of what species shall be the subjects of proclamation to open seasons or bag limits (as specified in the former Act).

A schedule (No. 2) of Unprotected Species (see also Section 36) lists 20 forms by name: numbers in the Systematic Section are—37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 81, 84, 178, 185, 187, 189, 194d, 195, 208, 328, 358, 368, 388, 389, 390.

A Third Schedule, referring to 22 "Rare Species," lists the following (see Systematic Section) by name—Nos. 61, 95, 102, 103, 113, 150, 182, 186, 192, 201, 203, 209, 210, 246, 248, 284, 302, 312, 353, 366, 386, 387.

A "rare species," within the meaning of the Act, cannot be taken in an open season; also it can be taken under ministerial permit in a reserve, etc., only by the Museum Board and its employees and the Director and members of the Fisheries and Fauna Conservation Department (Section 40 (2) (3) (4)).

It should be noted that the Wedgetailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*, is now unprotected in districts only north of 34° 30' S. Latitude. This area, which comprises the greater part of the State, is bounded in the south by a line drawn from Coffin Bay (Eyre Peninsula) through Port Victoria (Yorke Peninsula) to the vicinity but north of Gawler, Sedan, Swan Reach and Taplan (near Victorian border) and south of Nuriootpa, Blanchetown and Loxton.

NEW RECORDS FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Some of the new records, which are nearly all based on museum specimens, have been foreshadowed by earlier claims ("sight records"); others are quite astonishing, e.g., Satin and Leadon Flycatchers.

Numbers preceding the name of each new record are given to assist in placing in the proper sequence in the *Handlist*. The R.A.O.U. *Checklist* number is given in brackets following the common name.

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18A *Pachyptila vittata vittata*, Broad-billed Prion (82).

A live bird was found at Cowandilla, an Adelaide suburb about two miles from the sea, by Mrs. L. James, on July 14, 1964. An earlier claim (1959), based on some fragments and wings of a beach derelict at the mouth of the River Murray, was not properly substantiated.

Details of specimen: Total length 30.8 cms.; bill 3.55 long by 2.05 wide, nasal tubes 0.7; wing (worn) 20.6; tail (worn) 9.9; tarsus 3.5; middle toe and claw 4.5. Wing span 66.7 cms. or 2 feet $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Weight 98.2 grammes. Sex (?).

Colours of soft parts—iris dark brown; bill, blackish above, including nasal tubes; unguis horn colour; anterior quarter of upper and lower mandibles pale blue; cutting edge and tip of bill black. Inside mouth—palate pale blue; lamellae white; tongue pink. Tarsus pale blue; toes pale blue, with joints of toes dark; webs dark grey, with veining mauve.

Note: The head and body feathers were new, but the seven outermost primaries and all the secondaries were worn. The wing coverts appeared brownish and worn.

REMARKS: The nominate form occurs in the southern Atlantic and New Zealand region as a breeding species. The other subspecies, *macgillivrayi* (Mathews) is restricted to St. Paul Island, in the Indian Ocean. The extremely wide and grotesque, almost froglike jaws, with the comb structures (lamellae) clearly visible with the beak closed, make this species unmistakable.

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46A. *Ardeola ibis coromandus*, Cattle Egret or Buff-backed Heron (184A).

Two birds seen early in May, 1964, by Messrs. W. Matheson and K. W. Bowen at Jamestown and a live bird was captured later. Port Lincoln in April and May, 1964 (D. Barnes). Ref.: Glover, *South Austr. Orn.*, 24, 1965, p. 40; Barnes & Waterman, *ibid.*, P. 42.

REMARKS: The live bird from Jamestown was sent to the Museum on May 19, 1964, and is now on exhibition in the new Bird Gallery, where a special display case deals with the dispersal of this species throughout the world in recent times.

Details of specimen: bill 5.95 cms.; wing 24.6; tail 8.3; tarsus 8.3; middle toe and claw 7.6. Weight, 309 grammes. Sex, female (non-breeding).

Colours of soft parts—iris pale creamy buff, with a very large black pupil; eyelids pale ochreous yellow; bill very pale orange, deeper towards the tip; face and lores pale, dull ochreous yellow; legs and toes yellowish brown; tibia yellow; soles of feet pale yellowish.

This small, white, yellow-billed heron normally adopts a characteristic hunched stance, when the neck appears short. Only, if the bird is feeding or alarmed is the neck fully extended, when the species could easily be mistaken for a Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), in non-breeding garb.

In breeding plumage, the top of the head, hind neck, back and upper breast of the Cattle Egret have elongate plumes, which are golden buff in colour; the same hue appears on the edges of the outer primaries. Some of the buffy coloration may be retained in non-breeding birds, which are usually pure white.

In South Australia, reports of this species prior to the year 1964 are doubtful and best ignored. However, a mounted specimen, labelled "male," has been on exhibition in the South Australian Museum for many years under the name of "Plumed Egret." Its origin is obscure, but in the museum register, No. B2000, it is recorded as having been taken at "St. Kilda," a place about 12 miles north of Adelaide, some time prior to the year 1911. Should this information be correct, this would be the earliest record of the species in this State.

The form *coromandus* extends from India and Ceylon eastwards to the Philippines, Japan, Java and Australia (all States except Tasmania) and wanders to Korea, New Guinea and adjacent islands. It has recently been reported from New Zealand (South island). Ref.: Turbott, Brathwaite and Wilkin, *Nortornis*, x, 1963, p. 316.

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136A. *Tringa brevipes*, Grey-tailed Tattler (155).

A specimen was caught and banded at the I.C.I. saltworks, Dry Creek, by Messrs. Max Waterman, Ian Gunn and Roy and Keith Masson on October 26, 1964.

Before giving details of this specimen, which was examined and photographed by the writer, it may be mentioned that an unconfirmed report of a tattler was received from Mr. Gordon Clarke on September 6, 1964. He observed a bird near the Outer Harbour, and, whilst much of his written description suggested one of these birds, he was unable to obtain sufficient information to establish his identification beyond all doubt. The present record in no way confirms a suggestion that the species is a regular visitor to South Australia.

Details of specimen: Total length about 25.5 cms. (10 inches); bill 4.1; wing 16.5; tail 7.3; tarsus 3.3; middle toe and claw 3.0. Wing span 52.0 cms. (1 ft. 8 in.).

Colours of soft parts—iris very dark brown; bill medium olive brown, blackish towards the tip and paler near base; base of lower mandible with yellowish tinge. Legs and feet dull greenish chrome yellow—greenish near base of toes and at each joint, also at top of tarsus; soles dull yellow; nails black.

The length of the nasal groove, which distinguishes this species in the hand, was about one half the length of the bill.

Description of plumage—upper parts pale brownish grey, the upper tail coverts with dull whitish barrings; side of head with white superciliary stripe extending from the bill to a distance, about the width of the eye, behind the eye and a corresponding dark greyish mark from the lores through the eye, this mark becoming paler behind the eye. A rim of white feathers around the eye; ear coverts and cheeks whitish, with narrow dark streaks. Throat, foreneck, lower breast, abdomen and under tail coverts white. Lower foreneck and upper breast pale grey; a very pale grey line on the forward edge of the wing. Primary wing coverts grey, tipped with white; secondary wing coverts grey with about three white spots, or notches, edged on the inner side with dark grey and situated on the outer edge of each feather. Primaries and secondaries about the same colour as the back (pale brownish grey) appearing somewhat darker when wing closed. Axillaries brownish grey. Only outer toe of four-toed foot webbed.

I am indebted to Max Waterman for the opportunity to examine the bird, and for the following additional information. This bird was retrapped in the same area on Nov. 11, 1964, and observed about a quarter of a mile from the banding site on Jan. 26, 1965.

Ref.: Cooper, *Austr. Bird Watch.*, 2 (4), 1964, p. 100-102.

REMARKS: Also known as the Asiatic or Polynesian Tattler, this short-legged tattler is believed to breed above the timber-line in the mountains of north-eastern Asia. It winters from the Malay Peninsula and Philippine Islands south to Java, Australia and the New Zealand region. Although generally in good numbers in northern and eastern Australia it is much rarer in the south, including Tasmania. In habits it is similar to the much rarer (in Australia) Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incanus*), which has not been recorded farther south than New South Wales.

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141A. *Ereunetes subminuta*, Long-toed Stint (—)

A female was collected by Mr. John Eckert, at Langhorne Creek on March 23, 1964.

Details of specimen: Total length 16.0 cms.; bill 1.9; wing 19; tail 4.25; tarsus 2.1; middle toe and claw 2.5.

Colours of soft parts—iris brown; bill blackish, yellow at base of lower mandible. Legs and feet yellow, slightly darker at joints.

Note: A slight chestnut colouring to edges of many of the feathers of the upper surface and scapulars.

REMARKS: This is the first time this species has been obtained in southern Australia. There is a recent "banding" record in Queensland.

Breeds on islands off eastern Siberia and the Kamchatkan coast and normally wintering from South-East Asia (India, eastern China, Burma, etc.) to the Philippines, Sunda Islands

and the Celebes. All previous Australian records are from the Fitzroy River area in the north-west of Western Australia.

Mr. Eckert, the discoverer of the species in South Australia, tells me that identification rests largely on the "warm coloration" of the back, yellow legs, chestnut crown and grey breast. In flight the bird appears darker than a Red-necked Stint (*Ereunetes ruficollis*) and lacks a white wing bar. Of course, the toes are not noticeably longer than those of the lastnamed, in life.

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146A *Philomachus pugnax* Ruff.

An adult female (or Reeve) was collected by Mr. R. W. McKecknie, near Port Gawler, on January 14, 1962. Ref.: McEvey, *Emu* 63 (1), pp. 35-39.

REMARKS: Full details of this specimen may be obtained from McEvey's paper. As he points out, the male, which develops an extraordinary "ruff" in springtime, is much larger than the female (or Reeve). In non-breeding plumage the latter could be mistaken for a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, but is larger, being about the size of a Little Greenshank (*Tringa stagnatilis*). McEvey figures the foot, showing a distinct basal web adjacent to the outer toe.

The Ruff breeds in north-western Europe, and the northern parts of Russia and Siberia; also in more southerly latitudes in these places. It migrates to many parts, including South Africa, India and Asia, reaching Malaya and Borneo rarely; also the Philippines. Accidental in North America.

The present occurrence is the first Australian record. A Reeve has since been collected in south-western Western Australia. Ref.: Fisher, *W.A. Naturalist* 9 (4), 1964, p. 90.

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157A. *Chlidonias leucopterus*, White-winged Black Tern (109).

A female, in adult winter plumage, was obtained at Mulgundawa, River Murray, by Mr. John Eckert, on December 27, 1964. Ref. Eckert, *South Aust. Orn.*, 24 (4) p. 68.

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305A. *Myiagra rubecula rubecula*, Leaden Flycatcher (365).

The only record of this species is that of a male, caught by Master David Paton, at Beaumont, an Adelaide suburb at the foothills, on December 14, 1964. The bird was examined at the S.A. Museum and later released. Ref. Paton, *Emu* 64 (4) p. 320.

This subspecies is a regular spring migrant in south-eastern Australia; in males the lores are pale. Normal range is from west of Melbourne, in the coastal forests, north to N.S.W. and southern Queensland. According to Keast (1958), there are two black-lored forms in tropical Australia (coastal); the males of all forms are readily separable in the hand.

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305B. *Myiagra cyanoleuca*, Satin Flycatcher (366).

A female was found dead by Master Peter Hender, at Langhorne Creek on March 29, 1964. It is now preserved in the S.A. Museum and is the only South Australian record of this bird. According to Keast, the species extends through the coastal mountain forests of eastern Australia from Cape York to Tasmania. It is a migrant and visits New Guinea, New Britain and other islands. A. G. Campbell was inclined to believe that the Tasmanian population consisted of smaller birds than those of the mainland and was non-migratory, but this is denied by Keast. Ref.: Mathews, *Bds. Aust.*, ix, p. 53.

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325A *Pardalotus striatus*, Yellow-tipped Pardalote (567).

A male was captured near Culburra, eight miles west of Tintinara, South Australia, by Mr. M. H. Waterman, on September 11, 1963. The normal range is regarded as from Tasmania and Bass Strait islands through Victoria and eastern New South Wales to southern Queensland. Ref.: Condon & Waterman, *Emu*, 64 (4) p. 298; Hindwood & Mayr, *ibid*, 46, p. 56.

FOSSIL BIRDS

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2A *Dromaius patricius* De Vis.

Recorded from near Lake Eyre; also ? Penola, South-East of South Australia. Upper Pleistocene.

2B *Dromaius* sp. Lake Palankarina, interior of South Australia. Pliocene.2C *Dromornis australis* Owen

South-East of South Australia. Upper Pleistocene. Also Queensland.

2D *Genyornis newtoni* Stirling & ZietzThird line . . . delete "Penola." Add "Early Pleistocene remains of an unidentified species of the genus *Genyornis* have been found 20 miles north of Cooper's Creek, S.A."

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PHOENICOPTERIDAE

FLAMINGOES

56A *Phoenicopterus* sp., Flamingo.Remains found at Lake Ngapakaldi, east of Lake Eyre, South Australia. Oligocene. Ref.: Stirton et al., *Rec. South Austr. Mus.*, 14, p. 35.

ALTERATIONS AND CORRECTIONS

Page 90

Three lines from bottom . . . delete "Pelican" and transfer "Silver Gull" to last line.

Page 91

2. *Dromaius diemenianus*, Kangaroo Island Emu:

Last line . . . for "1958" read "1960b."

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Last line . . . for "Partly protected" read "Fully protected."

Page 96

51. *Botaurus poiciloptilus*, Brown Bittern

Second line . . . for "Not Eyre Peninsula" read "A live bird was caught near Port Lincoln in February, 1965 (D. Barnes)."

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67. *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*, Pink-eared Duck

Third line . . . delete "not" before Kangaroo Island. Mr. G. B. Ragless informs me that he has a clutch of eggs from the island.

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97. *Coturnix ypsilophorus*, Swamp QuailFor "*australis*" read "*cairnsae*."

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120. *Pluvialis squatarola*, Grey Plover

Third line . . . for "Morgan" read "Sutherlands."

Page 111

181. *Calyptorhynchus magnificus samueli*, for "Red-Black Cockatoo" read "Red-tailed Black Cockatoo."

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182. *Calyptorhynchus lathamii*, Glossy Black Cockatoo.

The record by Austin at Coleraine, Victoria, is retracted (letter, C. Austin, January 8, 1963). Mr. Austin also points out that a skin in the National Museum of Victoria labelled "Coleraine" came from the New South Wales locality of that name.

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After Red-rumped Parrot read "(295)."

Page 128

Delete MALURIDAE AUSTRALIAN WARBLERS & WRENS.

Page 136

332. *Meliphaga melanops meltoni*, Yellow-tufted Honeyeater.

Line three . . . for "in the same area" read "at Joanna."

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For the genus name "*Zonaeginthus*" read "*Emblema*." The latter is the correct name on the grounds of priority. After Zebra Finch read "(653)."

Page 145

386. *Chlamydera maculata*, Spotted Bower-Bird.

Third line . . . for "Swan Hill" read "Swan Reach."

387. *Chlamydera guttata*, Western Bower-Bird.

Fourth line . . . for "Myr" read "Mayr."

ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSIONS OF RANGE AND OCCURRENCE

Page 91

5. *Eudyptes schlegeli*, Royal Penguin.

A beach derelict, minus head, found at Granites, 10 m. north of Kingston, S.A., by Dr. C. O. Fuller, on Nov. 2, 1963.

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35. *Pelecanus conspicillatus*, Australian Pelican.

Additional breeding records: about 350 nests on an island at the end of Reedy Point, Lake Alexandrina, October 1963. Also perhaps 4-6 years earlier at Point Pomanda, Murray Mouth; seen by Ian Dodd, of Langhorne Creek (John Eckert). A small breeding colony on an island in Venus Bay, Port Kenny, in August, 1964 (M. H. Waterman).

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44. *Egretta intermedia*, Plumed Egret.

According to Mr. Jack Hood a rare breeder at Bool Lagoon, S.E. of S.A.

48. *Ardea pacifica*, Pacific (White-necked) Heron.

According to Mr. Hood there are old breeding records at Bool Lagoon.

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54. *Threskiornis (Carpodacus) spinicollis*, Straw-necked Ibis.

Messrs. L. B. Delroy and J. B. Hood counted about 400,000 adults and the same number of young at Bool Lagoon in November, 1963.

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61. *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*, Cape Barren Goose.

Dr. Oliver Fuller tells me that the species has bred on odd occasions on three rocky outcrops (known as "The Granites") in Lake Albert and at Mud Island and near Point Sturt, in Lake Alexandrina. Mr. Hood, who regards the birds as rare visitors to Bool Lagoon in the South-East of the State, has reported breeding at Lake Albert also.

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71. *Anseranas semipalmata*, Pied Goose.

Mr. Hood says birds were common at Bool Lagoon in the early days of settlement when they were killed for food.

72. *Oxyura australis*, Blue-billed Duck.

Two pairs have been observed at the Tod Reservoir, Eyre Peninsula (Mr. Doug. Barnes, January, 1965).

75. *Elanus scriptus*, Letter-winged Kite.

A report from the south, five miles west of Wellington, July, 1952 (Serventy in Glover, *S. Austr. Orn.*, 22(1), 1956, page 8).

89. *Falco hypoleucos*, Grey Falcon.

Two birds at Palmer Hill, west of Mannum (H. T. Condon, August, 1964).

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100. *Turnix pyrrhothorax*, Red-breasted Quail.

Specimen from Yankalilla, S.A., in S.A. White collection, collected by B. Marshall in 1921-22. Ref.: S.A.O.A. Minutes, Jan. 2, 1922. Three birds from Murray Bridge. Ref. McKecknie. *Avic. Mag.*, 62 (4), 1956.

102. *Pedionomus torquatus*, Plain Wanderer.

Adelaide Airport (McGilp, *Nat. Parks Handbk.*, 1964; Everard Park, N.W.S.A. (C. O. Fuller, August 1964); specimen (female) Mallala (T. Irish, June, 1965).

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160. *Hydroprogne caspia*, Caspian Tern.

A breeding colony of several hundreds was observed by F. Mitchell at South Neptune Islands during December, 1963, and January, 1964. Breeding on West Island, Encounter Bay, January, 1964 (Mrs. Joan Paton).

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232. *Eurystomus orientalis*, Dollar-Bird.

A bird was first seen at "Moy Hall," about 12 miles south-west of Naracoorte, S.E. of S.A., on May 2, 1963, and was present for some time (A. R. Attiwill).

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260. *Gerygone olivacea*, White-throated Warbler.

A tape recording was made of a bird singing by Mr. C. K. Pawsey, Mt. Burr Forest Research Station, five miles east of Millicent, in November, 1964. Mr. Pawsey reports that Mrs. K. J. Stuckey also heard the species at Furner, 15 miles north-west of Mt. Burr about this time.

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375. *Struthidea cinerea*, Apostle-Bird.

Species seen near Blanchetown by W. Head, on November 11, 1963.

INDEX

The following insertions should be made:

- After Bustard . . . Bustard-Quail . . . 99-101
 „ Egret . . . Egret, Cattle . . . 46A
 „ Firetail . . . Flycatcher, Leaden . . . 305A
 „ Flycatcher, Restless . . . Flycatcher, Satin . . . 305B
 „ Quail . . . Quail, Bustard . . . 99-101
 „ Rosella . . . Ruff . . . 146A
 „ Sandpiper, various . . . 136
 „ Shrike-Thrush . . . Shrike Tit . . . 316
 „ Tattler . . . 136A

Corrections: Change number of Currawong to 382; that of Oriole to 373; Scrub-Wren and Wren, Scrub to 274 and Plain Wanderer to 102 (in Index).