

WHITE-THROATED WARBLER 100 KM NORTH OF ADELAIDE

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On 10 June 1975. I observed an adult White-throated Warbler *Gerygone olivacea* on our property, approximately 100 km north of Adelaide. The area is part of the Alma Range, an extension of the Mount Lofty Ranges, and borders the northern Adelaide Plains on the east. It is hilly, with a maximum elevation of 1,339 feet (c. 400 m). The exact position of the observation is 2 km east of Salter's Springs, in an area that had been partially cleared about 10 years previously. There has been some regrowth of Peppermint Gum *Eucalyptus odorata* from stumps; and the other main vegetation in the immediate area is Prickly Wattle *Acacia armata*.

I first noticed the warbler when it was about eight metres from the ground, actively foraging for insects under the bark of twigs in a mature Peppermint Gum in a gully. The bird was about 10 cm in size and had a very obvious bright yellow chest and abdomen. The throat and forehead were white and the rest of the bird was olive-grey, being slightly darker through the eye. The bird then flew some distance and I failed to re-locate it.

I revisited the area on 29 June 1975, and observed two warblers foraging amongst the leaves and outer branches of some Peppermint Gum regrowth at about 5 m from the ground. They were only about 40 m from where I had made the first sighting. One bird had similar markings to the bird I had seen 19 days earlier;

but the other individual differed in that it had a yellow, instead of a white, throat.

On neither occasion did I hear any call from the birds. The month of June was abnormally dry in the area, following average rainfall in May. Both 10 June and 29 June were calm and sunny.

Previous recordings of the White-throated Warbler from South Australia mentioned in the S.A. Orn. have been from the South-East at Millicent (1938 breeding), Mt. Burr Forest and vicinity (1964) and Naracoorte (1965) and the Mount Lofty Ranges at Happy Valley Reservoir (1966, the three subsequent seasons, and again in 1971-72, breeding), and Onkaparinga Gorge (1969 and the two subsequent seasons).

All recordings occurred during the period of September to February, predominantly in November, and on most occasions the species was heard calling. My sightings were in early winter, and were presumably of adult and immature birds, about 115 km north of any previous South Australian recording of the species.

REFERENCES

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