

BIRDS OF THE GOOSE ISLAND GROUP — SOME FURTHER REMARKS

LEO JOSEPH and JULIAN REID

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Paton (1973) presented an account of his records of the birds of the Goose Island Group, Spencer Gulf, made between 1966 and 1971 inclusive. On 26 and 27 February 1977, we paid a brief visit to the central western part of Wardang Island, the largest of the group. Most of our observations were made on the shoreline. The only inland habitat we investigated to any proper extent was an extensive and quite dense belt of Coastal Daisy Bush *Olearia axillaris* that runs along the south-western coast of the Island and which extends roughly a kilometre inland. This belt averages 1.5-2 metres in height.

Although our visit was necessarily brief, some interesting additions to Paton's list can now be made:—

WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenura*.

Not recorded by Paton. We saw one bird flying over grassland adjoining the *Olearia* belt.

SPUR-WINGED PLOVER *Vanellus miles*.

On Wardang, Paton recorded this bird only in October '66 and May '71. We saw one group of three on the shore on several occasions and others in pairs. Possibly a localised resident.

TURNSTONE *Arenaria interpres*.

Paton had only one record of this bird — several on 19 January '70, whereas it was per-

haps the commonest bird seen by us. At least ten groups of five or so birds were seen in addition to numerous sightings of single or paired birds. On one occasion, about twenty birds in two roughly equal sized groups were crowded on to two separate banks of washed up seaweed, each about a metre long. The birds were actively feeding on small arthropods (*c.* 2 mm across) in the seaweed. At least two birds were in partial nuptial plumage.

WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW

Cheramoecca leucosternum.

Not recorded by Paton. We saw a pair over *Olearia axillaris* scrub.

WHITE-FRONTED CHAT

Ephthianura albifrons.

Recorded by Paton once — two birds seen flying over Goose Island in May '68. We saw a few pairs on a beach and in adjoining sandhills.

Our thanks are due to Mr. Bill Riceman for arranging our trip to Wardang Island.

REFERENCE

Paton, D. C., 1973. Birds of the Goose Island Group, Spencer Gulf, S.A. Orn. 26:77-84.

Leo Joseph, 1 Angas St., Kent Town, 5067.

Julian Reid, 11 Marlborough St., College Park, 5069.