

A NORTHERN RECORD OF THE ROSE ROBIN

JOHN TRURAN, BRONWYN MART
and JOHN BRANSBURY

Accepted November, 1979.

Bowie (1978) has summarised records of the Rose Robin *Petroica rosea* in South Australia where it is a rare winter vagrant. The northernmost record came from 3.25 km NW of Williamstown on 12, 14, and 15 April 1974.

On 21 May 1979 one adult male was seen in the grounds of The Bluff HS, 11.5 km NW of Hallett and 140 km N of Williamstown. The weather was overcast with a Force 6 wind blowing from the North. Over a very large area around The Bluff there are almost no trees or shrubs. The homestead surrounds have been planted with a great variety of native plants, many exotic to the area, so that they approximate a mature dry sclerophyll forest with dense understorey in places. In front of the homestead is a large conventional garden with an extensive area of well-kept lawn. What was presumably the same bird was observed and photographed in the same area by Lynn Pedler on 26 May 1979.

The bird was observed between 12.00 and

13.30 in a small plantation of mature Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx* with no understorey and deep leaf litter in which it was scavenging. It spent most of its time in a large evergreen Karob *Ceratonia siliqua*, where it perched at heights between 0.3 and 1 m. Pedler also observed it among mature *Acacia* spp. On one occasion a Grey Fantail *Rhipidura fuliginosa* was seen diving and chattering at it.

The robin appeared smaller than a Scarlet Robin *P. multicolor* and was a uniform slate-grey on the back, with white outer tail feathers and no white on the wing feathers which were slightly darker than the back. The deep pink breast had a slightly blurred boundary with the light underparts, the sides of which were off-white. It was sometimes possible to see the small white feathers over the bill. The legs, bill and eye were all dark.

REFERENCE

Bowie, Pat. 1978. Sighting of a Rose Robin Near Adelaide. *S. Aust. Orn.* 28:23-24.

J. Truran: 50 Hampton St., Goodwood 5034.

B. Mart: 10 Argyle St., Prospect 5082.

J. Bransbury, 13 Mill Rd., Lobethal 5241.