

A RED-LORED WHISTLER IN THE MANNING RESERVE, MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

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The Red-Lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis* is known in South Australia mainly from the Murray Mallee and nearby areas (Pizzey 1980, Simpson and Day 1984) with one old record (Gould, cited in Parker 1984) and one recent record (see Parker 1984) from the Adelaide Plains. A further indication that the bird may stray from a typical mallee habitat is provided by a single record in 1980 of a bird found "in rushes and Lignum adjacent to a swamp" on the shore of Lake Alexandrina, Murray Mallee (see Parker 1984). These few records, from habitats other than mallee, in part prompted Parker (1984) to suggest that the bird may disperse from its mallee breeding area to other areas in autumn and winter. The following observation supports this hypothesis.

OBSERVATION

The Manning Reserve, Mount Lofty Ranges, is an area (ca 0.5 sq. km) of open Eucalypt forest and *Banksia* scrub situated about 30 km S of Adelaide, in the grape-growing district of the Southern Vales.

At 14.00 on 8 June 1986, we entered the Reserve at the NW corner. It was a fine, mild, still day.

About 100 m SE of the entrance we saw the bird of interest in low (1.3 m) scrub near the track. Our first view was from the rear and the bird, of moderate size and with a grey back and flight feathers margined buff-yellow, was initially taken to be a small Grey Shrike-thrush *Colluricincla harmonica*. The bird cocked its tail, showing a deep rufous vent, and flew to

lower thick scrub. Through 8X field glasses at 5 m we saw a grey head and a deep red eye. The bird then flew with a strong low looping flight. We pursued the bird and obtained a frontal view as it perched. The most striking feature was the deep unstreaked rufous of the entire front, from lores to vent, with a slight paling on the upper breast. We therefore identified the bird as an adult male Red-lored Whistler *P. rufogularis*.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We thank John Hatch for his help in the preparation of this report.

REFERENCES

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Received 16 June 1986; accepted 30 June 1986