

## BIRD NOTE

**A PLAINS-WANDERER NEAR NANTAWARRA.** On 14 November 1987, I found a single Plains-wanderer *Pedionomus torquatus* four kilometres west of Nantawarra (ca 120 km N of Adelaide). The bird was a female and possibly immature because of slightly indistinct neck and breast markings. It was found in a half-reaped barley crop in undulating country at about 1100 hours. The weather was fine and warm.

It was first seen after being flushed. It flew awkwardly about 10 metres and was caught. On examination, one wing was slightly injured and a few feathers were missing from the upper breast.

Description: Slightly smaller than a Stubble Quail *Coturnix novaezelandiae*. Crown, back and wing coverts patterned brown. Some rufous on breast and nape, extending around eyes. Black and white blotched nuchal collar. Breast buff with dark brown crescent markings. Throat and abdomen white. The bill, longer and thinner

than a quail's, was yellow, and dark brown on top of upper mandible. Long, yellow legs with short hind toe pointing inward. Eyes pale yellow. Primaries and secondaries of wing dark brown, almost black, with buff edging. Buff wingbar. White feathers either side of short tail. Often stood on tiptoes with hind toe off ground.

This bird looked very similar to the photograph in the *Complete Book of Australian Birds* (Frith, H. J. (ed.), 1976, Reader's Digest: Sydney). Photographs were taken (Plate 1). The injuries may have been caused by harvesting equipment. The bird was put in my neighbour's aviary for rehabilitation and released on 20 November 1987. On release, the bird walked away quickly and squatted when I followed. It allowed me to touch it, walked away again and flew off.

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Plate 1. Plains-wanderer captured near Nantawarra in November 1987, prior to release. Photo: Paul W. Taylor.