

A WHITE-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE NEAR NANTAWARRA. The White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina papuensis* is only occasionally reported in South Australia. Most sightings are from the South East region, with a few other records from the River Murray, the Coorong, Swan Reach Conservation Park and near Adelaide.

A single bird seen in the Swan Reach CP on 13 June 1992 (Frick *et al.* 1992) was the first South Australian record of the subspecies *C. p. robusta*, a dark phase with a blackish head.

This report is of a single White-bellied Cuckoo-shrike 5 km west of Nantawarra on 1 September 1998. It appears that this is the most north-westerly sighting in South Australia and the second report of *C. p. robusta*.

My attention was drawn to the bird by the alarm calls of White-plumed Honeyeaters *Lichenostomus penicillatus*. This was at our farm homestead and the bird was flying amongst mallee and Aleppo pines *Pinus halepensis*. It was an obvious cuckoo-shrike, noticeably smaller than a Black-faced Cuckoo-

shrike *C. novaehollandiae*.

It was observed for about ten minutes from 1745 h. The back of the bird was of similar colouring to a Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. The face and neck were dark grey (not black), with faint barring on the breast and pale underparts. In flight, the tail was slightly forked. It called twice, the fairly high-pitched squawk as described in field guides.

It was seen again briefly on the morning of 3 September 1998.

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REFERENCE

Frick, R. *et al.* 1992. Bird notes. *South Australian Ornithological Association Newsletter*, 143, 17.

Paul Taylor: Box 16, Nantawarra, S.A. 5550

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