
*MORGAN—An Addition to Avifauna of S.A.***An Addition to the Introduced Avifauna of South Australia.**

By Dr. A. M. Morgan.

About three years ago Mr. H. W. Morphett, of Wood's Point, River Murray, told Mr. J. Sutton and myself of a strange bird which had lately appeared on his property. The bird was described as nearly all red, and as this did not fit the description of any Australian bird we came to the conclusion that it was a foreigner escaped from some aviary. On 21st October last Mr. Morphett informed us that the birds had increased in numbers, and that there were now between 15 or 20 of them which came every day to feed upon the wild oats growing on the bank of a drain in the reclaimed flats. On 22nd October he drove us along the flats, and we were fortunate enough to get a close view of two males and two females. They proved to be the Grenadier Weaver (*Pyromelana orix*), a native of southern Africa, ranging from Angola and the Limpopo River to the Cape of Good Hope. We were told that the birds disappeared in winter, but as the males, after the nesting season, change their bright plumage to that of the female, they might easily have been mistaken for Sparrows when in that state. I have not been able to find out much about their habits in their native land, except that they inhabit swampy country and do much damage to grain crops, and, judging by the business-like way in which we saw them stripping the wild oats, one can imagine what a flock of them would do in a wheat crop. It seems likely, unless early steps are taken to eradicate them, that we will soon be cursed with another imported pest. Since returning from Wood's Point Mr. Sutton has been informed that a pair of birds of the same species are building a nest in a bed of reeds near Paradise.
