

South Australian Museum Notes.

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By J. Sutton.

Pedionomus torquatus, Collared Plain-Wanderer.—A specimen, ♀, was sent in on 13/9/1932 by J. W. Curnow, of Mallala, S.A. He advised:—"The Turkey Quail in question was caught at Dublin, 40 miles north of Adelaide, about the beginning of May, 1932. There was not any more of that species about, and I have never seen one of them here before. The bird could not fly, but could only flutter along the ground, and it lived in captivity about four months, during which time it lived almost entirely on cake crumbs, of which it was very fond. The bird was living quite well until a rat ate its way into the cage one night and either killed it or worried it to death."

Geopelia placida, Peaceful Dove.—From W. J. Harvey, Coombe, 9/11/1932, ♀; iris, enamel white, bare space in front of eye, deep powder blue; bill, very light pink edged bluish; legs and feet, creamy white; centre of scales, purple.

Rallus pectoralis Lewin Water-Rail.—Sent in by the Department of Agriculture on 18/11/1932. ♀. The bird was obtained on the reclaimed Jervois Swamp, River Murray, near Tailem Bend, and was the first ever seen there. It appeared to have been caught in a trap.

Pelagodroma marina, White-faced Storm-Petrel.—From C. Flett, 18/11/1932, ♀, caught on the M.S. "Móonta" off the Althorpe Islands, Investigator Strait. It was alive, but in a dying condition.

Puffinus carneipes, Fleshy-footed Shearwater.—A body of a bird of this species was found on the seashore at Glenelg, north of Patawalonga Creek, on 4/11/1932 by Professor J. B. Cleland and presented to the South Australian Museum. ♀; total length, 45 cm.; span of wings, 104.8 cm.; weight, 360 grammes; iris, brownish; bill, culmen light brown, darker at tip; sides of maxilla and the mandible, dirty white; tip of mandible, very dark brown; legs and feet, pinkish white.

Microcarbo melanoleucus, Little Pied Cormorant.—From 1st February to 22nd March, 1933, over 41 Cormorants have been shot at the Botanic Gardens. The birds have been taking the fish in the ponds, and they can only be shot between 7 and 9 a.m. when the Gardens are without visitors. Five sent to the Museum were of the above species. 14/3/1933, ♀; total

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length, 56.8 cm.; span of wings, 92 cm.; weight, 604 grammes; stomach contents—11 goldfish and a small quantity of triturated food (probably two fish); also in the gullet two more goldfish, the largest and smallest of the catch. 20/3/1933; ♀; total length, 55.9 cm.; span of wings, 92 cm.; total weight, 776 grammes; stomach contents—five goldfish and triturated food.

Astur fasciatus, Australian Goshawk.—Shot at the Zoological Gardens about 6 p.m. on 16/3/1933. It was disturbing and frightening some of the birds there. ♂, immature; total length, 44.7 cm.; span of wings, 82.3 cm.; weight, 347 grammes; iris, yellow; bill, base horn colour, the rest darker; cere and gape, greenish yellow; legs and feet, yellow.

Elanus axillaris, Black-shouldered Kite.—From G. Perry, Finniss, S.A., 31/1/1933; ♂; total length, 36.9 cm.; span of wings, 89.6 cm.; weight, 289 grammes.

Falco peregrinus, Peregrine Falcon.—From E. A. Brooks, "Buckland Park," Two Wells. 14/2/1933; ♀, immature; total length, 47.0 cm.; span of wings, 101.1 cm.; weight, 2 lb. 2 oz.; iris, —; bill, base light horn, tip black; legs and feet, yellow.

Tyto alba, Barn-Owl.—A bird was picked up dead in the Park Lands, Adelaide, on 28/7/1932, by Charles McDonald. ♀; total length, 32 cm.; span of wings, 91.5 cm.; wing, 27.4 cm.; weight, 251 grammes.

Another bird was sent in on 5/8/1932 by J. H. Snook, of Renmark. He advised that his wife had caught it, that it did not appear well when caught, and died in the evening. ♂; total length, 32.6 cm.; span of wings, 88.5 cm.; weight, 248 grammes. In each specimen the stomach was empty.

Podargus strigoides, Tawny Frogmouth.—W. N. Pfeiffer, of Ceduna, West Coast, wrote on 12/7/1932, for the identification of a bird he had seen a few weeks before. The description sent was an excellent one of a Tawny Frogmouth.

Neophema elegans, Elegant Parrot.—A wing of a Parrot was sent in for identification by E. J. Carrison, of Port MacDonnell, S.A., on 7/2/1933. He stated that "the birds arrive there in the summer months and are absent in the winter months; they seem to feed on the 'jockey burr,' and are seen in fair numbers only along the coast." Dr. A. M. Morgan identified the wing as belonging to a xanthochroistic bird of the above species.

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Newton, in "A Dictionary of Birds," p. 99, states that xanthochroism occurs mostly in originally red or orange feathers; when the feathers are yellow instead of green, this may possibly be a reversional step or a case of arrested development, because of the absence of the green-making superstructure.

Chalcites basalis, Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo.—A bird sent in on 20/7/1932 from W. Darmódy, Parachilna, 33½ miles north of Adelaide. It had been caught by a dog and had lost its tail. He had never seen one in the bush before. ♀; weight, 21 grammes.

Pardalotus ornatus, Red-capped Pardalote.—A bird was picked up in the Adelaide Zoo in a dying state by A. Bradshaw. 12/9/1932; ♀; iris, dark brown; bill, black; palate, light horn colour; legs and feet, dark grey; total length, 10.5 cm.; span of wings, 19 cm.; weight, 11 grammes.

The following birds died in captivity:—

Calyptorhynchus baudini, White-tailed Black Cockatoo. 9/3/1933; ♀; total length, 55.9 cm.; span of wings, 99.8 cm.; weight, 467 grammes. W. H. Foglia.

Calyptorhynchus funereus, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo. 10/8/1932; ♂; iris, very dark brown; bill, maxilla, horn colour; mandible, light brown; tips, dark horn; total length, 55.6 cm.; span of wings, 100.8 cm.; weight, 1 lb. 3oz. G. Carr.

Leptolophus hollandicus, Cockatoo-Parrot. 22/9/1932; ♀; total length, 27.8 cm.; span of wings, 50 cm.; weight, 114 grammes. D. W. Brummitt.

Purpureicephalus spurius, Red-capped Parrot. 5/9/1932; ♂; total length, 36.7 cm.; span of wings, 47.3 cm.; weight, 91 grammes. (Hab., South Western Australia). W. H. Foglia.

Neophema pulchella, Turquoise Parrot. 14/9/1932; ♂; total length, 20.8 cm.; span of wings, 32 cm.; weight, 26 grammes. Adelaide Zoo.

Neophema splendida, Scarlet-breasted Parrot. (1) 8/8/1932; ♂; total length, 22.1 cm.; span of wings, 34 cm.; weight, 47 grammes. H. J. Packer. (2) 28/8/1932; ♂; total length, 19.9 cm.; span of wings, 31 cm.; weight, 28 grammes; iris, dark hazel. (This bird was hatched approximately on 30/11/1931.) Adelaide Zoo.

Neophema bourkei, Bourke Parrot. (1) 23/8/1932; ♂; total length, 23.6 cm.; span of wings, 35.6 cm.; weight, 42 grammes. S. Harvey. (2) 21/9/32; ♀; total length, 22.1

cm.; span of wings, 32.6 cm.; weight, 45 grammes. S. Harvey. (3) 29/8/1932; ♀; total length, 21.9 cm.; span of wings, 32.6 cm.; weight, 42 grammes. This bird laid 28 eggs that season, largest clutch eight eggs; 17 young were reared. F. Manfield.

Pyromelana orix, Grenadier Weaver.—Referring to Dr. A. M. Morgan's article on this species in the "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. XII., page 31, its occurrence is recorded from a new quarter:—On 11th March, 1933, a ♂ was sent in to the Museum for identification by Mrs. Maidment. The bird was found dead under a tree about two miles from the post office at McLaren Flat, in the Noarlunga district, and about 27 miles south of Adelaide.
