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*Bird Notes.*

## Orroroo District Notes.

By James T. Gray. 23/12/1933.

We have had quite unusual weather this year. Last summer we were without rain from October to May; light falls in May; June and July very dry; October very dry; then good rains in November and December. The dry spring gave us very few wild flowers and poor blossoming of trees. We have consequently had few nomadic birds about here. I noticed this to be so for Honeyeaters, Parrots, Brown and Rufous Songlarks (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*, and *C. mathewsi*), Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), and the Chats. So far I have not seen any Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) this year. In 1931 I saw them as early as July, and in 1932 in September. Crimson and Orange Chats (*Epthianura tricolor* and *E. aurifrons*) in 1931 and 1932 I saw as early as September. On

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8th October, at a creek about two miles from the town, I saw ten Black-tailed Native Hens (*Tribonyx ventralis*) with sixteen Spur-winged Plovers (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*), the two groups keeping together, rising together when disturbed, and settling together. This occurred a number of times. I obtained a specimen of the Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*)\* from the Pekina Creek near the town on 2/12/1933. ♂; iris, blue-black; pharynx, grey; legs and feet, green; bill black; total length, 22 cm.; wing spread, 38.5 cm.; length of bill, 3 cm.; stomach contents, many elytra and heads, etc., of minute beetles, and 25 aquatic larvae; intestinal parasites, a number of tapeworms. This bird appeared to be alone. I examined the whole stretch of the water in the creek. I have seen the Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*) here in August and September, 1931-2-3. A specimen taken on 12/8/1933 was ♂; iris, pale blue; legs and feet, horn colour; bill, black; pharynx, flesh colour; total length, 9 cm.; wing spread, 17.5 cm.

The following specimens were brought to me from here:—

Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*).—5/10/1933; ♀; iris, dark brown; feet, yellow; pharynx, grey; total length, 44 cm.; wing spread, 98 cm.; stomach contents, flesh and hair of a mouse-like creature—no bones present, and flesh almost digested.

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*).—14/8/1933; ♂; iris, red; feet, yellow; bill, black; pharynx, lower, flesh colour; top, blue; total length, 37 cm.; wing spread, 85 cm.; stomach contents, a mouse.

Grey Butcher Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—4/8/1933; ♂; iris, brown; legs and feet, grey; bill, steel-blue; pharynx, light flesh colour; total length, 30 cm.; wing spread, 42 cm.

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(\* This is the fifth record for this species in South Australia. (1) 30/10/1901, specimen, ♀; Lake Albert; (2) 25/4/1927, observation at Mannum; (3 and 4) Two specimens from South Australia presented by Captain Sturt are in the British Museum.—Editors.)