

Notes on the Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) at Witchelina Station.

Witchelina Station is sixteen miles north-west of Farina, which town is thirty-five miles northwards of Copley. I saw this species for the first time on this station on 27th August, 1932. There were two birds at South Well, eight miles south-east of the homestead, and near the main road to Farina, and I was able to get very close to them. The next time I observed the species was on 3rd September, 1932, at East-hut Dam,

fourteen miles from the homestead. They were fairly plentiful on the gibber tablelands surrounding the dam. Although I made a thorough search, I could only find two nests, each containing two eggs—one set was heavily incubated, whilst the other was fresh. On the 28th November, 1932, the birds were all over the run, especially on the grassed tablelands, but very few seemed to have nested. On 10th December, 1932, most of the Pratincoles had left the district, only odd ones were to be seen. In 1933 the absence of the Pratincoles was particularly noticeable, and not a bird was seen. In 1934 the Pratincoles were seen for the first time on 14th March, but were only in isolated pairs. At present the season is very uncertain; a definite break has not been registered to date—21st May.

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