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Bird Notes.

By J. Sutton.

Spring Visitors, 1937.—My final recordings of the species referred to on pages 72, 73, 100/102, 136/138 were:—

*Acrocephalus australis*, Reed Warbler.

In the River Torrens Gorge—2nd January, 1938—three heard; 9th January—five heard.

*Cinclorhamphus matheusi*, Rufous Songlark.

1st January, 1938.—♂ and ♀ were seen at Netherby, Mitcham—the ♂ was singing.

9th January, 1938.—One heard at the Millbrook Reservoir.

Other Bird Notes—*Coturnix pectoralis*, Stubble Quail.

Heard in various crops on the property of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, "Urrbrae," Mitcham, between the hours of 3 and 5 p.m.—on 30th October, 1937—(2); 20th

November—(1); 4th December—(8); 11th December—(9); 18th December—(4); 25th December—(10); 8th January, 1938—(1). At 6 p.m. on 1st December and at 7.50 p.m. on 2nd December I heard the species calling there.

On 25th October a bird was heard at the Richmond Swamps; one near West Beach on 1st January, 1938, and also one near "Springfield," Mitcham.

*Capella hardwicki*, Australian Snipe.

Along the shore-line of one of the bays of the Millbrook Reservoir and close to the water amongst a sedge, *Cyperus gunnii*, this species was flushed in January, 1938—on 2nd (4), on 9th (2); on 30th (1). On the first and second dates the birds called "scape" as they rose, but on 30th, although the bird was flushed four times, it did not call.

*Phalacrocorax carbo*, Black Cormorant.

On 2nd January, 1938, I counted 124 of this species at the Millbrook Reservoir. Many of them were sitting in the tops of big gums growing near the water in one of the bays. Calls were given a number of times, loud, nasal notes. I have never seen so many of this species, nor heard it call, before. Edgar F. Stead, in "The Life Histories of New Zealand Birds," 1932, gives the call at nesting-time as a loud "kau-kau-kau," and that sounds like what I heard, but the Reservoir birds were not nesting.

The Giant Petrel, *Macronektes giganteus*, referred to on page 184 of this Volume died on 17th January, 1938, after a captivity of four months and thirteen days in the Adelaide Zoo. Its general colour was dull blackish brown, the tips of the wings being a lighter colour. An incomplete narrow collar at the base of the front of the neck was a pale brown, and there were three small white feathers, showing as flecks—one on each side of the neck behind the head and one on the throat. ♂, total length, 50.5 cm.; wing-spread, 195 cm.; weight, 5 lb. 4 oz.; bill, culmen to tip, 9; gape to tip, 9; depth of culmen, 3.5; tail, 23; tarsus, 9; middle toe and claw, 14.2; hallux, 1.8; carpal joint to wing-tip, 51 cm.

Duck-shooting.—The duck shooting in this State under the Act provides for a bag limit in one day of twenty-five. On 5th January, 1938, it was announced in the press that the daily bag limit for a person had been fixed at six; but on the 9th February it was further announced in the press that the daily bag limit had been increased to twelve. The season is open

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from 14th February to 30th June, inclusive, and, as shooting on Sunday is prohibited, one person after paying a gun licence fee of 5s., can lawfully shoot in all 1,416 ducks in the period!

Footnote.—With regard to the Footnote on page 229 of Volume XIII, re *Platycercus adelaidae*, in Mr. T. Brandon's article on the "Birds of Wilmington District."—"This species may be probably Yellow Rosella (*Platycercus flaveolus*)." A specimen was obtained and proved that Mr. Brandon's diagnosis was correct—*P. adelaidae*.

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