

Outer Harbor Notes.

By Alwin Clements, Largs Bay.

On Monday, 5th September, 1938, I paid a visit to Pelican Point, Outer Harbor, to ascertain whether the Eastern Curlews (*Numenius cyanopus*) had arrived from the Northern Hemisphere; but no birds were seen. On the following Saturday, 10th September, I again visited Pelican Point, and on the tidal swamp covered with samphire (*Arthrocnemum*), which is situated behind the low sand dune at the Point, I disturbed approximately about a thousand Eastern Curlews. In the mud around the samphire live great numbers of crabs and snapping prawns, which these birds feed upon. I was able to secure three pellets, two intact and one broken up, which had been deposited above high-water mark. These pellets are cast up by the Curlews and contain the indigestible parts of the food swallowed. Some feathers of the Curlews were also found by me and three of them were much weather-worn. On 12th September I was at Pelican Point again, and the Curlews were dispersed into groups and were much more widely distributed than on 5th September. On the 24th September the birds were spread out over much more of the tidal swamp and only a few were grouped together.

On 10th September five Pied Oystercatchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*), eleven White-faced Herons (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*), and several Dotterels (*Charadrius* sp.) were noted. On 24th September eleven Pied Oystercatchers and one Sooty Oystercatcher (*H. unicolor*) were there.

Mr. H. M. Hale, Director of the South Australian Museum, has examined the two complete pellets with the following results:—"Pellet No. 1, about two inches long. Composed mainly of hard parts of the Mud Crab (*Helice haswellianus*); with a few pieces also of the Mottled Shore-Crab (*Paragrapsus gaimardii*). Pellet No. 2, one inch long. Composed mainly of unidentifiable grey matter, cf. sand; it also contained a few remains of a very small specimen of the Mottled Shore-Crab and remains of Snapping Prawns—(a) *Crangon novae-zealandiae*—thumb, carpus, and other pieces; (b) *Crangon edwardsi*—movable finger and other pieces. The above are the only species of Crustaceans which could be identified with certainty, although other species might have been present."