

ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF THE HAPPY VALLEY DISTRICT WITH A FURTHER RECORD OF HYLACOLA PYRRHOPYGIA

By C. E. RIX.

In April, 1932, and January, 1938, Mr. C. Pearce published lists of the birds observed at the Happy Valley Reservoir (S.A. Ornithologist, Vol. XI, Part 6, page 164, and Vol. XIV, Part 5, page 129). A total of 86 species is included in these lists.

Over the past five or six years Mr. S. E. Terrill and the writer have made a number of excursions, separately and together, in the country surrounding the reservoir. In the course of these visits the following 36 species of birds, not included in Mr. Pearce's lists, have been recorded:—

1. *Turnix varia*, Painted Quail.
2. *Phaps elegans*, Brush Bronzewing.
3. *Hypotaenidia philippensis*, Banded Landrail.
4. *Gallinula tenebrosa*, Dusky Moorhen.
5. *Phalacrocorax varius*, Pied Cormorant.
6. *Zonifer tricolor*, Banded Plover.
7. *Rostratula australis*, Painted Snipe.
8. *Circus approximans*, Swamp Harrier.
9. *Accipiter cirrocephalus*, Collared Sparrowhawk.
10. *Uroaetus audax*, Wedge-tailed Eagle.
11. *Falco longipennis*, Little Falcon.
12. *Aegotheles cristata*, Owllet Nightjar.
13. *Halcyon sanctus*, Sacred Kingfisher.
14. *Cacomantis flabelliformis*, Fantailed Cuckoo.
15. *Chalcites basalus*, Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo.
16. *Pachycephala pectoralis*, Golden Whistler.
17. *Cinclosoma punctatum*, Spotted Quail-thrush.
18. *Smicrornis brevirostris*, Brown Weebill.
19. *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Eastern White-face.
20. *Acanthiza lineata*, Striated Thornbill.
21. *Acanthiza pusilla*, Brown Thornbill.
22. *Sericornis frontalis*, White-browed Scrub-wren.
23. *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*, Chestnut-tailed Ground-wren.
24. *Cincloramphus cruralis*, Brown Song-lark.
25. *Megalurus gramineus*, Little Grass-bird.
26. *Artamus superciliosus*, White-browed Wood-swallow.
27. *Neositta pileata*, Black-capped Sittella.
28. *Pardalotus ornatus*, Red-tipped Pardalotte.
29. *Zosterops halmaturina*, Grey-backed Silver-eye.
30. *Melithreptus gularis*, Black-chinned Honeyeater.
31. *Melithreptus brevirostris*, Brown-headed Honeyeater.
32. *Gliciphila melanops*, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater.
33. *Meliphaga virescens*, Singing Honeyeater.
34. *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*, Crescent Honeyeater.
35. *Taeniopygia castanotis*, Zebra Finch.
36. *Aegintha temporalis*, Red-browed Finch.

The observation of *Rostratula australis*

(Painted Snipe) was made in August, 1938, when two birds were seen just inside the fence in the north-eastern corner of the reservoir property.

On September 9, 1942, 56 species were recorded in this locality. Birds were very numerous on this occasion, and many of the species observed were represented by considerable numbers of individuals.

The highlight of this day's observations was the recording of a pair of *Hylacola pyrrhopygia* (Chestnut-tailed Ground-wren). These birds were found about a mile north-east of the reservoir in a patch of *Banksia*, *Yacca* and *Olearia* scrub, which had been axed about twelve months previously but not burned off. There was much dead growth on the ground and many of the bushes were making new growth.

The male was collected (total length, 5.75 inches; wingspread, 6.75 inches; iris, creamy-

white; beak, dark grey; legs and feet, light grey; inside mouth, pale flesh). The total length is greater than the average of the specimens collected by the writer at Black Hill in November 1938 (S.A. Ornithologist, Vol. XV, Part 3, page 35), but in other respects, including the color of the iris, the description of this specimen is the same as that of the Black Hill birds.

In view of the fact that the species has now been recorded from Black Hill, Happy Valley, Mt. Compass and Encounter Bay district, it would appear that it has a greater distribution through the Mount Lofty Ranges than was previously thought.

There are considerable areas of a sandy type of soil with a heathy growth similar to that in which the birds have already been recorded, and it seems probable that they will be found to occur in localities intervening between the above-mentioned places.
