

A FURTHER RECORD OF THE PINK ROBIN IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

(*Petroica rodinogaster*)

By D. A. G. Thomas

A claim is made to having seen the Pink Robin at Cox's Creek, approximately one mile downstream from Bridgewater, on Sunday, April 18, 1948. The locality was a small pool on the creek situated about half a mile below the main Mylor road.

At this spot, the creek runs through rather dense vegetation and is flanked on its southern side by a steep, rocky slope running up to the road. The northern side is fringed with wild broom, gorse and blackberry, giving way to gum saplings and more open, heavy timber as the ground rises sharply beyond.

The bird (a male) was noticed at about 1 p.m., when it was perched in the bare twigs of a willow growing at the water's edge on the southern bank a few yards from where I stood.

When first seen, its back was towards me, but presently it turned about and displayed its under plumage distinctly. After remaining still for thirty seconds or so, it flew over the water to capture an insect, and for a moment appeared to be going to alight on the end of my son's fishing rod.

Instead, it settled on a dead stick of broom on the opposite side of the pool where it again

displayed both its upper and under surfaces in turn, before flying off into the scrub and timber on the northern bank.

At no time while the bird was under observation was it more than five yards distant from me, and the view obtained was uninterrupted. In bright sunlight the plumage was very distinct, and the bird appeared to be fully matured. The total absence of white in the wings was clearly noticed.

Examination of skins in the Adelaide Museum has since left me with no doubt that the bird seen was *Petroica rodinogaster*.

Cox's Creek flows into the Onkaparinga River at Mylor, approximately two miles below the spot where the bird was seen.

(Gould first reported the Pink Robin from South Australia in 1838. He claimed to have taken a young male "in a deep ravine under Mt. Lofty." This locality may be the Onkaparinga gorge. Since then no specimen from the Mt. Lofty Ranges has been taken, but several observers, including the late Dr. A. M. Morgan, have claimed to have seen it at all seasons of the year at various places in the Mt. Lofty Ranges.—Editors.)