

## BIRD NOTES

Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*).—In skinning a bird of this species at Encounter Bay in January, the very large size of the muscles of the leg compared with those of the wing suggests that underwater swimming is of greater importance to this bird than flying.—J. B. Cleland.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus funereus*).—Flock of fifty near West B., Flinders Chase, Kangaroo Island.—J. B. Cleland.

*Non-wetting of Feathers of Aquatic Birds.*—Dr. Rajindar Pal (Trans. Roy. Soc. Trop. Med. and Hyg., 41 (4), 433)—“It has been shown that the hydrophobic property of aquatic birds is largely due to the physical texture of the feathers and not due to the presence of oil or waxes as is commonly believed. The same is the case in animal furs and on the cabbage leaf.”—Extract by J. B. Cleland.

### Birds noted at Kangaroo Island:

White Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*).—Seen at the Ravine des Casoars in February, 1946, and at Rocky River in February, 1948.

Galah (*K. roseicapilla*).—At Rocky River on February 6, 1946. In February, 1948, large numbers were present in flocks of up to 60 or more.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*).—Seen at Flinders Chase on February 5, 1946.

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Seen at Rocky River in February, 1946.—J. B. Cleland.

Greenfinch (*Chloris chloris*).—Seen and heard singing at Victor Harbour on January 10, 1948. This is a new record for the Encounter Bay district.—J. B. Cleland.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Two seen near Middleton, near Victor Harbour, on January 10, 1948. Also seen near Victor Harbour on August 21, 1947.—J. B. Cleland.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—About 60 seen near Middleton on January 10, 1948.—J. B. Cleland.

White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*).—A family party seen in Hindmarsh Valley on August 21, 1947.—J. B. Cleland.

Fork-tailed Swift (*Micropus pacificus*).—

On January 26, 1948, at Encounter Bay, at dusk (about 7.40 p.m.) about 100 were in view for about 10 minutes, hawking, a few within gun-shot but most higher. This had been a hot day with a hot north wind. About 10 minutes after they had disappeared (apparently towards the Bluff), a few puffs of cool S.W. wind occurred but no cool change followed immediately.—J. B. Cleland.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*)—Dead bird found on roadway near Port Willunga in January, 1948, having been run over by a motor car. Total length,  $15\frac{3}{4}$  inches; span of wings,  $29\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Stomach contents: 1 *Trox* sp. (Fam. Trogidae-Coleoptera) which commonly occurs under bark, hides, manure, etc.; 3 *Anoplognathus* sp. (Scarabaeidae-Coleoptera)—on flowers of eucalypts, etc.; 1 *Pterohelaeus* sp. (Tenebrionidae-Coleoptera)—a leaf eater and ground frequenter. I am indebted to the Entomologist at the S.A. Museum for the identification of the insects, who also stated that “these beetles were almost certainly picked up either off the ground, as is certainly the case with the *Trox* sp. and possibly the *Anoplognathus* and *Pterohelaeus* spp. or off the leaves of trees or bushes, again a possibility for both the last-named.”—J. B. Cleland.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—Walking over the grassy hills behind Encounter Bay on May 28, 1947, many husks of the bulbs of *Romulea* sp. (one of the wire grasses troublesome in garden paths) were found on bare ground. Later, not far away, a flock of Galahs were flying over similar fields and these birds were perhaps responsible for digging up the bulbs.—J. B. Cleland.