

SOUTHERN RECORD OF DOLLAR-
BIRD

The appearance of a Dollar-Bird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) so far south at the time of year when normally these birds would be in Cape York or New Guinea, created a deal of interest among several local observers. This bird was first reported on May 2, 1963, at the homestead on a grazing property near Moyhall, about 12 miles S.W. of Naracoorte. On May 4, J. B. Hood and self visited the spot and found the Dollar-Bird along a fence line close to the house. It was a young bird in immature plumage, lacking the red bill and more brilliant colouring of the adults. The bird appeared to be very tired or weak and could be approached to within 20 ft. when it would just fly on to the next fence post. The weather being very cold at the time, it was expected that it would soon perish.

However, the next few days were bright and warm and at the next visit on May 19, the Dollar-Bird had improved considerably and was busy hawking insects around the tree-tops, becoming increasingly active towards sundown. Magpies were seen chasing it on several occasions, but the Dollar-Bird easily evaded these attacks and continued feeding on flying insects. The exact date of departure was not noted, but it disappeared sometime during the week of May 27. For the period that the bird was under observation it was not known to leave the plantation of trees around the house and sheds.

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