
BIRD NOTES

FAN-TAILED CUCKOO IN DRY REGIONS

It is seldom that the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*) has been reported from the dry interior of the Australian continent. The species appears to occur mainly in the humid coastal districts that receive an average annual rainfall of more than 12 inches. Capt. S. A. White, quoted by G. M. Mathews (*Birds of Australia*, VII: 316; 1918), noted the bird as plentiful up to 60-80 miles away from the coast in South Australia, and he had never met it in the northern interior of the State.

J. Neil McGilp (Unpublished Data, Migration Survey, South Australian Ornithological Association, 1946-49) reported 1-2 Fan-tailed Cuckoos near Loxton on March 6-7, 1947. The species has been recorded by me on the Mount Mary Plains on only three occasions. During a bird survey of Black Oak (*Casuarina*) scrub near Eba on September 12, 1954, my companion, Mr. Brian Glover, drew attention to a solitary bird of this species. It was the first Fan-tailed Cuckoo I had seen in the region. One bird was observed along a tree-lined road east of Sutherlands on April 23, 1960, and another appeared at the homestead, Erdora Farm, Sutherlands on July 30, 1964, and was seen daily for about a week. It could be watched at fairly close range and was observed to feed on caterpillars.

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