

BIRD NOTES

SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH RECORDED
—In view of the great rarity of this species, *Cinclosoma punctatum*, in South Australia, a recent record by Mr. M. S. McNamara was welcome news. He saw a female at the edge of the Onkaparinga Gorge, below Clarendon, on 8 May. Mr. J. B. Cox sighted a male, at an unknown distance away, nearer the bottom of the gorge, on 4 June. Mr. McNamara's bird was in undisturbed scrub, with pink gums and peppermint gums as the most numerous trees, and fairly light undergrowth.

The only other records, to my knowledge, in the last ten years are as follows. Mr. C. E. Rix recorded the species in July 1965 and August or September of (probably) 1969 in Warren National Park (nr. Mt. Crawford). He also found this species in stringybark scrub, just outside the present Deep Creek National Park (Fleurieu Peninsula)

about eight years ago. Mr. G. B. Ragless tells me that a pair of the species was repeatedly seen over about six years on Clarendon Ridge, roughly one mile from the site of Mr. McNamara's record. Mr. Ragless last saw the birds in this area in September 1963, shortly before the pink-gum scrub which they frequented was cleared. This was about the latest date at which he saw spotted quail-thrushes near Happy Valley Reservoir. In this case also, scrub-clearance was probably responsible for their disappearance.

Mr. Rix and Mr. S. E. Terrill said of the species in 1950 "becoming very rare and is seldom reported" (*S.A. Orn.*, 19, 84). According to Mr. Rix, it has always been uncommon in the Mt. Lofty Ranges in his ornithological experience of some fifty years. It seems to have been scarce in all places where recently recorded. EDITOR.

JABIRU KILLED BY POWER LINE— My wife and I visited Darwin in November 1971. In the *S.A. Ornithologist* of June 1970 (p. 157), there is mention that fourteen jabiru were seen at the Fogg Dam by those visiting the Territory in 1967—with five dead birds, killed by striking a power line. We saw three jabiru, and one dead one under the power line. We were concerned about this, and about the earlier observation, and we made representations in the appropriate quarter. The power line has now been removed. I write not only to let members know that this has been done but also to suggest that people often react in the right way if the position has been explained to them carefully. SIR HENRY SOMERSET.

ORNITHOLOGICAL BIBLIOGRAPHIES, BIOGRAPHIES AND ARCHIVES— With the co-operation of people connected with Australian ornithology I am continuing the work commenced by H. M. Whittell in his *The Literature of Australian Birds*, i.e. compiling bibliographies and biographies of those who have made a contribution to Australian ornithology. Taking up in 1950 where Major Whittell left off, I am bringing the work up to 1975. In time I will contact everyone who merits an entry. Although I have found that many people keep their own bibliographies, I am prepared to compile these myself. However, I will need assistance with the biographies and, as I hope to give these a personal touch, I would be very happy if visitors to Melbourne would contact me at 89 7631.

I have also commenced a "Catalogue of Archival Material." This was originally intended to merely record the location of archival material relating to Australian ornithology such as field note-books, diaries, letters, drawings and photographs, thus ensuring that these valuable sources of ornithological information were not only preserved but also made available to serious workers. However, in response to some previous notices of this plan, I have not only been advised of its location, but been sent the material itself. It will be appreciated that the custody of this material imposes a great responsibility on me and, for this reason, I have made arrangements with the La

Trobe Section of the State Library of Victoria to accept, *on loan as a separate collection*, the material entrusted to me. This will be held by the Library in safe keeping, and made available only on Library premises for the purposes of serious research.

I would be most grateful to hear from anyone holding such material who would be prepared to seriously consider the desirability of its being safely housed in the La Trobe Library, or to having it photo-copied, or to simply letting me have a list of their collections. It should be realized that all records, however trivial they seem, may be of great significance in the future, and should be preserved. My address is 8/114 Shannon Street, Box Hill North, Victoria. 3129. (Mrs.) TESS KLOOT (Archivist: R.A.O.U.).

DISPLAY BY GOLDEN WHISTLER— While walking along the southern boundary of Cox's Scrub National Park (near Ashbourne) I observed what appeared to be a courting display by a male Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) before a female Golden Whistler. The incident occurred at 16.30, 15 August, 1971. The birds were on a narrow sandy path close to a clump of Cup Gum (*Eucalyptus cosmophylla*), and about 25 feet from me.

The female squatted on the path and was completely motionless throughout the performance. The male was very close in front of and to one side of and facing the female. He stood very tense and erect, with wing feathers slightly outstretched and noticeably trembling although the upper part of the body was still, except for a gentle swaying from side to side. The head and beak were raised and the bird called feebly and continuously throughout the performance. The sound was like a faint gargle with occasional faint notes. At the commencement, the male bird was to the right front of the female, and by the end had worked gradually across in front of the motionless female to finish facing her from the front left side.

The ritual lasted approximately three minutes after which the male bird flew off, followed soon after by the female. Several minutes later a female whistler (presumably the same one) was seen thirty yards further on collecting a twig. BRIAN CRISP.