

BIRD NOTES

APOSTLE-BIRDS BREEDING NEAR ADELAIDE—On the morning of December 9, 1972, Mr. R. D. Elliott and I observed a group of Apostle Birds *Struthidea cinerea* in the Waite Arboretum at Urrbrae. There were five adults, one juvenile and one fledgeling, in a Golden Lambert Cypress Tree. Some flew off to get food and all seemed to feed the youngest at some time or other. The family was obviously intruding in Magpie territory, because we saw two Magpies viciously attack four Apostle Birds while feeding on the ground. (This I had also witnessed a few days earlier.) Then, surprisingly, a Willie-Wagtail came to the rescue and frightened the Magpies off. It was difficult to get a good photo while the birds with their dark plumage were in the darkness of the tree on a grey day, but several photos of the adults feeding on the

ground were taken. I think that the juvenile had come out of the first nest — a bowl of mud and fine grass — seen in an Angophora tree by E. Sims and myself in October, and the fledgeling out of a nest in a nearby Dwarf Sugar Gum *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, where I had seen two Apostle Birds feeding it five days before. — MRS. J SAUNDERS.