

## BIRD REPORT, 1971-72

COMPILED BY BRIAN GLOVER

### INTRODUCTION

In 1963 several members, concerned that a great deal of knowledge about the distribution and status of our birds was never getting further than the minds and notebooks of observers, suggested a scheme whereby members be asked to submit their observations for inclusion in an annual card index. The ideal, of course, was for *all* members to submit *all* their records—a herculean task of transcribing to cards, but what a wonderful picture of current bird distribution. Some members did submit large numbers of observations; others annual summaries from their home areas, trip lists, casual observations, etc.; so that by now a great deal of information has accumulated on many hundreds of cards.

There are still weaknesses in the present system, perhaps the greatest of which is the paucity of records of many common and widespread species. It is important that we know the present distribution and status of all our birds, common and rare alike—in 20 years time some of our commonest birds could have disappeared, as has the Superb Blue Wren from the inner Adelaide suburbs where, I believe, it was quite common 40 or so years ago. An annual summary of birds recorded in an observer's home area, even in the middle of 'suburbia,' is a very valuable record if accompanied by notes on dates of casual species, times of year of migrants and nomads, some idea of relative numbers, etc., and preferably with information on habitat preferences, nesting details, etc. — naturally the more information the better.

Each year the more interesting of the records have been published in the Bird Report. A critical examination of the eight published Bird Reports and of the annual card indexes has shown that, on the one hand, the published information on many species has tended to become repetitive, and on the other the records of a species received in a single year are usually too fragmentary to enable anything conclusive to be said about its distribution and status. It has therefore been decided to reduce the size of the Bird Report, confining it to records

of exceptional interest, and to publish separate papers on the status and distribution of the various orders and families of birds over the previous ten years or so. Except where a member with a particular interest in a group of species wishes to compile the reviews on that group, these papers will be compiled by the present writer, and in *Handlist* order. It is hoped that the first should be ready for publishing in about a year.

The following Bird Report is considerably shorter than its predecessors and with slightly changed format; as the papers on status and distribution appear there will probably be a further reduction in size. However your records are still required, for the current scheme involves a considerably greater use of the card indexes than previously. For further information about the scheme, and the type of records especially required, see the September *Newsletter*.

### SUMMARY OF REPORT

During the year July 1, 1971, to June 30, 1972, 323 species of birds were reported for South Australia. No new species were added to the State list, but of particular interest were the first record of the Golden-headed Fantail Warbler for the Mount Lofty Ranges, and of the White-browed Wood Swallow for Kangaroo Island.

Papers of special significance to this report are—

Arthur, M. J. 1973. Nesting in Mount Lofty Ranges of White-throated Warbler, *S. Aust. Orn.* 26:91.

Attiwill, A. R. 1972. Birds breeding in Naracoorte district, 1941-1971, *ibid* 59-64.

Cox, John B. 1973. The identification of the smaller Australian *Diomedea*, and the status of the *Diomedea* in South Australia, *ibid* 67-75 (see p. 74).

Eckert, John, 1972. Further notes on the Little Quail, *ibid* 34-36.

Editor, 1972. Spotted Quail-Thrush Recorded, *ibid* 54.

Henderson, R. 1972. First record of Naretha Parrot in South Australia, *Emu* 72: 114.

Lashmar, A. F. C. 1972. White-browed Wood Swallow on Kangaroo Island, *S. Aust. Orn.* 26:36.

Lashmar, A. F. C. 1972. Western Whipbirds nesting on Kangaroo Island, *ibid.*, 39-40.

Lovell, R. H. 1972. Bridled Tern on Troubridge Island, *ibid.* 36.

Paton, D. C. 1973. Birds of the Goose Island group, Spencer Gulf, *ibid.*, 77-84.

Other material relevant to 1971-72 is in *S. Aust. Orn.* 26, 55, 66 and 90, and *Bird Talk* 1 (1972) p. 12 and (1973) pp. 14-18.

#### INTERPRETATION OF THE REPORT

The number preceding the species heading, and the nomenclature used, are those of H. T. Condon, *A Handlist of the Birds of South Australia*, Third Edition, 1969, although some vernacular names have been changed to retain names in common usage. The number in brackets following the species heading is that of the R.A.O.U. Checklist, 1926, and subsequent supplements. Each locality is followed in brackets by the abbreviation for the region of the State in which it occurs. An asterisk preceding the species number signifies that all records received are included in the report.

#### REGIONS OF THE STATE

AP-Adelaide Plains. MM-Murray Mallee.  
EP-Eyre Peninsula. NE-North-East.  
KI-Kangaroo Island. NW-North-West.  
LN-Lower North. SE-South-East.  
MLR-Mount Lofty YP-Yorke Peninsula.  
Ranges.

A map showing these regions is included in Bird Report; 1968-69, *S. Aust. Orn.* 25, (1971), 220.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The task of transferring all records received to the card index was again undertaken by Mrs. Lorna Thomas. The Bird Report was typed by Miss Eirene Bridgman.

#### BIRD REPORT, 1971-1972

##### 1. EMU (1)

Lower NE pastoral area (NE), 100 in Aug; Quondong, Manunda and Lilydale (LN), 120 in May (K. J. Mack).

15. BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (88)  
Eastern Cove (KI), 54 on July 17 (N. Swanson); Waitpinga (MLR), maximum recorded 63 on Aug. 8 (J. B. Cox).

16. YELLOW-NOSED ALBATROSS (89)  
Waitpinga (MLR), maximum recorded 22 on Oct. 2 (J. B. Cox).

17. GREY-HEADED ALBATROSS (90)  
Odd birds at Cape du Couedic and Eastern Cove (KI), (N. R. Swanson) and Waitpinga (MLR).

\*18. WHITE-CAPPED ALBATROSS (91)  
Waitpinga (MLR), 3, 4 and 1 on Oct. 2, 3 and 12 resp. (J. B. Cox).

\*24. KERGUELEN PETREL (77A)  
Milang (MM), one found live at roadside by B. Davy on Aug. 30. Died next day. Skin in possession of J. Eckert.

35. FLUTTERING SHEARWATER (68)  
Waitpinga (MLR), maximum recorded 57 on Aug. 29 (J. B. Cox).

55. CATTLE EGRET (184A)  
First South Australian breeding record, Salt Lagoon, near Yalkuri (MM) — two nests with young, Nov. 14 (J. M. Bonnin and C. E. Rix, 1972, *Bird Talk*, 1:12). Also recorded from Virginia (AP), Mannum and Salt Lagoon — maximum 16 on March 19 (MM) and Bool Lagoon and Hynam (SE). All records between March and October.

63. WHITE IBIS (179)

64. STRAW-NECKED IBIS (180)  
Hindmarsh Is. (MM), mixed flock of 1000 flying towards Mundoo Is., Feb. 27, (O. M. Smith); 300+ White Ibis at Bolivar Treatment Works (AP) on May 30 (Brian Glover).

\*78. PLUMED TREE-DUCK (205)  
Lochaber (SE), 4 on Feb. 23 (A. R. Attiwill).

79. CAPE BARREN GOOSE (198)  
Yalkuri (MM), 100+ and 150 on March 5 and 19 resp., in a paddock near a farmhouse (A. Burbidge, D. Close).

\*82. FRECKLED DUCK (214)  
Andamooka (NW), one on a salty water-hole, Oct. (D. B. Mack).

83. CHESTNUT-BREASTED SHELDUCK (207)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), a pair with 16 young from Oct. 6 to at least Nov. 23 (Brian Glover).
86. CHESTNUT TEAL (210)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), several hundred on June 23 (Brian Glover).
87. GREY TEAL (211)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), 100+ from Jan. to June, max. c.1000 on June 22 (Brian Glover).
88. BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER (212)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), present May and June, max. 31 on June 23 (Brian Glover).
92. WHITE-EYED DUCK (214)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), maximum recorded 200+ on May 30 and June 23 (Brian Glover).
- \*116. GREY FALCON (236)  
Woolpunda (MM), one on Oct. 5 (M. P. Thorn).
130. PLAIN WANDERER (20)  
Near Bon Bon Stn. (NW), one on Aug. 25 (O. M. Smith).
131. BROLGA (177)  
Mannum area (MM), one on Oct. 17, seen at rest and then to fly off high to SW (J. B. Cox).
137. BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN (55)  
Bolivar (AP), up to 30 during Dec., then odd birds only until May-June when 100+ present (Brian Glover, W. Matheson); Lukes Swamp, Oakbank Stn. (LN), 2-300 on Oct. 10 (K. J. Mack).
- \*141. BUSTARD (176)  
Between Cadell and Waikerie (MM), recorded June 16 (T. Loffler); Simpson Desert Nat. Park (NE), 5 between Sept. 13 and 20 (R. Lyons, D. Wanke).
147. GREY PLOVER (136)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded, 60 on March 31 and April 2 (J. B. Cox).
148. GOLDEN PLOVER (137)  
Lake George (SE), 30+ on Feb. 14 (E. J. Finnegan, D. C. Paton, P. A. Reid).
149. HOODED DOTTEREL (138)  
Somerton Beach (AP), 2 (one immature) on June 16 (Brian Glover).
152. MONGOLIAN SAND DOTTEREL (139)  
Bairds Bay (EP), 3 on Feb. 1 (J. Eckert); Lake George (SE), one specimen taken (E. J. Finnegan, D. C. Paton, P. A. Reid); Price Saltfields (YP), recorded between Jan. 30 and April 12, max. 17 (J. B. Cox et al.).
- \*153. LARGE SAND DOTTEREL (141)  
Bairds Bay (EP), 16 on Feb. 1 (J. Eckert).
157. AUSTRALIAN DOTTEREL (145)  
Eight miles north of Port Wakefield (LN), one on May 5 (Paul Taylor).
158. TURNSTONE (129)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded 20 on March 31 (J. B. Cox); Coobowie (YP), maximum recorded 30 on April 2 (J. Saunders).
160. WHIMBREL (150)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded 32 on March 31 (J. B. Cox); also recorded I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) and Coobowie (YP).
163. GREY-TAILED TATTLER (155)  
Streaky Bay (EP), 10 on Jan. 26 (J. Eckert); also recorded Pt. Willunga reef (MLR) and Lake George (SE).
165. MARSH SANDPIPER (159)  
Price Saltfields (YP), 8 on March 12 (J. B. Cox); also recorded I.C.I. Saltfields and St. Kilda (AP) and Tolderol Point and Milang (MM).
167. TEREK SANDPIPER (160)  
Price Saltfields (YP), one or two from March 11 to April 16 (J. B. Cox et al.).
168. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT (152)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), up to 36, Jan. to April (J. B. Cox et al.).
169. BAR-TAILED GODWIT (153)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded 200+ on Jan. 30 (S.A.O.A. excn.).
174. PECTORAL SANDPIPER (163A)  
Port Arthur (YP), one with a Sharp-tailed Sandpiper, Jan. 2 (P. W. Taylor). Also recorded from Langhorne Creek (MM) and Price Saltfields (YP), (*Bird Talk*, 1, 1973, pp. 14, 16).
176. KNOT (164)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded 60 on April 30 (J. B. Cox).

177. GREAT KNOT (165)  
Price Saltfields (YP), maximum recorded 30 on April 30 (J. B. Cox).
- BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER (167)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), 2 on March 23 (B. R. Hutchins and R. Lovell, 1973, *Bird Talk*, 1:17).
178. RUFF (167A)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), one on Feb. 6 (J. B. Cox).
182. BANDED STILT (147)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), maximum recorded 1000+ on Oct. 24 (R. F. Brown); Meningie (MM) and 18 miles from Robe (SE), many thousands on Jan. 8 and 9. (Condon, H. T., 1973, *Bird Talk*, 1:14); Price Saltfields (YP), 3000 in Jan. (R. J. Swaby); head of Gulf St. Vincent (YP), 1000 on June 11 (Paul Taylor).
189. POMARINE SKUA (128A)  
Out from Outer Harbour (AP), 2 on March 29 (A. H. Lendon and C. E. Rix, 1973, *Bird Talk*, 1:16).
187. GREAT SKUA (127)  
Eastern Cove (KI), one on July 20 (N. Swanson); Waitpinga (MLR), 2 on Aug. 29 (J. B. Cox).
- \*190. DOMINICAN GULL (125A)  
Glengelg (AP), one on Jan. 29 (J. B. Cox).
- \*197. COMMON TERN (112A)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), one on March 5 (J. B. Cox); Tolderol Point (MM), 60+ on Dec. 27 (J. Eckert).
- \*199. WHITE-FRONTED TERN (114)  
Waitpinga (MLR), one on Aug. 8 and 29 (J. B. Cox).
201. LITTLE TERN (117)  
I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), 2 in breeding plumage, June 8 (A. H. Lendon and C. E. Rix, 1973, *Bird Talk*, 1:18). Price Saltfields (YP), up to 4 between Jan. 5 and April 2 (J. B. Cox et al.).
- \*204. BRIDLED TERN (121)  
Baudin Rocks (SE), one on Jan. 2 (J. M. Bonnin, 1973, *Bird Talk*, 1:14). Troubridge Island (off YP), one on Jan. 1 (R. H. Lovell)  
— See *S. Aust. Orn.* 26 (1973), p. 36.
218. LITTLE CORELLA (271)  
Nelshaby Reservoir (LN), several hundred on May 3 (Brian Glover); Lowbank (MM), 500+ on May 31 (K. J. Mack); Quorn Caravan Park (NE), 1200 on March 1 (W. E. Matheson).
219. CORELLA (272)  
Caves Valley, near Naracoorte (SE), 2000 on June 3 (A. R. Attiwill).
225. COCKATIEL (274)  
Many records from most parts of State except EP, SE and YP, mostly Aug. to Dec.
233. RED-BACKED PARROT (295)  
Tintinara (9½ miles east of MM), 150+ on July 4 (N. Cooper).
235. NARETHA PARROT (298)  
Two hundred km NW of Ceduna (NW), one collected July 8 by M. A. Calliss (Henderson, R. 1972, *Emu* 72:114). Although claimed as the first South Australian record of this race of the Blue Bonnet, I. C. Carnaby had previously recorded it in 1965 (Ford, Julian, 1969. *S. Aust. Orn.* 25:101).
237. BOURKE PARROT (304)  
West of Gairloch Hut, Mutooroo Stn. (LN), 2 on Aug. 30 (K. J. Mack); Woolpunda (MM), one on Nov. 3 (M. P. Thorn).
- \*241. ROCK PARROT (308)  
The only report of this species was of 25+ at Waitpinga (MLR) on Jan. 1 (J. B. Cox). There were no reports of Blue-winged Parrots.
261. FORK-TAILED SWIFT (335)  
A number of reports between Feb. 1 and March 26. Largs North (AP), hundreds in small groups flying over on Feb. 9 and 10 (M. Daley); Port Wakefield (AP), 75+ on Feb. 12 (J. B. Cox); Yilki (MLR), 500+ "Swift species" on March 26 (R. H. Lake); Calca (EP) 100+ on Feb. 1 (J. Eckert).
270. WELCOME SWALLOW (357)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), several hundred on Aug. 10, Feb. 14, and other occasions (Brian Glover); 1000+ on June 21 (W. Matheson).
272. TREE MARTIN (359)  
Bolivar Treatment Works (AP), several thousand on Feb. 14 and 21 (Brian Glover).

278. WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (430)  
 Numerous records from northern areas; only two — Bolivar (AP) and Belleview Heights (MLR) from the south.
280. SOUTHERN SCRUB ROBIN (441)  
 Yarah Vale, near Quorn (NE), May 8 and 25 in mallee with mixed bushes, including *Triodia* (G. B. Ragless).
281. SPOTTED QUAIL-THRUSH (436)  
 See *S. Aust. Orn.*, 26 (1972), p. 54.
286. WHITE-BROWED BABBLER (445)  
 Royal Adelaide Golf course (AP), 6-8 on May 31 (M. Kerr, D. Salter).
290. GOLDEN-HEADED FANTAIL  
 WARBLER (525)  
 Myponga (MLR), at least 2 males seen, singing, at the northern edge of the town on Aug. 27. This appears to be the first record of this species for the Mount Lofty Ranges (Brian Glover).
292. RUFOUS SONGLARK (509)  
 Appeared to be relatively numerous in northern parts, but only three records — Bolivar (AP), Coromandel Valley and Happy Valley Reservoir (MLR) — from the south.
300. WHITE-THROATED WARBLER (453)  
 See *S. Aust. Orn.* 26 (1973), p. 91.
324. SUPERB BLUE WREN (529)  
 Price Saltfields (YP), recorded Jan 30. (S.A.O.A. excn.). The Blue and White Wren does not appear to occur in this area although common through the I.C.I. Saltfields area (AP).
- 340A. ROSE ROBIN (384)  
 Hawthorn (AP), one on June 22 and 26 (M. J. Arthur).
349. EASTERN SHRIKE-TIT (416)  
 Mannum (MM), 2 on Sept. 30 (Brian Glover).
384. WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER (594)  
 Lilydale, Quondong and Muteroo Stns. (LN), common in Aug., feeding on *Eremophila maculata* and *E. longifolia*; 50, incl. 20 juveniles banded at Gairloch (Muteroo) on Oct. (K. J. Mack).
389. EASTERN SPINEBILL (591)  
 Oraparinna Nat. Park (NE), recorded May 14 (P. Haselgrove).
- 403C STARLING  
 Bolivar (AP), huge flocks — many thousands of birds — in late May and early June (Brian Glover).
410. WHITE-BROWED WOOD SWALLOW (545)  
 Antechamber Bay (KI), 2 on Oct. 26. First record for Kangaroo Island (A. F. C. Lashmar) — see *S. Aust. Orn.* 26 (1972) 36.
413. LITTLE WOOD SWALLOW (548)  
 Mount Gee, Arkaroola (NE), 2 at summit Sept. 7 (Brian Glover).
419. WESTERN BOWER BIRD (681)  
 Victory and Betty Wells, Everard Ranges (NW), 3 on Aug. 26 (O. M. Smith).