

## BIRD REPORT, 1972-73

### COMPILED BY BRIAN GLOVER

#### SUMMARY

During the year July 1, 1972, to June 30, 1973, 321 species of birds were reported for South Australia. No new species were added to the State list. Of particular interest was the "invasion" of southern part of the State by large numbers of Black-tailed Native Hen. By contrast, a number of regular migrants from the interior were in very small numbers only. The record of a Sooty Tern at Coffin Bay was also of considerable interest.

Papers relevant to 1972-73 in the literature available to the compiler were:—

ARTHUR, Mrs. M. J. (1973), Notes on the breeding of the Southern Stone Curlew on the Adelaide Plains, *S. Austr. Orn.*, 26, 115-116.

BOEHM, E. H. (1974), Hybridism in Wood-Swallows, *ibid* 167.

CORNISH, D. M. and ELLIS, R. (1974), Birds of the Mulligan River and adjacent Simpson Desert area, *ibid* 164-5.

COX, J. B. (1973), A further occurrence of the Red-necked Phalarope in South Australia, *ibid* 116-7.

COX, J. B. (1974), Some birds of north-eastern Eyre Peninsula, S.A., *ibid* 142-4.

ECKERT, John (1973), Further notes on Eyre Peninsula birds, *ibid* 119-120.

GILL, Colin (1973), Sooty Tern in Coffin Bay, *ibid* 133.

MATHESON, W. E. (1974), The irruption of native hens in South Australia in 1972-73, *ibid* 151-156.

McNAMARA, J. A. (1974), Notes on the roosting and food of a Boobook Owl, *ibid* 145.

REID, Penelope (1973), Unusual nesting site of White-browed Wood-Swallows, *ibid* 133.

ROBINSON, Ross D. (1973), Southerly winter record of a Swift, *ibid* 133-4.

SAUNDERS, Mrs. J. (1973), Apostle-Birds breeding near Adelaide, *ibid* 90-91.

SHURCLIFF, Arthur and SHURCLIFF, Kath (1973), Territory in the Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*): an analysis of its size and change, *ibid* 127-132.

Other records for 1972-73 are in *Bird Talk*, 1, 18-28 (1973), 29-38 (1974), *Emu*, 73, 101 (1973) and *South Australian Ornithologist*, 26, 90, 91, 118 (1973).

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

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

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The task of transferring all records received to the card index was again undertaken by Mrs. Lorna Thomas. The bird Report was typed by Mrs. Pat Emery.

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##### 1. EMU (1)

Woolpunda (MM), 8 birds on August 17 scrambled up a 25 m cliff when chased by a dog (M. P. Thorn).

##### PROCELLARIIFORMES:

A review of recent records of these birds is being prepared. During 1972-73 there were reports of 13 species by J. B. Cox. (D. signifies found dead only).

15. Black-browed Albatross
16. Yellow-nosed Albatross
17. Grey-headed Albatross
18. White-capped Albatross
20. Giant Petrel
21. Cape Petrel
22. Great-winged Petrel (D)
25. Blue Petrel (D)
26. Fairy Prion (D)
27. Thin-billed Prion (D)
31. Fleshy-footed Shearwater
33. Short-tailed Shearwater
35. Fluttering Shearwater

##### 43. AUSTRALIAN GANNET (104)

Between Marino Rocks and Hallett Cove (MLR), 40+ on July 23, diving close to rocks at high tide (E. Newman).

##### 46. BLACK-FACED CORMORANT (98)

Wardang Is. (YP), 100+ on islet north of, on December 5 (B. Glover).

##### \*51. DARTER (101)

Kangaroo Creek Reservoir (MLR), 1 male on October 31 (B. Glover), lower Murray River (MM), recorded late November (J. B. Paton).

## 54. WHITE-NECKED HERON (189)

Several records in MLR (Gumeracha, Echunga, Meadows, Victor Harbour), September to December (sev. obs.); Killanoola (SE), 8 on November 12, 42 on December 10 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 55. CATTLE EGRET (184A)

Virginia (AP), one on October 1, in field with cattle (J. B. Cox); Happy Valley Reservoir (MLR), 3 on December 13 (B. Glover); Hindmarsh Island (MM), 7 on July 2 feeding with cows (O. M. Smith), Yalkura area (MM), 5 on November 12 (4 in breeding plumage); (C. E. Rix and J. M. Bonnin, *Bird Talk*, 1, 23); Killanoola (SE), one on November 12, Bool Lagoon (SE), 3 on May 14 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 56. LITTLE EGRET (185)

Numerous records, from I.C.I. Saltfields (max. 22) and Patawalonga Boat Haven (AP), Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island (MM) and Bool Lagoon (SE).

## 57. PLUMED EGRET (186)

Killanoola (SE), one on November 12 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 63. WHITE IBIS (179)

Bolivar (AP) 150+ in early January, 250 on April 3 and 50+ on May 1; Saint Kilda (AP) 200+ on August 16 (B. Glover).

## 64. STRAW-NECKED IBIS (180)

Millicent (SE) 200 on January 17 (B. Glover).

## 66. GLOSSY IBIS (178)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) about 100 on November 19, Buckland Park Lake 100+ on December 4 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 25, 26). Waitpinga (MLR), 34 on October 15, flying east along the coast (J. B. Cox); Mulgundawa (MM), 100+ on October 22 (H. Laybourne-Smith), 70 at Lake Alexandrina, near Milang (MM), November 12 (C. E. Rix, M. J. Bonnin, *Bird Talk*, 1, 23); Bool Lagoon (SE), 140, scattered in groups of up to 20 throughout on November 26, Kalangadoo (SE), scattered in groups of up to 20 throughout district, north to Magoope, November 27 (D. B. Mack), Naracoorte (SE), flocks of 10-50 throughout area, November 12, Killanoola (SE), 300+, feeding on small reedy swamps, December 10 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 67. ROYAL SPOONBILL (181)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), 200+ on March 21 and 22 and 276+ on June 30 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 31, 35).

## 68. YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL (182)

In contrast with the former species the largest number reported was 25 at the I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) on September 18 (B. Glover).

## \*76. PIED GOOSE (199)

Kingston (MM) on November 17, Mr. D. Kneebone of Berri saw a Pied Goose flying over a lagoon near the Sturt Highway, Kingston. He lived in the Northern Territory for 20 years until early 1971 and claimed there was no mistaking the identity (communication from K. J. Mack).

## 79. CAPE BARREN GOOSE (198)

Big Swamp (EP), 200 in early January (D. W. Brummitt, *Bird Talk* 1, 26); Salt Lagoon, Lake Alexandrina (MM), 250 on September 9 (S.A.O.A. excursion); Yalkuri (MM), about 200 on November 12 (C. E. Rix, J. M. Bonnin, *Bird Talk* 1, 23).

## 80. BLACK SWAN (203)

Bolivar (AP) 50, I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) 223 on March 2 (B. Glover); near mouth of Eight Mile Creek (SE), 17 swimming about 1.5 km out from shore in very rough sea (R. J. Goodfellow).

## 83. CHESTNUT-BREASTED SHELDUCK (207)

Bolivar (AP) about 150 on November 14 (B. Glover); I.C.I. Saltfields (A), 360 about 0.5 km north of St. Kilda gate on December 4 (C. E. Rix) (*Bird Talk* 1, 26); I.C.I. Saltfields and Buckland Park Lake (AP), 150 and 200+ on March 21 and 22 (A. H. Lendon and C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk* 1, 31); Frances (SE), 50 feeding in a paddock, April 24 (Mrs. R. Miller).

## 86. CHESTNUT TEAL (210)

Bolivar (AP) 100 on December 4 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk* 1, 26); 500 on April 13 (mixed flock with Grey Teal but mostly this species) (B. Glover).

## 87. GREY TEAL (211)

Bolivar (AP) several hundred July, August, January and February (B. Glover), Ward's Lagoon, 96 km ENE of Burra (NE), 600+ on May 25 (B. R. Hutchins and R. Lovell, *Bird Talk*, 1, 34).

## 88. BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER (212)

Bolivar (AP) recorded July, August and January; maximum 50 on August 3 (B. Glover).

## 91. PINK-EARED DUCK (213)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), 60-70 on November 20 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk* 1, 25); Bolivar (AP) recorded July, August, September, November and January; maximum 130+ on January 10 (B. Glover); Hart's Lagoon, Waikerie (MM), 100 during January (K. J. Mack).

## 92. WHITE-EYED DUCK (214)

Bolivar (AP), recorded July to January, maximum 300 on July 9 and 17 (B. Glover); Oxford Landing (MM), 100+ on November 8, Witchels Lagoon, Kingston (MM), several hundred on December 10 (K. J. Mack).

## 96. BLUE-BILLED DUCK (216)

Lake Bonney (SE), 100+ on October 19 (B. Glover).

## 97. MUSK DUCK (217)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP), 200 in early March (M. Reid, *Bird Talk*, 1, 30).

## \*103. SQUARE-TAILED KITE (230)

False Bay, Whyalla (EP), one on December 17 (J. B. Cox), Two km north of Whyalla (EP), one on August 25.

## 121. NANKEEN KESTREL (240)

Eighty-nine counted along road between Gawler (AP) and Wilmington (LN) via Jamestown on July 22-23 (B. Glover).

## 128. LITTLE QUAIL (18)

Beaumont (AP) one seen several times, November 2 (D. Paton). Killanoola (SE) 3 and 2 on January 6 and March 1 resp. (A. R. Attiwill).

## 132. LEWIN WATER-RAIL (45)

Woolpunda (MM), recorded August 6 (K. J. Mack).

## 134. SPOTTED CRAKE (49)

Berri (MM) an estimated 500 from September 19 to January 20, then dropped to about 100 (D. B. Mack).

## 137. BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN (55)

The spectacular invasion of southern South Australia in 1972-73 by this species is reported by Matheson (1974). *S. Aust. Orn.*, 26, 151-156.

## 140. COOT (59)

Bolivar (AP), 100+ on July 26 (W. E. Matheson); Hope Valley Reservoir (AP), 80+ on August 2 (B. Glover); Wachtel's Lagoon, Kingston (MM), "thousands" on September 12 and December 10 (K. J. Mack).

## 141. BUSTARD (176)

Six feeding in a paddock north of Morgan (MM), November 1 (D. Kneebone, per K. J. Mack); 8 km east of Milang (MM), one on January 27 (L. Chaplin).

## \*142. PAINTED SNIPE (170)

Fairview Reserve (SE), recorded November 25, Bool Lagoon (SE), 3 on December 16 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 145. SPUR-WINGED PLOVER (133)

Eight Mile Creek (SE), 84 on April 2 (R. J. Goodfellow).

## 146. BANDED PLOVER (135)

St. Kilda area (AP), about 50 throughout January, February and March (R. D. Elliot, C. E. Rix, both records *Bird Talk* 1, 30). Port Broughton area (YP), 92 in late February (J. R.).

## 182. BANDED STILT (147)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) up to 300 in July and early August (B. Glover), 100+ on November 12 (K. Edwards), 300-400 on March 21 and 22 (A. H. Lendon, C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 31), but none on April 8 (R. D. Elliot, *Bird Talk* 1, 31). Coorong (MM), 1000+ on July 3, 150+ on February 7 (B. Glover); Price Saltfields (YP), 2-3000 on October 8 (D. W. Brummit et al, *Bird Talk* 1, 22), 200+ on December 17 (K. Edwards), 4-500 on March 7 (H. Laybourne-Smith et al, *Bird Talk* 1, 30). No reports after March 22.

## 183. RED-NECKED AVOCET (148)

I.C.I. Saltfields (AP) 40+ on July 24, 100 on November 27 (B. Glover) the only report; 300 on a lagoon near the Playford Power Station, Port Augusta (LN) on July 8 (P. Langdon), Price Saltfields (YP), about 1000 on October 8 (D. W. Brummitt et al, *Bird Talk*, 1, 22).

## 184. SOUTHERN STONE CURLEW (174)

R.A.A.F. Edinburgh Airfield, nesting — see Arthur (1973).

## MIGRATORY WADERS

It is understood that a review of recent records is in preparation. Species recorded for 1972-73 were:—

## 147. GREY PLOVER

## 148. GOLDEN PLOVER

## 151. DOUBLE-BANDED DOTTEREL

## 152. MONGOLIAN DOTTEREL

## 158. TURNSTONE

## 159. EASTERN CURLEW

## 160. WHIMBREL

## 161. LITTLE WHIMBREL

## 162. WOOD SANDPIPER

## 163. GREY-TAILED TATTLER

## 164. GREENSHANK

## 165. MARSH SANDPIPER

## 167. TEREK SANDPIPER

## 168. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT

## 169. BAR-TAILED GODWIT

## 170. CURLEW SANDPIPER

## 171. RED-NECKED STINT

172. LONG-TOED STINT  
 173. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER  
 174. PECTORAL SANDPIPER  
 175. SANDERLING  
 176. KNOT  
 177. GREAT KNOT  
 BROAD-BILLED SANDPIPER  
 178. RUFF  
 179. JAPANESE SNIPE  
 180. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE  
 (see Cox, 1973)
187. GREAT SKUA (127)  
 Twelve reports of one or two birds off the coast of AP and MLR between April 20 and July 23 (J. B. Cox et al).
- \*191. DOMINICAN GULL (125A)  
 The only report was of one bird at St. Kilda (AP) on February 14 (B. Glover).
197. COMMON TERN (112A)  
 St. Kilda-Outer Harbor Sandflats (AP), 2 on March 5 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk* 1, 30).
- \*201. LITTLE TERN (117)  
 Coorong (MM), 2 nests January 28 (observer not stated).
202. FAIRY TERN (118)  
 Whyalla Saltfields (EP), colony of 30+ nests with eggs and very young chicks on an island, February 17 (J. B. Cox).
203. SOOTY TERN (120)  
 Coffin Bay (EP), see Gill (1973).
204. BRIDLED TERN (121)  
 Baudin Rocks (SE), one adult late December (J. M. Bonnin, *Bird Talk*, 1, 26); 2 on January 27 (A. R. Attiwill).
211. CRESTED PIGEON (43)  
 Buckland Park (AP) flock of 80-90 on May 30 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 35); near Cape Jaffa (SE), 2 on July 3; southern limit not known, but have not recorded species in Millicent area (B. Glover).
- 211B. BURMESE SPOTTED DOVE (989)  
 Loxton (MM), one on July 11; believed furthest upstream on the Murray recorded in S.A. (G. E. Warnecke per K. J. Mack).
214. YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO (267)  
 Kilburn (AP), 4 flying over in south-easterly direction, November 18 (B. R. Hutchins, *Bird Talk*, 1, 23); Aldgate Valley (MLR) flock of about 50 on June 12 (H. Laybourne-Smith); near Meningie (MM), flock of about 200 on May 22 (D. J. Mann) (last two records, *Bird Talk*, 1, 34).
217. PINK COCKATOO (270)  
 Maize Island (MM), 40 during August (W. J. Morley, per K. J. Mack); Cadell Training Centre (MM), 30 among pine and box trees on September 22 (K. J. Mack).
218. LITTLE CORELLA (271)  
 Lower Mitcham (AP), 30 on August 20 (A. F. Lees). Glandore (AP), flock of at least 200 flying over in northerly direction on February 19 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 28). Berri (MM), a flock of 500 flying north on January 25 (K. J. Mack).
219. LONG-BILLED CORELLA (272)  
 Sixteen km north of Glencoe (SE), 3 on June 26; 50 km further south than previously seen (R. J. Goodfellow).
225. COCKATIEL (274)  
 Very few records from AP (Hazelwood Park), MLR (Strathalbyn Reservoir, Scott National Park) and lower MM (Goolwa) — all in November. Killanoola (SE), 16 and 22 on November 10 and 30 respectively (A. R. Attiwill).
239. BLUE-WINGED PARROT (306)  
 Thirteen km south of Whyalla (EP), 3 males, September 9 and 20 (J. B. Cox).
240. ELEGANT PARROT (307)  
 Whyalla (BHP Saltfields) (EP), September 7 and 9 (J. B. Cox); Lubra waterhole and Oraparinna (NE), a few September 16-17 (J. B. Paton).
243. BUDGERYGAH (310)  
 No reports from southern part of State. Most southerly records Cleve (EP) two flocks of about 30 in January (J. Eckert) and Lowbank (MM), 8 on December 30 (K. J. Mack).
- CUCKOOS — very few reports, except for Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo.
- \*250. GOLDEN BRONZE CUCKOO (343)  
 Portee Station (MM), August 27 (M. R. Daley).
- \*253. MASKED OWL (250)  
 Thirty-nine km north of Hawker (NE), one being harried by two Yellow-throated Miners, June 9; photographs taken (R. D. Elliot, *Bird Talk*, 1, 35).
- \*260. SPINE-TAILED SWIFT (334)  
 Lowbank (MM), 8 on October 18 (the day calm, humid) (K. J. Mack); Glencoe (SE), 9 on March 18, flying in a north-westerly direction (B. R. Hutchins, R. Lovell, *Bird Talk*, 1, 30).

## \*261. FORK-TAILED SWIFT (335)

West Beach (AP), 20+ on December 15 (B. Glover); Beaumont (AP), 6 on January 20 (J. B. Paton); Brighton Beach (AP), a flock on January 21 (B. Glover); Whyalla area (EP), 200+, 1500 and 1 on November 30, December 4 and 22 resp.; Arno Bay (EP), 30 on January 20 (J. B. Cox); Coffin Bay (EP), about 20 on April 11; near L. Hamilton (EP), 6 on April 13 (R. Lovell, *Bird Talk* 1, 33); Penneshaw (KI), about 20 on January 19 (B. W. Rundell, *Bird Talk*, 1, 27); Hawthorndene (MLR), 20 and 30+ on December 22 and January 20 resp. (B. Glover); Normanville (MLR), 1 on June 13 (Robinson, 1973); Lowbank (MM) 50+ on November 15 (K. J. Mack); Price Saltfields (YP), 6 on February 25 (J. B. Cox).

## 266. RAINBOW BIRD (329)

Scott National Park (MLR), recorded November 18, J. B. Paton. Torrens Gorge (MLR), several on February 20; first personal record in this area of MLR for several years (B. Glover).

## 270. WELCOME SWALLOW (357)

Bolivar (AP), several hundred from mid-July to mid-August (B. Glover).

## 275. GROUND CUCKOO-SHRIKE (423)

Belvidere (MM), 2 on March 31; 4 on April 28 (J. Eckert).

## 278. WHITE-WINGED TRILLER (430)

Few records, mostly in northern part of State. Southern records were Sandy Creek Conservation Park (MLR), 2 males on September 14 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 20); Braendler Scrub (MM), recorded October 1, J. Saunders, Naracoorte (SE), several pair with young, December 4 (A. R. Attiwill).

## \*285. GREY-CROWNED BABBLER (443)

Mt. Hope, Millicent (SE), 1 from September 21; appeared in garden and remained about 3 months; photographed (A. McArthur).

## \*292. RUFOUS SONGLARK (509)

Very few records; Nonning to Yardea (EP), recorded September 4-9 (J. Saunders); near Telowie Gorge (LN), singing on June 20 (B. Glover); Sandy Creek Conservation Park (MLR), 8 to 10 on September 14 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 20); Kersbrook (MLR), singing September 19; Birdwood (MLR) singing November 28 (B. Glover); Meadows Creek (MLR), two pairs October 28 to November 5 (C. E. Rix, *Bird Talk*, 1, 24); Mulligan R. (NE), numerous, June (Corniss and Ellis, 1974); Algebuckna (NW), recorded April 11;

Peake Ruins (NW), recorded April 12-13 (J. B. Paton).

## 294. CRIMSON CHAT (449)

Waitpinga (MLR), one male, November 22 (E. Sims, per J. B. Paton).

## 295. ORANGE CHAT (450)

Whyalla area (EP), very common, in flocks of 30+ between December 16 and January 22 (J. B. Cox); Langhorne Creek area (MM, a nest with two half-grown young on February 27 (J. Eckert).

## \*300. WHITE-THROATED WARBLER (453)

Happy Valley (MLR), one in September (M. J. Arthur); Onkaparinga Gorge, Hackham (MLR), recorded November 26 (M. and J. McNamara).

## \*321. SOUTHERN EMU-WREN (526)

Deep Creek area (MLR), one male, August 24 (D. H. Close); 5 on April 15 (J. B. Cox); Killanoola (SE), recorded September 20 (A. R. Attiwill).

## 329. BLUE-BREASTED WREN (540)

Sinclair Gap area (EP), 11 on December 7; two males clearly seen to have blue breasts (J. B. Cox). Also recorded at Mikkira, Hincks N.P., Midgee Rocks and half-way between Cowell and Kimba (Eckert, 1973).

## 338. RED-CAPPED ROBIN (381)

Beaumont (AP), recorded in spring but has not been found breeding for several years (J. B. Paton); Sandy Creek (MLR), 2 on July 30, 1 on April 8 (K. Edwards).

## \*340A. ROSE ROBIN (384)

Beaumont (AP), 1 uncoloured bird on May 1 but not seen since (J. B. Paton).

## 348. GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH (408)

Botanic Gardens, Adelaide (AP), female with two very recently fledged young. Fledglings very strongly streaked on breast (R. F. Brown).

## 360. YELLOW-TAILED PARDALOTE (566)

Blackwood (MLR), nesting in a pile of sand in a home garden, January 20 (B. Glover).

## 371. YELLOW-FACED HONEY EATER (614)

Alligator Gorge (LN), recorded July 23 (B. Glover).

## 385. TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER (593)

Twenty-four km S.W. of Kingscote (KI), 1 on October 4, "noticed for first time in district" (P. A. Langdon).

## 403D. COMMON MYNA (989)

Botanic Gardens, Adelaide (AP), various reports in January and February.

## \*404. OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE (671).

Barossa Reservoir (MLR), 1 on September 19 (B. Glover); Langhorne Creek (MM), 1 on May 14 (J. Eckert).

## 406. APOSTLE BIRD (675)

Waite Arboretum (AP), 5 birds recorded between July 1 and October 8 by several observers. A nest also reported.

## 410. WHITE-BROWED WOODSWALLOW (545)

Naracoorte (SE), hundreds arriving, commencing to breed November 4; breeding freely December 4 (A. R. Attiwill).

## \*413. LITTLE WOODSWALLOW (548)

Archaringa Hill (NW), recorded April 5; Everard Ranges (NW), recorded April 6-7 (J. B. Paton).