

I would suggest that the Chestnut-breasted Finch has now occurred sufficiently in a feral state to justify inclusion on the South Australian list as an introduced species. — JOHN ECKERT.

Accepted March, 1975

FERAL CHESTNUT-BREASTED FINCHES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

— In late autumn 1971, John Endersby saw what he believed to be a small flock of Chestnut-breasted Finches *Lonchura castaneothorax* near Black Swamp. About a year later he again saw a small flock, this time on the Endersby property at Finniss, some three miles from the original sighting. A few days later he found a dead juvenile beneath a fence. Although dehydrated, it was possible to make it into a rough study skin. On May 28, 1973, a small flock again visited the Endersby property, and this time an immature male was collected.

It therefore seems that a small population of these finches are living and, by implication, breeding, in the Finniss-Black Swamp area. Most books indicate that the preferred habitat of the species is reedy swamp margins and grassland, conditions which are adequately represented in that locality.

The present case is not the first occasion that these birds have been reported as breeding in a feral state in South Australia. Dr. Chenery (*S.A. Orn.* 12:130) and Dr. Morgan found a nest with four young in reeds at Hope Valley Reservoir on September 23, 1933. Whether the Finniss birds are derived from these or from a later aviary escape is debatable. However