

NOTES

PAINTED FINCH AT WOOMERA — The note by L. Joseph (*S.A. Orn.* 1975, 27:5) on the Painted Finch *Emblema picta* in southern South Australia has brought to mind an old sight record of my own. On 23 November 1963 I was one of a party touring the Weapons Research Establishment at Woomera, S.A. I saw only one bird and was hurried away before being able to follow it up. The red face, abdomen and rump, and the black breast and side of abdomen were clearly seen. I had previously maintained the species in captivity and know it well. The area was a gully ca 100 m wide and 10 m deep with rocky sides and a flat bottom. The vegetation appeared to be sparse, low *Acacia* with some *Triodia*. The surrounding plateau was bare. No surface water existed but I recall that an installation in the area had at least one permanently (?) leaking tap from which birds were seen drinking. I took no further interest in the sighting, beyond recording it, as I presumed that Woomera was within its known range. — H. L. BELL.

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