

CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN RECORDS OF THE GREY-TAILED TATTLER

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On 21 December, 1975, I flushed a Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* from the banks of the Finke River, Hermannsburg, approximately 120 km west of Alice Springs. Excellent views were obtained of the bird, and it was photographed by John Pfitzner. It was not shy, and allowed the observer to approach within ten m before flushing.

On 23 December, 1975, another Grey-tailed Tattler was flushed from around a small rock pool in Palm Valley, Finke Gorge National Park, approximately 18 km south-west of Hermannsburg. This bird, seen with Gary Wilson, would not leave the periphery of the pool despite several flushings. It is not known if it was the same individual as seen on the Finke River two days earlier.

Both birds were *T. brevipes* and not the closely-related Wandering Tattler *T. incana*. From observations in coastal Queensland, I am familiar with both species in the field and believe that *T. brevipes* can be distinguished by call, lighter colouration and slighter build. The diagnostic call, consisting of a high-pitched "troo-weet" whistle (Slater, 1970) was heard several times from both birds.

Liddy (1960) notes that a single tattler was photographed at Mt. Isa during October, 1954. Two years later, another tattler was observed in the same general area on 3 November, 1956, and a single bird was seen yet again on 23 November, 1958. Positive identification of the species observed was not made in any instance.

Thomas (1970) refers to a tattler, reportedly *T. brevipes*, seen at Glen Helen Gap, 100 km west of Alice Springs, on 5 December, 1967. To my knowledge, these reports constitute the only previously published records of tattlers from inland Australia.

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REFERENCES

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