

A SECOND BREEDING RECORD OF THE CHESTNUT-BREADED WHITEFACE

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Accepted July, 1977

The known distribution of the Chestnut-breasted Whiteface lies entirely within South Australia. The published records range north to Wantapella Swamp and Todmorden, west to the Stuart Range and about 48 km north of Mount Eba, east to Nilpinna and William Creek, with isolated records further east and south-east at Callana and Myrtle Springs. The record from Nonning, of one bird seen in gibber country on 19 June, 1969 (M. J. Arthur, 1971, *S. Aust. Orn.* 25:230) is now regarded as doubtful by the author (pers. comm. with S. A. Parker; the exact locality was Scrubby Hills, north of Nonning). The type-locality was given by Gould (1871, *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.* 8:192) as Port Augusta, though this has been questioned; Ragless, for instance, (1969, *S. Aust. Orn.* 25:98-99) surmised that the types were collected by F. C. Andrews in the Woomera-Pimba district.

The recorded habitat of *A. pectoralis* is gibber tablelands and stony rises vegetated with low chenopods, mainly *Kochia*, often with a few taller plants such as Mulga *Acacia aneura* and Dead Finish *A. tetragonophylla*. The species has occasionally been reported in the company of the Common Whiteface *A. leucopsis* and the Banded Whiteface *A. nigricincta*, though the optimum habitats of these two are Mulga scrub and sandhill country respectively. *A. pectoralis* also seems to be less numerous than the other two species.

The nidification of *A. pectoralis* is not well-known. Ragless (*op. cit.*) reported finding the first known nest and eggs on Myrtle Springs station in August 1968, and located at least two other old nests in the same area.

On 6 September, 1976 I found a second occupied nest of *A. pectoralis* 3.2 km south of Cannuwaukaninna Bore on the Birdsville Track (a new locality-record). The site was about 80 m east of the track, in an area of gibber on low lateritic rises, with scattered bushes of a prickly acacia, possibly Dead Finish. The nest was in the centre of one such acacia, a bush about 3.3 m tall. It was made of twigs, globular, and with a side entrance. It was less bulky than nests I have seen of the Banded Whiteface, and like the nest reported by Ragless it lacked the entrance-spout characteristic of nests of the Banded Whiteface. Within were three young birds clad in pin-feathers. My attention was first drawn to the nest by the actions of a pair of Chestnut-breasted Whitefaces inside the bush. I watched these for several minutes and obtained good views of the broad ginger breast-band. The pair then left the bush and joined a loose feeding-party of Banded Whitefaces nearby. J. L. McKean visited the area a month later but no whitefaces were present.

I thank S. A. Parker and J. L. McKean for their comments on this record.

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