

BIRD NOTES

LITTLE BITTERN AT STREAKY BAY—

Records of the Little Bittern *Ixobrychus minutus* in South Australia have been rare but widespread, and confined to dates between 29 August and 12 May (Glover 1976). The species has once before been recorded in the Streaky Bay area (Eckert 1974). On 18 December 1979 one was sighted at c. 12.00 hours in Yanerby Swamp, c. 13 km SSW of Streaky Bay. It had evidently been disturbed—perhaps by a feral cat—from its roost in a dense thicket of coastal tea-tree, and came to rest among some rushes in the middle of the swamp.

It was observed by the author at a distance of six-eight m, and photographs were taken.

Description: Stance typically bittern-like, with neck extended and bill pointing upwards. Eye bright yellow; bill pale yellow, streaked black on the upper mandible. The back and crown were slate-black, and the fully extended neck was rich rufous, lightly streaked. Throat and breast were pale buff, with a few black blotches on the lower neck. Leg colour not seen clearly. Length in outstretched position probably c. 450 mm, and somewhat smaller in a more normal stance.—R. EVANS.

REFERENCES

- Eckert, J. 1974. Birds of Streaky Bay. *S. Aust. Orn.* 26:139.
Glover, B. 1976. The Little Bittern in South Australia. *S. Aust. Orn.* 27:100.

Accepted February, 1980