

ROCK PARROTS ON LE FEVRE PENINSULA

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This note lists records of the Rock Parrot *Neophema petrophila* in the Mutton Cove area of the Le Fevre Peninsula in outer north-western suburban Adelaide. Sightings were made by B. Winslet and myself in the course of visits to the area over several years. To reach the area, one travels north and then north-east along a continuation of Mersey Road until an embankment on the south-west side of the Port River is reached. The birds have been seen and photographed on either side of this embankment in both samphire and mangroves. I have seen them feeding on the tops of samphire, often with red tips stuck to the side of their bills and also on Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*.

RECORDS

- 1972: One on 18 December.
 1973: Small groups seen on each visit until May.
 1974: No records.
 1975: Two on 13 April; these were joined by five others. A suspected young bird was seen on 10 June on seaweed at Taperoo Beach.
 1976: No records.
 1977: Seen on most visits to the area between January to April inclusive.

722 Military Road, Taperoo, S.A. 5017.

1978: Three on 11 January; several small groups at dusk on 10 March; some individuals seen during April; two on 3 December.

1979: No records.

1980: Eleven on 13 March — seen in pairs or individually but not as a flock; 26 including three juveniles on 25 March; many at dusk on 20 April; seven on 29 April; 18+ on 25 June; 21 on 27 June and 9+ on 30 June.

Alterations to the swamp and samphire habitats at Mutton Cove, which include the destruction of mangroves, have been going on for several years. One hopes that the effect which these must have on the area's avifauna will not be completely detrimental.

(From the above records, it appears that the Rock Parrot is essentially a summer-autumn visitor to the Mutton Cove area, though clearly this pattern may not be strictly upheld in every year. Such movements do support the pattern of the species' movements stated by Parker and Cox (1978).—Ed.)

REFERENCE

- Parker, S. A. and J. B. Cox 1978. Notes on the birds of Pearson, Dorothee and Greenly Islands, South Australia. *Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust.* 102:191-202.