

RED-LORED WHISTLER ON CALPERUM STATION, NORTHERN MURRAY MALLEE

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Eckert (1972) discovered the Red-lored Whistler *Pachycephala rufogularis* breeding north of the River Murray on Gluepot Station, "30 miles north of Waikerie", in October 1970. Nothing further was known of the species in the region until C. E. Rix (pers. comm.) observed a single bird in May 1977, 36 km east of Canegrass H.S. and roughly 18 km north-north-east of Eckert's sighting (Eckert, pers. comm.). Rix also claims to have seen this species some years ago in the area which is now Pooginook Conservation Park.

I found a Red-lored Whistler in low mallee with *Triodia* and a few shrubs, on 25 March 1978, 44 km east of Canegrass H.S. in the north-western portion of Calperum Station and 8 km east-north-east of Rix's sighting. The bird was

Box 58, Koolunga, S.A. 5464.

only in view briefly but its pale cinnamon lores and throat area were seen. At the same spot two days later I found a slightly richer coloured bird and watched it singing for several minutes from exposed low branches. This bird had cinnamon lores and throat area, pale grey upper-chest and the remainder of its undersides, including undertail coverts were a similar colour to the throat area.

While there are extensive areas of apparently suitable habitat on Calperum and Gluepot Stations and in Dangali Conservation Park, it is surprising that the above records are from only a small portion of that area.

REFERENCE

- Eckert, J. 1972. Extension of range of the Red-lored Whistler (*Pachycephala rufogularis*) and comments on some birds of the North-east of South Australia. *S. Aust. Orn.* 26: 33-39.

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