

BIRD NOTES

EXTENSION OF RANGE OF THE GROUND CUCKOO-SHRIKE. Among the species of birds which during the past half century or so have greatly extended their range southward from the arid interior of South Australia is the Ground Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina maxima*. S. A. White (quoted by Mathews, G. M., 1921, *Birds of Australia*, 9:10) stated that Renmark was the furthest south that he had seen the species, and P. T. Sharland (*loc. cit.*) reported finding a clutch of eggs at Balah Station in 1908.

My first record of the Ground Cuckoo-shrike on the Mount Mary Plains, west of Morgan, was on 30 November 1929, when four were noted 6 km E of Sutherlands. The species gradually increased its appearances and by 1938 and later a number of the birds were seen each year. I first noted the species breeding in the area in 1955, when nesting occurred 5 km NE of Sutherlands (Boehm, E., *Emu* 57:313).

Eckert (1973, *S.A. Orn.*, 26:118) reported Ground Cuckoo-shrikes breeding at Milang in 1971. However, the species has not been observed in the Mount Lofty Ranges. I saw two in the Ranges at Anstey Hill Regional Park, near Houghton, on 9 March 1982. They were flying northward parallel with the Range Road South and did not alight. Their diagnostic field characters were clearly seen and the distinctive calls of the species were heard. The occurrence was probably accidental, for the birds seem to favour open plain country to ranges.

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