

BIRD NOTES

down-turned, black tip. The juvenile was much the same size as the adults but showed brown where the adults were black. Their clear, beautifully melodious call was outstanding, with more zest than the call of a Grey Butcherbird *C. torquatus*. I observed the birds from as close as five metres and used 10 x 50 binoculars on some occasions. A neighbour, K. Brand, also saw the birds.

I have made many sightings of the Grey Butcherbird around Leigh Creek, but have only recorded Pied Butcherbirds on a few occasions in July 1979.

REFERENCES

- Condon, H. T. 1969. *A Handlist of the Birds of South Australia*. Third Edition. South Australian Ornithological Association; Adelaide.
Pizzey, G. 1980. *A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia*. Collins; Sydney.

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PIED BUTCHERBIRDS AT LEIGH CREEK

On several occasions in July 1979 I observed two adult and one immature Pied Butcherbirds *Crac-ticus nigrogularis* at Leigh Creek, ca 460 km N of Adelaide. This is a species known in South Australia only from the Upper Murray and extreme North-West of the State (Condon 1969, *pace* Pizzey 1980) and so my sightings, presumably of vagrant birds, are of some interest. A summary of my field notes on the birds follows.

The adults were stocky birds and had black backs and shoulders and their black breasts were bib-like in appearance. Their otherwise black wings had a band of white in them. Their tails were black with white edges to the tips and the white of the abdomen joined a white collar low on the back of their thick heads. Their mainly grey bills were heavy with a