

BIRD NOTE

AN OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE IN NORTH-EASTERN SOUTH AUSTRALIA. On 24 September 1982, while camped in Coolibah *Eucalyptus microtheca* woodland on the edge of Tirrawarra Waterhole, I saw an Olive-backed Oriole *Oriolus sagittatus* fly overhead and perch nearby. The bird was about the size of a shrike-thrush *Colluricincla*, but perhaps more slender and with a longer tail. It had a large bill with a pink base and large dark tear-drop streaks on its undersides. It lacked the whitish rump and tail-tip, and face markings of the superficially similar Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater *Acanthagenys rufogularis*. The bird did not call and was lost to view when it flew across the waterhole with a dipping flight.

Tirrawarra Waterhole is on the north-west branch of Cooper's Creek approximately 70km

NW of Innamincka. The nearest previous record of this species seems to be that from 330km to the north-west at Windorah in July 1976 (L. Tolhurst, E. & K. Barret, 1976, *The Bird Observer* 540: 86). When one considers the extent of woodland along the Cooper's Creek system, it seems likely that Olive-backed Orioles may be more frequent visitors to the Far North-East of South Australia than my single sighting suggests.

Other nomadic species which occur in nearby south-west Queensland (e.g. Little Friarbird *Philemon citreogularis*, seen on Cuddapan Station by Tolhurst *et al.* (*op. cit.*)) may also occur occasionally in the Cooper or Diamantina systems within South Australia. ----- LYNN P. PEDLER.

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