

BIRD NOTES

BEHAVIOUR OF RED-NECKED AVOCETS IN STRONG WIND. On 15 September 1984 I observed 150 Red-necked Avocets *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae* near 42 Mile Crossing in the South Lagoon of The Coorong. A 30 knot wind was blowing from the north, between 1430 and 1730 hours. The avocets fed intermittently for the first hour and then huddled in a tight group with their heads facing north-west from 1530 to 1715 hours. During this time no feeding and little preening occurred and the birds kept their heads down on their breasts. On at least four occasions, two or three birds at the head of the flock moved to the back. Flocks of birds are known to rotate the lead birds to share the energetic costs of leading (Dorst, J. 1974, *The Life of Birds. Vol. 1*, Weidenfeld & Nicolson : London) and the Red-necked Avocets described here may have been behaving in the above manner for the same reason.

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