

FURTHER OBSERVATIONS IN THE NORTH-WEST OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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INTRODUCTION

Information on the status and distribution of birds in the far north-west of South Australia has been summarized by Close & Jaensch (1984). Access to much of this region is restricted, but one of us (LAJ) has resided at Amata since 1981 and parts of the Musgrave Ranges were visited in July 1985 by RPJ.

Conditions in July 1985 were dry: grassland was dry and lacked fresh growth, and surface water was confined to permanent waterholes and springs. Rainfall in the Amata district in 1984–85 had been well below average, whereas rainfall in the preceding two years had been much higher.

In the following annotated list, we describe three species not previously recorded in the north-west of South Australia and new localities for species already recorded there. Summaries of previous records are from Close & Jaensch (1984) and refer to records from 1873–1972 (denoted Historical) and 1975–1981 (denoted recent). Each new locality is identified by a code from the list of localities (given below) and is followed by the number of individuals recorded at that locality.

Localities

- A. A creek (White Gum Creek) lined with River Red Gums *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* and containing some large pools of water, ca 30 km NE of Amata; visited by LAJ on 9 October 1982.
- B. A gum-lined creek, 10 km NE of Amata; visited by RPJ and LAJ on 24 July 1985.
- C. A gum-lined creek with shallow pools, S of Mitchell Nob; visited by RPJ and LAJ on 21 July 1985.
- D. Steep slopes near Tea Tree Gully, ca 10 km NW of Amata; visited by RPJ on 26 July 1985.
- E. Sand creek with Red Gums and ironwood, on a plain near ranges, ca 20 km SE of Amata; visited by RPJ on 24 July 1985.
- F. A waterhole and surrounding slopes of Amaraltja Creek ca 3 km NW of Amata; visited by RPJ on 22 July 1985.
- G. A small area of mallee on a plain between ranges, ca 20 km W of Amata; visited by RPJ on 23 July 1985.
- H. Sparse woodland beside Aparina (= Apará) Creek, ca 15 km WNW of Amata; visited by RPJ on 23 July 1985.

ANNOTATED LIST

AUSTRALASIAN GREBE

Tachybaptus novaehollandiae

Historical — no record; recent — at least two localities.

A: three.

AUSTRALIAN PELICAN

Pelecanus conspicillatus

No previous record.

B: one perched in a dead tree.

PACIFIC HERON *Ardea pacifica*

Historical — one locality; recent — one locality.

A: four.

BLACK-TAILED NATIVE-HEN

Gallinula ventralis

No previous record.

A: ten

RED-KNEED DOTTEREL *Erythrogonys cinctus*

Historical — no record; recent — one locality.

A: one.

BLACK-FRONTED PLOVER

Elseyonis melanops

Historical — one locality; recent — at least three localities.

A: four; C: six.

WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*

Historical — no record; recent — one locality.

A: two

COMMON SANDPIPER *Actitis hypoleucos*

No previous record.

A: two

COMMON BRONZEWING *Phaps chalcoptera*

Historical — uncommon; recent — at least seven localities.

D: one at the base of a slope that was sparsely vegetated with grass and shrubs.

PINK COCKATOO *Cacatua leadbeateri*

Historical — several small flocks in Everard Ranges; recent — three localities, one or two birds at each.

E: 50, feeding on melons in dry bed of creek.

BARN OWL *Tyto alba*

Historical — no records; recent — three localities.

A: one.

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides*

Historical — few localities; recent — one locality.

C: two in bloodwoods along drainage line at base of Mitchell Nob.

DUSKY GRASSWREN *Amytornis purnelli*

Historical — common; recent — eight localities.

D: three; F: two.

BROWN HONEYEATER *Lichmera indistincta*

Historical — no record; recent — three localities.

F: six at waterhole and flowering shrubs beside creek; few calls.

STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*

Historical — fairly common on gum-lined creeks; recent — Mt Woodroffe and eastward, mainly in red gums.

G: one foraging in crown of mallee.

PAINTED FIRETAIL *Emblema pictum*

Historical — few localities; recent — one locality.

F: one calling in flight over *Triodia* on slopes.

SPOTTED (WESTERN) BOWERBIRD

Chlamydera maculata guttata

Historical — no records; recent — at least nine localities.

F: a bower in good condition under a *Ficus* shrub;

H: one foraging in canopy of Mulga *Acacia aneura* tree.

REFERENCE

Close, D. H. and R. P. Jaensch, 1984. Birds of the North-West of South Australia. *S. Aust. Orn.* 29: 81-99.

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