

**ELEGANT PARROTS BREEDING IN THE GAWLER RANGERS.** During the afternoon of 26 September 1990, whilst camping at Scrubby Peak (39°31'S, 135°19'E) in the Gawler Ranges, South Australia, we heard the sound of young birds demanding food. We traced the sound and saw a pair of Elegant Parrots *Neophema elegans* feeding three young in a dead, broken, upward-pointing hollow spout of a *Eucalyptus* tree. As each parent bird approached the nest the young rose up out of the hollow and we could see that they were well-fledged with very obvious blue wing-markings. We observed them for approximately an hour and had very good views of the birds.

We noted that the blue frontal-band extended a little past the eye on the parent birds. They had two distinct shades of blue on the wing; the blue being smaller in area than that which is on the Blue-winged Parrot *N. chrysostoma*. Their upperparts were olive-yellow and they had yellow on the underparts and outer tail feathers. These points convinced us that they were Elegant Parrots.

The next morning we returned to the nesting-site, but there was no sign of activity by either parents or young. A Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus* was calling nearby and we believed it accounted for the silence of the young and the

absence of the adult Elegant Parrots near the nest-site. Once the Butcherbird had moved on, both parents almost immediately alighted on a live branch of the tree containing the nest. They took turns in feeding the young, one parent waiting until the other had finished before approaching to take its turn. We again watched them for about an hour and had excellent views of them during that time.

A sighting by A. Black' (**S.A. Orn. Ass. Newsletter**, September 1990, 135: 13) of one Elegant Parrot on 21 August 1990 at Scrubby Peak was reported with the added footnote: "One also recorded near this locality in June 1985 . . . , although few records from Eyre Peninsula." Pizzey (1980. **A Field Guide to the Birds of Australia**. Collins: Sydney) stated in reference to the range and status of Elegant Parrots: "Recorded w. to Quorn-Port Augusta, and near Whyalla (suspected sightings elsewhere on Eyre Pen.)." Our record is exciting because we believe it to be the first breeding record of Elegant Parrots from the Gawler Ranges.

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