

**AN ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE AT THE DRY CREEK SALTFIELDS.** The Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* is rare in South Australia. Badman & May (1983. *S. Aust Orn.* 29: 38) listed five records of single birds from widely-scattered localities: Meningie or Milang (Lower Murray Lakes); Mosquito Point (Lake Alexandrina); Nullarbor Station (North-West); near Burra (Lower North); Billa Kalina (North-West).

On 27 February 1988 we visited the Dry Creek Saltfields (ca 23 km N of Adelaide), Adelaide Plains, South Australia. It was a cool, overcast day with strong SE to SW winds. At 14.45 we were on the central east-west track between two salt lagoons when we saw an Oriental Pratincole on a small islet about 50 metres off the southern side of the track. We observed it for

approximately 20 minutes through 10×50 binoculars and a 45× telescope.

The bird had the general appearance of a short-legged brown tern. The head was dark brown, the back lighter and the tail very dark brown to black. The underside was a lighter buff at the chest to almost white on the abdomen. The most noticeable plumage feature was a yellow throat patch surrounded by a distinct black line, not quite complete on the underside. The bird occasionally flitted its tail, showing it to be deeply forked.

We returned to the same area at 16.30, but the bird was absent. We believe this is the first record of an Oriental Pratincole from the Adelaide Plains.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank J. Hackett and J. B. Cox for their assistance with the record.

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Received: 18 June 1990.