BREEDING OF THE LITTLE WOOD-SWALLOW *ARTAMUS MINOR* IN THE GAWLER RANGES.

The Little Woodswallow *Artamus minor* has been recorded breeding at three localities in South Australia: Corunna in the eastern Gawler Ranges (Finch 1974) and at two sites in the Flinders Ranges (Joseph 1986). From 2 to 5 November 1987, Little Woodswallows were observed nesting by R. Allen, G. Carpenter, R. Kernot, A. Reimanis and the author at three sites in the western Gawler Ranges. Birds were differentiated from Dusky Woodswallows *A. cinerea* by their small martin-like appearance, lack of white leading edge to the wing and overall darker colour.

1. 23 km SSW of Hiltaba HS.

At least eight birds were observed in the vicinity of three rocky outcrops. The birds were carrying small twigs into a crevice in the rock face and two partly constructed nests were subsequently located. Two birds were also observed entering a hollow in a nearby red mallee *Eucalyptus oleosa* and were presumed to be breeding.

2. Mount Centre, 27 km SSW of Hiltaba HS.

Four birds were observed flying around the summit of Mount Centre. One was sitting on a nest on a small ledge of rocky outcrop, but the contents of the nest could not be seen.

3. Mount Friday, 10 km SW of Hiltaba HS.

At least six birds were observed in the vicinity of a large rock face. Two nests constructed of twigs were located in small horizontal crevices. They contained four and at least two eggs respectively. Woodswallows swooped a Grey Butcherbird *Cracticus torquatus*, an Australian Kestrel Falcon *Falco cenchroides* and large skinks which came near the nests.

These localities are at least 150 km to the west of the nearest published breeding records of *A. minor* in South Australia.

REFERENCES

Finch, B. 1974. Southerly breeding of Little Woodswallows. *South Australian Ornithologist*, 26, 141.

Joseph, L. 1986. Little Woodswallows at Buckaringa Gorge in the Southern Flinders Ranges. *South Australian Ornithologist*, 30, 22-23.

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