

Order Passeriformes, Family Ploceidæ,  
Genus *Stagonopleura*.

*Stagonopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch).—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has made one sub-sp. for Victoria and South Australia, calling it *S. g. philordi*.

Description.—Upper surface and wings, brown; rump and upper tail coverts, scarlet; tail, black; flanks, black, each feather having a white spot; broad, black band crosses the breast; lores, black; crown of the head, grey; under tail coverts, abdomen, and throat, white; bill, coral-red, line of bluish purple at base; eyes, coral-red, with bluish eyelash; feet, brown.

Distribution.—Dispersed over most parts of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia.

Habitat.—The bird does not seem to be confined to any one class of country, for it is found in the Ranges, and out upon the plains, and is to be met with in open timbered country, grass land, and even in thick scrub.

Habits.—Much like other members of the family; gregarious during many months of the year and only pairing off at nesting time.

Flight.—Strong and straight and will rise to a great altitude when shifting from one district to another.

Note.—A long-drawn, low, and mournful note.

Food.—The seeds of many rushes and grasses.

Nesting Season October to December.

Eggs—Pure white, rather elongated. Average measurement of 13 eggs 1.93 c.m. x 1.33 c.m., largest egg 2.05 c.m. x 1.35 c.m., smallest egg, 1.85 c.m. x 1.25 c.m.

Nest—Large structure composed of dry grass, twigs, leaves, etc. A nest taken near Stone Hut was entirely covered with bright yellow everlasting flowers woven into the structure of the nest.

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