

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Recovery of a Red-tipped Pardalote at Sea.—On the evening of Sunday, 27th February, 1972 I received a telephone call from Mr. Jim Oliver of Lancelin informing me that he had captured a small bird on his boat *Revilo* while at sea. The bird was described as being about the size of a finch, brown with white edges on the wing feathers.

We arranged a meeting and I was able to examine the bird later that day. The following details were recorded: Crown, brown with darker brown mottling; rest of the head, buff; tail, black with a faint buff tip; wings, black with a narrow white leading edge on the primaries, secondaries black with narrow buff edge on inner vanes; primary coverts, black with white inner vanes, seven of the coverts had a red spot between the black and white areas; bill, black tip, yellowish horn at base; gape, yellow; bill length, 9.5 mm. from skull to tip, 6.5 mm. exposed; tarsus, 20.7 mm.; tail 30.6 mm.; wing, 60.0 mm.; weight 7.5 gm.

The bird was identified as an immature Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus substriatus*).

The following information on weather conditions and capture of the bird was supplied by Mr. Oliver. The bird was seen to strike the wheelhouse window of the *Revilo* at about 1200 hrs. The position of the boat at this time was 16 miles from the coast, 265° West of Lancelin.

A 15 knot southerly wind was blowing at the time. When approached the bird made no attempt to escape and appeared to be in a state of exhaustion.

Wind conditions at Lancelin for the preceding two days were as follows: Friday, 25th Feb., easterly until about noon when it changed to a light southerly; Saturday, 26th Feb., south-easterly until 1000 hrs., changing to a southerly; Sunday, 27th Feb., a strong southerly was blowing at 0500 hrs., and this held steady until about 1600 hrs.

—PERRY DE REBEIRA, Tuart Hill.

Australian Pratincole at Pelican Point, Swan River Estuary.—Although the Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) is a common bird in northern Australia, until recently it has been recorded south of the Kimberley Division on only three occasions. J. R. Ford saw one individual at the Harding River near Roebourne in January, 1959; G. A. Lodge saw three at Yanrey Station, 70 miles south of Onslow in August, 1965 and M. G. Brooker saw two north of Naretha in January, 1971.

On December 11, 1972 while watching a small flock of waders at Pelican Point, I noticed a solitary Australian Pratincole standing at the water's edge on the west side of the point.

The upper parts of the body were a light brown colour, wings brown with long black flight feathers, throat and chest appeared to be light grey-brown. Each flank was a dark rufous brown, almost joining to form a band across the abdomen. Bill was short, down-curved, black with red at the base; dark line extending from bill to eye. The bird was put to flight to reveal its short, unforked tail.

Other ornithologists were informed and later that day the bird was seen by A. A. Burbidge and R. E. Johnstone. No further sightings were made.

—J. A. K. LANE, Fauna Research Branch Department of Fisheries and Fauna.

The Wanderer Butterfly at Kelmscott, W.A.—On 16th August, 1973, accompanied by Dr C. N. Smithers of the Australian Museum, I visited the Kelmscott locality at which Wanderer butterflies had been collected in 1971 (Koch, *W. Aust. Nat.*, 12: 25-27, 115). From the numbers of Wanderers observed flying, it appeared that the population level of the species at this locality was about the same as in April 1971. We collected four males and one female. These specimens (W.A. Museum Reg. Nos. 73/618-622) were faded and represented a population that had overwintered in the area. The milkweed food plants were just commencing growth and some were one foot high. Eggs were not found.

—L. E. KOCH, Western Australian Museum.



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