

Carduelis carduelis. Goldfinch.

A common bird in all areas, reaching out into some of the most arid "desert" localities north of Balranald and west of Wentworth.

Sturnus vulgaris. Starling.

An abundant bird throughout the area, but especially in the irrigation areas around Finley and Dareton, and on the saltbush plains, where every mob of sheep has its accompanying Starling flock.

Turdus merula. Blackbird.

A very recent addition to the local avifauna and one which has pushed ahead with its colonization at an exceedingly rapid pace. In 1942, A. R. McGill did not see the species in Deniliquin. In 1954 there was one pair, possibly a second. In 1959 it was one of the commonest birds in the town. In 1957 the first bird appeared at Dareton. In 1959 a casual car drive through part of the irrigation settlement produced 8 birds. The bird now extends along the Murray River wherever there are citrus orchards. It is at Barooga, Tocumwal, Mathoura, Tooleybuc, Goodnight and all the New South Wales parts of the Sunraysia (Mildura) district. Except at Deniliquin it has not colonized the towns, keeping strictly to the orange groves, seldom extending even into the adjacent vines. Odd birds have appeared at Finley but have passed on in their quest for the oranges.

Pavo cristatus. Common Peafowl.

Some landholders in the Finley and Deniliquin districts keep this bird in semi-captivity. One man who started with two pairs, now has a flock of 150 birds ranging his paddocks. Successful breeding usually depends on the farm dogs keeping the foxes away and it is doubtful if the species could establish itself in a feral state. Nevertheless it is trying to do so and I have a number of records of this bird far from any homestead.

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|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Vol. 54, p. 278. | 2. Vol. 55, p. 157. | 3. Vol. 55, p. 302. |
| 4. Vol. 56, p. 147. | 5. Vol. 56, p. 349. | 6. Vol. 56, p. 434. |
| 7. Vol. 57, p. 200. | 8. Vol. 57, p. 265. | 9. Vol. 57, p. 337. |
| 10. Vol. 58, p. 56. | 11. Vol. 58, p. 127. | 12. Vol. 58, p. 287. |
| 13. Vol. 58, p. 412. | 14. Vol. 58, p. 422. | 15. Vol. 59, p. 87. |
| 16. Vol. 59, p. 210. | 17. Vol. 58, p. 129. | 18. Vol. 58, p. 418. |

Indian Turtledove Extends Range in South Australia.—During the past quarter of a century the Indian Turtledove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) has established itself over a large part of the Adelaide Plains and in the Mount Lofty Ranges north to Clare. It is now a familiar bird in the townships of the Barossa Valley. In most places it is more conspicuous and better known than the native Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*).

A remarkable accidental occurrence of the species came to my notice recently when an adult male appeared at the homestead, Erdora Farm, east of Sutherlands, S.A., on the morning of October 4, 1960, and was secured to check the identification. The bird was wary and behaved as a normal wild individual. Possibly, the good season assisted the vagrant in its wanderings in an otherwise unfavourable environment.—E. F. BOEHM, Sutherlands, S.A., 6/10/60.