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A new record of the Apostle Bird for South Australia.—On October 31, 1965, Mr Barry Hutchins, a member of the Adelaide Ornithologists Club found a party of nine Apostle Birds, *Struthidea cinerea*, in some undulating open forest country 2½ miles south of Sandy Creek which is approximately 25 miles north-east of Adelaide.

The only previously recorded occurrences of this species in South Australia refer to those parts of the State situated north and east of Renmark adjacent to the borders of south-western New South Wales and north-eastern Victoria and from Naracoorte south to Tarpeena (near Mt. Gambier). These records are very few in number but from the observations of members of the Adelaide Ornithologists Club over the past four or five years there seems to be little doubt that the species is resident in the area north-east of Renmark. During this period a number of parties of these birds have been seen and several occupied nests have been found. On October 7, 1962, three parties were seen. The first consisted of three birds and they were in the vicinity of a nest containing two almost fully fledged young. The nest was in a Black Oak, *Casuarina* sp., about 20 feet from the ground and there was an old nest nearby.

The second party contained 15 birds and they too were near a nest which contained young. The nest was in the same type of tree and at about the same height. The number of young could not be determined. The third party consisted of four birds.

Mr Hutchins' observation represents a substantial extension of the range of the species. He followed and watched them for some time as they moved slowly through the countryside, busily feeding all the while.

Hutchins returned to the area again on November 4, 1965. Only five birds were found on this occasion and some photographs were taken.

During the next few weeks one of the local land-holders and one or two visitors to the area reported seeing some of the birds in the general locality. Other visitors however failed to locate them and it appeared that they were moving about to some extent. On none of these occasions were there as many birds seen as had been observed by Hutchins on the first occasion.

On January 4, 1966, Hutchins, after considerable searching, located a party of four adult birds and one juvenile in a dry creek about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of where he had first found the species. The young bird appeared to be about two days out of the nest and was being fed by the adults which became very agitated when discovered.

Bordering the creek were a large number of Red Gums, *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*. Some of them were up to 70 feet in height, and in one of these, on a horizontal branch about 60 feet from the ground, was a nest. It was extensively stained with droppings and was probably that in which the young bird had been hatched. From the number of tiers in the construction of this nest it appeared that it could have been used on previous occasions.

About 40 feet away in another tree was another nest. This was much smaller than the first and had the appearance of being incomplete, but it could have been an old one used in previous seasons.

A further visit to the nesting location was made some three or four weeks later and the family party was again located. The juvenile had reached the stage in which it was difficult to distinguish it from the adults and it appeared to be practically independent. Notwithstanding this the mature birds again became very disturbed and excited when approached.

The latest report of the species in this locality at the beginning of July 1966, comes from Rosefield which is six or seven miles north of where they were first located. It is not known how many birds were present in this latest area.

On the meagre information to hand it is difficult to express any opinion concerning the origin of this isolated colony, separated from all other occurrences by at least 150 miles of generally unsuitable habitat, but containing nevertheless some areas of country not greatly dissimilar in climate and vegetation to that where the species occurs near Renmark. The area is one that has been worked spasmodically by ornithologists for many years but, despite the lack of any detailed work, the proximity to Adelaide (about 30 miles) makes it difficult to believe that they are a residual pocket of long standing isolated by changing climatic conditions.

It is equally difficult to understand why they would suddenly move such a distance to colonize a new area without some becoming established in suitable areas on the way.

The possibility that they are descendants of birds liberated in the area has been investigated but on the information obtained this appears to be unlikely.

That fact remains that the birds are in this locality. They bred there last season and on the scant evidence available to date have possibly bred at least in the previous season. Perhaps observations of this colony in the future and general work involving a search for old nests in the area may throw some light on the matter.—C. E. RIX, 42 Waymouth Avenue, Glandore, South Australia.