

***Calidris ferruginea*. Curlew-Sandpiper.**

One in association with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers at Bundyulumbiah Station, Wanganella, on December 16, 1956. This bird was at a very large swamp in the middle of a saltbush plain. Formed in the floods of 1956, it gradually dried out during the ensuing summer, baring large areas of ooze which attracted a vast assemblage of waders, terns, gulls, herons and other water birds, many of which nested. It was here that the Double-banded Dotterels were seen (*Emu*, vol. 56, p. 434).

***Calidris acuminata*. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.**

If conditions are suitable, a regular summer visitor, records ranging between October 10 and May 8. Frequents the larger swamps on the open plains and I have not seen it on the rivers or their associated billabongs and lagoons. Flocks may be large (400 at Bundyulumbiah on December 16, 1956), but are usually in the order of ten to fifty. A single bird was seen in February, 1955, at a small tank in mallee country north of Balranald. The larger numbers and majority of records are in October, November and December.

***Calidris ruficollis*. Red-necked Stint.**

Up to eleven were at Bundyulumbiah in December 1956.

***Gallinago hardwickii*. Japanese Snipe.**

Although seen occasionally on the open swamps, it usually frequents the billabongs and lagoons in the timbered areas by the rivers and creeks. It is not common and is more often solitary, although sometimes a dozen may be flushed along a length of billabong. Records range from September 26 to February 23.

Two 'Strange Faces'.—During a visit to Mornington on September 3, 1957, I came close upon two rare visitors. A dark Southern Skua (*Catharacta skua*) was being attacked by a small flock of Silver Gulls (*Larus novæ-hollandiæ*), whilst seven Little Pied Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*) looked on. The Skua took little notice of the Gulls and stayed perched on the jetty near the pier for several hours.

The second visitor was a Yellow-nosed Albatross (*Diomedea chlororhyncha*) which circled twice close to the shore, making vast sweeps out to sea, finally landing in shallow water within thirty yards offshore. The bird floated for twenty minutes, finally taking off in the direction of the Rip, presumably heading for the open sea.

Walking about a mile each way from the pier I counted thirty-seven Silver Gulls and one Pacific Gull (*Larus pacificus*). Later in the day, at Portsea, a pair of Pied Oystercatchers (*Hæmatopus ostralegus*) was seen. Both birds allowed me to approach quite close and during 40 minutes worked a little over one hundred yards along the beach, searching for food. Suddenly, startled by a group of people, they flew parallel to the shore and landed some half-mile away to continue feeding.

The two birds had moved many pieces of sea-weed, using both beak and feet, and seemed to gather much food from each piece. On closer examination, untried pieces were found to harbour tiny black insects and very small crabs.—GEORGE W. BEDGGOOD, Mooroopna, Vic., 11/9/57.