

I and others failed to positively identify the Ringed Plover on subsequent trips to the sewage ponds, though the Little Ringed Plover was still present the following day. While the closely related and rather similar Semipalmated Plover *C. semipalmatus* is vaguely possible as a stray, I have recently had field experience with it in North America and consider the Sanderson bird to be a Ringed Plover on the basis of the breadth of its breast band. It certainly was not a Long-billed Ringed Plover *C. placidus* which is a good deal larger and has a relatively heavier and longer bill. With the exception of a bird noted recently in N.S.W. (N. Russell, in prep.; A. R. McGill, *in litt.* 28.2.1980) previous Australian occurrences are documented by Rix (1977). The Ringed Plover has not previously been reported from the Northern Territory.

References

- McKean, John L., Thompson, H. A. F. & Estbergs, J. A., 1976. Records of uncommon migrant waders near Darwin, N.T. *Aust. Bird Watcher* 6: 143-148.
McKean, John L. & Hertog, A. L., 1980. Some further records of uncommon migrant waders near Darwin, N.T. *N.T. Naturalist* (in press).
Rix, C. E., 1977. New Records of Ringed Plover in Australia. *Aust Bird Watcher* 7: 40-44.

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A Sight Record of the Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* in the Northern Territory

On March 9, 1980 at 08.00 during the course of a bird census at the Sanderson Sewage Ponds near Darwin, N.T., I flushed a coloured *Motacilla* wagtail which had a tail that appeared much longer than the Yellow Wagtails *M. flava* which are regular visitors to this locality. I spent about 20 minutes watching the bird through Leitz 10 x 40 binoculars and at distances as close as 8 metres. I flushed the bird a number of times and heard it call; this I noted as "tchit, tchit, tchit". It was an entirely different call from that of the Yellow Wagtail. My rough field notes include the following points: "Bright yellow rump and abdomen, lemon-yellow belly, white throat and cream upper breast. Indistinct eyebrow. Light whitish bar noticeable in folded wing as was also some whitish edging to the primaries. Tail dark with outer tail feathers white; these showed conspicuously when bird bobbed tail; back dark grey; feet fleshy." Although my previous experience of this species is not extensive I had no hesitation in identifying the bird as a Grey Wagtail.

I returned within half an hour with A. L. Hertog but we could not relocate the bird, leaving us to conjecture that it was probably on return passage.

Two previous Australian records are known to me both from North Queensland viz. (Gill, 1970) and a recent sighting (D. Cameron, in prep., pers. comm.).

Reference

- Gill, H. B., 1970. Grey Wagtail in northern Queensland. *Emu* 70: 141-142.

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