

WESTERN SHRIKE-TITS SIGHTED IN WANDERING SHIRE

Fauna Wardens T. Evans and A. Marshall reported sighting a pair of Western Shrike-Tits, only 60 miles from Perth, during a recent patrol of Gleneagle Forest area. The birds were observed in wandoo country approximately 5 miles along Wearne Road east of Albany Highway.

The sighting of these birds is of interest because of the restricted distribution of the species in this area.

Serventy and Whittell - "Birds of Western Australia" - describe the distribution of the Western Shrike-Tit (Falcunculus frontatus) - "Found in the South West to Morawa, Moora, Kellerberrin and Norseman, favouring the lighter timbered wandoo, salmon gum and jam country, but not venturing far into the heavy jarrah forest areas."

Occasionally birds appear in the western coastal strip. There is also some penetration along the south coast corridor and S.W. Jackson recorded the species in the vicinity of Irwin's Inlet on numerous occasions in the summer of 1912-13".

Other birds sighted in the immediate area by Wardens Evans and Marshall included Western Shrike-Thrush, Black-Capped Sittilla and Rufous Tree-Creeper.

MUSEUMS ENDANGER WILDLIFE

The January issue of Habitat, journal of the Council for Nature, draws attention to the danger that increased collecting of specimens for museums will damage local populations of animals and plants. Already one long-term piece of ecological research has been ruined after years of effort because of thoughtless collecting for this purpose. It is suggested that museums should pay more attention to securing casualties and specimens necessarily killed for control or other reasons. The Council has also drawn the Museums Association's attention to a recent case of commercialised killing of bats and birds to meet museums' needs for cabinet skins and mounted specimens, and suggested that such activity should be discouraged.

* From Kingfisher v2(7) March 1967 p 5.