

## TRUST ACCOUNT AS AT

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E. C. SOUTER,  
Hon. Treasurer.

**Pectoral Sandpiper in New South Wales.**—In *The Emu*, vol. 58, pp. 56 and 412, the presence of Pectoral Sandpipers (*Erolia melanotos*) in south-western New South Wales has been recorded and the supposition made that observations at suitable inland habitats by competent observers would reveal this bird as a more frequent visitor than thought at present. A further record of a single bird in winter plumage at Holland's Lake, Dareton, on September 19, 1958, supports that. The bird was in loose association with several Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*E. acuminata*) contrary to previous experience.

Holland's Lake is in fact three lakes formed by excess water draining from Coomealla Irrigation Settlement. The first is permanent, the second and third coming or going according to the amount of water overflowing from it. At the time of the observation Lake 3 was just refilling after the season's first irrigation. The water was shallow and studded with small grass-covered islands. It was the flooded grassy areas that attracted the Pectoral Sandpiper, once again stressing such type of habitat as being the one favoured by this species. Although there can now be little doubt that this bird is a regular visitor, it is hoped that observers will not begin recklessly identifying any sandpiper seen at inland waters as the desired Pectoral. I would stress that from late August to date I have examined about 4,000 sandpipers in this part of New South Wales, and all, with this one exception, proved to be Sharp-tailed.

The fact that the bird was in winter plumage, showing no signs of summer or juvenile plumage (according to *The Handbook of British Birds*' descriptions and illustrations), at such an early date, may indicate it was a non-breeding bird which had not fully migrated to the northern breeding-grounds. Once, when flushed, it settled at the foot of a needlewood tree standing in the water and climbed up the trunk for some two feet.—J. N. HOBBS, Finley, N.S.W., 26/12/58.