

Later his surmise was confirmed, and in this case also there was but a single bird.

During the evening of June 1, radio news announced that nine White Ibis had come into a marsh at Westbury, a few miles inland from the coast in northern Tasmania. Two of these had been trapped by a local man, who maintained a small zoo, and were then in his aviary.

The following day a report was received that seven more were feeding on a marsh near Latrobe.

It is likely that the birds crossed Bass Strait in a single entity rather than as strays or individually, since they all appeared on the same date, May 30. This is an interesting aspect, because there was no strong north-westerly wind blowing then; in fact, the wind was from the south-west and snow lay on the heights. We have been inclined to attribute the presence of 'accidental visitors' in the past to their having drifted or been storm-blown in strong winds across the 200 miles of water that divides Tasmania from the Australian mainland, whence they undoubtedly come. In this case, the crossing must have been undertaken with deliberate intent, made necessary by the drying out of watered districts in other States.

On June 3 it was reported to the office of *The Advocate*, a Burnie newspaper, that a flock of some 50 birds was feeding on the golf links at Seabrook, which is between Burnie and Wynyard on the north-west coast. They had arrived a few days earlier. Reports of the appearance of odd birds also came from Cressy and Somerset.

So, within a month, the Tasmanian avifaunal list was marked by the addition of at least two 'new' species. There may yet prove to have been three, for reports suggest that another visitor is the Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*), though I have been unable to confirm this by personal observation.

Mongolian Dotterels Wintering in Victoria.—The occurrence of Mongolian Dotterels (*Charadrius mongolus*) in southern Australia is of sufficient rarity to warrant remark. Therefore it is interesting to note that a flock of this species wintered on the Spit, Corio Bay, adjacent to the Werribee Farm, during 1955.

Three birds were seen in the area on March 6, 1955—Messrs. D. Dickson, W. R. Wheeler and Dr. D. L. Serventy being in the writer's party.

Thirteen birds were noted on April 30, 1956, one being in nuptial plumage.

Thereafter the species was recorded on May 15, July 9, August 7, September 24, October 16 and 30, the maximum number seen being fourteen.

Three Mongolian Dotterels were noted on a trip to Mud Island, Port Phillip Bay, January 29 to 31, 1955.—HOWARD JARMAN, Parkville, Vic., 10/4/57.