

BirdLife Australia Rarities Committee

Unusual Record Report Form

This form is intended to aid observers in the preparation of a submission for a major rarity in Australia. (It is not a mandatory requirement) Please complete all sections ensuring that you attach all relevant information including any digital images (email to tonyp@bigpond.net.au or andrew.silcocks@birdlife.org.au). Submissions to BARC should be submitted electronically wherever possible.

Full Name: David Harper	Office Use
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Species Name: Citrine Wagtail	Scientific Name: Motacilla citreola
Date(s) and time(s) of observation:	27/12/2018 15:45-18:00
How long did you watch the bird(s)?	@ 3 hours
First and last date of occurrence:	26/12/2018 - still present at time of submission
Distance to bird:	at times down to 2 metres

Site Location	Whyalla wetlands on the southern edge of Whyalla township South Australia on the northern most pond in the complex
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Habitat (describe habitat in which the bird was seen): Bird was foraging along the muddy edges of a reed fringed man made pond
Sighting conditions (weather, visibility, light conditions etc.): Weather was extremely hot and was 45 degrees celcius at the time of observation. Also very windy but light was good

To your knowledge, is the species seen frequently at this site? No, never recorded from here before. One previous record from South Australia in May 1987
Were other observers present Do any of the other observers disagree with your identification, if so, who? (please give names, addresses and phone numbers)? Others present: Sue Harper, Andy Walker, Colin Rogers, Stuart Hull. All agree 100% on identification
How confident are you of your identification? , e.g. 70%, 100%. If not 100%, why not? 100% confident in ID
Please confirm that you are willing for BARC to display your images (fully credited with your name) electronically YES or NO Yes no problem

Other details: e.g. Do you have historical and or anecdotal information/comments relating to the prior

occurrence/status of the species within or near this location?

Only previous record from South Australia was at Goolwa in May 1987. Only 4 accepted previous reports for the entire country prior to this submission

Physical Description of Bird - *Please describe only what you saw:* (1) No. of individuals present (living or dead); (2) age (adult, juvenile, immature) and sex; (3) size and shape; (4) plumage colour and pattern (including any details of moult); (5) colour of bill, eyes and legs/feet; (6) calls; (7) behaviour, movements, flight pattern, and anything else that might help to identify the bird e.g. feeding, interactions with other birds, describe where the bird was – on ground, in canopy, flying etc. Were comparisons made with other species?

Photographs accompanying this submission carry sufficient detail for a positive determination by the committee.

"Please insert extra page(s) for this section"

Please indicate other species with which you think it might be confused and how these were eliminated?

Possibly confused with Eastern Yellow Wagtail in basic plumage. Key identification feature separating from Eastern Yellow was the enclosed ear covert patch. The supercillium extends down and around to enclose the ear coverts. Also greyish crown and mantle differs from greenish colouration of Eastern Yellows that occur in our region. This bird appears to be a first winter plumaged individual with heavily worn retained juvenile remiges. Moulting has begun around the head and body feathers with a yellow/buff wash appearing around the head and in isolated patches on the underparts

Was the description written from memory? Photographs sufficient for a positive identification

Were photographs taken? (please include where possible)

Yes. Key identifying photographs are attached to this submission

What experience have you had with the species in question? (Did you know it was a Rare bird when you first saw it?)

Have seen numerous individuals of this species in India in 2016 but all were either adult winter or advanced first winter plumaged birds. Was immediately aware of its rarity in Australia

Name: David Harper

Email Address: grasswren@hotmail.com

Please email all material



IMG_3814. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3818. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3840. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3846. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3850. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3861. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3868. Photo by David Harper



IMG_3870. Photo by David Harper