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THE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
ORNITHOLOGIST,

A Magazine of Ornithology.

1st JANUARY, 1921.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.

A. G. EDQUIST

S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.,

Price, 2/-



THE  
South Australian  
ORNITHOLOGIST.

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —  
South Australian Ornithologist.

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VOL. VI.]

1st JANUARY, 1921.

[PART I.

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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

October 1st. Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

The alleged fruit-eating habit of the goldfinch was discussed. The members considered that this bird is harmful to the smaller fruits, such as cherries, strawberries and paper shell almonds, but have no evidence of its being destructive to the larger fruits.

Captain White called attention to the fact that the roosting of the landrails in trees was reported by Mr. A. Crompton at a meeting held on the 31st August, 1918, so that a record had already been made of this unusual habit.

Captain White reported that Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, New South Wales, had very generously given some sets of eggs and promised to send on many more towards an egg collection for this Association. A resolution was passed heartily thanking Mr. White for his valuable gift, and suggested that with his permission the gift be called the "H. L. White Collection."

By request of the Association, Captain White consented to act as curator of the collection for the time being.

The question of securing a suitable cabinet for the collection was discussed, and it was decided to invite subscriptions from the members towards this fund.

Mr. R. Beck reported having seen a crow at Seaton flying very high and going towards the North, chased by magpies. This bird is becoming very scarce near the city.

Mr. A. Crompton heard a Pallid Cuckoo calling on the 29th of August, and Captain White remarked that this Cuckoo

is very scarce for this time of the year, when usually it is very plentiful.

Captain White stated that Screech Owls were nesting at the Reedbeds and that the Blue Wrens had already brought out a brood. He also tabled a fine specimen of *Coracina robusta mentalis*, taken at the Reedbeds.

Although South Australia was quoted by Mathews as the type locality very few South Australian specimens were in collections, and this skin was secured for that purpose.

Birds for discussion for the evening were Bristle Birds, specimens of which were tabled from the collections of the S. A. Museum, Captain White and Mr. J. W. Mellor. Upon comparison of the skins of *Sphenura broadbenti* it was noted that the Coorong bird was lighter in colouration than that from Robe, which in turn was slightly lighter than the Victorian form.

Dr. Morgan said the species was plentiful on the sand dunes near the coastline from the Murray mouth to Geelong, Victoria, and can often be heard from the hotel at Beachport.

Captain White had seen one of these birds enter a bush, but was unable to locate it until he noticed its tracks leading into a rabbit warren under the bush. He closed the mouth of the hole for the night, but the bird was still alive in the morning, having made no attempt to scratch its way out.

Specimens of *Sphenura brachyptera* were also examined, and it was pointed out that this species had only two bristles on each side of the bill, whereas *Sphenura broadbenti* had four or more.

Captain White considered that the bristles were used by the bird to guide insects into its mouth.

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October 29th. Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

A letter was received from the Secretary to the Minister of Industry expressing the Minister's appreciation of the valuable report furnished by the Association in reference to the fruit-eating habits of the Goldfinch.

Dr. William Ray, of Angas Street, was nominated for membership.

Dr. Morgan exhibited a photograph of a Coot nesting at the Botanic Gardens, and two photos of the nests of the White-headed Stilt taken on the Adelaide Plains.

Mr. Parsons showed a photograph of a cluster of forty-two nests of the Fairy Martin, built on the trunk of a gum tree, South Queensland.

He also reported having seen *Hylacola cauta* near Mount Lofty. This bird was reported some years ago by Mr. F. R. Zietz from Black Hill at the entrance of the Fifth Creek Gully.

Professor J. B. Cleland commented on the increase of Willie Wagtails (*Leucocirca tricolor*) in Adelaide and suburbs of late years. In the nineties, these birds were uncommon in the suburbs. Now many gardens have a pair, and the birds may frequently be heard singing at night.

At about 10 p.m. on September 15th last, a clear starlight night with no moon, no less than three were heard in the distance of about two and a half miles, between Hindmarsh Square, Adelaide (where the first was heard), and Fullarton.

Do both sexes sing at night? Is night singing only associated with the nesting season? Do the birds rival each other as roosters do?

He also exhibited a nest of *Morganornis superciliosus*, found at Clarendon on October 13. The interior, as well as the entrance, had been lined with grass, and interwoven in the entrance were three Spider Orchids (*Caladenia dilatata*), a number of white Everlastings (*Helichrysum Baxteri*), and two flower heads of a brownish rush-like plant (*Luzula campestris*). Marks of the bird's bill were recognisable on the stems where these had been bruised in picking off the flowers. There seems to be no doubt that the flowers were used for decorative purposes. Moreover, the birds had exhibited undoubted predilection for certain flowers; the white Everlastings were numerous, but the Spider Orchids (yellow to brownish with a purple patch on the labellum) were relatively few and scattered, and much less numerous than a striking blue orchid which had not been gathered. The rush also, was inconspicuous and not very abundant. The birds seem to prefer yellowish brown and white. The nest was untenanted, but the flowers were fresh, having been probably gathered that morning or perhaps the evening before. Professor Cleland acknowledged his indebtedness to Mr. J. M. Black and Dr. Rogers for identification of plants.

Dr. Morgan suggested that an old Babbler's nest had been taken possession of by Spotted-sided Finches.

Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited a number of bird skins from the S.A. Museum collection, comprising Birds of Paradise and

other bright plumaged birds from New Guinea, a series of Sun Birds, including the only Australian species, and the skin of an adult male of the Sonnerat's Jungle Fowl from Ceylon, which is believed to be one of the ancestors of the Domestic Fowl.

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November 29th. Mr. Edwin Ashby presided.

Dr. William Ray, of Angas Street, was duly elected a member, and Dr. Hubert Jay, of Kensington Park, was nominated for membership.

Dr. Morgan exhibited a photograph of a nest of the Black Throated Grebe, taken at Morphettville, on a small overflow of the Sturt. The nest contained the second brood for this season. The Doctor related an amusing incident in connection with a previous attempt to photograph the same nest. When focussing, with his head under the hood, a quantity of half digested fish and other food landed on his neck, and on looking about to ascertain the cause he discovered a nest with three young herons immediately overhead. The food had been vomited by these birds.

In the same tree a nest of the Murray Magpie was noted.

Dr. Morgan also stated that Moorhens (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) were about in the same locality, and although no nests were seen he felt sure that these birds were nesting there.

Mr. K. Ashby reported a nest of the Mistletoe Bird in an apple tree at Blackwood, in the same spot as last year.

The nest was composed very largely of the sawdust-like material cast out by borers in the wattle trees. This same habit had been previously noted by Mr. Ashby.

Mr. Zietz stated that he had been informed that a pair of Galahs had been observed at Mylor during the last week in October.

The main business of the evening was an account by Mr. F. E. Parsons of a trip by motor car from Hergott through to Queensland. The birds met with were described, and a fine collection of skins was exhibited. A full report of the trip is published in this number.

Mr. Parsons was congratulated upon his extremely valuable records and a hearty vote of thanks was accorded for the very interesting evening.

In view of the Christmas holidays, it was decided to hold the next meeting at the residence of the President, "Witunga" Blackwood, on December 18th.

## Order Passeriformes, Family Meliphagidæ, Genus Meliphaga.

*Meliphaga sonora* (Singing Honey-eater)—Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has divided this species into eight sub-species.

Description—All under surface, light grey, a light brown stripe down the centre of each feather on the breast; top of the head and all the upper surface, greenish grey; a broad black line passing from the base of the bill through the eye, on to the neck, almost to the shoulder; ear-coverts and a line passing under the eye, bright yellow; wings, brown, external margins, yellowish green; tail, brown, each feather margined with greenish yellow; bill, black; feet, slaty grey to brown.

Distribution—Almost over the whole of Australia and adjacent islands, the coastal belts of Queensland being the only locality which it does not seem to favour.

Habitat—It seems to frequent all kinds of situations, the low scrub along the seashore, the ranges with large timber, and the mulga covered plains, of the interior.

Habits—Often a shy bird, keeping to the thick undergrowth, yet at times it will become quite inquisitive, and is very pugnacious at nesting time, attacking any bird which approaches its nest. It is often seen upon the ground in search of insects, and it will also catch much of its insect diet upon the wing.

Flight—Not long sustained, fitful, and at times, erratic.

Note—Although loud, very full and musical.

Food—Insects, honey, and at times, berries and seeds.

Nesting Season—Varies much according to locality; they are very erratic breeders in the interior, but on the coastline the breeding season is generally from August to November.

Nest sometimes placed in an upright fork, at others in an overhanging branch composed of small twigs and rootlets, bound together with cobwebs and spider cocoons; at times the wooly flowerheads are used.

Clutch—One to three.

Average measurement of 10 eggs—2.36 c.m. x 1.68 c.m.; largest egg, 2.30 c.m. x 1.70 c.m.; smallest egg, 2.15 c.m. x 1.65 c.m.

## Description of New Wren.

By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U.

Eyre Peninsula Chestnut-shouldered Wren (*Leggeornis lamberti eyrei*) Sub-Sp. Nov. (Mellor).

Type locality—Warunda Creek, Eyre Peninsula, S.A. 11th October, 1909.

This recording of a new wren for Eyre Peninsula, S.A., is but an illustration of the absolute necessity of securing specimens for comparison from different districts, and not trusting to the eyesight while the birds are "on the wing." The species under consideration has been erroneously set down by Mr. Robert Hall as *M. lamberti assimilis* in his list of birds identified on Eyre Peninsula during the camp-out at Warunda Creek, in connection with the 9th Congress of the Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, October, 1909, the identification having been hurriedly made from an immature male. But in a recent and more careful examination of two males secured by me on that occasion, and on comparison with other members of the *Maluri*, I find that the Eyre Peninsula bird is quite different from other species, it appearing to be a connecting link between *Leggeornis lamberti assimilis*, of South Australia, and *Leggeornis elegans* of Western Australia, inasmuch as the upper surface corresponds exactly with the former, and the under surface with the latter species, the distinguishing part being the throat and chest, which, instead of being black as in *Leggeornis lamberti assimilis*, has a decided dark blue tinge over the feathers. This is seen to advantage when held in certain lights, it being more nearly allied to *lamberti*. I propose the sub-specific name of *Leggeornis lamberti eyrei*. It is a fine, robust bird, the measurements in inches of the type specimen, which is in my collection, being—Total length, 5.56; Tail, 2.73; Wing, 1.91; Bill, 0.40; Tarsus, .85.

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## Bird Notes from the Lake Frome District of South Australia.

—By J. Neil McGillp, R.A.O.U.—

On the 24th July, 1920, I visited Moolawatana Station, situated on the North-western shores of Lake Frome. This lake is a large salt-basin, and only contains water after very heavy rain, but at the time of my visit had been dry for three years,

A severe drought had raged over this district for almost two years, and many of our birds had sought new feeding grounds, but after fairly good rains in June, quite a number of our friends were finding "home the best place." Upon my arrival, I found that several of the migratory species had already arrived. Of course, a stray bird or two of the species, is often seen throughout the year, but about June and July they come along in numbers to pass southwards, after a short stay with us. The Pallid Cuckoo, Narrow-billed Cuckoo, Black-faced Graucalus, and White-shouldered Caterpillar Eater (in full plumage), seemed quite at home in the large gum creek in front of our homestead—the first time I "worked" the creek.

On the 28th July, I noticed a small flock of Masked Wood Swallows, but although these increased in numbers daily, it was not until the 14th August that I saw some White-Browed Wood Swallows in company with newly arrived Masked species. This year these splendid creatures came along from due north, where as last year, they came from the North-east direction. Not a single representative of the Sordid Wood Swallow was noted. The Black Faced, and White Rumped species are with us all the year, the latter being in very small numbers along the bore streams.

On the 7th August, the first Red-backed Kingfisher was noted, and several more had arrived by the 24th August—the date of my departure from the district.

I am surprised that the Bee-eater had not put in an appearance, for it is generally with us by the first week in July, often remaining to breed in tunnels in the gently rising ground along banks of the creek.

The Accipiter family, is much later than usual in attending to nesting, the only exception being the little Nankeen Kestrel. This family is not nearly as well represented as in most years.

I found a beautifully constructed nest of the *Leggornis lamberti assimilis* (Purple-backed Wren). It was made solely of the inner bark of the Titree, which had been worked down into soft long strips, and woven together very strongly. This was snugly lined with rabbit fur, camel hair, and fine soft feathers. The nest was unusually small, but compactly made, measuring just less than 4½ inches in height, and 2½ inches in width, the entrance measuring exactly one inch. It was placed amid fallen brushwood (dry) only 9 inches clear of the ground, and completely hidden from view. The mouse-like movements of the female as she left the pile of brushwood, and the alarmed actions and notes of the beautiful male bird, caused me to hunt carefully for the nest. It contained four fresh eggs.

The following birds were noted breeding, or attending to building operations, eggs, or young—

- Ocyphaps lophotes*.—Crested Pigeon.  
*Peltohyas australis*.—Aust. Dotterel.  
*Cerchneis cenchroides*.—Nankeen Kestrel.  
*Ducorpiis gymnopsis*.—Bare-eyed Cockatoo.  
*Eolophus roseicapillus*.—Rose-breasted Cockatoo (Galah).  
*Hirundo neorena*.—Welcome Swallow.  
*Hylchelidon nigricans calayi*.—Tree Swallow.  
*Cheramocca leucosternum stonei*.—Sand Martin.  
*Whiteornis goodenorii*.—Red-capped Robin.  
*Smicromis brevirostris viridescens*.—Greenish Tree Tit.  
*Lewinornis ruficentris naudae*.—Rufous-breasted Whistler.
- Cinclosoma castanotum*.—Chestnut-backed Ground Bird.  
*Samuelia cinnamomea*.—Cinnamon Ground Bird.  
*Morganornis superciliosus*.—White-browed Babbler.  
*Pomatostomus ruficeps*.—Chestnut-crowned Babbler.  
*Aurephianura aurifrons*.—Orange-fronted Chat.  
*Ashbyia loxensis*.—Desert Chat.  
*Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni*.—Red-rumped Tit.  
*Geobasilus chrysorrhous addendus*.—Yellow-rumped Tit.  
*Hallornis cyanotus*.—White-winged Wren.  
*Leggornis lamberti assimilis*.—Purple-backed Wren.  
*Colluricincla rufiventris*.—Buff-bellied Shrike Thrush.  
*Gymnorhina tibicen*.—Black-backed Magpie.  
*Aphelocephala leucopsis whitei*.—Whiteface.  
*Pardalalinus striatus ornatus*.—Red-tipped Pardalote.  
*Myzantha flaviquila*.—Yellow-throated Minah.  
*Anthus australis adelaidensis*.—Pipit.  
*Corvus coronoides*.—Australian Raven.  
*Corvus bennetti*.—Bennett's Small-billed Crow.

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## Notes on a Motor Trip from Adelaide to Western Queensland.

—By F. E. Parsons, R.A.O.U.—

I have always had a desire to traverse the country into the central portion of our continent, so was very pleased when the opportunity offered to accompany Mr. Stan Sinclair, of Sinclair, Scott & Co., station owners, on a business trip which took us well into Queensland. The trip occupied just seven weeks,

and was at a time when the vast inland plains never looked better, the country having been blessed with copious rains which caused the herbage to quickly respond, and the whole countryside was beautifully green with either waving fields of cane grass or varying kinds of saltbush.

We left Adelaide by motor on August 21st, 1920, and motored up the northern line to Hawker. Here we put the car on a truck and trucked it to Hergott Springs, because the road from Hawker to Hergott was badly cut about by washouts, caused by the heavy rains. A day was spent at Hergott in getting supplies and packing our load securely, and I managed to get out for about two hours for a walk in a direction due east from the town. I had barely left the station yard before a strange note arrested my attention. It was a low, sweet monotone whistle, repeated about eight or ten times in quick succession, and although the whistling continued close to me, yet I could see no bird. I was on an almost bare, inhospitable, stony plain, and it was quite five minutes before I was able to locate the little bird, standing with its back to me, which so well harmonised with the stones that but for its moving a few feet, I should never have seen it. It was my first glimpse of a living desert chat. These birds were afterwards constantly met with on all the stony patches right from Hergott Springs in South Australia, to well over the tropic in Queensland, but always singly or in pairs. They do not group together in the way that the *Epthianura* do. The desert chats were nesting. Three nests were noticed, each containing three young birds.

I walked as far as the Frome River, which was quite dry, but the bed of the river could be traced by the larger bushes and scattered trees. Here an *Amytis* was flushed, probably *Amytis goydcri*, it being very plainly marked, and with a short, thick bill. There were many nests of the short-billed crow, containing five, and in one case, six eggs. A Brown Hawk flew from a nest which was lined with green leaves, but contained no eggs. The pale form of the Greenie (*Ptilotis penicillata leilaralensis*) and the White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater were much in evidence.

Next morning, August 27th, we started in earnest on our long tour, taking the Birdsville track, past the date plantation at Lake Harry, which I was told was bearing good fruit, and went on to Dulkaninna Station, which is owned by Sinclair, Scott & Co., and used as a depot for storing fat cattle preparatory to trucking. Although it doesn't seem much to write that we went from Hergott to Dulkaninna, yet the distance was not so very easy to negotiate because the track in places was very

boggy, necessitating the use of chains on the wheels, and at times the shovel had to be resorted to.

A walk along the bore stream was full of interest, because it was lined with timber, and as very few trees grew away from the stream, the birds had congregated here for nesting. The bare-eyed cockatoos and rose-breasted gallahs were nesting freely. They didn't mind if the hollow was only a foot or 18 inches from the ground, so long as it was large enough to receive their white eggs. The red-browed pardalot was seen entering a spout, but had not completed its nest. Odd nests were noticed of the fork-tailed kite, containing two eggs.

The yellow minah had a nest with four eggs, and a pair of pied *Grallina* were rearing five chicks. A patch of reeds harboured several reed warblers, which appeared to be each trying to sing louder and sweeter than its neighbour, while white-headed stilts, with their pretty pink legs were wading in the shallows with a pair of black-fronted dotterel, darting after insects on the edge of the water, and a little distant was a pair of mountain duck. On returning to the homestead a little back from the bore stream, the desert chat was again met with, and a pair of Australian dotterel, while at any time a dozen fork-tailed kites could be counted hovering just overhead.

We followed the Birdsville track over the Cooper River, and in trying to cross the bore stream we got hopelessly bogged, the rear wheels and petrol tank going clean under the mud and slush. This meant three hours' hard work in building a small coffer dam and baling out the slush before we were safely across and on firm ground again. Cooper's Creek at this point, is thickly timbered with Coolibah, and although a sharp lookout was kept for the new sub-species of tree creeper that was collected from Cooper's Creek by Capt. S. A. White, nothing was seen or heard of it. Several red-backed grass parrots and blue-bonnets were noticed, and the bare-eyed cockatoos and rose-breasted cockatoos had taken possession of nearly all the suitable nesting hollows. Soon after leaving the Cooper's Creek we came into country that was flooded by the flood waters of the Diamantina, which forced us to leave the regular track and pick our way, making a big detour around the margin of the flood. While skirting this flooded country we came across a great number of Australian dotterel and Australian Pratincoles, and several fine pairs of the native companions were passed within about 30 yards of the car. They were not at all alarmed by the motor, and in most cases did not trouble to fly unless we

went too close to them, when they would go bounding over the ground with outstretched wings, bouncing like a rubber ball. Several wild turkeys were also seen; they likewise would not fly away, but would run to the nearest bush and squat under it. It was in this part that we saw the first emu on the trip. It was accompanied by seven or eight half-grown young birds. The Queensland border was crossed about 50 miles east of Birdsville. It was very noticeable that there were very many more kangaroos and emus on the Queensland side of the border fence. The emu is very inquisitive, and we found that if we pulled up the car they would run up to within a few yards of us and have a good look, then leisurely run off. Although ducks had been plentiful in S.A., yet on the swamps in Queensland we found them much more plentiful, and whereas those previously seen were either black duck or teal, the predominating species were now the plumed whistling duck. We passed through Davenport Down Station. It was from here that Mr. H. L. White secured the eggs and skin of the letter-winged kites. We ascertained that the letter-winged kites had been seen a few days previous to our visit about 40 miles to the westward, but our time was limited, so we reluctantly had to pass on. At Diamantina Gates Station, which is just about on the tropic, we counted 30 kites, and estimated that they were about a third of the flock that were hovering just over the station buildings. Our tour extended close on to Winton, and the return journey covered pretty much the same route as the outward one, excepting that the country that was previously flooded by the Diamantina flood waters had quite dried up, so that after striking the main track at about Clifton Hills, we were able to keep to the track all the way to Hergott, where we left the motor and returned to Adelaide by train. The speedometer registered 1,665 miles on our trip.

So that the route might be readily followed on a map, the stations passed through are given in their order—

#### South Australia.

Maree (Hergott)	Mira Mitta
Lake Harry	Mt. Gason
The Clayton	Goyder's Lagoon
Dulkaninna	Clifton Hills
Etadinna	Apperamanna
Kopperamanna	Miranda
New Well	Cadelga
Mulka	Queensland Border
Oorawilanie	

## Queensland.

Queensland Border	Palparara
Mt. Leonard	Davenport Downs
Daroo	Diamantina Gates
Toorajumpa	Mayne Hotel (at the Junction
Mooraberree	of Diamantina and the Mayne
Currawilla	Rivers).

## BIRDS SEEN DURING TRIP.

1. Emu (*Dromiccius novaehollandiac*)—Many birds seen, mostly in pairs, also saw several broods of young with old bird. They are very curious, and if the car is stopped will approach to within 20 yards. Many more birds seen in Queensland than in South Australia.

2. Little Quail (*Austrotornix velox*)—Only two or three birds seen.

3. Diamond Dove (*Stictopelia cuculata*)—Very common bird. Always present in low timber or bushes. Several nests noted.

4. Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)—Very common bird. Several nests with eggs noted. A favourite position for the nest is in a lignum.

5. Rock Pigeon (*Petrophassa rufipennis*)—Only one pair seen. They were at Tourajumper, Queensland. Very quiet, could get within five or six yards of them.

6. Black Moor Hen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*)—Common birds, in flocks, over lignum and cane grass swamps.

7. Bald Coot (*Porphyrio melanotus*)—Very few birds seen.

8. Black-throated Grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*)—Several pairs seen on water holes.

9. Crested Tern (*Thalasseus bergii*)—One bird seen flying at Miranda.

10. Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonyx cinctus*)—Often met with on the cane grass swamps.

11. Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyr novaehollandiae*)—About a dozen pairs noted. They frequent the bore drains.

12. Black-breasted Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*)—Only a few pairs noted.

13. Red-capped Dotterel (*Leucopoliis ruficapillus*)—These birds were often met with on the bare gibber plains. The only water for miles being a few shallow pools that formed after the last rain, and would be quite dry again a week after.

14. Black-fronted Dotterel (*Euseya melanops*)—A very common bird; several pairs could be seen on every waterhole.

15. Australian Dotterel (*Peltodytes australis*)—Very common. Eggs were found. Several times while on the track we disturbed covies of perhaps 20 or 30 birds. They run very quickly, and one has to walk briskly to keep up to them.

16. White-headed Stilts (*Himantopus leucocephalus*)—Often seen on swamps and bore drains.

17. Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*)—Very common. These birds run very rapidly over the ground. Generally met with in lots of six to 20 birds. No eggs were seen, although several times while motoring along birds would scatter away as if they had broken wings. Once saw two very little chicks.

18. Eastern Stone Curlew (*Burhinus magirostris*)—No birds were seen, but when camping out at night time they could often be heard.

19. Australian Bustard (*Austrotis australis*)—Wild Turkey)—Many birds were noted, especially in Queensland. On seeing the motor they would not fly, but would run a few yards and squat very low on the ground, allowing us to get within a few yards. Noticed that the great majority of birds were young, about two-thirds grown.

20. Native Companion (*Mathewsia rubicunda*)—These birds were met with all along the track, mostly in pairs. On approaching them in the motor they would spread their wings, stretch the neck with head very high and bound over the ground, resembling the bouncing of a rubber ball.

21. Straw-necked Ibis (*Carphibis spinicollis*)—Common on cane grass swamps.

22. Royal Spoonbill (*Spatherodia regia*)—Many birds seen. It was a pretty sight one morning on rising, just at daybreak, to see about 30 of these snow-white birds perched on a dead tree in the waterhole, about 60 yards away.

23. White-fronted Heron (*Myola pacifica*)—Seen on the bore drains.

24. Nankeen Night Heron (*Nycticorax caldonicus*)—Often disturbed during day from a thick tree on the waterhole.

25. Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*)—A few birds seen on a lake.

26. Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*)—Often seen on the bore drains in S.A. Always in pairs.

27. Maned Goose (*Chenonetta jubata*)—Only one pair seen on a waterhole at Mt. Leonard Station, Queensland.

28. Plumed Whistling Duck (*Leptotarsis eytoni*)—This was by far the commonest duck met with. The waterholes on

Mt. Leonard Station during the day time would be black with whistlers, but just at dusk they would leave the holes and scatter over the flooded country to feed, returning again in hundreds just at daybreak.

29. Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna javanica*)—A few of these birds were scattered amongst the plumed whistling ducks.

30. Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*)—Common on swamps. Many broods of ducklings seen on the small waterholes.

31. Grey Teal (*Nettion gibberifrons*)—Common on swamps, several nests found. Favourite position is at base of thick lignum bush. Great numbers of ducklings could be seen on all the swamps.

32. Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*)—A few odd pairs of birds seen on quiet waterholes. The unanimous opinion of the settlers is that this duck is the best of wild ducks for table purposes.

33. Pied Cormorant (*Hypoleucis varius*)—Only one pair of birds seen.

34. Australian Darter (*Anhinga noronchollandiac*)—A few birds met with.

35. Pelican (*Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus*)—Often seen on the waterholes.

36. Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*)—These birds were scarce. Two or three of their large nests were seen. In one of them were two eaglets almost ready to leave the nest.

37. Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*)—Sparsely distributed. Always selected the highest trees in the vicinity for nesting. Nest contained two eggs.

38. Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*)—A common bird, always about the station, but flies at a higher altitude than the kites.

39. Fork-tailed Kite (*Milvus korschun*)—A very common bird. It would be very unusual not to be able to see one at any time of the day. They congregate about the station homesteads or drovers' camps. I counted 37 kites flying about Mt. Leonard Station homestead, and I know I missed some, and at Diamantina Gates homestead I counted 30 birds, and estimate that they were about one-third of the flock that were at that time flying about the station yards. They nest in the Coolebah Trees on the watercourses. Their nests are much larger than the Whistling Eagles. The usual clutch was two, but in one case I found three eggs.

40. Letter-winged Kite (*Elanus scriptus*)—On our way to Diamantina Gates we passed through Davenport. It was here

that Mr. Jackson secured the eggs of the letter-winged kite for Mr. H. L. White. The storekeeper informed me that a fortnight previously he had seen several birds about 45 miles west of the station house, and that they were always about that particular part, but our time was limited, and precluded us from going after them.

41. Black-cheeked Falcon (*Rhynchodon peregrinus*)—A few birds seen.

42. Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*)—A few birds noted, but is more common than 41.

43. Brown Hawk (*Accipiter berigora*)—A common bird; several nests with three eggs noted.

44. Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*)—Many pairs of Kestrel were seen, and two nests found, each containing five eggs. Both of these nests appeared to have been built by the Kestrels. Previous to this I have always found that the bird uses a deserted crow's nest or takes a hollow or ledge of rock.

45. Banksian Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*)—Flocks of 40 or 50 birds were at three large waterholes on Mt. Leonard Station. At Currawilla I found a nest about 20 yards from the blacksmith's shop, containing one well-fledged young bird.

46. Pink Cockatoo (*Lophochroa leadbeateri*)—A few odd birds noted.

47. Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*)—These birds were about the watercourses in great numbers, and many nesting hollows were inspected, but in no case was more than three eggs found.

48. Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*Ducorpsius gymnopsis*)—This bird was as common as the previous one. The majority of nesting hollows could be reached from the ground, several contained four eggs, but mostly three.

49. Cockatoo Parrot (*Leptolophus auricomis*)—A few birds seen at Diamantina Gates (Queensland), and about 30 birds at Apermanner, S.A.

50. Blue Bonnet (*Northiella haematogaster*)—The only birds of this species met with were among the trees growing in the bed of Cooper's Creek.

51. Shell Parrot (*Melopsittacus undulatus*)—The commonest bird met with on the trip; flocks of them were always flying about, and scores of nesting places were seen. A favourite place is in hollow fence posts.

52. Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*)—Met with among the gums lining the large waterhole at Currawilla,

53. Owlet Nightjar (*Aegotheles cristata*)—A few birds were flushed from hollow spouts. They are a very light grey colour.

54. Red-backed Kingfisher (*Cyanalecyon pyrrhopygius*)—Several solitary birds were seen, generally perched on the top of a dry tree.

55. Australian Bee-eater (*Cosmacrops ornatus*)—Often met with. These birds prefer perching on a dry tree to a bush or green tree.

56. Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*)—Only one or two birds noted.

57. Narrow-billed Cuckoo (*Neochalcites basalis*)—Several birds seen and heard.

58. Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)—Birds met with occasionally along the route, and a few nests noted on rafters of the station buildings.

59. White-backed Swallow (*Cheramocca leucosternum*)—Not many birds noticed.

60. Tree Martin (*Hyllochelidon nigricans*)—A common bird.

61. Fairy Martin (*Lagenoplastes ariel*)—In thousands. Nests were built in clusters under lowest limbs of the trees. As many as 40 nests clustered together under one limb.

62. Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascians*)—Birds observed wherever there was timber.

63. Red-capped Robin (*Whiteornis goodenovii*)—Very few noted.

64. Short-billed Tree Tit (*Smicrornis brevirostris*)—Fairly common in the timber. One nest found just ready for eggs.

65. Black-and-white Fantail (*Leucocirca tricolor*)—Several of their pretty nests found.

66. Ground Cuckoo Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*)—Two or three pairs seen, and one nest found, containing large young birds.

67. Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*)—Not common: very few birds seen.

68. White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater (*Lalage tricolor*)—A very common bird, met with wherever there was any timber, but no nests were found.

69. Cinnamon Ground Bird (*Samuela cinnamomea*)—Often met with among the bushes. It prefers spinifex, sandy country.

70. Chestnut-backed Ground Bird (*Cinclosoma castanotum*)—A ground bird, evidently this species was often observed.

but no skin was collected. It appeared to be a very small subspecies.

71. White-browed Babbler (*Morganornis superciliosus*)—Very few of these birds were noticed.

72. Chestnut-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus ruficeps*)—Seen at Cooper's Creek.

73. Desert Wren (*Calamanthus campestris isabellinus*)—Only saw a few birds in the bed of the Frome at Maree.

74. Brown Song Lark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*)—A few birds noted on the plain.

75. Rufous Song Lark (*Ptenocdus matthewsi*)—A common bird among the grass in flooded country.

76. Tricolored Chat (*Parephthianura tricolor*)—Only four or five pairs seen.

77. Orange-fronted Chat (*Aurephthianura aurifrons*)—A very common bird. All the way from Maree, S.A., to Mayne, Queensland, many nests were found, some of them with four eggs.

78. Desert Chat (*Ashbyia lovensis*)—Met with on all the open Gibber plains. It is a very quiet bird. One of its calls is a low monotone, repeated about ten times in quick succession. It is a hard bird to detect, its colour harmonising so well with its surroundings. Three nests were seen, each containing young birds.

79. Reed Warbler (*Conopodera australis*)—Always to be heard whenever the bore drains were lined with reeds.

80. Thin-billed Tit (*Acanthiza iredalei morgani*)—Often met with in the saltbush.

81. Yellow-rumped Tit (*Geobasilus chrysorrhous*)—Very few of these birds were noted. They were a very pale variety.

82. White-winged Wren (*Hallornis cyanotus*)—This little gem was always present in the larger saltbushes, several nests were found.

83. Purple-backed Wren (*Leggeornis lamberti*)—I could detect practically no difference in birds from Hergott Springs and those from Mayne, in Queensland.

84. White-rumped Wood Swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)—A few isolated pairs were observed at waterholes. One nest was found, containing four eggs. The nest was constructed of fine grass, similar to the other varieties of wood swallows, but was built on top of a deserted nest, resembling a thrush's.

85. Masked Wood Swallow (*Campbellornis personatus*)—Were never seen in any numbers. Several nests were found on top of fence posts.

86. Sordid Wood Swallow (*Pseudurtamus cyanoleuca*)—Odd birds seen.

87. Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*)—A common bird near water. Several of their mud nests were seen, in two cases containing five eggs each.

88. Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)—This was the only variety of magpie seen. Many nests were found, and as a rule contained either four eggs or four young.

89. Bell Bird (*Orcoica cristata*)—Often noticed running under the larger bushes.

90. Black-banded White-face (*Aphelocephala nigricincta*)—A common bird in the larger bushes. Many nests were seen.

91. Brown Tree-creeper (*Necoclima picumna*)—This was the only species of tree-creeper observed.

92. Silver Eye (*Zosterops lateralis*)—No specimen was collected, but the birds often met with.

93. Red-browed Pardalote (*Pardalotus rubricatus*)—These birds were often noted from Hergott to Mayne. No eggs were found, but several nests were being built.

94. Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotinus striatus*)—Only seen close to Hergott; their place was filled as we proceeded north by No. 93.

95. Black Honey-eater (*Cissomela nigra*)—About half a dozen birds were noted.

96. White-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotula penicillata leilavalensis*)—I was surprised at the paucity of Honey-eaters. This particular species was common, but apart from this we saw very few Honey-eaters.

97. Yellow-throated Minah (*Myzanthu flavigula*)—Not a great number were seen. Several nests found.

98. Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater (*Acanthogenys rufogularis*)—A few birds seen or heard whistling.

99. Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*)—Always present on the grassy plains.

100. Bush Lark (*Mirafra javanica*)—A very common bird on the grassy downs.

101. Chestnut-eared Finch (*Tacniopygia castanotis*)—About the commonest bird met with; they were all busy with their nesting.

102. Short-billed Crow (*Corvus bennetti*)—A very common bird. Their nests were everywhere seen, and as often contained six eggs as five. This bird mingled with No. 103 about the homesteads, where you could approach them very closely, provided you walked about as if you were not heeding them.

103. Queensland Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*)—Very common about the homesteads, where they are always on the lookout for scraps.

## Bird Notes.

### BIRD NOTES FOR AUGUST, 1920.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, states—August 2nd: White-fronted Heron carrying nesting material to large gumtrees where these birds had nested for some years past, probably they carry the material to construct their nests from the feeding swamp some miles distant.

A pair of Black-breasted Plovers, on the 2nd of August, showed signs of having a nest, for they would swoop down close to one's head; upon investigating, three young birds were found. The Plover attacked magpies which came near their nesting place.

A pair of Wagtails made up their minds to nest on a bough close to the house, a site they had occupied several times previously. They kept about the spot from August 2nd till the 9th, when they began to collect cobwebs and started their nest. Stormy weather then set in, and they ceased building, and when the weather became fine again the birds removed the nesting material from the bough mentioned, and began to re-build on a bough at the other side of the tree; rough weather again set in and building operations were suspended. When the fine weather followed the birds changed their mind, and on August 20th removed the foundations of their nest to the limb which they had first selected, and went on with the nest, it being nearly completed on the 27th of August, the birds sitting in the nest to give it its roundness.

August 7th: A Rufous-breasted Thickhead was searching amongst the foliage of a blue gum for insect life; on the same day was noted a Striated Diamond Bird in the gum trees—several of these birds seen of late.

A White-backed Magpie has placed its nest on an arm-like bough of a Norfolk Island pine, a most inaccessible place. A pair of Noisy Minahs have a nest in a gum close by, and come into conflict with the Magpies at times.

Chestnut-eared Finches are still about in the boxthorn, and are occupying the old straw nests as roosting places during the cold, wet and stormy nights.

Boobook Owls have been exceedingly noisy this month (August). One will start calling near the home, and will be answered by another in the distant paddock.

The Screech, or Delicate Owl, is also present in fair numbers. When felling an old blue gum this month, a large hollow was found, in which many pellets were discovered; an owl had apparently lived in the hollow for years.

Frontal Shrike Tits have been very busy all the month moving about in the tree tops and calling loudly, apparently seeking a nesting site, but no nest has yet come under notice.

Mr. E. Ashby reports from Blackwood, August 9th—Four Swift-flying Parrots resting in peppermint trees south of railway line.

August 12th—At the same place, were seen four feeding, taking honey from blue-gum flowers and seed from peppermint gums.

Tintac (*Epthianura albifrons*) sitting on three eggs. Pallid Cuckoo calling continuously, and on the succeeding days Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo also calling.

Capt. S. A. White, on the Adelaide plains at the Reedbeds, records—

August 2nd—A specimen of the so-called Southern Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina mentalis*) put in an appearance.

August 3rd—This bird was calling loudly and hunting amongst the gum branches and foliage for food.

August 9th—This Cuckoo-Shrike observed hovering over the flood-waters and picking up insects from the surface, also from the top of partly submerged grass.

August 4th—White-fronted Herons (*Notophonyx noronhaiensis*)—Calling in their deep, harsh voice and flying about, in what seems to us an aimless way, but no doubt they have a reason for this strange flight.

August 11th—Great numbers of Silver Gulls round the edge of the flood waters in the paddocks.

August 11th—First Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*) calling. *Coracina mentalis* hovering over grass from the tops of which it was capturing insects; this was in the paddocks lately submerged by flood waters.

August 12—*Coracina mentalis* in gum trees, searching along the limbs and in the foliage for food. Having this bird under observation for some time and not seeing another bird, took it as a record, this being necessary, as doubts have been expressed of its occurrence. As far as I know, this is the third visit of this species to the Reedbeds.

Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Neochalcites basalis*) calling loudly. *Microeca fascians* singing very much, and will soon nest. Numbers of White-fronted Herons flying round and making much noise.

August 13—Palid Cuckoo heard calling; this was the last occasion upon which it was heard, and seems to be the only one to have visited the district this season.

August 23—Yellow-breasted Thickhead in the garden calling occasionally.

#### NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER, 1920.

Captain S. A. White reports—

September 1—Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) about for some time.

September 4th—Rosella (*Platycercus eximius*) in a small party in the district for some time.

Two Spine-tailed Swifts (*Chaactura caudacuta*) seen travelling south; this is the first time these birds have been seen in South Australia by the writer.

September 10th—Eight Swans on the swamps. Two Rose-breasted Cockatoos (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) flying round amongst the timber, looking for a nesting site.

September 20th—Wren's nest (*Malurus cyaneus*), with three young.

September 22nd—Wrens left nest. Nest of *Meliornis novaehollandiac*, in standard rosebush, three eggs. Rose-breasted Cockatoos still about. Three of the *Platycercus eximius* still remaining.

September 29th—Boys from Henley Beach took two young Frogmouths (*Podargus strigoides*) for which they received a flogging.

Mr. J. W. Mellor says—

The Wagtails finished their nest, on August 29th laid first egg, on 31st second egg, on September 1st the third, and then began to sit closely, the male and female taking turn about, one bird never leaving the nest till the other was ready to get on.

September 15th—The three young hatched out, great numbers of insects were brought to feed the young birds, showing the great good these birds do. On September 30, in the morning, the young left the nest. Another pair of these birds are sitting on three eggs in another locality.

A clutch of two Welcome Swallows hatched out during the first week of the month have flown. Immediately the young left the nest, fresh feathers were added, and by September 24 two eggs were laid. On September 23, the young of the White-backed Magpie came from the nest, and not being able to fly well, perched in the boxthorn bushes.

A pair of Murray Magpies built their mud nest in a gum near the house early in the month, and they have three young now, which both birds help to feed. Both assisted in the incubation of the eggs.

Noisy Minahs brought out young during the month, the old birds are to be seen carrying insect food to the young.

The pair of Laughing Jacks which have been with us for so long began to look out their nesting site; they again renewed their efforts to make an entrance into the roof, through the rough plaster at one of the gables, but the strong netting at the back of the plaster has prevented them; they tried to make an entrance into a gum tree at a growth crack, but, after vigorous pecking with their strong bills, have given up the task. A Boobook Owl has been calling throughout the month at night time. A pair of Frontal Shrike Tits have been much in evidence, but do not seem to have settled upon their building site yet.

A pair of Harmonious Shrike Thrushes have been about for some time, but there is only one now, and from his constant whistling no doubt his mate is sitting, and I believe their nest to be in the dense, prickly pears.

#### NOTES FOR OCTOBER, 1920.

Mr. J. Sutton, Netherby, states—

Willie Wagtail, with three young, seen for the first fortnight in October in the garden, the young being fed by both parent birds.

October 23—In the rain about 5 p.m., a male and female Scarlet-breasted Robin were seen, after a lapse of some months.

October 28th and 29th—Black-chinned Honey-eater heard calling.

The Fairy Martins noted building in a small dry, water-course, finally left on October 2nd, after the nests had been broken down four times by boys between the 26th of September and October 2nd.

Mr. R. C. Beck, of the Grange, says—

October 5th—Three young Willie Wagtails left the nest, and within three weeks the nest was cleaned out and re-lined and the birds sitting again. The nest was most cunningly placed, being attached to the slender, weeping twigs of a pepper tree quite out of harm from cats.

Two pairs of Swallows each brought out three young, and have now hatched a second brood.

October 16—Quail heard calling. First Brown Song-Lark seen. Cuckoos very scarce this year; only observed one.

Capt. S. A. White states that on October 2nd First Rufous Song Lark (*Petenodius mathewsi*) put in an appearance; it only remained a few days, and disappeared. No others have been seen.

October 10th—A Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) put in an appearance; swallows with their young broods very excited.

#### NOTES FOR NOVEMBER, 1920.

Mr. J. W. Mellor writes—

November 22—Three young White-backed Magpies just out of nest and being fed by parent birds.

Numbers of Chestnut-eared Finches in the boxthorn, where they are breeding.

Willie Wagtail sitting on three eggs; this is the third clutch this season. Other pairs of these birds have been breeding in the district. Murray Magpies are also breeding.

Mr. R. C. Beck states that—

On November 3rd—Tree Swallows were in great numbers at Fulham.

Saw Starlings feeding young in nest with boxthorn berries, also at Fulham.

Small flock of Shell Parrots flying north.

Heard Quail calling several times at Seaton.

Wagtails have raised second brood of three.

Welcome Swallows second brood of four have flown.







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A. G. EDQUIST

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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

# South Australian Ornithologist.

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1st APRIL, 1921.

[PART 2.]

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—December 18th, 1920.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Dr. Hubert Jay, nominated at November meeting, was duly elected a member.

Mr. Mellor reported that Bronzewing Pigeons were being taken near Blackwood and sold in Adelaide. The vendor claimed that these had been bred in captivity. The Chairman said he did not know of anyone breeding these birds in numbers near Blackwood and suggested that all possible evidence be secured so that steps could be taken to prevent this infringement of the Birds Protection Act.

By the kind invitation of the President, members met at his residence "Wittunga," Blackwood, to inspect his collection of Humming Birds from America. Members spent an enjoyable afternoon in examining the varied plumage of these beautiful birds. Afternoon tea was kindly dispensed by Miss Ashby.

Mr. Mellor, on behalf of the Association, thanked Mr. and Miss Ashby for their kindness in giving members an instructive and pleasant outing.

—January 28th, 1921.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Captain S. A. White mentioned that Mr. H. L. White had sent along a second consignment of eggs. The Secretary was instructed to write and thank Mr. H. L. White.

Mr. F. Parsons reported that he, in company with the Secretary, had by kind invitation from Mrs. Angove seen the Dr. Angove Egg Collection. The collection was a fine one and in excellent condition.

Messrs. F. Parsons and J. N. McGilp were elected a committee to try and secure this collection for the Association.

Captain S. A. White said he thought the Association should record the good work that Mounted Constable McDonald had done in enforcing the Birds and Animal Act during his stay at Milang. M.C. McDonald has shown ability and energy in securing convictions against offenders of the law. The Secretary was instructed to write M.C. McDonald thanking him for his good work.

Captain S. A. White reported that he had just returned from Ooldea on Nullabor Plains. He noticed that Mr. A. S. LeSouef claims having observed the Chestnut-faced Owl, Black-backed Wren and Red Throat there, but although Captain White had visited the very blowhole that Mr. A. S. LeSouef had mentioned, he failed to secure the Chestnut-faced Owl. In his opinion the three above-mentioned birds do not inhabit this locality, and Mr. LeSouef was mistaken in his observations.

Mr. J. W. Mellor reported that the White-plumed Honey-eater (the common Greenie) was nesting at lockleys.

Mr. E. Ashby reported a similar occurrence at Blackwood.

Mr. F. R. Zietz said that a dead cockatoo had been brought to the museum. It appeared to be a cross between the Bare-eyed Cockatoo and the Galah or Rose-breasted Cockatoo. The skin is in the S.A. Museum collection.

Messrs. E. Ashby and J. W. Mellor gave an interesting lecture on the birds of the Ellenbrook, Geraldton, Dongara, and Murchison districts of West Australia. The skins shown were secured while the lecturers were over at the Royal Ornithological Union Congress, held in Perth in October and November, 1920.

Many interesting comparisons were made with skins that Mr. F. R. Zietz had brought along from the S.A. Museum.

Publications received—"Birds of the Americas" from the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A.

—February 25th, 1921.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Letters were received from the Institute of Science and Industry re suspension of their journal; from H. F. and G. Witherby re Manual of Australian Birds, by Mathews and Iredale; from Mr. A. G. Edquist, asking contributors to use italics for the Nomenclature of Birds in their M.S.S.

A number of coloured plates by Neville Caley were handed round for examination and admiration was generally expressed. These plates will form portion of Caley's "Birds of Australia."

The Forest League extended an invitation to members of this Association to attend a meeting to be held on March 2nd, 1921.

Publications received—Report of the Governors of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery of S.A.

Mr. Zietz mentioned that Dr. Pulleine had told him that two Dollar Birds had been seen flying over Netherby.

Mr. S. Sanders reported Swifts flying rapidly on 12th instant.

Dr. Jay mentioned that two or three Bronzewing Pigeons had been seen in his garden at Burnside.

Professor Cleland said that he had noticed a number of Grass Parrots on Wright Island, at first glance he thought they were *Neonanodes petrophilus*, on account of their feeding on seeds of the wild tobacco plant growing amongst the rocks on the island, but they were evidently *Neonanodes elegans*, as birds were seen to fly across from the mainland where the latter species was plentiful.

Mr. K. Ashby reported that the Singing Honeyeater and Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike were now at Blackwood. The Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike although destructive to the grape crop was doing much good by eating up the caterpillars and moths that fed on the broom bush.

Messrs. J. W. Mellor, K. Ashby, and R. Crompton all instanced the breeding of the White-plumed Honey-eater (Greenie) at Lockleys, Blackwood, and Burnside respectively.

The rest of the evening was taken up by Messrs. Ashby and Mellor, who continued their lecture on birds of West Australia. A number of fine skins were handed round and compared with skins from the S.A. Museum brought to the meeting by Mr. F. R. Zietz.

Amongst the skins was a fine specimen of the Alfred or Inconspicuous Honey-eater that Mr. Mellor secured on the trip. This was the first opportunity that members had had of seeing this rare Honey-eater and Mr. Mellor was congratulated on his good work in collecting it.

As time did not permit a full report on Birds of West Australia, Messrs. E. Ashby and Mellor were thanked for an interesting evening and asked to continue the lecture on some future evening.

Order Passeriformes, Family Meliphagidæ,  
Genus Acanthagenys, Gould.

*Acanthagenys rufogularis* (Gould) Spiney-checked Honey eater. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews has divided the species into four sub-species. There is no doubt the inland form is lighter in colouration than those found near the coast.

Description—Feathers of the head short, very square at the ends, and of a light grey with a dark stripe down the centre; back of neck, back and mantle, dark brown, each feather margined with light grey; upper tail coverts, almost white with a dark brown stripe down the centre; primaries dark brown, narrowly edged with yellowish grey; secondaries almost black edged and tipped with white; a black line passing from the bill through the eye to the ear coverts; bare space under the eye, pinkish flesh colour below which there is a tuft of white spines, part of these strange spines are tinged with bright yellow; base of bill, soft and fleshy and of a bright pink colour; tip of bill, black; throat, rufous, with a black line down each side; breast, yellowish white, a broad stripe of dark brown down each feather, giving it a mottled appearance; tail, brown, tipped with white; under tail coverts, white with a long narrow strip of dark brown down the centre; iris, bluish; feet, greenish yellow.

Distribution—A wide distribution over the whole of the interior and from New South Wales across to Western Australia. It is really a dry country bird, but at times it is found right on the seacoast, where the rainfall is heavy.

Habitat—Frequents all classes of country from the big gum country to the low bush on the seashore.

Habits—A strange bird darting about in a most erratic manner, and often seen hawking for insects in mid air.

Flight—Very erratic, darting about from one side of a feeding tree to the other, and returning from whence it started.

Note—A very strange guttural, gurgling, broken sound, with a short pause then continued.

Food—Consists of honey, insects, wild fruits, including berries, and at times seeds.

Nesting season—Varies according to locality. Near the coastline they breed in October and November, in the interior almost at any time the rain falls, generally from July to December.

Nest—A deep snug structure attached generally to a horizontal fork or at the end of a branch amongst a thick mass of

leaves. A strong rim of green plant tendrils or rootlets is first fastened to both sides of the fork, the next tendril or rootlet is attached to both ends allowing it to drop down in the shape of a loop giving the depth of the nest, the same material is now worked in, crossing and recrossing till a strong framework is constructed; then a quantity of wool and cobwebs is worked in to the foundation making a strong, deep and snug nest.

A nest observed by Dr. A. M. Morgan at Robe, S.A., on October 20th, 1918, was built of green grasses and lined with clematis-down, dandelion seeds and horsehair. It measured—Height overall, 65 c.m.; opening, 90 c.m. x 70 c.m.; depth of cavity, 60 c.m. It contained two partly incubated eggs.

Eggs—Two or three in clutch, ground colour cream, scantily spotted with very dark brown, the spots being mostly arranged at the larger end as an irregular ring.

Measurement of Eggs—Average, 2.60 c.m. x 1.83 c.m.; largest egg, 2.85 c.m. x 1.90 c.m.; smallest egg, 2.45 c.m. x 1.85 c.m.

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## Notes on Birds met with during a Visit to South-West Queensland.

—By A. CHENERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.—

### No. I.

Leaving Broken Hill on September 14th, the writer, with Dr. W. Macgillivray, and Dr. H. Dobbyn, both from that town, and the driver of the car, had as their objective Nappa Merrie cattle and sheep station on Cooper's Creek. Copious rains had fallen for the past two months at intervals on the Cooper watershed and we learned from the Messrs. Conrick, our future hosts at Nappa Merrie, that the flood waters were well down both in the Cooper and the Wilson Rivers. The country north of Broken Hill through which our road lay was looking wonderfully well after having passed through one of the worst droughts on record. The same could not be said of the roads, which in such hilly country, intersected with numerous small watercourses and larger gum creeks, had suffered severely from the heavy downpours. At Iduna Park, a wayside hotel on Morden Station, 120 miles north of the Hill, we were held up by car troubles and rain for two days. To put in the time while awaiting the arrival of the Milparinka and Tibooburra mail coach which was held up further down the road over

which we had come, two small gum creeks were carefully worked and many galahs, bare-eyed cockatoos, yellow-throated minahs, tree martins, whistling eagles, white-shouldered caterpillar eaters, warbling grass parakeets, owl night jays, all nesting, were met with. One nest of the little eagle containing one egg partly incubated was taken, and a second one ready for eggs was found. This was my first introduction to this fine bird in its native haunts. I have never seen them on the Darling or on the Murray. They are nowhere plentiful and sit fairly closely when they have eggs. I believe either one or two eggs is a full clutch for this species. I also met with the Allied Kite at Idune for the first time. This bird was not nesting there, but old nests were seen and the birds visited the hotel each day from the creeks. Their swallow tail renders them easy of identification. Along the road we flushed one pair of Australian dotterels and saw one pair of crested wedge-bills, zebra finches, white-winged wrens, yellow-fronted chats, and of course the ubiquitous ground lark, grallinas, black-backed magpies, ravens, and an occasional wedge-tail eagle were seen. We met with one family of grey jumpers (*Struthidea*) at Iduna Creek, the only ones we saw during the trip, and a solitary pair of *Glycyphila albifrons*. Probably these last two species were migrating because I have generally found *Struthidea* partial to pine country, and *Glycyphila* to flowery scrub. Although our hosts at Iduna, Mr. and Mrs. Barracough, had made us most comfortable, we were not sorry to board the coach when it did arrive, and continue our journey on to Milparinka via Cobham Lake. Our car and driver we had to leave behind, as we had broken our only two back axles and could see that it was not strong enough for the load over such roads as we anticipated having to negotiate.

After a rather trying journey Milparinka was reached at midnight, and the journey continued next morning on from there, some 25 miles to Tibbooburra 220 miles north of Broken Hill. There is a fine growth of gidgee passed through after leaving Milparinka, and there is also a good gum creek well lined with gum and box timber that would well repay working for the hawk family, as it seems to extend most of the way to Cobham Lake. Mount Poole is seen on the left after leaving Milparinka. This is named after a surveyor of Sturt's party, who died there from scurvy after the party had been held up by drought conditions in a camp on some permanent water for over six months. The country in the neighbourhood of Tibbooburra is hilly with outcrops of granite boulders and low ranges sparsely timbered, but now rendered most cheerful by

numbers of flowering shrubs of the Cassia and other botanical species with the names of which I am not familiar. A species of Eucalypt, known locally as the Bloodwood, was conspicuous in the hills with its large clusters of creamy blossoms. There was a wait of two more days for us here while we wired for another car, and awaited the arrival of Messrs. Clive and Joseph Conrick, who were returning to Nappa Merrie and were to act as our guides over the less frequented roads on to the Cooper. We therefore worked the hills and creeks in the vicinity thoroughly and were rewarded by identifying a few rarer species. Amongst these were the cinnamon-backed ground thrush, red lored pardalote, ground cuckoo shrike, a nest of which containing four heavily incubated eggs was taken from the horizontal bough of a gum in the creek. The nest was very similar to the ordinary black-faced variety, but of more elaborate structure with a deeper egg cavity. The markings and colouring of the eggs were also close in their resemblance. A pair of spotted harriers was commencing a nest. Kestrels were found with eggs, also a brown hawk. The red-browed babbler, brown song lark, tricoloured chat, black-faced wood swallow, and many red-backed kingfishers were met with. The scarcity of the falcons was marked, as in former years. Dr. Macgillivray had taken many species on similar creeks north of the Hill. Here again bare-eyed cockatoos, galahs, and warbling grass parakeets were nesting in numbers, and the owlet night jays were not uncommon. Many burrows of the red-backed kingfisher were examined but we were just a little early for them. Honey-eaters, with the exception of minahs, and white-plumed and an odd pair of black honey-eaters, were conspicuous by their absence. Crested bronze-wing pigeons were seen in fair numbers and their nests found. The nest of the ground thrush was searched for most carefully but without success. The protective colouring of these birds on the Gibber tablelands, covered as they are with reddish coloured stones, is most effective. We expected to meet with the bustard in our wanderings, as the conditions were ideal for them, but we did not meet with one during the trip. Pollard rabbit baits plus foxes have, I believe, had a great deal to do with practically exterminating this fine bird. Bennett's crow was found nesting, but the young were always present in any nests examined. Once one gets to know their habits and their cry it is not difficult to pick them out. They prefer mulga ridges in hilly country for breeding and nests may be taken in quite low trees in such situations.

On the arrival of our convoy (the Messrs. Conrick) and our new car with driver—this time a six cylinder Buick—we bid farewell to our kind hosts of Tibooburra where again we had fared most excellently. About thirty-six to forty miles on, the Queensland netting and alleged vermin proof fence was passed through. Shortly after leaving Tibooburra, two interesting species were noted, namely, the desert chat (*Ashbyia*), and the Pratincole. These, like the dottrells, prefer open stoney tablelands, and are only met with in such localities. This should be the first record for the chat being found in New South Wales. Personally it struck me that their habits more nearly approach those of the pipit than those of the chats. They never seem to light on a bush as the chats do—being purely a ground bird. When disturbed they fly quite long distances, unless near their nest. Dr. Macgillivray obtained a skin or two of this species. The pratincole is a most graceful little chap, and sits quite near the track. Both this species and the Australian dottrell appear to have a partiality for the bare surface, generally dusty or sandy, of a road. On our return journey we actually met with the dead body of a dottrell, probably a young, inexperienced bird that had been run over by the mail. The local name for the pratincole—the swallow plover—is most appropriate. We did not have the good fortune to find a nest, but we found a nest or two of the desert chat later on at Nappa Merrie. After passing through the Yalpunga gate in the fence, we ran along the Warri Warri Creek and heard the sweet notes of the wedgebill frequently. At a dam on the creek near Naryileo cattle station homestead, a few water birds were flushed including white-eyed duck, grey teal, straw-necked ibis, darter, and black duck. This, our first night out, was spent on the ground under the stars and one did not sleep quite so soundly as on a spring mattress.

We were now in the cattle country and had to do as the cattlemen do—a finer, cheerier lot of men one would never wish to meet. Some strenuous times over washed-out creek beds, obliterated crossings, occupied us most of this day and gave little time for bird observation. We did identify a black falcon, more Australian dottrells, and Pratincoles at Inaperra. We left the Warri and soon struck the Wilson floodwaters. Here the black-tailed native hen, Australian coot, white-fronted heron, Pacific heron, and many ducks were seen. Straw-necked ibis were also seen flying over the lignum swamps which here stretch, not for acres, but for miles.

## Further Notes of Nesting of Birds in Lake Frome District of South Australia.

J. Neil McGilp.

Following upon my notes in the January issue of the "S.A. Ornithologist," I have to report that when at Moolawatana at end of November, 1920, I found the masked wood swallow (*Artamus personatus*) the white eyebrowed wood swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*) and the white-shouldered caterpillar eater nesting for the first time in this locality to the writer's knowledge.

Many nests of the masked wood swallow were noted and every nest examined contained three eggs. The white eyebrowed wood swallows were building, a completed nest was not found.

The white-shouldered caterpillar eater (*Lalage tricolor*) was nesting freely, its shallow saucer shaped nest of grass rootlets and bark matted together with cobwebs and tendrils of plants, was placed in a fork of a tree, at all heights from the ground, nests being observed from 4 feet up to about 25 feet above the ground. In one large gumtree with widespreading branches, four nests of *Lalage tricolor* were examined, each containing three eggs, also one nest with three young of the black and white fantail.

Bee eaters, which had arrived in the district later than usual were nesting in tunnels in creek banks. Large clutches were found of some species, the kestrel with six eggs and desert chat (*Ashbyia lorensis*) with four eggs to the set being the largest sets the writer had observed. The good season with prospects of a good food supply would reasonably account for larger clutches than usual being laid. Many of the common birds were nesting.

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## Emu Wrens breeding at Mount Compass, South Australia.

J. Neil McGilp.

On the 28th December last Messrs. Edwin Ashby, F. E. Parsons and the writer visited Mount Compass swamps, with a view to learning something of the breeding habits of the little Emu Wren and other birds of that locality.

The Emu Wren's nest was found after a great deal of hunting. It was not placed in the clumps of Cutting Grass

growing in and around the swamps as was expected, but in a low stunted tea tree growth on a flat between the swamps.

A male bird was noticed skulking in a clump of dwarf mallee about three feet high and was so reluctant to leave this cover that a hunt was made for his mate. After a while the female was observed on the top wire of the fence along the road, but remaining only a second or so. By closely watching it was noted that she worked her way by short low flights and runs through the bushes towards a large clump some distance away. After working on dozens of the small bushes in this clump the nest was found. It contained two young ones and one infertile egg. It was somewhat surprising to find that the nest was so much smaller than the Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) and not as strongly built. It measured 2½ inches in diameter being globular in form and built outwardly of soft dried dark grasses loosely woven together and inwardly was lined with soft feathers at the bottom of the egg cavity only. The entrance appeared unnecessarily large, but this no doubt was enlarged by the birds when feeding the young, which were only a few days old. The nest was placed in the forks of a very thick stunted tea tree growth at the height of nine inches from the ground, being completely hidden from view until the bush was opened out.

To be certain of identity, this nest was visited later in the evening, when the female sat on the nest until the bush was opened up.

Though a great many of these birds were located, this was the only nest found, which is not surprising as the nest is cunningly hidden.

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## A Rare Bird

### The Alfred Honey Eater.

At the February meeting of the S.A. Ornithological Association, Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited, amongst other birds he had procured in the Murchison district during the R.A.O.U. 1920 Congress expedition to W. A., a specimen of the rare Alfred honey eater (*Certhionyx whitei*) Mathews, 1913. This was taken in the dry scrub country north of Ajana, W.A., in November, 1920. This bird, Mr. Mellor considered, was the best "find" of the expedition, as it was the desideratum of so many collectors. The species was first procured by Mr. F. Lawson Whitlock while collecting for Mr. H. L. White, of Belltrees, Scone, N.S.W., at Lake Way in the East Murchison district

W.A., 19th September, 1909, when a male was secured. From the size, colour, and habits, Mr. Whitlock thought it to be a *Pseudogerygone* but Mr. A. J. North of the Sydney museum, to whom the skin was shown, pronounced it to be a honey-eater and asked for more material. Several others were taken by Mr. Whitlock in the same year, and Mr. North described it as a new genus and species viz.:—*Lacustroica whitei*, after Mr. White's son Alfred. A full account appeared in the January issue of the Victorian Naturalist, vol. XXVI., p 138, and in the Emu, vol IX., a coloured plate formed the frontispiece, but in the process of printing in more than one colour, the birds here depicted showed a slight yellowish tinge, especially on the wings, which is not correct and somewhat misleading. It is interesting to note that the first bird shot by Mr. Whitlock was exhibited in Adelaide at a meeting of the R.A.O.U. during the ninth congress session on September 30th, 1909, and that a second specimen had not been exhibited here until Mr. Mellor's bird was shown on February 25th, 1921, being more than eleven years later. The little bird is very sombre in appearance for a honey eater, the predominating colour being that of a mouse grey, and lighter grey beneath.

---

## New Scrub Wren.

Grey Scrub Wren (*Sericornis maculata geraldtonensis*),  
Subsp. n. (J. W. Mellor).

While investigating the bird life of Geraldton and the surrounding districts in November, 1920, in connection with the visit of the Royal Australasian Ornithologists' Union, 1920 Congress to Western Australia, I found that the spotted scrub wrens (*Sericornis*) were quite different from those of the south-western parts of Western Australia, where quite different conditions prevail, the habitat of the northern bird being hot and dry, while that of the south-western bird is tree covered and consequently shady and moist. I am therefore separating the northern bird and placing it in a sub-specific rank to be known as the grey scrub wren (*Sericornis maculata, geraldtonensis*).

Locality—Geraldton district, Western Australia.

Type Locality—Sand dunes along the seacoast near Geraldton, Western Australia.

Differs from *S. maculata* of the southern forest country, inasmuch as it is of a lighter colour throughout and greyer

in appearance; also there is a total absence of any yellowish wash on the feathers. The bird may be described as follows—

All the upper surface, wings and tail, brownish grey, the tail being crossed with a broad band of blackish brown and tipped with white; a narrow line of white runs from the base of the upper mandible over the eye, forming a white brow, while a broader line runs from the base of the lower mandible down each side of the throat. Spurious wing feathers, black-edged and tipped with white. Under surface greyish white, conspicuously spotted on the throat and chest with brownish black, the spots becoming less distinct on the sides of the chest and merging into brownish grey on the flanks, leaving the centre of the breast and abdomen greyish white. Irides yellowish white; bill, very dark horn; feet, very dark horn.

The same description applies to both sexes.

Total length, 120 m.m.; bill, 15 m.m.; wing, 68 m.m.; tail, 55 m.m.; tarsus, 22 m.m.

Type specimen in the "Mellor Park" collection.

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## A New Scrub Wren from Houtman's Abrolhos, Western Australia.

—By F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.C.—

[Contribution from the South Australian Museum].

SERICORNIS MACULATUS HOUTMANENSIS SUBSP. N.  
THE ABROLHOS SCRUB WREN.

Adult Male—Crown, cheeks, neck and upper surface, grey, faintly washed with olive on the back and upper tail coverts. A white superciliary stripe extending from the frontal band to a similar distance behind the eye; a white spot below the eye. A narrow frontal band and a triangular patch in front of the eye, black. Feathers on the forehead with a blackish margin; chin and breast, white, breast feathers with a narrow blackish shaft-streak. Abdomen and under tail coverts dirty white, sides of body and flanks, buffy grey. Primaries sooty, the first six margined with white on their outer webs. Spurious wing feathers, black, broadly margined with white. Upper wing-coverts grey, faintly washed with olive; under wing-coverts, white. Tail, brown with a broad black subterminal band; all excepting the central feathers with a white terminal margin. Bill, brown, paler at the base and darker at the tip.

Legs and feet, blackish brown. Iris, pale yellow. Total length of skin, 106 m.m.; wing, 53 m.m.; tail, 46 m.m.; tarsus, 20 m.m.; culmen, 12 m.m.

Adult Female—The white superciliary stripe commences at the base of the bill, the black frontal band being absent and the triangular patch in front of the eye buffy grey. The breast feathers have a broader and more conspicuous shaft streak.

Gould states—†“Specimens from the Houtman's Abrolhos are of a smaller size and a much greyer tint on the back, and have much darker coloured legs.”

The grey upper surface and the almost white underside, as well as the darker colouration of the bill, legs and feet, are very conspicuous distinguishing features between this and the mainland bird; but, according to measurements, there is very little difference in size. Another sub-species (*S. maculatus balstoni*) has been described by Grant\* from the Bernier Islands, but as material and descriptions are not available, I am unable to compare it with this bird.

---

## Bird Notes.

By J. W. Mellor.

December 2.—The Shepherds' Companion (*Leucocirca tricolor*) which started to sit on November 19, for the third time this season, in a lemon scented pine near my back door at “Mellor Park,” hatched out her young on December 2, and on December 19 the four young birds left the nest and were fed by both parent birds.

December 13.—Six black swan flew over Lockleys in the evening, coming from the north and going south. Several young white-backed magpies hatched late in November, left the nest while yet quite young and barely able to fly, but happily they succeeded in growing up.

A White-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotula penicillata whitei*) nested at my bedroom window early in December and hatched out two young which are now only quarter grown, but, owing to the cold wet weather that has at times prevailed, the bird has had an extremely hard time in sitting. The two parent birds bring food for the little mites; aphid, scale blight, and the like, seem to be the chief food. The hen may be sitting to keep the

†Gould's Handbook, Birds Austr. i., 1865, p. 361.

\*Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, xxiii, 1909, p. 72.

young warm, but when the cock comes she hops off, and while he is giving his tit bit to the young she gets going and returns quickly with some food. When coming to the nest both birds give a low soft call of "chick chick," whereupon the wee mites instinctively hold up their heads to be fed. Now and again the old bird picks up a small bit of excreta from the bottom of the nest, not to drop it just outside, but flies away with it for some distance. On several occasions I have had to repair the nest, by tying it to the bough with pieces of string to prevent it coming away on one side.

January—Mr. J. W. Mellor reports—The month has seen numbers of birds nesting, doubtless owing to the excessively dry weather existing during the spring, followed by the bounteous rains at Christmas, and again at the opening of the New Year.

On January 1, eleven rose-breasted cockatoos were seen flying in a bevy amongst the red gums.

The Southern White-plumed Honey-eaters that had their nest within several feet of my bedroom window on the slender twigs of an *Ailanthus* tree, brought out their young during the early part of the month, and on January 11, either the same pair, or another of like size and colouration started to construct their nest close by; again on the leaves of a tree of heaven (*Ailanthus glandulosus*), within three or four feet of my museum window, and without "fear or trembling" as it now sits and watches me examining my stuffed birds. Even as I write, the female is watching me at my work, knowing well that she is safer by far in her present position than she would be at a distance from my habitation. I noted the nesting operations when the first little piece of cobweb was twined around the stem of the leaf, and by the 18th, just seven days, the nest had been completed, both birds sharing in the work of building. Then followed several days of cessation, and on the 22nd the first egg was laid, and the second on the 24th. The bird there began to sit and incubation has been going on slowly. The birds are never idle, as ever and anon one or the other will find the nest becoming thin, and will get beneath and sit upon a twig and take observations, then getting a little cobweb or cocoon silk will cling to the little cup shaped nest beneath, and with its sharp bill poke the little bits of soft packing into the small holes, and thus fill them up and make the home snug and warm for the offspring which soon must appear.

A case of the advisability of leaving the old nests of birds in sight came under my notice this month, when a pair of birds built their cup shaped nest, suspending it from the ivy leaves on an old building. The nest was completed in due course and

two eggs (the general clutch here) were laid. The eggs met with misfortune early in the incubation period, and the nest was left empty, but what was my surprise the other day when examining it, to find that the bird had laid in it again and reared a pair of fluffy little nestlings.

Zebra finches are still breeding in the boxthorn bushes on the sand dunes and young ones are coming out.

The Shepherds' Companions or "Willie Wagtails" as they are familiarly known have ceased to breed, having brought out their young early in the season, in spite of the drought.

The Boobook Owls have not ceased their mournful notes at Lockleys, where at night they may be heard regularly calling to one another.

February—Mr. J. W. Mellor says—This month more birds have been breeding, the operation having been delayed over the spring on account of the drought.

Southern White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Ptilotula penicillata whitei*) have been safely reared in the nest near my museum window, and are being fed by the parent birds.

The two young hatched out on February 6, and left the nest on February 20. Thus it took seven days to build the nest, six days to complete laying, etc, thirteen days in incubating, and fourteen days rearing the young, the whole operation from start to finish taking five weeks five days.

The Noisy Minahs have been extremely lively and garrulous, especially during the hot spells of weather, and quite a number come to drink at the water tap, and from a tin of cold water which I always keep beneath a shady tree near the back door of the house. It is surprising the number of birds of all kinds, especially honey eaters, that come to drink from this vessel, and the quantity of water supplied to them.

The More-porks or Boobook Owls have been somewhat quiet at night during the month, but the delicate or screech owls of which there are quite a number about, have continued to call loudly. One bird roosts by day right at the back door in a large lemon scented pine. Amongst the thick foliage it is hidden from view from beneath, but not so from above, as the white-plumed honey eaters and noisy miners soon found it out, and all day long make a perfect babel of voices up among the branches of the pine. The owl seems to heed them but little, and calmly sleeps on, now and again blinking its eyes, but otherwise remaining motionless.

Numbers of purple crowned lorikeets have been about at Lockleys all the month, flying swiftly about or settling in the

eucalypts that are now flowering, and getting a good supply of nectar from the flowers.

At Fulham a pair of wood swallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) built their nest in some tea trees and laid four eggs, and during the month the young left the nest in safety, since when they have been perching in a row on the branches of the trees, or sitting on the telephone or electric light wires, receiving their food from the parent birds. They seem to have a tendency to "cluster," for at night and often in the day, when it became cold they would huddle together with the parent Birds on some limb of a tree, convenient fork or bough. Several young peaceful doves (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) have also hatched out at Fulham.

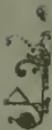
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Vol. VI.

Part 3.

THE  
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ORNITHOLOGIST,

A Magazine of Ornithology.

1st JULY. 1921.

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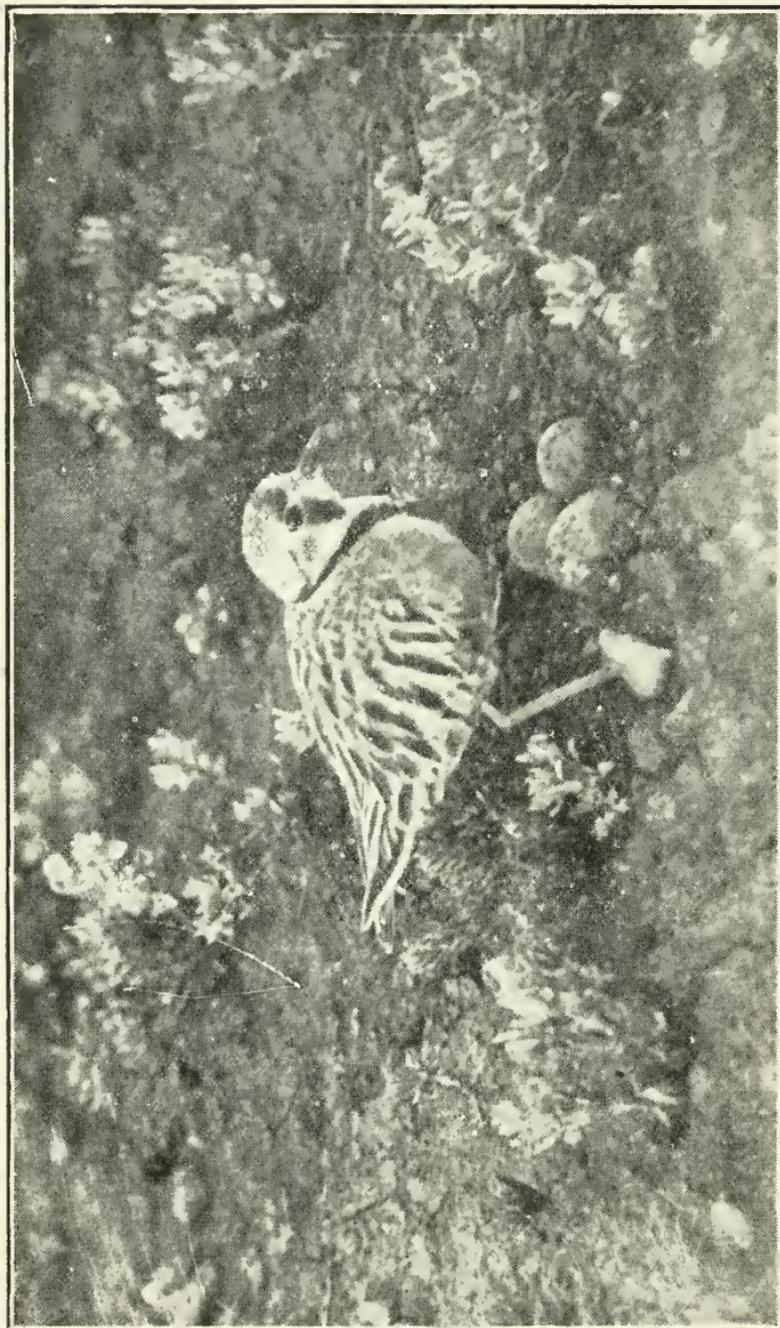
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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.





*Peltodytes australis* (Australian Dotterel). Locality—Lake Frome, S.A. December, 1920.

Photo. S. A. White.

# South Australian Ornithologist.

VOL. VI.]

1st JULY, 1921.

[PART 3.

## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—April 1st, 1921.—

Mr. Edwin Ashby in the chair.

Dr. A. M. Morgan proposed that, as the cost of publishing the "S.A. Ornithologist" appeared very heavy, the Editorial Committee be asked to go into the cost and supply of the journal. Seconded by Mr. J. W. Mellor. Carried.

This being the Annual Meeting, the Chairman opened the nominations for the Officers of the Association.

There being only one nomination for President and Vice-President, the Chairman declared Mr. F. M. Angel and Professor J. B. Cleland respectively elected, and asked Mr. F. M. Angel to take the Chair. Mr. Angel thanked members for their confidence and the honour they had given him, and hoped that, with the support of members, he would be able to carry out the duties.

There being no nomination for Secretary or for the Editorial Committee, the Chairman considered that members were satisfied with the services rendered by those responsible for these duties, and declared those members re-elected.

The Secretary read a Statement of the Cash Accounts as follows—

DR.

	£	s.	d.
1920, March 1.—To Balance . . . . .	32	19	2
" June 30.—To Interest . . . . .	1	9	1
1921, March 31.—To Donations to			
Egg Cabinet . . . . .	1	6	0
" March 31.—To Entrance Fees			
and Subscriptions . . . . .	42	9	6
	—————		
			£78 3 9

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1921, March 31.—	£	s.	d.	
By Postages . . . . .	6	19	10	
“ Rent to Royal Society . . . . .	2	2	0	
“ Lease of Coorong Islands . . . . .	0	1	0	
“ Stationery . . . . .	0	10	0	
“ Printing S.A.O. . . . .	33	12	7	
“ Balance . . . . .	34	18	4	
				£78 3 9

The Balance Sheet was adopted on the motion of Mr. E. Ashby, seconded by Mr. T. G. Souter.

It was resolved to secure a renewal of the Licence of the Protected Islands in the Coorong.

Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited a dainty nest and eggs of the Short-billed Tree-tit, taken in the S.E. of the State.

Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited a skin of the Mallee Emu Wren, taken in South Australia, and was congratulated upon being the first collector to secure a record of this bird in South Australia.

Mr. Keith Ashby reported that the Blue Mountain Parrots and Little Lorikeets were now plentiful in the Blackwood district.

Mr. E. Ashby continued his lecture on the Birds of Western Australia, and gave some very useful information for the benefit of members present. A fine collection of skins was handed round and compared with those from South Australia.

The Chairman congratulated Mr. E. Ashby on his fine lecture, and for his hard work in securing so much valuable information during his short holiday in West Australia.

—April 29th, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

The Chairman read a quotation for an Egg Cabinet by Messrs. Pengelley & Co. for £35. The price was considered, and it was resolved to call for other quotations.

A specimen copy of “A Manual of the Birds of Australia,” by Mathews & Iredale, was handed round for inspection.

Mr. W. Weidenbach and Mr. J. W. Mellor reported having observed the Golden-breasted Whistler at Glen Osmond and Lockleys respectively.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Dr. A. M. Morgan, Mr. E. Ashby, and Capt. S. A. White reported having seen the Rosella Parrot close to the city. Capt. S. A. White mentioned that a few of these parrots appear every autumn. Mr. F. R. Zietz observed the Singing Honey-eater at Kingswood for two or three weeks.

Capt. S. A. White reported that he had visited the protected islands on the Coorong. Pelicans were rearing from seven to eight hundred young on a new island, and were not being molested.

Capt. S. A. White referred to the results of the court cases against game-shooters at Meningie, and on his proposition, a letter was to be sent to Mr. J. G. Hastings, thanking him for his efforts to protect the birds in the Meningie district.

Mr. F. E. Parsons proposed and Mr. E. Ashby seconded, that a letter be sent to the Justices' Association, commenting upon the conduct of the justices at Meningie in the cases against bird-shooters. Carried.

Mr. J. W. Mellor exhibited the sternum of the Alfred Honey-eater.

Mr. E. Ashby showed eggs of the Fantailed Cuckoo, Red Throat and the Yellow-fronted Honey-eater, also skins of the Carter Honey-eater and the Honey-eater he had obtained near Geraldton, in Western Australia. Mr. A. J. Campbell had given the same name to both birds.

A motion was carried, showing that in the opinion of this Association these two Honey-eaters are different, and worthy of distinct names.

Capt. S. A. White gave an account of a short visit to the Lake Frome district; many interesting observations were given, and numerous photographs were handed round. A large number of Australian Dotterels and Pratincoles were seen, but on the whole, birds were not numerous. A very valuable photograph of the Australian Dotterel standing over its nest and eggs, was secured, the photograph being taken at a distance of six feet from the bird. Numerous Kangaroo remains were noted round the waterholes.

Capt. S. A. White concluded an interesting lecture by showing a photograph of a young Bustard, that he had taken near Ooldea, on the East-West Railway.

—May 27th, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

It was resolved to purchase an Egg Cabinet at a cost of £30 10/-, to house the Association's Egg Collection, and that subscriptions to meet this expense be called for.

The Chairman introduced our new member, Dr. W. Ray, to the members present, and welcomed Mr. Lea, Entomologist from the S.A. Museum.

A letter was received from Mr. A. S. LeSonef, of Sydney.

re observations on East-West Railway line. It was decided to publish this in the S.A. Ornithologist.

A letter was received from the publisher of the "Scientific Australian," asking that reports of our meetings be sent on for publication; the Secretary was directed to comply with this request.

The Chairman referred to the sad bereavement that one of our members, Mr. T. G. Souter, had sustained, and requested the Secretary to forward a letter of sympathy from the Association.

Mr. F. R. Zietz mentioned that the S.A. Museum had just received a large collection of bird skins and eggs from Mr. W. White. It was a very generous gift, and would add many fine specimens to the Museum collection. Mr. Zietz invited members to inspect the new additions.

The rest of the evening was taken up by a discussion on Eagles and Hawks, and skins of the Wedge-tailed Eagle, Little Eagle, Whistling Eagle, White-headed Sea Eagle, Osprey, Fork-tailed Kite, Square-tailed Kite, Black-shouldered Kite, and Letter-winged Kite were examined. Mr. Lea was able to give a valuable report on the contents of the stomachs of some of the birds.

The skin of the Square-tailed Kite was carefully examined. These birds are rarely seen in South Australia, although this particular skin was obtained from a bird shot by Mr. E. Ashby at Blackwood.

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## Order Accipitriformes, Family Falconidæ, Genus Ieracidia—Ieracidea Berigora (Brown Hawk).

—By S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.—

Description—All upper surface reddish brown, with feather shafts dark; upper tail coverts deep rufous brown, with ashy white bars and tipped with white; wing coverts rusty brown; primaries and secondaries light brown on outer web, inner web white, barred with buff; throat and side of head white, divided by a brown line; lower throat light, with dark streaks; flanks deep rufous; under surface almost white in places.

Distribution—Over the interior of Australia, but seldom seen on the coastline.

Habitat—Frequents open plains, ranges, timbered and scrub country alike.

Habits—During the summer months these birds are mostly distributed over the country in pairs, but in the winter it is not an uncommon sight to see eight or ten together.

Flight—Rapid and powerful.

Call—Loud, harsh screech, very often uttered upon the wing.

Food—Consists of small animals, such as mice and rats; also beetles, grass-hoppers, caterpillars, lizards, snakes, and at times, small birds.

Nesting season—Varies very much, according to the season, especially in the droughty districts. The season being good, August, September and October are the months during which most of these birds nest.

Nest—More often than not the deserted nests of magpies are used, but they will build a stick nest, and invariably line both the old and the newly constructed nests with green eucalyptus leaves. The position of the nests varies very much, sometimes being only a few feet above the ground, at others 50 or 60 feet.

Eggs—Two to four in number, more often three; colouration and shape varies very much. Dr. A. M. Morgan gives the average sized egg as—5.30 c.m. x 4.00 c.m.; largest egg, 5.70 c.m. x 4.10 c.m.; smallest, 5.00 c.m. x 3.90 c.m.

It is forced upon me to attach my name to these notes, because there is a very wide and diversified opinion in relation to these birds; some holding that there is but one species. The writer does not agree with this, and is of the opinion that *I. berigora* is the interior form, while *I. occidentalis* keeps to the coastal belt and islands. These deductions have been arrived at after years of observation. Never once had the writer taken the dark form in mature state in the interior, and never once has the rufous bird been observed near the coast; nestlings in both cases are very dark, but this would prove little more than that both forms may have had a common ancestry. *Ieracidea berigora* is one of the most plentiful birds in the interior, and its shrill, harsh cry is a familiar sound in that country. The darker form (*Ieracidea occidentalis*) is not an uncommon bird upon the coastline, and is to be found on most of the larger islands. Mr. G. M. Mathews has made the bird a subspecies of *I. berigora*; they are so easily separated that it would not be out of the way to give them specific difference.

J. W. Mellor writes—

“These hawks were once common at the Reedbeds, but they are now only occasionally seen. I secured one some years ago.

and kept it in captivity for about five or six years. It was remarkably tame, and would take food out of my hand, mice and large grubs, etc., being preferred to larger prey. I have not known these hawks to attack fowls and large game, and always look upon them as beneficial to the fields, because they eat up some of the pests. I have seen them flying with a small snake in their talons, apparently taking it to their young. They have a curious habit of flying and soaring in the air, circling round and round at a great height, chasing one another, at times making a "nose-dive" and righting themselves after going a short distance, all the while uttering their well-known harsh, screeching notes, as if talking to one another. When alighting on a tree they generally select the topmost dry bough, from which point of vantage they scan the surrounding country, but on the approach of an intruder they are quickly on the wing again. These birds at times take possession of some old stick nest, built by another species of bird. They lay rufous washed and reddish spotted eggs, two or three forming a clutch. I have known them to lay in a hollow tree, just placing their eggs on the decayed wood, without any pretence at making a nest, and, but for the color and more elongated shape, the eggs could be mistaken for those of the owl or laughing jackass.

J. Neil McGillp—Records from Observations in Lake Frome District, Far Northern South Australia—

The light-colored form of Brown Hawk is very numerous; some very dark forms are occasionally seen.

Its call is a harsh screech rapidly repeated, and can be heard any time during the day, and often during the night, especially just before daylight.

When procurable, large insects, such as grass-hoppers and caterpillars, form its chief food. It secures these in its beak, half flying and half running to capture them. At other times it lives on mice, lizards, birds, small rabbits and carrion, but usually prefers to kill its own food. I have never seen it catch rabbits, although remains of very young ones are to be found under and near its nest.

It rarely constructs its own nest, preferring to use the deserted nest of a crow or hawk, which may be placed at all heights from the ground. A few green leaves are added as a lining to old nests, and the eggs, usually three, but sometimes four, are to be found between 1st July and first week in October.

The female sits closely on the eggs or young. The male bird carries most of the food to the young, and the female, hear-

ing the call of her home-coming mate, meets him while in the air, and takes the food in her claws from his, and then tears off pieces to feed the young. With the exception of Black Falcons, *Ieracidea* is the noisiest feeder of the inland hawks.

When a few days old the nestlings are clothed in rusty colored down, but they closely resemble the adults when they leave the nest, perhaps a little more rufous and with wider rufous tips to feathers.

Though the Brown Hawk has not been known to molest chickens, I have seen it catch a bird. Several *Stictopelcia cuneata* (Diamond Doves) were noted feeding on the ground when a Brown Hawk suddenly swooped, caught one before it could rise, and commenced to eat it on the ground. When disturbed, it carried the remains to a neighbouring tree.

Mr. A. M. Lea, Entomologist, S.A. Museum, reports on stomach contents of Brown Hawk.

Taken Ooldea, 1917, by Capt. S. A. White.

Stomach contents—Head of nocturnal moth; jaw of a large cricket; legs of cock-shafer beetles; lizard (*Amphibolurus pictus*); wings of ants; an antlion, and other fragments of insects.

Mr. Edwin Ashby reports—Although one of our commonest hawks, I have only collected two or three in my life. It has always seemed more numerous in the open country such as the Lower North, than is the case in hills in the neighbourhood of Blackwood. Although we not infrequently see them flying overhead, our attention is usually called to them by the notes of warning uttered by the smaller birds, especially by our commoner honey-eaters. This habit of the small birds is not peculiar to the occasion when the Brown Hawk is near, for the same cries are heard when any of the hawk family appear.

At Ellensbrook, in South-Western Australia, during October last, I noted several pairs of this hawk searching for prey on the coastal hills, especially where the honeysuckles (*Banksias*) were in full bloom. I think they were attracted to that particular scrub because it was alive with small birds, in addition to the parrots and cockatoos that come after the honey in the *Banksia* flowers. I succeeded in securing the male of one pair of Brown Hawks in that scrub, and find that they differ from any I have handled in the Eastern States.

It is unusually small, much paler in color, and showing far less of the rich rufous coloration. The deep buff of the throat

and the rich rufous coloration of the crown of the head are quite absent. I judged it to be a mature bird, evidently breeding, so the differences of coloration are interesting. I do not think the Brown Hawk is much trouble to those who keep fowls, for in my more than 30 years' experience I have never had a specimen of this hawk sent in as a "chicken stealer," whereas I have had numbers of the Australian Goshawk sent to me, that have been killed for this reason.

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## Observations at Ooldea.

To the Editor,

South Australian Ornithologist.

Dear Sir,

In the issue of the "S.A. Ornithologist," April, 1921, Capt. White doubts the existence of the Chestnut-faced Owl, Black-backed *Malurus*, and Red-throat at Ooldea, and I would be glad if you would give the members of your Association my reasons for reporting them in that locality.

Black-backed Wren Warbler (*Malurus melanotus*).—Five miles south-east of the railway station, in open scrub country, I met with two flocks of Wren Warblers, one party of which had young on the wing. These were of the cyaneus group but darker in color, they were not in my opinion *Malurus cyaneus*, Ellis, and although I did not collect a specimen, I put them down as *M. melanotus*, from locality and field observation.

Red-throat—Although I had never seen a Red-throat in the flesh before, the male bird was unmistakable, as one very tame bird came within a few feet of me, as I sat under a small bush, and as I have since examined skins of this species, I am quite sure of the identification from field observations. Same class of country as the Wren was in.

Chestnut-faced Owl—I was told that owls were to be found in a blow-hole close to "Hughes Stone," and on going there the position of the particular hole was located after a long and careful search, fully an hour being spent in going over the ground in the vicinity. On looking into the hole I was surprised to see two large dark owls and not the cave owl or light form of the Masked I was expecting. The birds were only in sight for a few seconds, but they were dark brown, with absolutely no white on them, certainly darker than any phase of the Masked that I had seen, and in my opinion larger, and they could only have been the Chestnut-faced. I believe that Capt. White secured an ordinary Masked Owl from this hole or one in the

vicinity, and I hope to be able to see this skin when again in Adelaide. I hope to be able to visit Ooldea in a few weeks, and will endeavour to procure skins of all these birds, though I make it a practice never to kill a wild bird unless it is absolutely necessary.

Yours faithfully,  
A. S. LeSOUEF.

Sydney, 29/4/21.

## Notes on Birds met with during a Visit to South-West Queensland.

—By A. Chenery, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.—

### No. II.

The next day's journey was over rough country—as the ordinary track, running in the valley of the Wilson and skirting the lignum was under water. Shortly after leaving camp, we saw a pair of Brolgas, who indulged in a dance, perhaps for our benefit, and took but little notice of the cars. After passing the Nappa Merrie boundary, we came out on stony tableland country, but no bird life of interest was noted. On arrival at the Cooper, which was now a fine sheet of water at the homestead, but well within its banks, we left the cars and were ferried across in boats, and received a hearty welcome from Mr. John Conrick, jun., and his brother, Edward.

During a visit to Fort Wells, up the creek some two miles, on the next day, we met with the Brown Flycatcher, which I had not seen since leaving the Darling. From skins obtained and compared with Southern forms in Dr. Macgillivray's collection, this one probably belongs to the sub-species *pallida*. A nest, with two fresh eggs in the usual situation, was taken on the return journey. We also met with a Brown Tree-creeper, specimens of which were obtained, which was probably *Climacteris waiti*, a sub-species lately described by S. A. White. These birds were only met with in small families in box timber in immediate vicinity of the Cooper. Fort Wills is of some historic interest in Australian exploration, as the site of a depot from which Burke, Wills, Gray, and King made their dash for the Gulf and, on their return to this depot, found that the main party, which had remained behind, had left for the South. The oval, bare space on the box tree, from which the bark had been removed, still bears the chiselled inscription of an arrow, and the words "DIG—13 feet—" to indicate a cache of stores in case these members

of the party did return. Burke and Wills both died on Innamineka Station country, during their efforts to reach Blanche-water Station, down the creek. King lived with the blacks and was treated well until picked up by Howitt. There is a very ancient nigger at Nappa Merrie who reckons he remembers seeing King. This was in 1861, so much for the historical interlude. We spent two interesting days at the head station, including a boat excursion on the Cooper, during which we met with a colony of Fairy Martins, with their bottle nests attached to a mass of drift-wood caught in the overhanging boughs of the li-tree, and suspended a few feet above the water, and a teal's nest with nine eggs in a dense lignum bush. The Black Honey-eater was also noted here, and a frail nest, only three feet from the ground, containing one egg, was found. Both species of Ground Dove were found nesting, also the Red-backed Kingfisher and the Red-fored Pardalote. Both of these species burrow into the bank for nearly two feet and the Pardalote's nest is quite a substantial one of grass and rootlets.

A nest of the White-winged Wren was found also, placed in the fork of a stunted tree, five feet from the ground, a most unusual situation, but there was very little ground bush in the paddock. *Malurus assimilis* was also identified, and a nest of *Smicrorhina* with three incubated eggs in a needlewood found. On the 26th September we left in a Ford car, with Mr. Joe Courick, a keen nature photographer, for Bamoulah Out Station, 45 miles up the Cooper. A Black Falcon was seen early in the journey. On the tableland country the Mitchell grass was sprouting green, and flocks of sheep enjoying it. *Ashbyia* was seen here and a nest found from which the bird was flushed, but proved empty. Later, we saw fully fledged young of this species. St. Ann's sheep station, the residence of Mr. Clive Courick, was reached at 18 miles. From here the road was rough, sandhills and porcupine belts alternating with lignum flats and box timber. A sharp look out was kept for any signs of the Night Parrot in this country, which I should say is ideal for it, but none were seen. Two Kites' nests were taken, each containing eggs. Pacific Herons, a Little Eagle, Night-herons, were noted also. A noticeable absence of parrots in this district. We saw one pair of Blue Bonnets this day and a few Ring-necks. Bamoulah is 45 miles from head station, and is situated in park-like country on a permanent water-hole. In its neighbourhood the Cooper is no longer a single stream, but spreads over a tremendous area of lignum swamp country, interspersed with narrow channels. Here, for two or three days, we tramped the swamps and forded the channels most times

only waist deep, but some of the larger ones necessitating a swim. Ducks of five varieties were met with, all breeding, but we were too late by three weeks for eggs. White-eyed Ducks were the most numerous, and nests with fifteen eggs were found, placed in the thickest grass, which here grows feet high—a coarse swamp variety. The nests were plentifully supplied with down and the eggs generally hidden by it. Identification of the owners was not always easy, as they sneak off while one is some distance away, and then remain concealed as they travel to the nearest channel. A family of 23 young with the two parent birds was counted, both by Dr. Macgillivray and myself, at Bamoulah water-holes. Pink-eared Ducks and Grey Teal were also very numerous. Next in order came the Black Ducks, and finally, Eyton's Tree Duck, the "Queensland Whistler." Only one nest of this species was found, containing nine eggs and with no down in it. The bird was flushed. Their rather long, reddish legs, which hang down for a time when they rise, and their soft whistling note renders this variety easily identified. Wood Ducks were only met with at Bilpa water-hole, later on the trip, and Mountain Ducks were not seen. Swans were not found breeding either, although a few were seen at Bilpa. The other waders seen in the channel country were Australian Coot, in great numbers, odd pairs of Porphyrio, and the Black-tailed Native Hen, also in great numbers. I did not identify the Gallinula or Moor-hen, but it is probably there also. Red-kneed Dottrells and the Black-fronted variety were occasionally seen. The Yellow-legged Spoonbills were nesting along the larger channels in small colonies and egg sets of three or four were noted, and also young birds lately hatched. Herons were, strange to say, very scarce, the White-fronted and Pacific being met with, but no Egrets were seen. On the Cooper, after our return to the head station, we identified this species, also the Royal Spoonbill. The Brown-winged Wren was the common species seen in the lignum country and Wedge Bills were common. Young birds were everywhere under foot and in the channels, and could be picked up without much difficulty. When one considers the extent of this flooded country, the small portion of it that could be examined at all closely by a party of four, and the numbers seen, even in that small area, what an immense number of these water-fowl must be hatched out during each flood! Dingo tracks were plentiful in the mud, and an occasional fox's pad, but, even allowing for damage done by these marauders (and we saw very few signs of their successful hunting), there appears to be little danger of these species becoming exterminated.

At Bamoulah, as elsewhere in the trip, Honey-eaters were very scarce. With the exception of the ubiquitous Yellow-throated Minah, the Greenie, and an occasional Black and Spiney-checked Honey-eater, this family was very poorly represented. The Spoonbills' nests were lined with gum leaves, the Kites' nests appeared to have a layer of dried cow manure, and Whistling Eagles' always have gum leaves as a lining. Other birds noted here were Red-crowned Babblers, Zebra Finches—very plentiful—Campephagas—also plentiful—Galahs, Bare-eyed Cockatoos, Red-fored Pardalotes, Red-backed Kingfishers, Bee-eaters and Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoos.

On Tuesday, 28th, we noted a nest of the Little Grass Bird, with four incubated eggs. Many Straw-necked Ibis were seen, but none were nesting here. A pair of Brolgas was met with also. Next day we left Bamoulah for Bilpa waterholes, and after a tedious journey, reached our camp beside a fine sheet of water of considerable depth. On the way I noted a pair of White-rumped Wood Swallows in possession of a deserted Magpie's nest.

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### *Aphelocephala nigricinta*.

—By F. R. Zietz, R.A.O.U.—

(Contribution from the S.A. Museum).

About the middle of last May, the Museum received from Mr. J. Neil McGilp two nestlings of the above bird, which were taken by him out of a nest at Moolawatana. It is interesting to note that, although these birds had not yet left the nest, their colour and markings, including the black pectoral band, are similar to those of the adult.

The following are the measurements of one of the young birds in the flesh, with those of the skin of an adult for comparison—

Total length . . . . .	76 m.m.	94 m.m.
Tail . . . . .	16 m.m.	38 m.m.
Wing . . . . .	41.5 m.m.	55 m.m.
Tarsus . . . . .	17 m.m.	17 m.m.
Culmen . . . . .	6.5 m.m.	9 m.m.

## Eagles and Hawks.

—By J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.—

Much has been written in favor of giving protection to the Wedge-tailed Eagle, commonly known as the "Eagle Hawk," but little has been done to put forward the claims of the Whistling Eagle, Little Eagle, Brown Hawk, Fork-tailed Kite, Kestrel, and Goshawk.

The writer, from observations gained through a life long experience with Eagles and Hawks in the interior of South Australia, ventures to give a few facts about them in the hope that those persons not as conversant with the habits of these birds may be in a position to weigh their respective merits.

In using the word Eagle, it must be clearly understood that it applies only to the Wedge-tailed Eagle.

The Eagle is a noble bird, and is recognised as the largest true Eagle in the world.

In the interior it is very numerous, especially during the lambing season, when it congregates in large numbers, and at times, as many as forty are to be seen in the air within one's vision.

Before the introduction of sheep and rabbits, the Eagle must have subsisted upon kangaroo, wallaby, other small mammals, or birds. Even now, when the rabbit is a curse to the country, it is not unusual to see a pair of Eagles capture a young kangaroo or wallaby.

Some people, in advocating protection for this bird, claim that it kills rabbits in such numbers that a great heap of bones, etc., is accumulated under its nest and feeding platform. It is not advisable to accept this as a correct deduction. The Eagle secures the greater portion of these rabbits from dogs, foxes, cats, and hawks.

All bushmen know that it will follow a dog, fox, or cat some distance to secure what it kills. When one of these animals has made a capture, often a rabbit, the Eagle will swoop down, causing it to clear off, leaving its intended food; this the Eagle usually carries away. Many a wild-dog or dingo has been caught by myself or employees, simply through the knowledge of this habit. When Eagles are seen slowly flying along at a little distance from the ground, it can be taken as a sure sign that a dog, fox or cat is being followed. As a proof of this, the following instances are given. When out hunting for a dingo that had caused considerable damage to the station flock, five eagles were observed flying lazily, close to the ground. This

suggested that it was possibly the dog that they were following, so we rode our horses carefully towards them. After a few minutes the Eagles were seen to circle round, swoop down, and settle; we therefore galloped towards them and had the satisfaction of viewing the dog, which was eventually run down and killed. Out of curiosity, we returned to the spot where the Eagles had swooped, and on our approach, three of them rose from the ground, one carrying away the remains of the rabbit, which, judging by the tracks, was certainly killed by the dog.

Often when out after dogs we have been misled by the actions of Eagles, for instead of a dog, we found that a fox or cat was being followed. On one occasion we found an Eagle feasting on the remains of an Australian Dotterel, which was, undoubtedly, killed by the fox, as the latter was disturbed from under a large cotton bush close by.

A domestic cat was noticed, carrying and dragging a half-grown rabbit towards the homestead, when an Eagle swooped at her; she dropped her burden and made for cover. The Eagle landed, secured the rabbit, and flew off with it.

Many of the Hawks, such as the Whistling Eagle and Little Eagle, kill many more rabbits than they are generally given credit for. These hawks, after killing, cannot carry a large rabbit away, but eat it on the ground. The Eagle, ever on the watch, notices the feast, comes to earth alongside the smaller birds, drives them away and, usually, flies off with the remains to its nest or feeding platform.

It is seldom that Eagles have been seen to kill rabbits in the interior, there are plenty of animals and hawks to do this for them. To catch a rabbit, it would appear necessary for two Eagles to hunt together. When the running rabbit is sighted, one bird swoops at it, causing it to squat, the other bird immediately lands right on top of the rabbit and kills it with its claws.

It has often been stated that the Eagle takes up a rabbit in the swoop, without coming to earth. Taking into consideration the length of its wings, such a thing seems well nigh impossible; this deduction is strengthened by the fact that the Eagle cannot rise directly from a standing position on the ground. It is necessary for it to make a few hops or strides with wings outstretched before it can get up into the air. To carry away a rabbit or the remains of a lamb, the Eagle holds it in one claw only, until it is well away from the ground, then the other claw helps to carry it. If the load was held in both claws on the ground, the bird could not hop or stride sufficiently to enable it to rise. Eagles, in fact, all hawks, never carry any weight in their bills.

They do not attack with the bill, but always strike with the talons.

Any sheepowner, in Eagle-infested districts, who personally attends to his sheep during lambing time, knows from experience that the Eagle does much destruction amongst lambs. In many districts, where Eagles are numerous, a bonus is paid for killing them. This payment would not be made without good reason; this has been the result of much observation. It might be of interest to state that the pastoralist does not encourage the destruction of Hawks, and regret is frequently expressed that so many of these useful birds meet their end by eating poisoned baits laid for dogs, foxes and Eagles. In the "bush" one comes into close contact with nature and soon realizes the "good" and the "bad," or friend and foe.

I have seen Eagles kill lambs that were in good, strong condition, and attended by their mothers and on one occasion I noted several Eagles swooping at a three months old lamb, that they were driving out of a flock, with its mother following along bleating for its lamb. Before I could reach them, the lamb fell, and two of the Eagles landed alongside. The lamb however, struggled to its feet and staggered, on with the birds still attacking. My arrival disturbed them from effecting a kill. The lamb when caught, was exhausted and so badly mauled on neck and back that it had to be destroyed. The body, which had many talon marks, two of which had penetrated into the stomach cavity, was poisoned with strychnine, and three hours later nine dead Eagles were found close at hand.

It is doubtful if a single Eagle can secure a healthy lamb from its mother, but two or more certainly can. They worry the ewe until it cannot protect its lamb, in much the same way that several wild dogs will worry a cow till it is too exhausted to save its calf.

The remains of many birds have been found on and under the Eagle's nest and feeding platforms, but it is not advisable to claim that they were killed by the Eagle; it is quite possible that some of these were taken from hawks or animals. The remains of lambs are often seen under and on the Eagle's nest, but no one can, with certainty, say that they were killed by the Eagle, as it is a great carrion feeder, and may have carried to the nest something that it had found dead, though as a rule only freshly killed food is brought to the young.

The Little Eagle is a very much smaller edition of the Wedge-tailed Eagle, it has feathers right down to its claws, but in its habits differs greatly from the former. It is the best bird agent for killing rabbits in the interior, and so far as observa-

tions go, principally subsists upon them. It is a most inoffensive bird, does not attack lambs, and has never been seen to feed on carrion. On account of it being despoiled of much of its kill by the Wedge-tailed Eagle, it is not generally given credit for all the good work it accomplishes. It will watch a rabbit for a considerable time, then suddenly descend right on top of it, clutch it in its talons for a few seconds, let go and rise again, only to land fairly on the rabbit and complete the killing. It has been observed to attempt to carry off a full-grown rabbit that it had just caught, but in each instance was unsuccessful. Lizards are also killed for food, for, on one occasion, when a bird was disturbed, a half-dead "sleeping" lizard was left behind. The young are fed on pieces of rabbit, lizards and mice. On one or two occasions remains of small birds were seen on the nest with the young, though no record has been made of seeing the Little Eagle kill birds. It is to be regretted that this bird is not more numerous, and that there is little likelihood of its increasing, as the number of eggs laid for a sitting is never more than two, and only one egg is found as often as the larger sitting. From a pastoralist's point of view, this is a pity, for undoubtedly the Little Eagle kills a great many rabbits and has no vices.

The Whistling Eagle is one of the most numerous of the inland Hawks, and is an inoffensive and useful bird. It kills a considerable number of rabbits, making the capture in the same way as the Little Eagle, but is often robbed of its food by the Wedge-tailed Eagle. In the interior, plagues of grass-hoppers and caterpillars are frequent, and it is during such times that the Whistling Eagle does a considerable amount of good, for it prefers the open country where the pests are thick, and it is then very unusual to see it hunting for other food. It is amusing to watch it catching grass-hoppers. One would expect it to catch such a small object in its bill; not so, for only the claws are used. It can often be seen half flying, half leaping after a grasshopper. It certainly uses the bill when picking up grubs or caterpillars from the ground. It does not attack sheep or lambs, but lives a great deal on carrion. The young birds, which number two or three, are fed on mice, lizards, birds, and pieces of rabbit and lamb. At times a few pieces of rabbit skin are found on the ground under the nest, but it is seldom that any bones or refuse are found there; the bird must evidently carry them away.

The Brown Hawks, Fork-tailed Kites, and Kestrels can be dealt with together; they are quiet, harmless birds, do not attack lambs and have not been observed to kill rabbits. The

Brown Hawk has been seen to catch small birds by suddenly pouncing upon them, but the Fork-tailed Kite and Kestrel have not been seen to catch birds, though the writer has seen the Fork-tailed Kite make an attempt to catch shell parrots which were in a large flock, but without success. All these Hawks are very destructive to the caterpillar and grass-hopper pests, spending practically all day chasing them on the flats. It is interesting to note that while the Brown Hawk and Kestrel almost invariably catch the grass-hoppers in their bills, the Fork-tailed Kite does not do so to any extent. It uses the claws. It is a common thing to see these Kites accompanying a horseman as he travels along. They catch the disturbed grass-hoppers in their claws, eating them as they fly along, often coming almost within reach of the man on horseback in their endeavour to capture one of the insects. Whilst the Kite is very keen on offal, etc., the Brown Hawk and Kestrel prefer killing their own food.

The Kite is quite harmless to fowls and chickens and may often be seen feeding amongst the fowls on scraps thrown from the house, but should any other hawk appear the fowls instantly seek shelter.

Though insects would appear to be the chief food of these birds, they certainly feed their young on small lizards, mice, birds, and pieces of meat from various animals; for remains of this food have been found on the nests containing young.

The Goshawk does much good work by killing rabbits. He seems to realize that he cannot carry away a full-grown rabbit, so invariably attacks the young only. He always captures his victim in the swoop, without coming to earth, and flies straight off with it. It is quite a common thing to see a Goshawk swoop down to the top of a large warren and rise with a young rabbit, still squealing, in its claws. He also eats a lot of grass-hoppers, catching them in the claws when on the wing. Its young are fed on rabbits mice, lizards, and birds, judging by the refuse thrown from the nests.

It is well-known that the Goshawk destroys many birds and takes chickens, but from observations made, it does more good than harm to the pastoralist and is considered of far greater value than the Wedge-tailed Eagle, for it does not destroy any of his lambs but helps to check the increase of rabbits, and destroys a large quantity of grass-hoppers.

The Goshawk, undoubtedly the most destructive of hawks, is shot on sight if he ventures near a fowl-yard, yet many of his destroyers advocate protection for the Eagle, which troubles them not at all, for it has long ago been so thinned out near towns that the few remaining birds are looked

on as "novelties." It is all very well to ask the "back-blocker" to protect a bird, that while doing him considerable harm, in no way hurts the people of the settled areas, for they have already decided whether the Eagle is worthy of protection. The back-blocker would be equally justified in asking for protection for Rosella Parrots or Starlings, the latter being an insect eater would be useful to him, whilst the former does him little harm and would be nice to look at when he comes on a holiday.

There are other Hawks in the interior, such as Black Falcon, Grey Falcon, Little Falcon, Black-breasted Buzzard, Spotted Harrier, and Collared Sparrow Hawk; but these are so rarely seen that it would be unwise to generalise from the few observations that have been made of their habits.

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## Bird Notes.

MARCH, 1921.

Mr. L. K. McGilp, Moolawatana, Far North, South Australia, reports—On the evening of February 14, a very large number of Swifts arrived here. A heavy downpour of rain ceased falling about 5 o'clock, and shortly afterwards flock after flock of Swifts congregated at a hut on the station where I was camped. They circled round and round at a very low elevation for about an hour, twittering all the while. They appeared to arrive from a northerly direction and departed on a south-westerly course, or towards Copley. The next day on my returning to the station homestead, my brother and I saw another large flock flying low and circling round; but they did not remain long and I was not able to state the direction in which they disappeared whilst I was indoors.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, reports—Numbers of *Taeniopygia castanotis* Chestnut-eared Finch have been about in the boxthorn bushes on the red sand hills at Mellor Park. Quite a number of their grass nests have been built. In some of them the birds simply roosted, but in others young were hatched. The young are now about in the cover, feeding with the parent birds on the fine grass seeds that are now plentiful.

*Coracina ucrac-hollandiae melanops*. The Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike has been about for a long while, quietly feeding and ever and anon sallying forth from a gum tree to capture a grub or other titbit on the ground, but flying back to the tree before eating it.

*Spiloglaux boobook marmorata* (Boobook Owl) and *Tyto alba delicatula* (Screech Owl) have been very noisy during the month, especially the former. One of the Screech Owls has taken up its abode (as usual after nesting is over) in a lemon-scented pine.

On the 20th inst. *Haliastur sphenurus* (Whistling Eagle) came soaring overhead, followed by many Magpies intent on chasing the intruder away.

On the 21st a flock of *Melithreptus atricapillus* (Brown-headed Honey-eater) was noted.

A clutch of *Colluricincla harmonica victoriæ* (Grey Shrike-Thrush) hatched out during the early part of the month and made their presence known by their continual wierd whistling calls.

Mr. J. Sutton, Netherby, observed—

March 20.—One Crow came but was chased away by the Magpies.

March 27.—Australian Brown Fly-catcher—the male bird whistling beautifully to the female bird—evidently mating.

March 28.—Noticed Welcome Swallows visiting the old nest.

March 30.—Restless Fly-catcher seen—the first for two years.

March 31.—Scarlet-breasted Robins—back from the gullies in the hills after the rain. This seems a common practice if the weather is hot. After the rain they only stay two or three days, leave, and do not return until the next fall of rain.

Black-chinned Honey-eaters, Yellow-breasted Shrike-Tit, and Lorikeets have been heard on a few occasions during the month.

Greenfinches have left. Wattle Birds are now beginning to call, and the Grey Shrike-Thrush's song is slightly longer than that given in the summer time.

#### APRIL, 1921.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, Lockleys, reports—The birds seem to have finished breeding now. During the month the Boobook Owls have been very silent, only an occasional call being heard at the beginning of the month. The Screech Owls have also been less in evidence by their calls, but are often seen, one bird roosting by day in a lemon-scented pine. I notice that the pellets thrown up by this owl are very much smaller than previously noted. Perhaps this is due to the dryness

of the season, and to the greater difficulty of getting food supplies.

On April 16, I noticed two *Falco longipennis* (Little Falcon) together, flying swiftly. By the slaty appearance of the upper surface, I believed them to be young birds.

On the 16th, a small flock of *Platyercus eximius* (Rosella Parrot) made their appearance. Two pairs were noted sitting on a dead branch of a gum tree apparently quarrelling. They were about for some days feeding on the seeds of the thistles, wire weeds, etc.; but unfortunately they betook themselves to the late pears and apples and one was accidentally caught in a gin trap. Its legs were so badly crushed that it had to be killed, but the skin was preserved and proved to be that of a female. The male bird still lingers, eating seed and chumming up with other birds; but the other pair has departed.

*Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa* (South Australian Yellow-breasted Thickhead) a female or young male of this bird was noted.

April 23.—Saw two *Cacomantis rubricatus* (Fantail Cuckoos) in the gum trees.

*Coracina novaehollandiae melanops* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike), not uncommon about the paddocks. They are now turning their attention to searching out insect food, such as grass-hoppers, small goat moths, and the like.

*Grallina cyanoleuca* (Murray Magpies) are now very tame, and doing much good in eating insects.

#### MAY, 1921.

Mr. J. W. Mellor, reports—With the fine rain after the long dry spell, the birds have been greatly benefited, especially the Magpies, Laughing Jackasses, and others whose food consists of the larger insect forms.

May 14th.—I was pleased to note *Littleria chrysoptera phoenicea* (Flame-breasted Robin) in open country, the first of the season at the Reedbeds. It was a male bird searching for insects. The day previous I saw *Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia* (Brush Wattle Bird) at Lockleys; this I was pleased to note, for although it is permanently established at Fulham, where it breeds freely, I seldom see it here.

On several occasions I have noted a Thickhead in its dull plumage at Lockleys, being either a female or immature male of *Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa* (South Australian Yellow-breasted Thickhead) was calling as it hopped about in the fruit trees in search of insect food.

*Spiloglaur boobook marmorata* (Boobook Owl) has been calling.

*Tyto alba delicatula* (Screech Owl) has been very noisy at night time. One bird still continues to roost by day in a lemon scented pine-tree. Its pellets are collected for examination, and the amount of remains of injurious animals, birds, insects, etc., that are contained in them is truly wonderful.

On May 20 a few *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala* (Purple-crowned Lorikeets) were flying about the trees.

On May 21, noted several *Lobilyx norae-hollandiae* (Spur-wing Plovers) at Fulham, flying about the swamp land.

*Seisura inquieta* (Restless Flycatcher) visited Lockleys on May 24. A rare visitor here.

May 26, several *Microcca fascians* (Brown Flycatcher) at Lockleys, searching for insects amongst the fruit trees.

Quite a number of *Grallina cyanoleuca* (Murray Magpies) have been about during the month at Lockleys, and they have been very active in searching out their insect food in the ploughed land between the rows of fruit trees; also coming right up to the house, and pecking about on the lawn and newly dug flower beds.

Several *Corvus coronoides perplexus* (Ravens) have been about.









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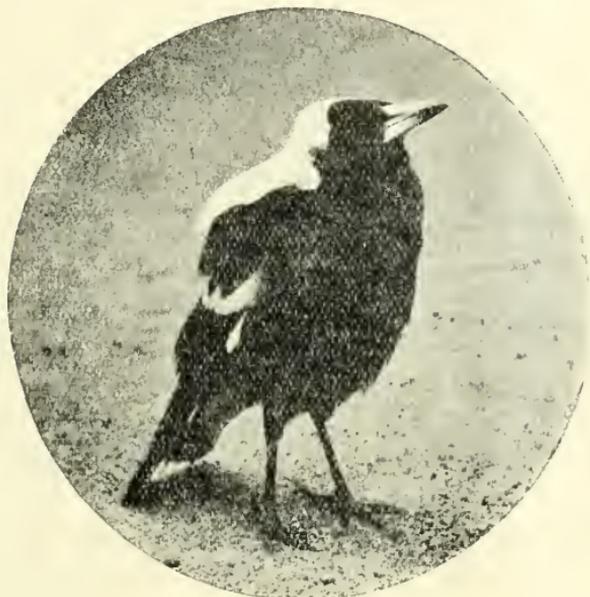
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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —  
South Australian Ornithologist.

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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—Meeting held on the 24th June, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the Chair.

A letter was read from Mrs. E. T. Angove donating the late Dr. Angove's Egg Collection to the Association. The Secretary was instructed to thank Mrs. Angove for the valuable gift.

Mr. Geo. Weidenhofer was nominated for membership by Mr. Edquist and seconded by Mr. E. Ashby.

Mr. E. Ashby exhibited nest and eggs of the Yellow-rumped Tit taken from an apple tree at Blackwood during the month, also specimens of *Melithreptus chloropsis* from Moora, West Australia.

Captain White gave an interesting account of his trip to Queensland on behalf of the Queensland Government; his mission was to investigate bird-life in relation to forestry, but more particularly in connection with the Cedar Twig-borer, an insect causing much destruction to the valuable red cedar. He found that several species of birds fed largely on this insect, particularly the Crested Shrike-tit and Yellow-breasted Robin. A number of skins of birds taken to secure a record of stomach contents was handed round and much admired.

—Meeting held on 29th July, 1921.—

Professor J. B. Cleland in the Chair.

Mr. Geo. Weidenhofer nominated at last meeting was duly elected a member of the Association.

A letter was received from Miss N. E. Hawke thanking the Association for the trophy which was given for competition amongst schools. Uraidla had secured it for the current year.

A letter and circular from the National Parks and Fauna

and Flora Reserves Committee was read and explained by the Chairman. It was desired to have a large public meeting at the Town Hall on August 16. It was decided that this Association assist and also pay its proportion of any expense incurred.

The Chairman suggested that a bird census be made. If members when travelling about the country were to make a list of all birds observed, a very reliable census of the birds inhabiting these parts could be obtained and this would be a valuable record. The Chairman mentioned that in 2,200 miles of travelling he had seen one magpie for every three miles.

Mr. E. Ashby spoke on several birds from Tasmania and showed specimens of the various Pardalotes, and a very interesting comparison was made in these very closely allied forms. A series of *Myzantha* skins were shown and fully commented upon. Mr. Ashby showed some highly coloured American birds which were much admired.

Mr. F. R. Zietz tabled some skins collected by Mr. A. S. LeSouef at Ooldea on the East-West Railway. The *Malurus* was *M. callainus* and not *M. melanotis* as Mr. LeSouef was reported to have observed there last November.

—Meeting held on the 26th August, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the Chair.

The Chairman pointed out that the egg cabinet had been delivered, and considered it a good piece of work. The amount of £34 18/6 for cabinet and lock was passed for payment.

Captain White brought forward the matter of the Zoological Gardens combining together to exploit our fauna. After much discussion the following resolution was carried unanimously—"That this Association discountenance the proposal of our Zoological Societies, in association or otherwise, engaging a general trading in our native animals."

The Chairman regretted he had to announce the death of Mr. A. Zietz, one of our foundation members, and tendered the sympathy of the Association to his son, Mr. F. R. Zietz. Captain White referred to the well-known ability of the late Mr. Zietz.

The Chairman mentioned that all were sorry to hear of the long illness of Dr. Morgan, but he was glad to hear that the Doctor expected to resume his professional duties in a week or two. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Doctor expressing the regret at the Doctor's long illness.

Nomination for new member.—Mr. C. E. Simson, Roseneath, Casterton, Victoria. Proposed by Mr. J. Neil McGilp and seconded by Captain White.

Mr. A. Crompton reported that he had heard the Pallid Cuckoo calling at Upper Kensington on 22nd August.

Captain White exhibited some very fine specimen plates of birds and eggs from "Caley's 'Birds of Australia.'"

Captain White mentioned that during Show Week the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals intended holding an "Animal Week," and he asked all members to give all the assistance possible to this deserving Society.

The birds for discussion for the evening were the Falcons.

Captain White tabled a skin of *Falco lunulatus melanotis*, the Flinder's Island Little Falcon. Mr. Zietz, on behalf, exhibited skins of *Falco lunulatus*, Little Falcon; *Falco Hypoleucus*, Grey Falcon; *Falco melanogenys*, Black-cheeked Falcon and *Falco subniger*, Black Falcon. It was noticed that while the adult Little Falcon was of a bluish shade of colour on the back, the young birds are of a brownish colour.

Much interesting information respecting the Falcons was given.

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## Order Accipitriformes, Family Muscipidae, Genus Petroica—Petroica Multicolor (Scarlet-breasted Robin).

—By S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.—

Description—Male: All upper surface, black; forehead, white; wings, blackish brown, the outer feathers dark brown, secondaries marked with white; tail, dark brown, in some cases almost black, the two outside feathers marked with white obliquely, the remaining feathers are marked with white on the outer webs; under wing coverts, white; breast, bright scarlet; throat, black; lower part of abdomen, white; eyes, brown; feet and bill, black.

Female.—All upper surface, brown; wings, brown, quill feathers marked on outer webs with white; tail, brown, outer feathers almost all white, the remainder edged with white; white spot on forehead; throat, greyish brown; breast, tinged with scarlet; under tail coverts and abdomen, white; eyes, brown; feet and legs, dark brown; bill, dark brown.

Immature—The young birds have a mottled appearance due to the general greyish brown colour with darker marking down the centre of the feathers; the wing feathers are edged with buff and the inner webs white; tail, dark brown; outer

feathers, almost white, others tipped with white; throat and under surface, grey, shading into white on the abdomen.

Distribution.—The greater part of Australia and Tasmania and the type came from Norfolk Island and described by Gosselin.

Habitat.—The birds are to be found in the open forest country as well as in the fairly thick brush of the ranges and they rather like the orchards of the settlers, where they do much good in destroying many moths and grubs harmful to the fruit culture. In the autumn these birds very often come out upon the Adelaide plains and remain in the gardens for several weeks, but seldom stay more than two or three months.

Habits.—If not molested become very confiding, watching the gardener from a twig close by and darting almost under the spade after grubs and worms. They sit upon a twig or bough almost motionless (with wings drooping, a habit so common to the Genus) watching the ground intently, and upon the sight of a moving insect, they flit to the ground, capture it, and back to the perch again.

Flight.—Not long sustained, rather jerky, and in most cases flitting from one tree to the other.

Call.—One can hardly say it possesses a song but it twitters in a low soft way as if warbling to itself. It possesses quite a funny little call when alarmed or when one approaches the nest. I have also heard it give this call when a snake or cat has been near. Many of the notes given in springtime or warm days in the winter are very sweet but low.

Food.—Purely insectivorous and will prey upon almost all small moths, flies, beetles, bugs, etc.

Nesting Season.—Extends from the latter end of July to the end of November, this depends upon the season, if it be early or late.

Nest.—Cup-shaped beautiful structure, composed of pieces of dry grass, strips of bark, moss, lichens, and often flower heads; this is bound together by means of cobwebs, the lining is composed of hair, feathers, fur, and down, the nest is often lined very neatly with rabbit fur. Nest is often placed in a horizontal fork and also in an upright one, sometimes in an old stump or behind bark. They are fond of a fruit tree covered with lichens, and by attaching these to the outside of the nest it is almost impossible to detect it.

Eggs.—Three or four in number, almost white, the ground colour greenish with spotting of brown and greyish, purple spots in some cases forming a zone at one end. Dr. Morgan gives measurements as follows—

## —Measurements.—

Average dimensions of 12 eggs: 1.86 c.m. x 1.51 c.m.; largest egg, 2.00 c.m. x 1.55 c.m.; smallest egg, 1.80 c.m. x 1.50 c.m.

—By J. W. Mellor, R.A.O.U.—

This beautiful little bird I have found to be one of the most useful of our feathered friends, as it lives almost solely on insect food. At Stirling West in the Mount Lofty Ranges this pretty little bird is common, but nowhere will you find it in greater numbers than a pair to each particular spot, unless there may be a family of two or three young ones, but these are soon made to "shift" after they are old enough to take care of themselves, for they are so quiet and confiding, and apparently peaceful little creatures; the cock birds are ever on the alert if an intruder comes along, especially another male bird. The owner of the spot will soon be seen flying swiftly towards the newcomer, uttering a sharp twitter, which apparently means mischief, and the intruder usually decamps and so saves a conflict, although at times they meet and "have it out" for a short turn only.

The Robins become so tame that they will come right up to the table where meals are being taken 'alfresco', and pick up the crumbs quite close to us.

During nesting season they build close by in a stringy-bark eucalypt, and rear their family. These they generally bring round the back door and under the verandah, where crumbs are plentiful and worms easily procurable from the wet ground nearby. There is a plentiful supply of flies, gnats, and mosquitoes, all of which form tit bits for the Robin's menu.

The young are always dull coloured throughout, without a speck of red to adorn them, and might easily be mistaken for females but for their squeaking notes as they wait for the parent birds to bring them food, and when they espy the old birds approaching they fly to meet them, fluttering their little wings and still more earnestly beseeching for the food that has been brought for them. I noted that the young get the red (in the case of the male) during the first season even before the parent birds have ceased attending to their wants. A small red spot will appear on the upper chest, then a spot on either side of the lower breast, and these three small red spots seem to grow very rapidly, and without moulting a feather, the red spreads all over the breast and the robin is in full livery, the feathers of the back and wings also darken as time goes on. This robin seems to like the solitude of the hills, the higher the elevation the better, and will breed there in preference to the

plains. Their nest is ingeniously constructed of threaded bark and fibres, and lined with a little fur or soft material, and covered with moss and lichen so as to make it appear part of the fork of the tree in which it is placed.

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## Notes on Birds met with during a Visit to South-West Queensland.

From A. CHENERY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Wentworth.

No. III.

We had a wet trip from Bilpah water-hole in to St. Ann's on our return journey from Barrioulah out-station on Nappa Merrie. On reaching tableland country out from the sand hills and swamp country the wheels of the car sank to the rims and low gear was the order of the day. We were all "proper wet," as they say in Devonshire, before we reached our destination. Of course overcoats had been left at head station and likewise the hood of the car. We were glad to find the three peculiar peaks of Bunga Bunga Dilly, marking the situation of St. Ann's homestead, growing nearer as we plugged along on squelching boots with only one of our party riding. Dr. MacGillivray filled some of his numerous bottles with fine specimens of centipedes and other crawling insects which the rain seemed to have brought to the surface in large numbers. A warm welcome and change of clothes on arrival at St. Ann's late in the afternoon soon made us forget our troubles. Nothing particularly interesting in the bird line was noted this day. During the evening Mr. Clive Conrick gave us some interesting reminiscences of his work in Palestine as a pilot in the A.F.C. and also showed us maps of country as photographed from the air, as well as other interesting souvenirs of his part in the "Great Adventure."

On the morrow we realised that further progress towards head station was impossible for two days at least on account of the country to be crossed, so decided to explore the surrounding country under Mr. Clive's direction. With this object we made a pilgrimage on foot to the top of Bunga and were rewarded by finding a pair of Black-cheeked Falcons in possession of a small cave near its summit with a half-fledged young one in residence. The side of this rather precipitous hill showed signs of having been used as a native ochre quarry, much of the stone was stained red and fine seams of this material could

yet be seen in places between the sandstone layers. It was probably worked out and abandoned, but an immense amount of labour must have been necessary, with the primitive implements at their disposal, to make the excavation there to-day. Singing Honey-eaters were plentiful on these sparsely timbered uplands. These birds appear to me to prefer more open country. A solitary pair of Hooded Robins had a nest with two fledged young in a gidgea tree. The following day the whole party, including Mr. Olive and Mrs. Conrick, set out on horseback for a more extended inspection of this interesting country. No Desert Chats were seen, which rather surprised us, as the country appeared ideal for them. A Bennett's Crow's nest with young was examined, and the usual Galahs and Bare-eyed Cockatoos flew from nearly every hollow when we approached a gum creek. The country traversed was rough and hilly and the prevailing timber mulga. A peculiar rock formation was examined on one ridge, hardened sandstone, which had evidently withstood the weathering effects of ages, stood up in various curious formations, most of them hollow, not unlike chimneys. Some were as high as four feet. Of course I do not attempt to explain this formation geologically, but the cause mentioned may have accounted for them. During our ride we had evidence of some evidently contagious disease that was playing havoc with the kangaroos. Four recently dead ones were seen and others, almost too weak to move out of the way. They appeared to be in good condition and there was abundance of feed and water. Mr. Conrick attributes this sickness amongst the kangaroos, which he has only noticed in good seasons when green feed is abundant, to the scourge of sand flies which cause glandular swellings in the throat. Unfortunately, we did not have time to perform a post-mortem examination on any of the victims. A well-grown Joey—left an orphan by its mother's death—was run down and captured but died next morning at the homestead.

Amongst the birds seen during to-day's ride were a pair of young Crow Shrikes (captured), a pair of Ground Cuckoo Shrikes, and Orange-fronted Chats. On the previous evening, during a walk along St. Ann's Creek, we flushed a delicate owl, I believe the only one seen during the trip, and also identified Collared Crow Shrike, Red-capped Robin, Black-throated Grebe, and Rufus-breasted Thickhead. A Red-backed Kingfisher's burrow was examined containing one fresh egg. The aboriginal name for this bird is "Chula" and for the Red-lore Pardalote "Poopa tella lilla," both names appearing to be descriptive of the bird's note.

On the morning of Tuesday, October 5th, we found the roads still unfit for travel as the creeks were still running, and had to trespass for another day on Mrs. Conrick's hospitality. During a walk down St. Ann's Creek a nest of Red-lore'd Pardalote, some 15 inches in the bank, consisting of quite a thick outside layer of dried grass lined with a few feathers was found containing three incubated eggs—a complete set for this species, also two nests of Black-browed Wood Swallow with young, Zebra Finch with five eggs, and a Kite's nest with two eggs. I noted the first Yellow-tail Tit seen on the trip during this walk. A nest of the Little Falcon with the bird in possession was seen later. As usual this was situated on the top of the tallest tree on the creek, and quite inaccessible to any of our party. On the following morning we said our farewells to Clive and Mrs. Conrick, the kindest and cheeriest of hosts, and started on the eighteen mile run into head station. Out on the tablelands a specimen of the Desert Chat was obtained and numerous Pratincoles were seen but they did not appear to be nesting. Hearing a song like that of the English Skylark, we pulled up and after some time Dr. MacGillivray secured a specimen of the bird which proved to be a species of song lark, *Mirafra secunda*. I was very charmed with this bird's note, while soaring high above the ground it pours out a flood of song, partly its own and partly imitations of other species, and I noted perfect reproductions of the Ground Lark, White-winged Wren, White-face, Black-browed Wood Swallow, and others. One could have spent more time listening to this delightful little songster who, in my opinion, quite equals the English Skylark, but we had to push on. A deserted nest of the Desert Chat containing one egg was found before we left the tablelands, and when we reached the box timber near the Cooper, the Tree Creepers were again in evidence. We found all well at the head station after our fortnight's absence and returned the Ford car to its owner, Mr. Jack Conrick, I hope none the worse for the rather strenuous work we had given the engine.

Next morning was spent along the Cooper by myself and Dr. MacGillivray in securing some skins of the Tree Creeper. We also found a pair of Brown Fly-catchers commencing to build, and some pairs of Black Honey-eaters. On the creek, Pelicans, White Ibis, Royal and the ordinary Spoon-bill, Cormorants, Teal, White-eyed and Pink-eared Ducks were identified. A nest of Leadbeater's Cockatoo containing three young was also found. In the evening, after a swim in the Cooper, we had instructions from Mr. Conrick as to our return journey and drank success to the venture.

On October 8th we ferried our goods over the river, packed the car, and started on the long run to Tibbooburra. For the first fifteen miles we had considerable difficulty in picking up our land marks, but at last reached the crossing at Milthermerna Creek and lunched there. I was fortunate in securing a fine set of Red-backed Kingfisher's eggs here, the first time in many attempts. These birds burrow quite a distance into the bank before the egg chamber is hollowed out. After leaving this creek we took a wrong turn which brought us down to the Narnoo crossing on the Cooper. While waiting here we were fortunate in securing a nest and pair of eggs of the Brown Flycatcher, in the usual situation on the horizontal branch with the usual inadequate nest of cobwebs, fine rootlets, and hair.

Things continued to go wrong this afternoon but I will spare my readers a detailed account of them, merely recording that we camped at a creek near Tookabarna Yards, and as it was a still night, insects of all sorts, including mosquitoes, were much in evidence. The grunting note of the Podargus and the calling of the Curlew were heard. Dr. MacGillivray found that by turning on the electric headlights of the car, he could catch many moths and beetles attracted by the light and I rather fancy that I fell asleep on this occasion before he had finished his collecting. Next day we had an early start and struck the Wilson floodwaters on our left. Lignum swamps with scattered willow trees for miles and a line of box timber marked the actual course of the main creek. We were fortunate from now on in picking up our motor tracks of the outward journey not yet wiped out by the rains that had fallen since. The usual detours over sandhills and out into rough gibber country had to be made to avoid water. We reached Tenappera on the Wilson before midday and saw some White-headed Stilts on the way.

During the halt for dinner this side of Tenappera we stripped off and investigated a dam which had flooded back and in which many trees were growing. We secured a set of four Pacific Heron's eggs on quite a low box tree. A good run was made past Bransby, Bransby Downs, Mr. Chas. Dorrell's home, and Dingera, where we had tea, on past Naryilco till we ran down the Warri Creek towards the boundary fence. Here misfortune overtook the car in the shape of cylinder trouble and we camped for the night. Mosquitoes were particularly attentive. Our driver was busy until 11 a.m. the next day in repairing the defect, and during the wait we were fortunate in securing a Wedgebill's nest with two beautifully marked eggs. These birds were plentiful at Barrioulah and along most of the

swamp country, but were not then nesting. The song is a very pleasant one, and the male bird sings almost constantly. A bunch of dry mistletoe in an acacia or in a mulga seems their favourite nesting site; four or five old nests were found in this situation. We also found nests of the Owlet Nightjar and the Cockatoo Parrakeet both with full fledged young. The young Owlets appeared to have down, or white fluff at any rate, adhering to the ends of the feathers, otherwise the plumage is similar to that of the adult. The young Parrots appear to get their adult plumage, crest and all, with their first dress.

We saw Desert Chats and Pratincoles again between the Yalpunga gate in the fence and Tibbooburra. We saw two more Desert Chats next day between Tibbooburra and Milparinka, also some Australian Dottrells; we also picked up the fresh dead body of a fully-fledged, probably young, Dottrell, that had apparently been run over by the mail car. An eventful run over bad roads landed us safely back in Broken Hill on October 12th. We must have covered well over 1,000 miles on this trip and I, personally, enjoyed every day of it. Hardships are nothing, if the work is congenial.

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## Some Tasmanian Bird Notes.

Contributed by EDWIN ASHBY, F.L.S., M.B.O.U.

—*Rhipidura motacilloides* V & H Third Record for Tasmania.—

Mr. W. H. Vaughan of Lunawanna, South Bruny Islands, Southern Tasmania, informed me that at the end of January or beginning of February, 1919, a Black-and-white Fantail (*Rhipidura motacilloides*) was flitting about his pigsty all one day, catching flies. Sad to relate, their cat brought it into the house the next day. Not only is this the third record of the occurrence of this bird in Tasmania, but it is the most southerly one by a good deal, and it is to be greatly regretted that the bird should have met with so untimely an end.

—Strange Nesting Place of *Petroica phoenicea*, Gould.—

In 1917 a pair of Swallows built a nest under the front verandah of the house of Mrs. Drake, of Lunawanna, South Bruny Island, Tasmania. The next year, 1918, by the time the Swallows had returned to resume nesting operations a pair of Flame-breasted Robins (*Petroica phoenicea*, Gould) had taken possession and refused to give way to the original owners.

The nest was just outside the dining room window, thus Mrs. Drake was able to watch them closely during the whole process of incubation and raising of the young. Two chicks were successfully brought up. The nest had not been occupied since, either by the original owners or by the intruders. Mrs. Drake stated that the Robins had a good deal of trouble at first in keeping the Swallows out. There seems no doubt as to the identity of the Robin, for the pair were continually round the house during my visit, and my informant pointed them out as being the same species that had occupied the nest. I brought the nest away with me; it is lined with fine grasses, some frayed soft string, pieces of darning cotton, and a small piece of silk.

--Reasoning powers of the Blue Wren and its value to the Horticulturist.—

Mr. W. H. Vaughan, of Lunawanna, South Bruny Island, Tasmania, who is a bird lover, gave me a rather interesting instance of the value of the Long-tailed Blue Wren (*Malurus longicaudus*, Gould) to the farmer and its power of deduction and learning by experience. He was digging in his garden with a companion and turning up with the soil numbers of short white grubs, probably beetle larvae, as it was a piece of new ground. A cock Blue Wren flew down, picked up three grubs and flew off to his nest only a few yards away and returned once or twice picking up a similar number.

It then tried four grubs at a time, but while it could pick up the four, it could not carry the extra one off, it fell out of its beak directly it attempted to fly. The bird was most persevering, picking it up again and again each time only to be met with failure as soon as flight was attempted, finally it accepted the lesson and carried away the three grubs to its hungry offspring. Throughout the long morning of fully four hours this diligent little bird went back and forth between the digger and the nest, but never once did it attempt again to carry four grubs at a time, but was content with the three it could successfully handle. It was so tame that it often perched on the moving fork as he dug and sometimes on his boots. Mr. Vaughan thought that it could not have taken much more than two minutes to take up each triplet of grubs and unload same to its young, but if we double his estimate, which will be a liberal allowance, we find that the single bird had destroyed during the morning fully 150 of these injurious larvae.

—Rapid Flight of the Falcon in Pursuit of a Homing Pigeon.—

Mr. Vaughan, who now lives at Lunawanna, some years ago lived at Newtown, one of the suburbs of Hobart, Tasmania. While in his garden he saw a Falcon, probably the Little Falcon (*Falco lunulatus* Latham) in pursuit of a Homing Pigeon. The falcon caught up with the pigeon almost above his head, struck and missed, the pigeon turned back on its course and flew straight for the distant church spire. The falcon hovered for some time ever rising upwards, by the time it had reached the desired altitude the pigeon appeared to be fully half way to the distant church, the falcon set after it and caught it up close to the church. It failed again, and the pigeon turned back again on its recent course; the falcon repeated its previous methods, striking at the pigeon a third time exactly above Mr. Vaughan's head and the pigeon then fell at his feet.

He could see no wound when he picked up the bird but noticed a small metal ring round its leg. It was alive though much distressed. He took it to a bird fancier friend of his who, by means of the ring, was able to find the owner.

I regret to say that I omitted to ascertain the distance away the church was, but I was given to understand that it was a long way, though not so far that he could not keep the birds in sight all the time. The pace of the falcon's swoop must have been nearly twice that of the pigeon in full flight. It is also remarkable that the falcon should have three failures chalked up to him; possibly the last was only a partial failure, but owing to the good offices of my friend the pigeon's life was saved.

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## Observations at Ooldea.

To the Editorial Committee,

South Australian Ornithologist.

Dear Sirs,

In the S.A. Ornithologist for July 1st of this year Mr. A. S. LeSouef still holds that he was correct in his observation of the Ooldea birds, but states that he is likely to visit the locality again and will obtain specimens. What need was there for this when my work, extending over several months, has been published as far back as January, 1919. Four Ornithological trips to the Nullabor Plain, 1st in 1917, in *The Emu*, Vol. XVIII, Part 3.

The specimens were taken and identified by the writer, yet Mr. LeSouef contradicts this. Mr. LeSouef says under *Malurus melanotus*, Black-backed Wren—"I did not collect a specimen, I put them down as *M. melanotus* from locality and field observations." Now the Black-backed Wren is not found in any such locality for all Ornithologists know this species (*M. melanotus*) is confined to the mallee belts of the Murray. Since Mr. LeSouef wrote the letter quoted above, he visited Ooldea and on his way through Adelaide left skins of *Malurus calainus* with Mr. Zeitz, Ornithologist to the S.A. Museum, evidently for identification, thus showing he did not know the bird when he handled it, for they are all *M. calainus*. Speaking of the Owls, Mr. LeSouef says, "On looking into the hole I was surprised to see two large dark owls and not the cave or light form of the masked I was expecting. The birds were only in sight for a few seconds, but they were dark brown with absolutely no white on them, certainly darker than any phase of the masked that I have ever seen." Now I took an owl from the very hole that Mr. LeSouef named and it is *Tyto novaehollandiae* which is much whiter on the breast than the Masked or Barn Owl. The whole of the under-surface being white with the absence of almost any markings.

S. A. WHITE.

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## Bird Notes.

June, 1921.

By Edwin Ashby, Blackwood.

June 11.—Nest of *Acanthiza* at Wittunga, 5 feet high in apple tree, 3 eggs partly set. Painted Quail at Eden Hills, 3 young, almost fledged, in nest.

June 16.—Musky Parakeets in large flocks flying northwards and continued so-doing for the following week.

June 23.—*Geobasiliscus chrysorrhoea*. A nest commenced 10 days previously, now ready for eggs, birds lining with a few final feathers. Situated 8 feet high in bunch of *Loranthus crocarpi*. Greenfinches been calling for days, have not heard them till quite recently. Little Brush Wattle birds have only put in an appearance for a week or two and are now very numerous.

*Glyciphila fulvifrons* have recently commenced their spring whistle.

By J. W. Mellor.

The White-fronted Herons that returned on the 20th May have been about ever since and in all probabilities will soon be nesting in their usual trees, as a great deal of hoarse croaking is going on between the various pairs.

On May 31, saw a male Flame-breasted Robin at Lockleys, an unusual occurrence.

May 31.—A Little Falcon was noted at Lockleys flying swiftly after sparrows.

June 20.—Several Black-breasted Plovers in the open fields where they bred last year.

June 20.—A restless Fly-catcher flying and hovering about, making its incessant sharp "scissor grinding" notes. Also seen again several days later.

June 22.—Observed a number of *Pseudartamus cyanopterus*, Wood Swallows, at Lockleys, eating the large "Night Ants" that were being disturbed by some men levelling the sand.

Also noted on the same date and place a number of White-browed Babblers hopping over the sand in their usual sprightly fashion, one following the other in quick succession both on the ground and in the boughs of the trees.

June 23.—Several *Corvus coronoides perplexus*, Southern Ravens, came about the garden at Lockleys, calling loudly in harsh loud notes, and settled in the fruit trees, but as no fruit is on the trees at present it is presumed that they were seeking insect food, which is plentiful in the soil.

—July, 1921.—

By A. G. Edquist.

During the Field Naturalists' visit to the Botanic Gardens on 22nd July, 1921, the Harmonious Thrush was seen, an unusual and early visit to the Adelaide Plains. The bird was singing but had not attained its full spring song.

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—This bird was observed for the first time this winter at Netherby on 16th July, between 1 and 2 p.m., but he did not call. On 17th inst. the bird first called at 8.38 a.m., several times during the day, and again at 10.25 p.m. He has called on five days since that date, the greatest silence was for four days.

Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*).—This bird called for the first time this season at 7.44 a.m. on 20th July, and has been calling every day since.

On Sunday 17th July, a Magpie (*Gymnorhina leuconota*), a Mopoke (*Spiloglaux boobook*), and a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) were heard calling at 5.39 a.m. The last-named bird has been here since 4th June.

By J. W. Mellor.

On the 3rd July the Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*) was first seen at Fulham this year, and on the 5th it appeared at Lockleys where both the notes, running up the scale and the more discordant screeching calls, were frequently heard in the open timbered country. On the 7th several pairs were noted chasing each other about, apparently mating, and all through the month they have been more than usually plentiful, their calls being heard every day. Their early arrival in such numbers seems to point to an early spring, with probably dry weather in the summer months.

While patrolling my paddocks at night during the early part of the month, especially while the moon was growing towards full, I was pleased to hear the number of Screech Owls (*Tyto alba delicatula*) that were flying about in the old gum trees calling loudly in all directions. This was very marked on the 7th inst., when the calls of the Marble Boobook Owl (*Spiloglaux marmorata*) were also noted. Apparently both these species are seeking out their respective hollows now, hence their activity.

On July 7 I noted a female White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) with her beak full of hair ready to fly to her nest which was nearly finished, save the lining. Several days later I noted three magpies pulling out bits of string from bags of chaff and all had their beaks full before departing to their nests.

The pair of Laughing Jackasses (*Dacelo gigas*) that breed here each year, have been extremely tame and often come down to examine the ground that is being dug, and fine feeds are their reward.

Quite a large number of Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyano-leuca*) are about this year, and seem to be now mating. They are very early birds and are to be seen when it is hardly light.

A solitary Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) was noted at Lockleys on the 18th inst. flying over the large gum trees, but it did not settle.

—August, 1921.—

By J. W. Mellor.

When laid up with influenza recently I was much interested in a Boobook Owl, which perched near my window each night and uttered its wierd call for a considerable time. These birds have been very noisy all the month, and also the Screech Owls. One of the latter species roosting at my back door.

Magpies have been busy nesting, and the old bird in one case could be seen sitting on the nest. During a recent storm an old nest blew down from a Norfolk Island Pine, and the quantity of wire that had been used in its construction was remarkable. Pieces of iron, steel, galvanized iron, copper, netting, binding, fencing, straw-bale, telegraph, and telephone wire were noticed.

A pair of swallows, building their mud nest over my front door, became a great nuisance owing to the quantity of mud they dropped (fully half of that carried in the building process). Every effort was made to dissuade the little builders from occupying this prominent position, but without avail, and it was decided eventually to allow the nest to be constructed. The feathering operations have been completed, and the nest made ready for laying in, when another pair of swallows came on the scene and literally turned the rightful owners out. A free fight ensued, and I was attracted by the loud chittering of many voices, and on going to the scene of action found that one intruder was actually in the nest, and feathers were flying in all directions. When the battle had ended, I noticed a quantity of feathers of all descriptions lying about, and all the swallows were gone.

A pair of Shrike-tits (*Falcoeneculus frontatus flavigulus*) have been calling loudly in a tall gum tree near the house, presumably they are selecting a site for building their nest, as every year they build nearby.

Pallid Cuckoos have been about all the month, and seem more plentiful this year than they have been for a long time past, both the "running scale" notes and the harsh grating calls have been uttered all the time.

Minahs (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*) have been very pugnacious to other birds smaller than themselves, which points to their having started their breeding season.





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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —

# South Australian Ornithologist.

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—Meeting held on 30th September, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

Mr. J. Sutton read a cutting from *The Argus*, 26/9/21, in which particulars were given of a large shipment of Australian animals and birds by the Australian Zoological Control Board.

Mr. C. E. Simson, of Casterton, Victoria, nominated at last meeting, was duly elected a member.

Mr. H. O. Love, of 24 Rose Terrace, Wayville, was nominated as a new member.

The resignations of Messrs. R. G. and W. G. Thomas were accepted with regret.

Mr. F. R. Zietz mentioned that Mr. R. E. P. Osborne had just returned from Kadina, and had told him he had observed a great many Magpies, fully 1,500 being seen in a week's travelling. Seagulls were noted well inland, and were following up behind the ploughs after the insects unearthed.

Mr. W. Weidenbach reported having noted two Shell Parrots at Glen Osmond, and Mr. A. Crompton mentioned that Red-backed Grass Parrots were in fair numbers in National Park, Belair.

Professor J. B. Cleland reported that at Glen Osmond he had noted a Crow being chased and mobbed by a flock of Starlings. Mr. G. Weidenhofer said he had often seen the same thing at Payneham.

The rest of the evening was taken up in examination and discussion of birds of the Wm. White Collection, that had been presented to the S.A. Museum. Members are indebted to Mr. F. R. Zietz for bringing along such a large selection from the collection, and for describing many of the habits of birds that,

though now rarely seen, were at one time numerous close to Adelaide.

—Meeting held on 28th October, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

Mr. H. O. Love, of Wayville, nominated at last meeting, was duly elected a member of the Association.

Mr. F. R. Zietz exhibited a pair of skins of the new parrot, the Naretha Parrot (*Psephotus naretha*). These skins had been presented to the S.A. Museum by Mr. H. L. White, of New South Wales. This new parrot is the most notable find in ornithology of Australia for a considerable time, and Mr. White was congratulated upon his good fortune, which he thoroughly deserved.

Before asking Dr. Morgan to give an address on his recent trip to North-West Australia, the Chairman said he was pleased to welcome Dr. Morgan after his long illness, and he hoped he would soon be in good health again.

Dr. Morgan gave a most interesting account of his trip from Perth to Derby, in North-West Australia, explained the habits of many of the birds he had seen, tabled fine skins he had taken for identification, and showed photographs depicting the country over which he had travelled. A very interesting exhibit was a small collection of articles secured from the playground bower of the Great Bower Bird. This bird was remarkably tame, and was common in the streets of Derby.

Dr. Morgan promised to write up his notes on the trip so that members who were not present could have the opportunity of reading them in our journal.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Morgan for his interesting lecture, and regretted that the trip was the cause of the Doctor's illness.

—Meeting held on 26th November, 1921.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair.

Mr. J. Sutton gave an interesting account of the R.A.O.U. Congress in Sydney, and described many observations made at the camp out at Ellerslee, where about 116 different birds were identified.

The main business of the evening was set down as Inspection of the Dr. Angove Egg Collection. The Secretary apologised for the non-arrival of this collection. All arrangements had been made to have the eggs ready for inspection, but at the last moment these arrangements had been upset. The collection will be available to members by the next meeting.

During the evening members viewed some of the eggs received from Mr. H. L. White.

Professor J. B. Cleland mentioned that Mr. A. M. Lea, Entomologist at the Museum, had made a study of the contents of the stomachs of birds received at various times and had them all tabulated. The result was of great value, and it was desirable that Mr. Lea's work should be published. It was decided to bring this matter under the notice of the Government with a view of having it published.

As the next meeting would fall so close to the holidays, it was decided to meet on the 16th December next.

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## Order Passeriformes, Family Sylviidæ, Genus *Acanthiza*, *Acanthiza Chrysorrhoa* (Yellow-rumped Tit).

—By S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.—

In the original R.A.O.U. Check List this bird was listed as above. Mr. Gregory M. Mathews, in his 1913 List, gave it Cabanis's generic name of *Geobasilens*, but in the new R.A.O.U. List this bird will be back under *Acanthiza*. Mr. Mathews made seven *sub-sp.*, taking Quoy and Gaimaid's N.S.W. bird as the dominant species. It may be difficult to hold to so many as seven *sub-sp.* Yet several of the forms differ remarkably from each other. The interior birds, as would be expected, are much lighter throughout and the yellow on the rump brighter. The Yellow-rumped Tit was once a very common bird on the Adelaide plains, but is seldom seen now, due no doubt to its quiet, confiding nature, making it an easy prey to the domestic cat, gone wild or otherwise.

Description—Upper surface, greyish brown, with a shade of olive all through it; wing coverts, same shade; primaries, dark brown; secondaries, dark brown, edged with olive brown; forehead, from black to blackish brown, each feather having a white spot at the extreme end, giving the forehead a spotted appearance; feathers of the cheeks often edged with buff; throat and under-surface, buffy white, becoming darker on the flanks; under-tail coverts, yellow; line over the eye to the bill, white; upper tail coverts, bright yellow; tail, dark, blackish brown, narrow external margin of grey, each feather tipped with greyish white; face of feathers, whitish, tinged with yellow; bill, black; feet, black; iris, dull white.

Measurements—Length, 110 m.m.; spread of wings, 192 m.m.; bill, 10 m.m.; tarsus, 16 m.m. The northern form is lighter than the above. There is little or no difference in colouration between the sexes.

Distribution—Over the greater part of Australia, including Tasmania and other islands. The writer has recorded it from Queensland, Tasmania, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia.

Habitat—They are to be found in varied situations, for they extend from the coastline right through the interior, inhabiting open forest country, low scrub with prickly acacia, on the edge of the mangroves along tidal creeks, on the plains, and in the rocky ranges, and in the interior they are often met with amidst the dense mulga scrubs. The writer has often met with this bird amidst the low vegetation along the coastline.

Habits—A lively little bird, moving about in small parties from three or four to a dozen, and become very confiding. They spend much of their time hopping about on the ground in search of food, but they also search the twigs, leaves, and limbs of trees and shrubs for insect life. This is a very familiar bird to us grown-up Australians, for it was so common in our childhood days, and was commonly called the "Tom-Tit," and there are few of us who have not seen their strange nests and probably robbed them.

Flight—Not long or sustained, merely flitting from bush to bush or to the ground, and when in flight they show the yellow upper tail-coverts most conspicuously.

Call—It could almost be called a song, it is so sweetly pretty, and when one or two are twittering at the same time it is most pleasing. The notes are low, but very sweet.

Food—Consists almost entirely of insect life; stomach contents reveal many coleopterous insects, a few winged flies, many scale insects and plant bugs, and in one instance a few small seeds.

Nesting Season—These birds are rather erratic breeders, beginning as a rule early and keeping on till late in the season, and an odd nest at times will be found quite out of season. August to November seem about the general range of their nesting season, and they very often bring out the third brood in the season.

Nest—Is one of the most curious of Australian birds' nests, being at times comparatively large and consisting of several compartments, hardly ever less than two. The use of the extra compartment, or compartments, has been the subject of much speculation amongst field workers. The writer favours the

idea of it being a resting place and shelter for the male bird, and at times occupied by the female, for he has more than once flushed a bird from the compartment other than the one containing the eggs.

The nest is a large structure, composed of many materials, such as dry grass, leaves, flower heads, wool, strips of bark, and many other substances, and is placed as a rule in thick foliage, the bough of a tree, thick shrub, hedge, or the like. Very often the nest of this bird is found underneath and placed in amongst the sticks of large birds, such as the Wedge-tailed Eagles, Whistling Eagles, Magpies, Crows, etc. The nest proper is covered in and often has a spout-like entrance; the interior is warmly lined with feathers or fur, and sometimes with flower heads, such as thistle-down.

Eggs—Three to five in number, usually pure white, but occasionally spotted faintly at one end with brown specks.

—By J. Neil McGilp.—

The most remarkable habit of this species is that of its nest construction. It is really a two-storied nest. An open cup-shape nest is first constructed, and then underneath this the nest proper is attached. Why this method of nidification is resorted to seems hard to solve, for the entrance to the lower compartment, in which the female incubates the eggs, is so cunningly concealed that further deception seems unnecessary. That it is not used as a roosting place for the male bird I proved to my satisfaction years ago, when living at Bungaree, Clare. I visited the nest dozens of times just as darkness set in and the birds had gone to roost, but failed to find the open cup nest inhabited. The usual place for roosting was in the lower nest with the female, but I found that a few times the male had roosted in a thick clump of mistletoe close to nest. If the open nest is made to deceive cuckoos, it is not a success, for though I have often found eggs of the Bronze and the Narrow-bill Bronze Cuckoo with the Tits' eggs in lower compartment, I have not yet found them in the top nest. The only theory I can advance is that it is built to accommodate the young birds when they are at the early flying stage. The entrance to the nest proper is difficult to enter for the young birds, and I have noted the young in the open nest during the mid-day hours. I have previously pointed out that the Black-handed Whiteface practically demolishes the long, narrow tunnel to its nest when the young are just at the flying stage. Is it not possible that the Yellow-rumped Tit has this reason for the top nest?

The entrance to their nest proper is by far the hardest to find of any species I know, and I would advance this theory in the hope that observations may lead to a solution of the why and wherefore of the upper nest.

Both birds share in the carrying of material to the nest and, so far as my observations go, in the actual building of their home. Both also assist in the feeding of their young. The food is insect life, secured principally from the ground.

Though in form the nest found is typical of the species, a great variation is noted in the materials used and in the site chosen for the nest. Possibly slight preference is shown for a drooping, leafy branch in which to hang the nest, but dense hedges and parasitic growths in prickly shrubs are as frequently resorted to. I once observed an authentic nest, with upper nest also, built in the crevice between a large piece of bark and a gum-tree trunk, and have often noted the nest built under the large stick nest of Hawks and Eagles; and once at least found young of both species in such a position.

The usual clutch of eggs seems to be three, though four eggs are frequently found. The color of eggs is typically pure white, but occasional eggs in a set are spotted with reddish brown at larger end. I can recall to mind a full set of three eggs that were all finely freckled, but this is of rare occurrence.

The young have the adult plumage when leaving the nest.

An average northern nest measures externally 8 inches in depth by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. The cup nest measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter by barely  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in depth. Externally it is made of short, small twigs, grass, flower stems, flower pods and heads, grass seeds, burrs, wool, and spiders' cocoons, the whole of which are matted together with cobweb. The cup nest is not lined, but the lower nest is snugly lined with grass, fur and feathers. It is noticeable that highly colored feathers seem to be preferred as lining.

These Tits often add a new nest to an old one, but in this case no open nest is constructed, even should the previous cup nest be demolished by weather conditions and age. At Yallingup, Western Australia, members of the R.A.O.U. Camp-out examined a wonderful cluster of these nests; at least four nests had been added to the original.

## A Trip to North-West Australia.

—By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.—

My wife and I left Fremantle on the morning of June 3rd, 1921, on the s.s. *Minderoo*, bound for Derby, in the East Kimberley District. The weather was rough and rainy, and scarcely any birds were seen the first day out, but next morning a few Mutton Birds, probably the fleshy-footed, were skimming the waves about the ship, and in the distance numbers of a small Grey-and-White Petrel, which, however, kept too far from the ship to be identified. On June 5th we landed at Carnarvon, 487 miles north of Perth. The town is three miles from the mile-long jetty, so we spent the time in looking for birds in the sandhills. Very few were seen; a Silver-eye (*Zosterops gouldi*), the Singing Honey-eater, and a *Sericornis* seemed to be the only inhabitants. The extensive sand and mud flats were also almost untenanted; a few Sea Curlews and Silver Gulls only were seen. On June 6th the first flying fish were seen, and on that day also we rounded the N.W. Cape, with the wreck of the cattle steamer *Mildura* standing up as though at anchor. The Dampier archipelago begins at this cape, and although many interesting looking islands were passed, the only birds seen were a few Crested Tern in winter plumage. Onslow was reached at night, so we saw nothing of the town or country. On June 7th Point Sampson was reached. Here a few Pelicans were seen on an island near the jetty. We spent an hour or two walking about the rocky foreshore, again nearly destitute of birds, the only ones seen being a pair of Sooty Oyster-catchers and a fine pair of White-headed Ospreys, which had their nest on a rocky pinnacle near the sea. The rocks here are covered with beautiful oysters, but as we had nothing to get them off the rocks with we had to be content with looking at them. Point Sampson is also famous for a small, conical mollusc, with a turquoise blue operculum, much in demand for necklaces, etc.

The next place of call was Point Hedland, 262 miles distant. This is a tidal port, and we had to wait some time for water enough to cross the bar. We had twelve hours here, and spent the time in a walk round the town and along the seashore. *Ptilotis sonora* was very common here, feeding on the bird flower, a leguminous plant, with a greenish flower shaped like a bird with half-raised wings. Under the stones on the shore were numbers of hermit crabs of a species new to me, and in the sea there was a solitary turtle, the only one seen on the

trip. The next stage was from Port Hedland to Broome, 262 miles. The whole of June 9th was spent at sea with nothing of interest to be seen. Broome was reached at 11 p.m., with a hard bump on the jetty, part of which we carried away. Broome is also a tidal port, and on getting up before breakfast we found our ship high and dry on the mud. We spent a few hours ashore here, posting letters and making small purchases, also keeping a look-out for birds. Those we saw had a very familiar appearance, such as the Pied Grallina, Black-faced Woodswallow, and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike. The inhabitants of Broome are a sarcastic comment on the "White Australia" policy; almost every colour under the sun is to be found among them. Our last stage was from Broome to Derby, 243 miles. Soon after leaving Broome a few Brown Ginnets sailed past the ship, and soon afterwards we passed for miles through a shoal of large fish, which seemed to feed on some small fry; the water for as far as one could see was broken at intervals as they leapt from the surface. We had to anchor off Cape Leveque for some hours, waiting for daylight before entering King's Sound by the narrow and dangerous Escape Pass. The scenery here is very wild and rugged, but very desolate looking from the sea. As we passed Sunday Island five frigate birds sailed majestically out and over the ship. We did not see any Boatswain Birds, but Captain Courthope, of the Minderoo, assured me that they were the white-tailed species, and that he had caught one that came aboard. This point is worth further investigation.

Derby was reached on the evening of June 11th. The town is situated at the extremity of King's Sound, on the estuary of the Fitzroy River, and is a tidal port, the maximum rise and fall being 42 feet. From the sea the prospect is most uninviting; first a belt of mangroves growing in soft mud and then a dry mud flat, known as "The Marshes," about a mile wide, crossed by a causeway for the train and cattle race. The town itself is pretty; the founders, with more foresight than usual, have left the huge baobab trees in the streets, which have been further improved by planting *Poinciana excelsis*. At Derby we spent three days, waiting for transport, at one of the hotels, of which the least said the better. The first day was spent in a ramble through the scrub, locally called "piudau," at the back of the town. Birds were numerous, the most conspicuous being the Sordid Friar Bird (*Philemon sordidus*), whose peculiar, not unpleasant, notes were to be heard from morning till night. I believe this bird has been united with *Philemon citreogularis*, but I think it is at least entitled to sub-

specific rank. Another bird remarkable for its beautiful song is the Black-throated Butcher Bird (*Cracticus nigrigularis, sub-sp. picatus*). This bird is quite common, even in the township; its tuneful notes are to be heard all day, but more commonly in the mornings and evenings. In the red-flowered Bohemia trees, probably a corruption of *bauhinia*, were flocks of Yellow-tinted Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga florescens*), Black-faced Woodswallows, and Pied Caterpillar-eaters. The two latter birds seemed to have become almost entirely honey-eaters: a specimen of each, shot for museum purposes, had the forehead bright yellow from the pollen of the flowers. All the caterpillar birds were in winter plumage, evidently being here in their winter quarters. Small families of Babblers (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*) were noisily playing about in the undergrowth. Brown Flycatchers (*Microeca assimilis*) were singing in the scrub, and every now and then a "Kimberley Kookaburra" (*Dacelo leachi*) would glide past, while overhead small flocks of Red-winged Parrots (*Ptilistes erythropterus*) passed or settled in a fresh feeding tree. On the telegraph wires were occasional Red-backed Kingfishers and any number of Galahs, and now and again a Great Bower Bird (*Chlamydera nuchalis*) would fly across the street from one garden to another, and as evening came on a large flock of Bee-eaters came into the town and settled in the trees for the night.

On June 9th Mr. H. Monger took us crabbing at the end of the jetty. I cannot say too much of the kindness and helpfulness of this gentleman, without whose aid we would have been like lost sheep. The tide was going out when we arrived at the jetty, and the bare mud was covered with walking fish, small, slim fish from four to eight inches long, which crawl about on the wet mud and hop when they are in a hurry, and sometimes make short leaps into the air after flies. Here and there bright scarlet spots showed up vividly; these were scarlet-and-black fighting crabs, which scurried into their holes at the least alarm. The walking fish were very inquisitive, and if a piece of stick be thrown into the mud they will hop up and form an admiring circle around it.

The mangroves near the jetty are small and thickly set, the mud is also soft and deep, and a crocodile track near the jetty not being very reassuring, I did not go into them. From the jetty we saw the Mangrove Thickhead (*Pachycephala lanioides*), a Fantail (*Rhipidura subphastana*), the Chestnut-bellied Rail (*Eulabcornis castaneoventris*), a Mangrove Bittern (*Butorides striata*), and an unidentified *Gerygone*. Sacred Kingfishers along the edge of the mangroves were taking their toll

of the walking fish; a fine Sumatran Heron flapped lazily over the jetty, and in the shallow creeks behind the bushes a few large White Egrets were fishing. Many large crabs were caught, as well as a number of large milk-white prawns, both excellent for the pot.

On June 15th Mr. G. Millard, the manager of Meda Station, 30 miles east of Derby, kindly sent in a buckboard to take us out to the station. The first part of the road is over the dry marshes, where there is nothing of interest except an occasional pipit. The road then runs through the "pindau," in which birds swarm. Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus banksii*), Galahs, Crimson-winged Parrots, Black-throated Butcher Birds, Sordid Friar Birds, Little Wood-swallows (*Artamus minor*), Black-headed Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus melanocephalus*), and Cockatoo Parrots were seen in numbers. At a watering place about half-way to the station there were numbers of Long-tailed Finches (*Pocephila acuticauda*) and Chestnut-eared Finches (*Tacniopygia castaneotus*). In the pindau we also saw, for the first time, the huge white ant heaps, of a reddish or grey-brown colour, and reaching a height of as much as 12 feet. Near the station the road goes through the open grass country—great, beautifully-grassed plains, the grass being nearly dry at the time of our visit, as it was the middle of the dry season, for although the rainfall of the district is from 25 to 30 inches, it all falls in the summer months. On these grass plains are numbers of Native Companions (*Antigone rubicunda*); we never went for a drive without seeing several pairs. They are fortunately not interfered with, and are in consequence very tame; not so the Wild Turkeys (*Eupodotis australis*) which, though plentiful enough, always rose well out of range of the buggy. Meda Station is a fine, comfortable homestead, built on a sandstone ridge to be out of the reach of floods; within a few hundred yards is a fine, deep billabong, on which were feeding White-necked Herons, White Egrets, and White and Straw-necked Ibis. The gum-trees surrounding the billabong were the home of a big flock of Bare-eyed Cockatoos. In the bushes near the water I found a playground of the Great Bower Bird. We found three of these playgrounds; two of them were completely arched over, and the third, probably a new one, was slightly open at the top. One which was measured was 43 c.m. in height, 47 c.m. in length, and 44 c.m. broad; almost a cube. The total length of the bower with the platform was 130 c.m. This platform is built entirely of dull white objects, such as stones, bones, shells, etc., at each end; on one side were pieces of dull green glass.

and on the other lumps of charcoal. These were kept quite distinct and the colours were never mixed. There were no other colours, although the birds could have obtained glass and other objects of almost any colour from the station yards. Nor were there any glistening objects, though such were easily obtainable; even the pieces of glass were worn and lustreless, and in each of the bowers examined it was of exactly the same shade of green. The following collection of articles was found in one of the bowers—(1) Bones, (2) clear glass, (3) white shells, (4) white stones, (5) leaden bottle capsules, (6) galvanised nails, (7) tea lead, (8) green glass, (9) charcoal. All the bowers were built among low, dark green bushes, with a small green berry-like fruit, known locally as “kunkleberry bush.” More than one pair of birds use each bower; on two occasions I saw three birds at one of them, but never more than that. When at the bower the birds make only a low, growling sort of noise. I did not hear them do any mimicking, but once at Derby, whilst sitting on a verandah, two birds came into a shadehouse close by and gave a very fair imitation of the Pied Grallina and the Black-faced Grauculus. These birds were very plentiful about Meda homestead and very tame, coming right on to the verandah after scraps. They are frugiferous and consequently not welcome visitors to the gardens; they are particularly fond of tomatoes. The stomach of one bird collected contained only triturated vegetable matter. They are much more numerous about the stations and stockyards than in the open bush, perhaps on account of the pieces of glass being more available there. Some of the pieces of glass are of quite large size, one piece weighing 26 grammes.

Crows are very scarce in this district, their place as scavengers being taken by the Allied Kites (*Milvus migrans*), a flock of 100 or more of which birds were constantly hovering over Meda Station; with them were a few Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*). No Wedge-tailed Eagles or Magpies were seen throughout the trip; the former are said to be very rare and the latter are unknown. There is a great variation in the colour of the Allied Kites, some being as light as Whistling Eagles and others on the wing looked quite black. Other Hawks seen during the trip were Kestrels, Grey Falcons, and Goshawks (*Astur novee-hollandiae*) and Brown Hawks (*Hieracidea berigora*), all very dark in colour; I did not see any striped birds.

On June 18th Mr. Millard got some of the blacks to make spear-heads for us; two of them were made of stone, but nowadays bottle glass is more commonly used, being easier to work.

Also in former days they were shaped with a piece of kangaroo bone or hard wood, but now a piece of fencing wire is used. In the afternoon we went in search of native skeletons, which were said to be in some large hollow baobab trees. We found two, and appropriated the skulls for the Adelaide University. On the 19th we had an exhibition of spear and boomerang throwing by the blacks; the boomerang throwing was very poor (apparently this tribe did not use this weapon), but the spear throwing was good.

About a mile from the station is the Lennard River, at the time of our visit a series of long, deep reaches, connected by a small stream of running water. In flood time it is a huge stream, sometimes spreading miles from its banks. The pools are said to be occupied by crocodiles, but we had not the good fortune to see any, but it was pointed out to me that there were no water birds on the deep pools, they having long since found out the danger of these reptiles. The river flats are more heavily timbered than the higher country; many of the trees were quite new to me, but eucalyptus predominates here as elsewhere. A species of paper bark (*Melaleuca* sp.) here grows to a height of 40 feet or more. Birds are very numerous the most conspicuous being the White-gaped Honey-eater (*Meliphaga unicolor*). Small flocks were always in evidence, fighting and chattering among the trees of the river bank. Another common Honey-eater was the Yellow-tinted (*Meliphaga florescens*), very similar in its habits to our common "Greenie" (*Ptilotula penicillata*). I saw a pair of these birds busily removing a nest from one tree and rebuilding it in another, just as our "Greenie" does. This and the Black-headed Diamond Bird were the only ones we saw showing any signs of breeding. Other Honey-eaters were the White-throated (*Meliphaga albogularis*), the White-breasted Honey-eater (*Gliciphila fasciatus*), and the Least Honey-eater (*Stigmatops indistincta*). Fly-catchers were not at all common; a few Leaden Flycatchers (*Microeca assimilis*), and the Wagtail (*Leucocircus tricolor*). These last were seldom seen about the station, perhaps because the blacks dislike them, and kill them whenever they get a chance. They say they listen about the camps and tell secrets to the policeman. This superstition seems to be widely spread throughout Western Australia, as a friend informed me that in the early days of Coolgardie the blacks there believed the same thing. On June 21 Mr. Millard got his fishing net out, and set the blacks to drag the billabong. These billabongs abound in fish and freshwater prawn, the latter of enormous size. The largest one I saw caught measured 18 inches in

length and weighed nine ounces. They also caught a number of fish locally known as "mud cod," which were excellent for the table. On June 23rd Mr. Chalmers, the manager of Kimberley Downs Station, kindly sent over for us, and we left for that station, situated 30 miles east of Meda. On the road we came across the Black-tailed Treecreeper (*Climacteris melanura*), a bird very similar in habits and notes to our Brown Treecreeper. They are uncommon, only three birds being seen during the trip. The only other Treecreeper seen was the White-winged Treecreeper (*Necositta leucoptera*), which seems to me to be a very distinct species. At Kimberley Downs is the only hill we saw in the district. It is called Mt. Marmion, and is only about 360 feet high. I climbed to the top and found there a large flock of Little Wood-swallows (*Artamus minor*) in possession of one of the precipitous sides. We spent most of our time at Kimberley Downs on the banks of the Lennard River, collecting birds and insects. Near the river is a fine swamp, feeding upon which were hundreds of Magpie Geese (*Anseranas semipalmatus*), besides Egrets, Spoonbills, Ibises, and White-necked Herons. On another smaller swamp I had the good fortune to see a fine pair of Jabirus (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*). I had a fine view of them from about 100 yards distance, and was so absorbed in watching them with the field-glasses as they hunted frogs in the shallow water that I quite forgot to take a photo. of them. They are not common on the Lennard River, but I was told are much more so on the Fitzroy. In spite of their rather awkward appearance they are nimble enough in the water, and wrought great havoc amongst the frogs whilst I was watching them. On the grass flats the Little Grass Warbler (*Cisticola exilis*) is very common. They rose like lion butterflies on either side of the track as we drove along, but we saw nothing of the Grass Birds (*Megalurus*) or of the Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus*). On the creek near Kimberley Downs homestead were some large pools, the trees about them being, as usual, in possession of a huge flock of Bare-eyed Cockatoos, which regularly at 5.45 a.m. each morning flew screaming over the homestead on their way to their feeding grounds on the plains. There was also a good-sized flock of Nankeen Herons (*Nycticorax caldonicus*) at this pool and a few Darfers (*Anhinga norae-hollandiae*), all of them with white breasts. Under the verandah of the homestead were the remains of some Fairy Martins' (*Lagenoplastes ariel*) nests, but we saw none of the birds. Swallows generally were quite rare. A few pairs of Tree Swallows (*Hylodichelidon nigricans*) and a pair of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neorena*) about the Derby jetty were all

we saw throughout the trip. Cuckoos also were uncommon—in fact, the only one seen was an immature bird the species of which I could not determine—but I was told that both the Channel Bill (*Scythrops norae-hollandiae*) and the Keel (*Eudynamis orientalis*) visit the district during the rainy season. They are known here as elsewhere in Australia as the Big and Little Storm Bird.

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## Notes on Birds seen during a Recent Visit to the Western Darling, N.S.W.

—By A. CHENERY.—

After joining Dr. Macgillivray and his son Ian on August 12th at Broken Hill, our party left that town next day on the first stage to Milparinka. We travelled in a Ford with light lorry body. Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Heywood, of Broken Hill, were also of the party, and used their own Dodge car. Their intention was to spend a holiday in the back country and to traverse portion of the route covered by Capt. Sturt in his expedition into the interior in 1844-45.

Our time was therefore more given up to covering country than to systematic ornithology, and the bird life met with probably did not include all the species that are to be found during a good season such as the present one has been in this portion of our State.

The first stage to Fowler's Gap (75 miles) was completed by sundown and, while having tea by a gum creek, many Bare-eyed Cockatoos and Galahs were flushed from nesting hollows. Everywhere along the road, which for part of the way winds through the Barrier Range and then over open tablelands, herbage and wild flowers were abundant. In the vicinity of Broken Hill at this time the Sturt Pea was in flower, and the sight of an acre or more covered with the brilliant crimson and black blooms of this plant was one which will not readily be forgotten. Ringneck Parrots were also found at their hollows, and Bennett's Crows were circling amongst the mulga timber on the hillsides. This bird appears to have quite a fondness for doing aerial gymnastics, and was often noted during the trip in gatherings of perhaps thirty to fifty birds all in the air together, flying around apparently aimlessly. A single Black Falcon was also identified not far from Fowler's Gap.

An early start on the morning of the 14th enabled us to reach our destination for that day—Mount Sturt homestead, about 16 miles west of Milparinka. While having breakfast on the road, after leaving Fowler's Gap, the first Crested Wedgebills were heard singing. Bennett's Crows' nests were seen between Cobham Lake and Milparinka, but those examined were empty of eggs or young. After spending the night at Mount Sturt, where we received the usual open-handed hospitality from Mr. Arthur Bartlett and his family, we left for Yandanna Station, which is owned by Sir S. Kidman and is stocked with cattle. There is little doubt in my mind that since this owner acquired so many of these West Darling runs and stocked them with cattle in place of the sheep, the natural herbage, especially saltbush, has revived to a marked extent, and the country, at any rate in a good season, has lost the barren aspect so often to be noticed where sheep are heavily stocked. Two miles from Mt. Sturt homestead, on open stony tableland, we saw our first Australian Dottrell. It was only a single bird, and we failed to flush its mate, if it possessed one. Later on we came on a family of five birds, evidently parents and fledged young. While making a short examination of a grove of gidgsa some miles further on many Bennett's Crows' nests were seen and one set of six fresh eggs obtained. A Treecreeper—which I believe was the ordinary brown variety—was seen here, and *Acanthiza uropygialis* was found nesting in its favourite situation—between a loose piece of bark and the trunk of the tree. This nest contained three eggs. Numerous Zebra Finches were nesting, and eggs were in most of the nests. A solitary—as they usually appear to be—Little Eagle was also noted, but no eggs were found, although one nest was found prepared for eggs. There are generally a few green gum leaves in the nests of both this species and those of the Whistling Eagle. The Kite appears to prefer dried cow manure, or some material which closely resembles it, for a lining. In a needlewood, out in more open country, a second set of six fresh Bennett's Crows' eggs were obtained. One may as well remark here that this time, mid-August, appears to be the laying time for these birds, and I am not exaggerating when I say that one could have filled a large billy-can with their eggs during the three weeks we travelled round and then have had some to spare. The same remarks apply to the nesting of the Bare-eyed Cockatoo and the Galah. A solitary Little Falcon was seen hawking out on the tablelands, but where its home was situated remains a mystery, as no second bird was seen along the nearest creek, when we reached it, nor yet in the Gidyea.

After running down a likely looking gum creek for two or three miles after leaving the high ground, we came to Yandama homestead, where Mr. and Mrs. Winton made us welcome. At our late luncheon fresh tomatoes were on the bill of fare, although this was only August. Mr. Winton informed us that they had them practically all the year. A fine excavated tank of water supplies the garden and household requirements. Many fruit trees were lost in the recent drought of 1919-1920, and white ants are a pest hard to combat when they take to the roots, as they do very often in these latitudes. During a walk with Dr. Macgillivray along the Yandama Creek after dinner we flushed a Goshawk from an old engine shed. An outcrop of rock here had evidently been used by the original owners as a source from which to obtain their nuclei for chipping the flakes one picks up so often in the Darling country. An old aboriginal named Joe, of whom more anon, told me that this stone outcrop was Yandama in his tribe's lingo.

During our evening's discussion the further route was now decided upon. A blackboy (aged about 65!) was to be our guide and companion. The road to Callabonna Lake was pronounced possible for car traffic, and the question of petrol supply for the return journey arranged with the kind assistance of our host, Mr. Winton. He also told us that we could get to Fort Grey in the Nor'-West corner, where there was a lake that still held some water, should we decide to go there on our return from Callabonna. Next morning, after loading up the cars with some additional food for ourselves and the engines and duly collecting our guide, we set out for Tilha Outstation, some 50 miles west. Our guide—"Sit-down Jimmy"—was, we discovered, well-named and did his best to live up to it. Even the opening of the infrequent gates appeared to be almost too great a strain on his energy. At Yandama we came into the kite country again, and numbers of these birds were constantly to be seen hovering round. Their nests were also not uncommon, but none were examined. The country traversed now changed from stony tableland to sandy ridges, covered with mulga and other species of the acacia family. There was nothing of interest seen during the early part of the journey, and we passed through a substantial wire-netted vermin-proof fence into South Australia at a distance of some 37 miles from the homestead. I omitted to mention that there is a blacks' camp a couple of miles from Yandama, which was visited by some of our party while Dr. Macgillivray and myself explored the creek. Amongst the residents was an immigrant lady, who hailed from London town—not the west-end—who is

married to a full-blooded aboriginal named Witchitie. This lady, I was told, did not appear to feel her position as an out-cast in a blacks' camp, and referred to her husband as "Mr. Forbes." There were also two copper-coloured young Forbes as the result of the experiment. The diet of carpet snake, lizard and rabbit, with an occasional kangaroo or dingo pup as a tit-bit, appeared to agree with the lady.

So much for this digression, but the case appeared to me worthy of comment.

Shortly after passing into South Australia a Wedge-tailed Eagle was flushed from her nest in a low swamp gum-tree on the right of the track. On climbing a limb on the far side one could look down on to the nest and two fine eggs were visible but all one's efforts to climb over the edge of the nest from below or to cross over to it from another limb proved futile, and without a rope we were compelled to give it up. A little later we reached Tilcha Out-station, near a creek of the same name, and here we were provided with a late luncheon by Mr. and Mrs. Jackson. After a chat with the men we left on the last stage of our journey for Tilcha bore, 20 miles on, and thence to Callabonna hut. The country around Tilcha is more open again, but some sandy patches were met with before reaching the bore.

There was practically no bird life of interest seen on the way, although the country was in good heart everywhere—shrubs in bloom and wild flowers in abundance.

Tilcha bore water is hot and, after rising a foot above the pipe discharges into the creek, which it keeps running for some twenty miles through sandy country, and by this fact one can realise that the flow must be of considerable volume. The trees in the immediate neighbourhood of the hot water are dead, but lower down, when the water has cooled, and by so doing has deposited some of its "salts in solution," the trees and vegetation on its banks seem to thrive and the stock drink it freely. On humans, until they get used to it, it acts as most mineralised waters do, and has a tendency to reduce corpulence. On crossing from one side of this creek to the other, while following an alleged track, one of the cars—the Dodge—became bogged, and by the time we had it out of difficulties it was time to camp. The sandhills in this region run in a general direction east and west—the prevailing winds being north and south—and our road fortunately was almost due west. If it had not been for this fact no car could have negotiated the sandhills, which were as steep as the side of a house and threatened to obliterate the creek in places. Timber—mostly

needle-wood and mulga—Blue-bonnets, Galahs, Bare-eyed Cockatoos, Warbling Grass Parakeets, Kites, Whistling Eagles, and Bennett's Crows were plentiful here, and Owlet Nightjars were heard during the evening. In the morning a fine Black Falcon flew up the creek and a Little Eagle was seen. As we intended working this creek more thoroughly on our return, no time was spent on the outward journey, and we were soon on our way to Callabonna Out-station. This was reached over a bad road at 2 p.m. The creek runs out into marshy land some eight miles before reaching the homestead, which is quite near the shores of the Lake. After a chat with Mr. Bill Hayes, who is in charge, and a consultation in which Boulka Fred, another smiling old fraud of a blackboy, and Sit-down Jimmy took part, we set off to search for the site of the fossil remains situate somewhere on the 100-mile circumference of this Lake. I believe that this measurement is an exaggeration, but I am repeating it as a sample of the information supplied locally, which is more than half hearsay.

It must be quite twenty years ago that the late Mr. Zietz and party established a camp at this fossil deposit, and on behalf of the South Australian Museum obtained the remains of the *Diprotodon*, a complete skeleton of which in the Museum at present is a standing memorial to the patience and skill of Mr. Zietz. The local aborigines informed us that they knew where this camp had been. Mr. Hayes could not give us any definite information on the subject. He, however, started Boulka Fred and another ancient off in a buckboard and we followed. There was no road, and the surface over which we had to travel was typical of this wind-swept desert salt lake country. However, we managed to get some eight miles along the lake to a small water-course opposite an island out in the lake, and there we decided to camp, still a good mile from the margin of the lake proper—a glistening expanse of salt.

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## Notes by the late Dr. Angove, Tea-Tree Gully, S.A.

—By J. NEIL MCGILP.—

When taking delivery of the egg collection of the late Dr. Angove, generously donated to the S.A. Ornithological Association by Mrs. Angove, jun., a few notes taken by the late Dr. Angove were found.

Thinking that these are worthy of publication, the writer takes the liberty of rewriting them.

*Acanthiza nana* (Little Tit-Warbler)—Shot one at Black Hill, Rhine Villa, October, 1905, in a pine tree, also one on September 2nd, 1906, at Mannum, at back of township. On October 2nd, 1907, E. Angove took nest and eggs about half a mile back from Mannum; nest about 12 feet from ground in a mallee, much the same character as *A. lineata*—four inches long,  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ , neatly and compactly made of fine grass, flower heads, wool, spiders' webs, and lined with feathers. The eggs, two in number, slightly incubated, much like *A. lineata*, but slightly smaller and rounder compared with clutch taken at Teatree Gully. Zone is well marked, but there the markings in most of the eggs are much more distinct and numerous. This bird is very fond of pine trees, and is everywhere found on the pine-studded flats near Mannum.

*Acanthiza pusilla* (Brown Tit-Warbler)—Found commonly in samphire country on Torrens Island, where they nest low down in the samphire bushes a foot or so from ground, and the nest is rather difficult to find. At Pt. Gawler, St. Kilda, and LeFevre's Peninsula also we have found them in same position. They are early breeders, nests being found in August.

*Myzomela nigra* (Black Honey-eater)—F. Hall obtained the nest and eggs of this bird at Teatree Gully, October, 1909. This is the only record of its nesting here for some years.

*Glyciphila albifrons* (White-fronted Honey-eater)—This bird is fairly numerous at Buckleys, near the Stone Wall, Mannum. The bird nests low down on the top of a stump of mallee cut off and just sprouting again, or in a low bush; we took one set of two eggs at end of October, 1907.

*Alcyon azurea* (Azure Kingfisher)—Just below Gumera-cha Bridge and between the fords obtained a fine clutch on November 4th, 1906. The nest was in a bank alongside of a deep pool; the tunnel was about 18 inches deep and about two feet above water level, the soil being quite damp. The enlarged chamber at end of tunnel, in which were the eggs, was a good size, and the eggs, six in number and fresh, were lying on powdered-up crayfish shells.

*Cacomantis flabelliformis* (Fantailed Cuckoo).  
 September 2nd, 1907—Numerous in scrub at Rhine Villa.  
 April 2nd, 1909—Seen at Highercombe.  
 October 10th, 1909—Numerous at Wandilla Camp, Eyre's Peninsula. Obtained mature and immature specimens.  
 Have not yet obtained or heard of an egg of this Cuckoo being found in South Australia.

*Cinclosoma castanonotum* (Chestnut-backed Ground Thrush)—September 2nd, 1907. Observed a good many pairs of this species in scrub about Rhine Villa, and obtained two male specimens and found what we took to be a half-built nest; it was a freshly dug hole under a small bush, with a few leaves as a commencement. They are numerous in this part of the scrub.

*Cinclosoma punctatum* (Spotted Ground Thrush)—This bird is fairly numerous through the Mt. Lofty Hills District. Have taken eggs at Teatree Gully and Chain of Ponds. A set taken 30/11/1907 at Teatree Gully measured 1.3 x .98, 1.3 x .92, of a rich stone color, both eggs having very marked zone at large end, the spots being on and around the zone; small blotches.

*Cisticola exilis* (Grass Warbler)—Found the bird first at Baker's Lagoon, near Mannum, and again in October, 1907, on the swamp just above Mannum. I also found the nest, which was placed in some rushes about nine inches above ground. It was partly built of spiders' webs and green leaves, domed, with well-defined side entrance. We, unfortunately, shot the bird before finding the nest, and on looking at the nest again a fortnight later it had been deserted. There seemed to be a good few of these birds about.

*Acophema petrophila* (Rock Parrot)—10/10/1909, Kellidie Bay, Coffin's Bay, Eyre's Peninsula. Found this bird fairly numerous near the water, and it was nesting on Goat Island. Goat Island is of limestone formation, with a surface of shallow soil covered with grass and scrubby stuff. There is an abrupt cliff about six or eight feet all round the island, and the face is weather worn and broken. The birds were nesting in the hollows and holes in the cliffs and also on the surface, deep under the scrubby brushes, and in the crevices of some heaps of rock in the centre of the island, which is about 100 yards in length by 50 yards in breadth. The full clutch seemed to be four eggs; nests were found with from one to four eggs or young. The eggs rested on bare ground, and were of the usual parrot shape and white color, and measured .9 x .73 inches in average. Most of the nests contained young.

*Trichoglossus norae-hollandiae* (Blue Mountain Parrot)—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. This bird was very numerous and was nesting freely in the spouts of the sugar gums in the Forest Reserve, but were difficult to get at, as they choose mostly end spouts of dead limbs, which were too rotten to take many risks with. The Purple-crowned Lorikeet was also nesting in a small colony in sugar gums near the camp.

*Collyriocincla rufiventris* (Rufous-vented Shrike Thrush)—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. This bird is very numerous both at the camp and at Coffin's Bay and the Marble Ranges, at each of which locality I obtained specimens. The song of this bird and that of Harmonic Shrike Thrush are not the same, though very much alike and the difference difficult to explain, but to one accustomed to the latter bird the difference is distinct.

*Entomophila leucomelas* (Pied Honey-eater)—December, 1909. Clutch of two eggs taken at Stone Wall near Mannum; nest composed of grasses with a feather or two, and placed in a low bush. The eggs measured .92 x .65 in., and were elongated oval and, if anything, slightly constricted towards smaller end, ground color yellowish white, with sub-color markings very distinct. The season has been peculiar in that birds like *Ephthianura tricolor*, *Halcyon pyroplaggia*, and this species were found nesting at Mannum, whereas in usual years none of these put in an appearance.

*Nycticorax caldonicus* (Night Heron)—February 1st, 1910. At Teatree Swamps at back of Loveday Bay, near the Coorong, this bird was nesting. The young were almost ready to fly, so that December would be about the proper time to secure eggs. There was a big colony of them nesting quite low down in the teatrees in the swamp.

*Eopsaltria gularis* (Grey-breasted Shrike Robin)—Warunda Camp, Eyre's Peninsula, 10/10/1909. We found this species fairly common at foot of the Marble Range. A nest was placed on a horizontal limb of a sugar gum, in a fork about fifteen feet from the ground. Externally it was composed of grasses held together with cobweb and lined with dead leaves of native broom. It was loosely built, and outside of nest are some pendant pieces of bark hung on by cobweb. The nest is two inches in diameter inside and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. in depth. There are no feathers used in the nest. The clutch was two eggs, one of which was incubated. They are light olive green in color, faintly speckled at larger end with small pinkish brown spots, and measured .85 in length by .65 in breadth.

*Sittella chrysoptera* (Orange-winged Tree-runner)—October, 1887. Not uncommon in district (Teatree Gully); flies in mobs, is very restless, not remaining long in one tree, has a short, jerky flight, twittering whilst flying. Builds a beautiful nest in the fork of a sheoak. Nest is about two inches in diameter, cup-shaped, and rather deep. It is made of hair, fur, and feathers, matted with cobwebs and fluff from some of the

native plants. The outside of nest is covered with little, narrow strips of bark, set on perpendicularly, with bits of lichen stuck on here and there with some resinous substance. The eggs are three to the clutch, and have the small end very rounded; a greenish ground color blotched with faint black all over, with another layer of much deeper black blotches all over, but principally towards the larger end. Nests are usually found from October to November.

*Melithreptus lunulatus* (Black-Capped Honey-eater)—August 16th, 1888. The nest was about six feet from ground, suspended by the edges in the leafy part of an overhanging gum branch. It was cup-shaped, two inches across by  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. deep, closely made of fine inner bark, dry grasses, and some cobwebs with no lining. The eggs, two in number, were flesh colored, spotted with light and dark reddish brown, especially at the larger end, forming a fairly well defined ring. These birds are numerous all over the district.

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## Bird Notes.

SEPTEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

This month has proved highly productive in bird life, as many young have been hatched out by a number of species about Lockleys.

On September 1st a pair of Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoos were sitting in a white cedar tree, uttering their dreary notes and apparently meaning "mischief," as two male Blue Wrens were in a boxthorn bush beneath, and were greatly agitated at the presence of the Cuckoos above. Probably the Wrens had a nest close by upon which the female Wren was sitting.

The White-backed Magpies have been more than usually active in bringing up their young; one pair hatched out three which left the nest on September 22, while another pair reared another lot of three early in September, and a third brood left the nest on September 19. At Fulham during the first week in September two broods of three each came out of their nests. On September 22 I noted a Sacred Kingfisher at Lockleys and a pair of Pied Grallina were actively engaged in building their nests. On September 24 I noted the first Song Lark (*Cincloramphus cruralis cantatoris*). It was a male, and made an effort to sing as it mounted up from the ground, but did not pour forth any continuous strain.

During the month several Striped Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus striatus subaffinis*) were seen on various occasions. In the middle of September a pair of White-fronted Herons (*Notophoxr norachollandiac*) brought up a brood of three young ones in the nest in a red gum, and at times the young came quite close to the house, uttering their hoarse, discordant notes.

The pair of White-plumed Honeyeaters (*Ptilotis penicillata whitei*), which last year built on the stems of the leaves of a heaven tree, have again built their nest in the same spot, but the heaven trees (*Ailanthus glandulosus*) being deciduous and not having leaves at present, the birds have betaken themselves to a geranium plant just below the tree, the nest being now ready for laying in.

#### OCTOBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

Numbers of young birds of various species have been about Lockleys during the month. Several young Screech Owls came every evening for a week to an old one on a lemon-scented pine. They would fly round and then perch in the opening of an old, hollow limb, calling for food. On the 11th I picked up one young owl dead, fully fledged and peculiarly covered with whitish down attached to the end of the fully formed feathers, especially on the back; this bird I presented to the Museum.

On October 4th and 12th several Red-rumped Grass Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) were noted calling in their pleasing little way to each other.

On October 4th Woodswallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) were seen nesting in the small gumtrees, and a few days after they were feeding large young out of the nest.

#### NOVEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor.—

Quite a number of birds have brought out their young during the month. Showery conditions, preceded and followed by short spells of heat, were beneficial to various grasses and plants supplying food for the grain-eaters, whilst swarms of insects supplied food to, and were kept in check by, the insectivorous birds.

On November 1st I noted the White-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotis penicillata whitei*) pulling its nest in a geranium bush to pieces and carrying the material to the topmost branches of a Moreton Bay fig tree near by.

On November 4th a Minah (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*) was carrying material to the branches of a red gum, and on closer examination the nest was found to be well advanced. These birds build high in the trees, and always on a slender bough quite out of reach from beneath. A peculiarity about the birds I have noticed this season is that when they are building or have a nest they fly in a strange manner, with the head thrust back on to the back and the throat arched out, giving them a more dumpy appearance. Several birds that flew in this manner were followed and found to be nesting.

On November 9th a nest of the Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) was noticed on a Moreton Bay fig tree. It resembled that of the terns, that build in like situations. Large young were in the nest, and the parent birds were near by.

On November 15th a Sacred Kingfisher (*Sauropatis sancta*) calling in a tree in the garden.

On November 17th I heard a pair of Bee-eaters (*Cosmacrops ornatius*) calling, and four days later saw the birds in a sandy locality. It is not often that these birds are seen so near the city.

On November 22nd saw Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascians*), with large young out of nest flying about the garden, catching flies and moths amongst the fruit trees. These are truly useful little birds. During the month quite a number of Wood Swallows (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*) have nested and brought out their young.

Delicate Owls and Boobook Owls have been calling every night. Both birds have bred here this season in the hollows in the gum trees.





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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —

# South Australian Ornithologist.

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—Meeting held on 16th December, 1921.—

Professor J. B. Cleland in the chair. Miss H. Lilius Sanderson, of Killingworth, Strangways Terrace, North Adelaide, was nominated for membership. The matter of holding the Egg Collection in trust for the S.A. Museum was discussed, and it was decided to let the matter stand over until the next meeting. Mr. J. Sutton handed in an interesting note recording a Fan-tailed Cuckoo being fed by Blue Wrens in the National Park. The remainder of the evening was taken up in inspecting the eggs of the late Dr. Angove's collection.

—Meeting held on 27th January, 1922.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair. Miss H. Lilius Sanderson, who was nominated at the last meeting, was duly elected as a member. A clutch of eggs of the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*) taken at Moorara Lake, 100 miles north of Wentworth, N.S.W., on 20th September, 1921, by Dr. A. Chenery was presented by him to the Association per Dr. Morgan. The Hon. Secretary was requested to thank the donor. After some informal discussion a resolution was carried "That, should the Association become defunct, the egg collection and cabinet shall be handed over to and become the property of the South Australian Museum." Mr. A. M. Lea, who was present by invitation, informed the meeting of the situation with regard to the publishing of his researches into the contents of birds' stomachs. He has already details of some 1,000/1,200 stomachs, with 300/400 still to examine. The particulars will run into 300/400 pages and the summaries a further 100 pages of a publication the size of the "Ornithologist." The publication may be done by the Board of

Governors of the Museum. Mr. Lea read some of his notes and appealed to members to send him information with regard to "snake" and "fruit" eating birds. He mentioned that although the White Eye (*Zosterops lateralis*) was known to be very partial to grapes, in 38 stomachs examined he had found only one containing grape seeds. He also stated that he had not yet secured the stomach of a Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus aadax*). Captain White and Mr. E. Ashby congratulated Mr. Lea on his work, and the Chairman also commented on the value of the work and felt sure our members would only be too pleased to help him with notes, information, and stomachs of birds. Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited a skin of the Bristle Bird (*Sphenura broadbenti*) taken at Robe, S.A., in December, 1921. The skin was that of a young bird. Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited the nest of a Black and White Fantail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) built at the base of the middle prong of a broken three-pronged fork. The broken fork was stuck into the fascia board in a verandah at Findon, and when Mr. Parsons saw the nest first it contained three young ones, so he waited for a fortnight for the young to leave and then secured the exhibit. Mr. Edwin Ashby showed skins of four birds taken by himself recently at Kilsyth, near Mount Dandenong, Victoria—one of a Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria australis*); a male Rufous-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) (with this bird he brought for comparison a specimen of similar birds from the Northern Territory, Victoria, South Australia, and Western Australia, and they showed marked difference in colouration); an Olive-backed Oriole (*Mimetes sagittata*); and a Square-tailed Cuckoo (*Cucumaulis pyrrophauus*). Mr. Ashby pointed out that this last-named bird was very like a Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cucumaulis flabelliformis*), but its call was more like that of the Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), but ran down the scale, whereas the call of the Pallid Cuckoo runs up the scale. Mr. A. M. Lea also produced some pellets from a bird for identification, but the members present were not in agreement on the point. Captain White exhibited three specimens of the Australian Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)—one from Adelaide, the second from Nullabor Plain, and the third from Sturt's Creek. The third bird he thought was between the Adelaide and Nullabor birds, and was a good sub-species—the colour on the back was a much darker brown, and the black markings were also darker. He also showed a Red-chested Quail (*Turnix Pyrrhonorax*) which had been shot recently at Yankalilla and handed to him by Mr. B. Marshall. This was thought to be the second noted instance of this par-

ticular bird in South Australia. Captain White also stated that the injudicious opening of the quail shooting season earlier this year than usual had proved his own contention that there would be too many young birds about. Mr. B. Marshall had told him that recently he had been out after quail, and after the fifth shot he had put his gun back in the motor, as he found he had shot birds with many young left in the nest or "running about like a lot of spiders." At the Captain's own place he had had a wearisome time in trying to stop illicit duck shooting, which shooting he attributed to the announcement in the daily papers, emanating, he thought, from the Fisheries Department, that fine bags of game were being got. These so-called sportsmen had been shooting plover and magpies as well. Captain White then gave a fine lecture on the Yanco Settlement, N.S.W. (aided by a good map), and of the birds there. Last year he had partly investigated the question of the usefulness or otherwise of the birds to be found there, and he completed the enquiry recently, travelling over 400 miles by motor. He noticed a great alteration in the number of birds to be seen, especially where the timber had been and was being destroyed. There were still great numbers of "Starling" (the local name for Wood Swallows). He had pointed out what would be the final result if this deforestation was continued in such a wholesale manner, and had recommended the establishment of several sanctuaries and the fencing of them in so as to give the young trees a chance to grow. He was informed that a species of Lyre-bird was to be found in the McPherson Range. He had taken a rapid census of the number of birds seen to the square mile on each of his trips and mentioned the different figures. He exhibited the skins of the following birds taken by him for stomach investigation:—Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*), Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), Blue-faced Honey-eater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*), Regent Honey-eater (*Zenothymiza phrygia*), White-face (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*), Caterpillar-eater (*Campophaga tricolor*), Brown Tree Creeper (*Climacteris picumna*), Rufous Song Lark (*Ptenoedus mathewsi*), Red-tipped Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus striatus*).

Mr. Edwin Ashby, in congratulating Captain White on his work in endeavouring to get sanctuaries established, said he thought that not much value could be placed on the census of birds on fast motor journeys, and instanced trips in Western Australia on which no birds were seen, yet before dawn many birds could be heard singing. The Chairman thanked Captain

White for his very interesting lecture, and the meeting closed at 10 p.m.

Messrs. J. W. Mellor and J. Sutton handed in bird notes for the month.

—Meeting held on 24th February, 1922.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair. It was reported that Mr. F. R. Zeitz was seriously ill, and a motion expressing sympathy was passed, and the Hon. Secretary was instructed to convey that to him by letter.

A letter was received from Mr. A. C. Minchin, Director S.A. Zoological and Acclimatization Society's Gardens, advising with regard to the paragraph in the "Ornithologist" of January, 1922, on the shipment of Australian animals and birds by the Australian Zoological Control Board, that there was no such Board in existence, nor was his Society in any way "connected with the shipment referred to." Members were pleased to have this contradiction. Dr. A. M. Morgan exhibited photographs of Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*) and their nests taken at the Bandin Rocks, about six miles from Robe, S.A. In two instances two eggs were in a nest—a very unusual occurrence. Bird notes for the month were handed in by Messrs. R. C. Beck, J. W. Mellor, and J. Sutton. Captain White mentioned having seen at Fulham during this month the Sordid Wood Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*) with young. Professor J. B. Cleland then gave a very interesting lecture on the subject of the taking of a "Bird Census." The method he adopts is to note down, just as one scores the runs at cricket, the numbers of each kind of bird as one sees them whilst travelling along by motor, coach, or buggy or whilst walking. The reliability of the method depends on the ease with which any species can be recognized. The distance on each side of the track over which the birds can be identified will vary with the type of country and the species of the birds. Nevertheless the results may be taken as the *minimum number* of certain species over certain areas. The census taken in South Australia (chiefly) by the lecturer covers journeys from Adelaide to Mt. Compass (via Willunga), Encounter Bay, Waitpinga, Strathalbyn, Wellington, Point McLeay, Milang, Finnis, Goolwa, Renmark, Morgan to Cobdogla, Monash, Berri, Barmera, Quorn to Pichi Richi Pass, Parachilna, Blinman, Wirrealpa Station, Port Augusta, Iron Knob. The journeys covered a distance of about 1,318 miles. The number of species of native birds seen was 140, and the individuals more than 11,249, about nine

per mile. In addition five introduced species, totalling 1,754 individuals, were also noted. The lecturer had taken a previous census of birds in journeys in New South Wales (chiefly) over a distance of 1,339½ miles, an account of which has already appeared in the "Emu," and a comparison of the numbers of some of the same species will prove interesting. The figures in brackets are for New South Wales; the first ones in each instance represent the birds seen in South Australia: Peaceful Dove, 23 (118); Kestrel, 46 (37); total Hawks, etc., 138 (96); Rosella, 91 (236); Red-backed Parrot, 84 (417); Laughing Kingfisher; 63 (126); Welcome Swallow, 644 (595); Fairy and Tree Martin, 1,722 (2,919); Brown Flycatcher (Jacky Winter), 25 (237); Willie Wagtail, 177 (317); White-fronted Chat, 324 (92); Magpie Lark, 179 (765); Noisy Miner, 283 (793); Ground Lark (Pipit), 410 (285); Crow, 1,128 (168); Magpie, 920 (565). Captain White, Mr. J. W. Mellor, and the Chairman thanked Professor Cleland for the lecture and pointed out the great amount of detail required to compile the figures quoted, and hoped that the address would be printed *in extenso*.

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## Order Psittaciformes, Family Cacatoidæ, Genus Psephotus

*Psephotus haematouotus* (Red-backed or Grass Parrot).

By S. A. White, C.M.B.O.U., C.F.A.O.U.

There seems to have been no attempt to split this bird into subspecies, and as far as the writer can see there is little or no variation even in the shade of colours between the New South Wales, Victorian, and South Australian birds.

The Red-rumped Grass Parrot was once a very common bird at the Reedbeds and they nested in the large gums on the river bank within a very few yards of the house. This was in the days of my boyhood. Suddenly the birds began to diminish and many died of a skin disease which caused their feathers to drop out, and often almost naked live birds were to be seen on the ground. There is little doubt that this state of affairs was brought about by the imported Starling (*Sturnis vulgaris*), these pests having taken the nesting hollows in the trees and leaving them in a filthy state. I believe the Grass Parrots have returned to the district of Lockleys, but they have not been seen for many years at the Reedbeds.

Description.—Male—Crown of the head, back and sides of the neck, also chest, emerald green; forehead and cheeks, greenish blue; green of the chest tinged with yellow, the feathers also minutely edged with brown, giving them somewhat of a scale-like appearance; feathers of the back, bluish, with a minute edging of dark brown; rump, deep scarlet; shoulder and spurious wing, bright blue; spot of rich yellow below the shoulder; wing coverts, blue with green tinge; primaries, brown, with two-thirds of outer web dark blue; upper tail coverts, rich green; two central tail feathers bluish green, remaining feathers blue tipped with white; under tail coverts, white; abdomen, rich yellow, becoming lighter in the centre; bill, dark horn colour; feet, ashy grey; iris, brown. Female—All upper surface, greenish grey, each feather minutely margined with dark brown; under surface, grey with a yellowish tinge, each feather minutely edged with dark brown, giving a scale-like appearance; wing coverts, bluish grey; primaries, pale blue on outer webs, dark brown inner webs, a conspicuous white spot near the base of the five inner feathers; rump and upper tail coverts, rich dark green, two central tail feathers bluish green, remainder light blue tipped with white; under-tail coverts, bluish white; iris, brown; bill, bluish grey; feet, ashy grey.

Distribution.—Over the greater part of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia, but does not inhabit the dry interior.

Habitat.—Prefers the open forest country to either open plains or bush. Where the large gums (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) flourish, so will this bird invariably be found, be it ranges, undulating country, or low and swampy.

Habits.—At nesting time these birds are met with in pairs, or with the young broods. In the winter they congregate in flocks, very often up to a hundred or more. When feeding they move over the ground very rapidly, and spend much time on the ground in search of food. They will often perch along the dead branches of a tree-top in compact order chattering to one another, and often squabbling between the male birds.

Flight.—Strong and at times undulating.

Call.—A remarkably sweet whistling note resembling a song, and when a number are together it has a very pleasing effect. It has a shrill whistle when alarmed and as a warning note.

Food.—Grass seeds of many kinds. They are very inoffensive birds.

Nesting Season.—Extends in South Australia from September to December.

Nest.—No nest is made. The eggs are laid on the bare wood or wood-dust of a hollow spout or limb.

Eggs.—White, four to six in number. Dr. Morgan gives the following dimensions for a clutch of four, taken at Wirrara:—No. 1, 2.60 c. m. x 2.05 c. m.; No. 2, 2.60 c. m. x 2.05 c. m.; No. 3, 2.60 c. m. x 2.05 c. m.; No. 4, 2.50 c. m. x 2.10 c. m.

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## A Trip to North-West Australia.

### PART II.

By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.

On June 26th we drove to a water-hole where Pigmy Geese were said to be, but on arrival they proved to be Black-throated Grebes. At this place we saw the only Bronze-wing Pigeon of the trip. The only other pigeon seen was the Peaceful Dove, a very common bird, whose monotonous notes were heard from morn till night in all classes of country. Owls also were rare. We heard none of their calls, and the only one seen proved to be *Spiloglaux ocellata*. It seems to me to be quite worthy of specific distinction.

Finches, generally, were fairly common, but owing to the quantity of standing water they were much scattered and not so easily observed as in a drier season. We saw and collected the Long-tailed Finch, the Black-banded Finch, the Red-faced Finch, and the Chestnut-eared Finch. Neither the painted nor the Crimson Finch was seen, though both are said to be common enough in certain seasons. Pipits were fairly numerous on the plains, and a *Mirafra* was very common in the long grass; they were quite silent and kept to the grass until disturbed by the buggy or some one on foot. Only two quail like birds were seen. They were most probably a species of *Turnix*; but though I carefully marked the spots where they settled I failed to flush them again. They appeared to be about the size of *T. reitor*, but much darker in color. We searched for a time for the Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianus*), but failed to find it. These birds are said to have been quite common in past times, but are now very rare; probably they have been destroyed by the domestic cat gone wild. The same reason is given for the disappearance of the local opossum. Kangaroos, or rather wallabies, are

still very numerous. They are of the species *Wallabia agilis* and *Onychogale unguifera*, the latter with a curious nail-like appendage to the end of the tail. It also has a peculiar habit of hopping with the right fore-leg held out at right-angle to the body and giving a little squeak at each jump. Emus are quite rare; we did not meet with any throughout the trip. On January 29th Mr. Chalmers drove us to Meda on our way back to Derby. Here I found a chick of the Black-fronted Dotterel which had been caught on the banks of the billabong. This was the only species of Dotterel seen in the district. We also saw here two young Blue-mountain Parrots in captivity. They proved to be *Trichoglossus rubitorquis*, and were fairly common in the gum-tree country. We left Meda at 5.15 next morning and breakfasted about nine miles out on the Derby track at Native Well, where many Long-tailed Finches were drinking. Farther on, in the sandy country, several Black-headed Pardalotes were flushed from their burrows in the bare sand. In the sandy country grows a eucalyptus known locally as "woolly butt," some of which were ablaze with beautiful reddish-orange blossoms, among which the Sordid Friar birds were revelling. Black-throated Butcher birds were also numerous, and their beautiful song could be heard all along the track. At Derby Mr. Monger kindly lent us his partner's house, where we camped, having our meals at the hotel. The next two days were spent in packing up and saying good-bye to friends. On July 2nd we left Derby in the s.s. Gorgon, feeling that we had barely scratched the natural history of the district; indeed, six months, or even a whole year, could be spent there with profit. Between Derby and Broome many sea snakes were seen; they were of two species, one dull yellow, and the other banded with dull red. They are very conspicuous objects in the water and very sluggish in their movements. They are said to be venomous and I should think that is so, otherwise they would long since have been exterminated by the Gannets. About twelve hours after leaving Broome the ship was found to be on fire in the after-hold, and the course was altered to "back to Broome;" but about midnight the fire was considered under control and the captain decided to make straight for Fremantle without calling anywhere. Conditions were very unpleasant, as the fire had reached some cyanide of potassium in the hold and the whole of the ship reeked in cyanide fumes. Many of the cattle which were between decks were poisoned and had to be thrown overboard. On July 5th we passed through great flocks of Brown Gannets and a few Masked Gannets. We were at the time not far from Bedout Island, a great nesting-place of these

two species. On July 6th I developed malaria, and took little further interest in natural history—indeed, beyond a number of whales off Dirk Hartog Island, not much of interest was seen until we landed at Fremantle on July 9th, where I was only too glad to get off the ship and into bed at our hotel in Perth.

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## A Trip to the Baudin Rocks.

By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.

The Baudin Rocks are situated about six miles from Kobe and about two miles from the north-west end of Guichen Bay. There are three islands, one a bare rock and two partly covered with a low scrubby growth, partly open ground with a carpet of a short samphire-like plant. The larger of these two is divided into three portions at high tide. Early in January of this year, through the kindness of Mr. Keith Bowman, I was able to pay a visit to these rocks. I wished particularly to see if any species of Petrel bred there, but found none, nor do I think the soil is anywhere deep enough to allow of burrowing. As we came up to a small beach on the first island, a number of Black-faced Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax gouldi*) flew from their nests in the low bushes on a small cliff. On landing we found about two dozen of their nests, new, but mostly empty, one only containing a full clutch of three eggs. Later on we saw a Silver Gull eating one of the eggs, which may account for the emptiness of the nests. At one end of the island is a large rookery of Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*), made up of many thousands of birds. The eggs were so close together that care had to be taken to avoid treading on them. On two occasions nests were found containing two eggs each, so alike in marking that I think they were probably laid by one bird. Under the bushes Little Penguins were breeding in hundreds, the nest contents varying from two fresh eggs to full-grown young still in the down. One of these latter was captured and put into the water. It swam and dived as well as an old bird, though this was probably its first introduction to the sea. After its swim it made up the rocks to its home as nimbly as its parents could have done. On the second island was another huge colony of Crested Terns on one end, and at the other three isolated eggs, probably the start of a new colony. On this island were a number of Nankeen Night Herons (*Nycticorax caledonicus*), and I found one old nest with a dead young bird in it. The nest was built in the low bushes, nearly on the

ground. This was rather a surprise to me, as my previous experience of the nesting of these birds was in high gum-trees, well out of my reach. A few belated Silver Gulls (*Bruchigaria norae-hollandiae*) were nesting at the edges of the bushes, the nests containing only one or two eggs. The regular nesting season was long over, judging by the number of dead young gulls lying about. The only other birds seen were the Sooty Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus unicolor*), a pair of which hung about the corner of the island as though breeding there. I could not find either nest or young. The Little Grass Bird (*Megalurus gramineus*), which was in fair numbers in the bushes, was quite silent and evidently not nesting. About five o'clock in the evening a stiff blow came up and we had to leave the island in a hurry. Portions of the large island were not properly examined, and being densely covered with low bushes I think it likely that they may be the main nesting-place of the Nankeen Herons, many of which were seen there.

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## Notes on Birds seen during a Recent Visit to the Western Darling, N.S.W.

### Part II.

By A. Chenery.

Leaving our travelling companions and the blackboys at the camp, Dr. Macgillivray, Ian, and myself set off on foot for the island in the lake visible in the distance. A few White-winged Wreus, Orange-fronted Chats, and a solitary Brown Hawk were the only birds inhabiting this desolate waste of powdery sand, covering wind-swept hummocks more or less encrusted with salt. The surface of the lake proper was damp and covered with a glistening crust of saline, into which one's feet sank for a few inches. After covering about 1,000 yards of this heavy going, we reached the island, which was duly explored for fossil remains, without success. A solitary fox was started from the far side, and went away across the lake surface for the far shore, and was still going until lost sight of. Before leaving camp next morning a White-breasted Swallow's nest, containing four eggs, was dug out of a bank and a return was made to Callabonna Hut, picking up Dr. Macgillivray's swag on the way. This had been shaken out of the protecting Ford buckboard on the outward journey on the previous evening. After further discussion we left to

wards the north-west to another portion of the lake where, with Boulka Fred as guide-in-chief, we had fresh hope of discovering the elusive fossil deposits. There is a windmill and well some eight miles along the Murpeowie road, which, of course, is only a pack track. This was to be our camp for that evening. We left this track after some three miles and cut across towards the lake-shore again. When crossing some flats covered with old-man saltbush and cane grass we flushed some flocks of very timid Parakeets, which were feeding on the cane-grass seeds. After some difficulty a specimen was obtained, which turned out to be *Acophema elegans*. The last time I had met with this pretty Grass Parrot was on a creek in the Flinders Range, where they were nesting and quite tame. The ones we met with here were in flocks and had evidently finished breeding as the ones shot were in immature plumage. On approaching the lake again, after leaving these well-covered flats, the country became again almost impassable for anything but a bullock dray or camels. The blackboys, now that their joy-ride on the cars was assured, did not appear to have any idea as to where to take the party to find the fossil reserve. Dr. Macgillivray, however, left the Dodge, which was on ahead, and, leaving Boulka Fred with Mr. and Mrs. Heywood in the car, joined Sit-down Jimmy in the horse-drawn buckboard, which had caught up to us, and went on down to the lake-shore in a final effort to see if any trace could be seen of Mr. Zeitz's old camp. The Ford, with myself and Ian, was some distance behind at the time. When we joined the Dodge car party they told us that they had seen a pair of parrots which had alighted on an acacia quite near the car. From their description they were quite probably the Splendid Grass Parrakeet, but unfortunately neither Dr. Macgillivray nor myself was there to identify them. Being pretty keen to get a sight of these birds, if possible, I left the cars, which went on for another mile or so, and spent the lunch hour circling around for a few miles. I saw a *Calamanthus*, but could not obtain a specimen, although I had one snapshot at a bird running through the saltbush. The evening or early morning is the best time to capture these shy little gentlemen, when they sing on the top of a low bush. In the middle of the day they are mostly silent and one would never guess their existence. Another bird I was keen to see was the Banded White-face, but although this was similar country to that in which McGilp found them earlier in the year and not far from it geographically, we never sighted one the whole trip. Nor was any further sign of the strange parrot seen. I was disappointed and pretty weary by the time I returned to our

car tracks of the morning and was joined by the other members of the party. They reported failure to find any sign of the fossil reserve, and Dr. Macgillivray's remarks on the reliability of ancient aborigines as guides were, to put it mildly, not flattering, and would probably have been unprintable had not a lady been present. We made camp that evening at the windmill on a small creek, now to all appearance dry. Some water was drawn from the well in buckets for the horses and we carried some for our own use. As we noticed a pair of *Grallinas* and many Top-knot Pigeons about, we concluded that there must be a soak down the creek somewhere, as these birds cannot do without water for long. A Spotted Harrier's nest containing one egg was found during a walk up the creek before tea. After tea, as it was fairly moonlight, Ian went up into the sandhill country on the far side of the creek to see if he could glimpse any small marsupials, but returned without any luck. That country is stillness personified at night. There was not a sound to be heard if one remained silent. On this evening, I remember, we remarked on it. There was not a cricket or other small insect to break the silence, and in the absence of any breeze even the leaves were motionless. Wildflowers everywhere here as elsewhere, *Senecio fregorii* being specially abundant as well as numerous daisies, everlastings, and others which I cannot name.

On the morning of 21st August we returned to Callabonna Hut, searching for *Calamanthus* on the way. We flushed a pair of Cinnamon-backed ground birds, but failed to find a *Calamanthus*. An Owl was shot out in the Old Man Saltbush, far from any trees or creek, which proved to be an ordinary Boobook. A nest or two of the delightful little Crested Wedgebill were also found, one containing an egg. After wishing the genial Bill Hayes a fond farewell and giving our blessing to Boulka Fred, we commenced to retrace our tracks up Tilcha Creek towards the bore. We had not gone more than eight miles when we came upon a pair of very light-plumaged hawks, which were easily identified as soon as they took to flight as the Letter-winged Kite. The black markings under the wings are very distinctive. The flight is tern-like and they are a most graceful bird altogether. A nest made of sticks was noted in a tree near the spot where we first saw them and was examined for signs of habitation. It did contain some ejected furry pellets, but was otherwise empty. Strange to say, we never noted these birds on our outward journey. We were one and all pleased to have seen them, as I should say this was south of their usual latitude. As a sequel I may here state that Dr.

Macgillivray ascertained, in conversation with Mr. Austin Clune on our return to Milparinka, that he intended going through to Innamincka at an early date by this Tilcha route. He was asked to keep an eye for these birds, which he did. They were flushed from the tree, the nest was climbed to, and, I think, three eggs found. They were all smashed in the descent!

After lunch on this day, the two medicos sent the cars on ahead and walked the creek for three hours. A pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles' eggs were taken and a pair of Grey Falcons were flushed from a tree containing a likely nest. On climbing to it nothing was found. Some Grey Teal were met with along the creek and an Owllet Night-jar was flushed from a hollow containing eggs. Bennett's Crows very plentiful, nests everywhere out in the mulga trees. On reaching the cars we learned that Mr. Winton had motored out 70 miles from Yandama and met them with a supply of petrol, of which we had run short owing to the constant low-gear work on the shores of Callabonna. This kind action, which is in keeping with the hospitality for which people outback are so justly credited, made it possible for us to carry out our intention of visiting Fort Grey in the north-west corner of the State, where we had heard there was still about a foot of water in Pinnaroo Lake.

The following morning, after seeing the cars start on their journey, we continued to work the creek on foot. Shortly after leaving camp we saw a pair of Black Falcons, one of whom swooped at a Raven that came chortling along down the creek. When the powerful Falcon came at him suddenly it was quite ludicrous to hear his self-satisfied note change to a shriek of terror as he dashed into a dense gum-tree to escape his pursuer. I was fortunate enough to locate the Falcon's nest a little further on, but on climbing to it found two young covered with down of a very light-grey colour with grey beak and legs. The nest was an old Kite's or Whistler's. These Falcons are shy and fly straight away from the nest out of sight, and do not soar around in the air like the Grey Falcon and most other species do. Soon after this we found another pair of Grey Falcons near a nest, and after a difficult climb were rewarded with a nice set of four fresh eggs. Further on a nest of the Little Eagle was found with two eggs, and another pair of Black Falcons was seen, but no nest located. Some Grey Teal with young and a solitary Pink-eyed Duck were noted on the creek. During the early afternoon, after having joined the cars and had lunch, we passed Tilcha bore and reached the out-station for tea. On our way we noted another Grey Falcon's nest, this time quite inaccessible, also another Little Eagle's nest. Kites, Whistling Eagles, Zebra Finches, Red-

lored and Striated Pardalotes were also plentiful. Mr. Jackson again kindly replenished our tucker-box with bread and beef, and we went on to camp some few miles on the Yandama side. This evening we saw quite a number of Cinamon-backed ground birds, feeding in fairly open saltbush country, along the road. While at this camp we found a nest of the Yellow-tail, containing two eggs—the only time we met with these birds. After passing through the fence into New South Wales again we came to St. George's Tank, and from there turned due north towards Fort Grey. We had again taken Sit-down Jimmy on board at Tilcha Out-station, to which he had returned ahead of us. The rest of this day was spent in going over sandhills, which now ran across our track instead of parallel to it, and those too steep to go over we had to run down until a crossing-place was found. Our heavily-laden cars were put to considerable strain, but stood it well, and as evening fell we reached Fort Grey Hut on Pinnaroo Lake

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## Bird Notes.

DECEMBER, 1921.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

Quite a number of Screech Owls (*Tyto alba delicatula*) have been about during the month. On moonlight nights their screeching notes can be heard on every side. They are very quiet and will allow one to stand beneath the bough and gaze at them. The faint low screeches of young birds were heard coming from a hollow in an old tree. Boobook Owls (*Spiloglaux boobook marmorata*) have also been calling loudly and doubtless have their nests near their more delicately plumaged cousins.

On December 1st a fine old male of the Red-rumped Grass Parrot (*Psepholus haematonotus*) flew past with its well-known sharp whistling call, and again on the 7th I flushed two that were feeding on grass seeds at Lockleys. Some twenty or thirty years ago they were one of the most common birds at the Reedbeds. I also noted a White-checked Rosella (*Platycercus crinitus*) on the same day at Lockleys.

On December 11th a pair of Merops (*Cosmacrops ornatus*) was seen at Lockleys. Evidently they were on the lookout for suitable nesting quarters.

On December 15th I noticed that the Shrike Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus*), which nested near the house, had young ones out of the nest and were feeding them with the scale blight which infests the acacias.

For the past fortnight a Yellow-winged Honey-eater (*Meliornis norahollandiae subassimilis*) has been busy in the flower garden. These birds have been absent or very scarce for some years, although at Fulham I have noted them frequently.

Several broods of Willie Wagtails (*Leucocircia tricolor*) have been reared at Lockleys during the month, while a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucanota*) has a brood of young at the flying stage.

—By J. Sutton, Netherby.—

On December 19th, in the National Park, I saw a young Fan-tailed Cuckoo being fed by a male and female Blue Wren. The Cuckoo was about five times larger than the foster-parents and kept up a continuous light squeak. The female Wren seemed to be working at high speed and furnished most of the food for the young Cuckoo.

#### JANUARY, 1922.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

During the latter part of December and well into January quite a number of young birds were about Lockleys, and these remained until well grown, undoubtedly knowing where they were well off and protected.

On December 17th the Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) brought out their brood.

On December 18th I noted a clutch of Southern Black-chinned Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus gularis loftyi*).

On January 3rd a pair of Grey Shrike-Thrushes (*Colluricincla harmonica victoriae*) brought out a family. The plaintive and monotonous call of these youngsters waiting to be fed was proof of their presence. They kept to the bushes, but at times they came out to be fed.

Several Eastern Ground or Zebra Doves (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) were about, and one pair was successful in bringing up their young.

During the first week in January the Willie Wagtails (*Leucocircia tricolor*) hatched out their young. The nest becoming too small, the little occupants were forced to leave on January 18th, and they are now taking care of themselves.

On January 12th a small flock of Brown-headed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*) was noted at Lockleys.

On January 13th and 18th a small flock of Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) arrived, and since then have become fairly numerous.

On January 14th I noted a Southern Pipit or Ground Lark (*Anthus australis adalaidensis*).

The most interesting note that I have been able to record for a long time is that of January 19th, when I flushed a White-throated Night-jar (*Eurostopodus mystacalis*). It was in a quiet spot near the red sandhill, and was basking in the warm sunshine on the ground. When flushed it settled again close by on the sand, and I had a good look at it before it again rose. Being so much the colour of the sand it was difficult to see when sitting close. When flushed the small birds were greatly perturbed and made a constant noise until the Night-jar settled down again. I was extremely gratified at seeing the bird about, as it is years since I have seen them on the Adelaide Plains.

On January 21st a Goshawk (*Urospiza fasciata*) came about the fowls' yard.

On January 22nd a single specimen of the Ring-necked Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) was observed.

On January 24th several Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*) were in the red gums calling loudly. Purple-crowned Lorikeets were also about, and screeching as they flew in small lots, or squeaking to each other as they crawled and clung to the leaves or branchlets of the gums searching for their food.

On January 29th a pair of Rosellas (*Platycercus crinitus*) came about and were chased by the Minahs (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*), so that they did not get much peace. In spite of this they are still about. The Minahs have bred late this season, and there a quite a number of fully-fledged young about the gum-trees.

—By Mr. J. Sutton, Netherby.—

The following birds with young were noticed on a visit to the National Park, Belair, during the past fortnight:—Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), three birds, feeding one young one each; Hooded-Robin (*Petroica bicolor*), two lots of birds, feeding one young one each; Spotted-sided Finch (*Stagonopleura guttata*), one male bird feeding two young ones; Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis*), two birds feeding one young one; Greenfinch (*Ligurinus chloris*),

one bird feeding two young ones; Yellow-breasted Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*), one bird feeding one young one. Four Painted Quail (*Turnix varia*) were flushed.

At Netherby, on each day from 22nd instant to that date, I have observed two Yellow-tailed Tit-Warblers (*Leaenthisa chrysorrhoa*) feeding a young bronze Cuckoo, most probably a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcococcyx basalix*). The Cuckoo is already more than twice the size of its foster-parents.

## FEBRUARY, 1922.

—By J. W. Mellor, Lockleys.—

One of the main features in the bird life this month is the large number of Common Wattle Birds (*Colia carnuculata tregellasi*) that have been about Lockleys and the Reedbeds generally. They have paid much attention to the flowering eucalyptus, and their loud harsh calls have been heard on all sides. They arrived at Lockleys during the last days of January and during the first week in February. They then increased considerably and have kept with us since. Lorikeets, both the Musk (*Glossopsitta concinna*) and the Purple-crowned (*G. porphyrocephalus*), are also plentiful, the latter being mostly young birds. During some hot days they came down to a pot of cool water placed for them near the house, where they drank and bathed to their hearts' content. I also noted a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) at Lockleys.

February 6th.—There were numbers of White-rumped Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) about at Fulham. They were flying low and passing on as they hawked after gnats and flies.

February 8th.—A pair of Peaceful Doves (*Geopelia placida tranquilla*) brought out their young near the house. They came to the back door for a drink during the hot days, and were quite tame. White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Ptilotula penicillata whitei*) had young during the month, and brought them to the birds' drinking pot. It is surprising to see the number of birds that come during the hot spells to drink out of the pot, also the quantity of water they consume is remarkable. If people would only supply drinking water in their gardens they would not only benefit the birds, but would prevent much depredation amongst the soft fruits.

—By Mr. R. C. Beck.—

About 150 Fairy Martins congregated on a tree at Fulham, and suddenly the whole flock made a rapid flight towards the city.

—By Mr. J. Sutton, Netherby.—

February 6th.—Nine White-fronted Herons flew over south-westwards.

February 8th.—A pair of Chestnut-eared Finches were seen. They were heard calling on 11th and 22nd instant. Six Crimson Parrots were noticed in the big gums.

February 18th.—A young Scarlet-breasted Robin was seen.

February 21st.—A male White-fronted Chat was seen at noon on a telephone wire.

February 22nd and 23rd.—At midnight on 22nd and about 11 p.m. on 23rd inst. Swans were heard calling whilst flying overhead.

During the month young birds of Sparrows, Goldfinches, Grey Shrike-Thrush, Yellow-tailed Tit-Warbler, and Greenfinches were noticed being fed by parent birds.









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[PART 7.

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## The South Australian Ornithological Association.

### MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

#### ANNUAL MEETING, HELD ON 31st MARCH, 1922.

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair; later Professor J. B. Cleland, on his appointment as President. The following resignations were accepted with regret, the members having left South Australia for Victoria, where they are now residing permanently:—Mr. J. D. Connor and Mr. G. Bruce Henderson. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President, Professor J. B. Cleland; Vice-President, Mr. F. E. Parsons; and Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. Sutton. Mr. F. M. Angel, retiring President, and Mr. J. Neil McGilp, retiring Hon. Secretary, were thanked for their past services, and the incoming officers thanked the members for the honour bestowed upon them. The Hon. Secretary submitted the annual statement of accounts, which was adopted. Mr. F. E. Parsons exhibited a male and female Red-chested Quail (*Turnix pyrrhоторax*), in which the male is a much smaller bird than the female. A Little Quail (*Turnix velox*) was also shown for comparison. The Red-chested Quail was obtained by Mr. F. C. Morse near Moree, N.S.W., and he advised that those birds were plentiful there. Dr. Morgan then gave a description of a visit to the Baudin Rocks (vide Volume VI, part 6, pages 133-4, April number).

#### MEETING HELD ON 28th APRIL, 1922.

Professor J. B. Cleland in the chair. The Chairman referred to the recent death of Mr. F. R. Zietz, who was an old member of the Association. He referred to the great work the late Mr. F. R. Zietz had done for ornithology in this State, and a vote of condolence with his widow and relatives

was carried by the members present. A vote of thanks was passed to Dr. W. MacGillivray for his lecture on 27th inst. Owing, however, to the short notice, not many of our members were able to be present at that most interesting and instructive lecture, mainly upon the Pelicans breeding at Lake Cowandilla and adjoining lagoons near Menindie, N.S.W. The President expressed a wish that Dr. MacGillivray would repeat the lecture here at some future opportunity. Mr. J. W. Mellor then described the Robin family in Australia from his own specimens of the birds, and aided by eggs exhibited by Mr. J. Neil McGilp. The Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica multicolor*)—Specimens taken at Flinders Island and Stirling Ranges, W.A. The coloration of the Western species is a deeper red and deeper black than the S.A. and E.A. birds. Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenorii*)—Specimens from Eyre's Peninsula, Pungondah, and Peterborough. The female of this species is of a brown colour with a faint tinge of red on the top of the head. Flame-breasted Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*)—Yorke Peninsula is the furthest west that this bird is found. It breeds in the Bass Strait Islands, and in Tasmania. Specimens were shown from the Reedbeds, Flinders Island, and Mount Arthur and Mount Barrow in Tasmania. The female is of a brown colour with no red at all upon it. Pink-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rodinogaster*)—Specimens from Tasmania. The female is brown with buff marks on the wing, but shows no red colour at all. Rose-breasted Robin (*Erythrodryas rosea*)—Specimens from Victoria and New South Wales. The female is of a greyish-brown colour. Large-headed Shrike-robin (*Pocilodryas capita*)—Specimen from Blackall Ranges, Q. This bird has a short, stumpy tail. Yellow-breasted Shrike-robin (*Eopsaltria australis*)—Specimens from Eyre Peninsula, Blackall Ranges, Q., and N.S.W. The lecturer mentioned that on the young of the Red Robins there first appeared a spot of red on one side, then one on the other side, and then one below those, and gradually the colour spots coalesced. Captain White was wished a safe and successful journey by the President and members.

#### MEETING HELD ON 26th MAY, 1922.

Mr. F. E. Parsons (Vice-President) in the chair, in the absence of the President (Professor J. B. Cleland) in New Zealand. The only business of the evening was a lecture by the Vice-President on "Crakes and Rails." Crakes and Rails are very quiet birds, and usually difficult to observe. Speci-

mens of the Pectoral Rail (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*) taken at Paradise. Both the female and the male birds have the buff band on the chest and white stripes over the eyes. The young are black with red irides. Their usual food is tadpoles, but they are also known to eat seeds and mice. The owners of Wedge Island state that these birds eat the domesticated turkey's eggs. They can walk straight through two-inch wire-netting. The birds get very tame, and one year there was a pair in the Adelaide Botanic Garden. They nest on dry ground near swamps, and also in crops. The Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*) is dark brown, spotted white on the back, and leaden grey underneath. Specimens were shown taken at Paradise and Yorke Peninsula. These birds may be seen at St. Kilda. The nest is of a neat cup shape, made of rushes, and built over the water. They are partial to the samphire, but are never far from water. The Little Crake (*Porzana palustris*) is rusty-brown on the back, crown blackish, and slaty-grey underneath. They live in fresh-water swamps, and subsist on tadpoles and very small fish. Specimen shown was taken at Paradise. The Spotless Crake (*Porzana plumbea*) has salmon-coloured legs, is bright red around the eyes, chocolate brown on back, and leaden grey underneath. The specimen was taken at Paradise. The Slate-breasted Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*) is also found in South Australia. Dr. Morgan mentioned that he had seen specimens of the above-mentioned five birds on one swamp near Robe. The other species found in Australia are:—Chestnut-bellied Rail (*Eulabornis castaneiventris*) in North-Western Australia, Northern Territory, and North Queensland; Red-necked Rail (*Rallina tricolor*), in North Queensland; White-breasted Crake (*Poliolimnas cinereus*), in North-Western Australia Northern Territory, and Queensland; Cornercrake (*Crex crex*), one specimen only has been seen in Australia, at Randwick, N.S.W., in 1893, and it is almost certain to have been brought out from England and liberated. Mr. Parsons also exhibited specimens of the Brown Song-lark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*), known to boys as "cock-tu-eeler," from its song. Specimens taken at Brighton and Outer Harbour; Rufous Song-lark (*Cinclorhamphus rufescens*), specimen from Port Germein; English Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*), specimen from Gilles Plains (this bird is increasing around Adelaide); Lesser Bush-lark (*Mirafra secunda*), specimens from St. Kilda and Gilles Plains (this bird soars high in the air and rivals the English Skylark in its beautiful song); Horsfield's Bush-lark (*Mirafra horsfieldi*), specimen from Mount Compass. A Field Wren

(*Calamanthus campestris*) from Port Augusta, and an Australian Pipit (*Anthus Australis*) from Gilles Plains were also shown. The members thanked Mr. Parsons for his interesting descriptions.

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## Order Passeriformes, Family Meliphagidae, Genus Melithreptus

*Melithreptus gularis*—The Black-chinned Honey-eater.

By A. M. MORGAN, M.B., B.Ch.

Description.—Upper surface of head black, bordered on the occiput by a band of white, starting on each side from the bare skin behind the eye, followed by another band of black starting from the lores; back dull olive green, becoming brighter yellowish green on the rump. Under surface, centre of chin black, fading into grey on the chest and abdomen, the back chin bordered on either side by a band of white, flanks buffish grey, ear coverts black. Wing, upper surface brown; under surface lighter, each of the primaries, except the first, with the inner web dull white. Tail, dark brown, the outer web of the six central feathers faintly edged with olive green. Legs and feet brown, bill black, iris hazel. Bare skin behind eye metallic bluish green. Length (of skin) 15 c.m., wing 8.90 c.m. Female resembles the male. The young have the upper surface of the head brown, the white neutral band less distinct, the chin streak dark grey, the bill brown, and the bare skin of a dark-greenish blue.

Distribution.—The greater part of South Australia where large gum trees are to be found, but not in the dry country. In similar situations in Victoria and New South Wales. It is represented in Queensland, the Northern Territory, and North-West Australia by closely allied sub-species.

Habitat.—Open timbered country. It is rarely found in thick, scrubby, or mallee lands.

Habits.—This bird is one of a genus of short-billed Honey-eaters, evidently adapted for feeding in the Eucalypt, where a long bill is not a necessity. They are as much insect as honey eaters, and may often be seen clinging to the trunks of trees like Tree-creepers, in search of insects under the bark. As a rule they are found in pairs or small flocks of four or five. They are lively and quarrelsome birds, and often betray their presence by their penetrating note or by their fights with other birds, sometimes much larger than themselves.

Flight.—Quick and undulating. Sometimes they take quite long flights in passing from one feeding ground to another, but on the whole are local birds, and if a pair be located in a particular patch of timber one can depend on finding them in the vicinity at all times of the year.

Call.—Loud and penetrating, and rather harsh. A common call is like chip, chip, chip, chur, chur, chur, chur, the first three notes quickly repeated, the last four more drawn out and lower in tone. Another call somewhat resembles the words shoo, shoo, shoo, get back, get back, get back. In flight the call is a monotonous chip, chip, chip, etc.

Food.—Nectar and small insects from the Eucalyptus blossoms, and insects from the leaves and bark of the gum trees.

Nesting Season.—August, September, October, and November. The greater number build in October.

Nest.—A beautiful cup-shaped structure slung by the rim to the outer leaves of a gum tree branch, at a height varying from ten to fifty feet from the ground. The nest is constructed of white cow and horse hair, cobweb, and fine pieces of light-coloured bark, so firmly woven that a damp nest will hold water. Captain White watched a pair building a nest in his property at the Reedbeds, and noted that in collecting hair from his cows they chose only that which was white. Even when robbing a parti-coloured cow they always took their spoil from the white patches.

Eggs.—Two or three in number. Ground colour warm reddish brown, paler at the pointed end and deepening in shade towards the thick end, where there is an irregular zone of dark reddish-brown spots. A pair of eggs taken at Stone Hut in October, 1897, measured (1) 2.35 c.m. x 1.55 c.m. and (2) 2.20 c.m. x 1.55 c.m.

They are totally protected birds.

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## Notes on Birds seen during a Recent Visit to the Western Darling, N.S.W.

### PART III.

BY A. CHENERY.

I do not know the exact distance, but I believe the Queensland fence to the north and the S.A. fence to the west were less than ten miles away. Trying to cross an apparently dry arm of the Lake in the dusk, the Dodge car went down to the differential, and it was two hours' hard work, with the help of the

Ford and a rope on the back axle, before we had it out again. It was a weary party of explorers who made camp in the dark and turned in that night. No birds of any interest were met with during this day's journey except another pair or two of Cinnamon-backed Ground Birds.

Owing to threatening rain, of which a few drops fell, we were up at daylight next morning to get our bedding rolled up, and after breakfast moved back to a hut a mile away which we had passed on the previous evening, thinking that there was no water nearer than the well. However, a rain-water tank was in evidence, as this hut is occupied at times by a man who rides the Queensland fence. Here we left Mr. and Mrs. Heywood to rest, give the Dodge car a look over, and to remove some of the black mud which had accumulated on the wheels. The other three started to walk round the lake called Pimmaroo on the maps. Bird life was not plentiful, although the combination of water with timber and ti-tree and much grass bearing seed appeared to provide all necessary for a large bird population. Amongst the birds seen during our walk were a Little Eagle, Podargus with two eggs in a box-tree, many Zebra Finches, Pacific Herons, White-fronted Herons, a pair of Brolgas, Leadbeater's Cockatoo with two eggs, Caterpillar-eaters, a solitary Pelican, and the usual Minahs, Cockatoos, Galahs, and Honey-eaters. On the far side of the Lake we had the good fortune to flush a Black Falcon from a tree, the bird, as usual, flying straight away, and not ascending to soar over the nest. This contained four fresh eggs—now in Dr. McGillivray's collection. When nearing the camp we flushed a Masked Owl from a large hollow in a green box-tree. This contained seven eggs, partly incubated—the first nest of this species the writer has met with, and only the second bird we had seen during our travels. Captain Sturt established a base depot at this spot in 1845 on July 28th. From here he made journeys to Lake Torrens—about 115 miles from the original depot near Milparinka—and back to Fort Grey; then nor-west for 400 odd miles over the Strzelecki Creek and the Stony Desert to Eyre's Creek, and to within 150 miles of the centre of the Continent, according to his reckoning, and within one degree of latitude of the Tropic. Drought conditions forced him to return to the depot at Fort Grey, reached on October 20. His third attempt to reach his objective was made more due north and to the east of north until he struck a fine creek, which he followed for some distance, and which he named Cooper's Creek, after Judge Cooper, of South Australia. He struggled back from

here towards the end of November in exceedingly hot weather, losing two of his horses, and found that his party left in charge had fallen back on the original depot near Milparinka. At Cooper's Creek he found a "new and beautiful little Pigeon with a long crest, which never perched on trees, but on the highest and most exposed rocks, appearing to like the intense heat of such situations. Its flight was short, like that of a Quail" (*Geophaps plumifera*—Gould).

In our walks around the Lake we found a marked box-tree with initials cut in it, but almost obliterated by growth of bark. A Government Surveyor had re-marked the tree recently. There is no trace left of the stockade made of slabs four and a half feet above the ground which gave the name of "Fort" Grey to this depot, named after the then Governor of South Australia. There was a Bluebonnet's nest in the tree. So much for this historical digression. After returning to the hut and lunching, we packed up and returned ten miles on our outward route and then camped. Nothing of interest was noticed except a few Cinnamon-backed Ground birds. The next day we reached Yandama at 3 p.m., after negotiating those steep and numerous sandhills, which were so trying to the cars both going out and coming back. We left Jimmy Sit-down at the blacks' camp, and I fancy he was glad to get back. After tea and a talk to Mr. and Mrs. Winton, who had shown us such hospitality, we ran on another 20 miles in to Mount Sturt Station.

The remainder of the journey calls for little comment from an ornithological standpoint. When we left the Heywood's at Milparinka, after "doing" Depot Glen and Poole's Grave, we went on to Tibbooburra, and then east to the Bulloo floodwaters, but they had dried up and gone back through the fence into Queensland. Our observations of bird life were barren of interest except that I struck an *Amytis*—very shy—in a canegrass swamp, but had no gun at the time, and could not get a specimen.

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## The Drinking Habits of *Peltohyas Australis* (Australian Dottrel).

By J. NEIL MCGILLP, KING'S PARK.

Though I have had a long acquaintance with this useful little bird, I have hitherto had no record of its watering at the stock tanks and dams during the heat of the summer. I am

glad to find that it is not quite a total abstainer, as the following interesting observation will prove. During December, 1921, my brother (Mr. L. K. McGillp) had occasion to camp for several nights in succession at a large stock tank on Moolawatana. On the second evening, just at dusk, he was surprised to see flock after flock of these Dottrels arriving from the open, dry plains in the vicinity. After alighting at the water's edge, the birds did not appear to be in any hurry to drink, but for some time ran along the bank close to the water, giving forth a barking-like call, very similar to the bark of the Avocet, but hardly so shrill. The birds left singly or in pairs, not in flocks of twenty to thirty as they arrived at the water. Though my brother was at the tank for several evenings following, no more Dottrels appeared.

From the foregoing it would seem that the Dottrel needs water occasionally during the summer, but the remarkable thing is that on a certain evening hundreds of them flock to water, yet they do not seem to water at other times. The writer has known these birds for many years, but has not seen a Dottrel at the tanks. They do drink at surface waters, such as crabholes and claypans, when available. Pratincoles, a common bird at times on Moolawatana, come in to tank waters frequently during the day.

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## Breeding under Difficulty.

By J. NEIL MCGILP, KING'S PARK.

When at Moolawatana (Lake Frome district) recently I was shown a nest of *Uroactus undula* (Eaglehawk), the owners of which must have had rather an unpleasant experience when rearing their young.

The nest was originally built upon the top of what is locally known as a Tar Bush, a fuchsia-like flowering bush. It was not more than four feet up from the ground.

During a heavy storm the supporting branches of the bush gave way, and the nest was carried a distance of eight feet, landing on the ground the right way up. Some days afterwards one of my employees, when passing the nest, was surprised to find two young which were in the snow-white downy stage (under a fortnight old). These young were successfully reared in this nest.

It is not uncommon to see Eaglehawks nesting close to the ground. I knew of one built in the lowest forks of a Needle

Bush, and the bottom of the nest was not more than eighteen inches from the ground. A large gum creek is within two miles of this nest.

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## Bird Notes.

MARCH, 1922.

BY J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

This season has been one of the busiest on record in the bird world at Lockleys and the Reedbeds generally, there being large numbers of birds about, especially Honey-eaters and Parrakeets. The native blue gums (*Eucalyptus leucorylon*), being in full flower, attract many birds. A solitary Galah or Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) made the forest trees ring with its loud, piercing screeches, and that it found enough food was proved by the long stay it made. On March 15 it departed, in company with five other Galahs that happened to come this way. A Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) put in an appearance at Lockleys the same day as the first Galah, but did not stay. Large numbers of Yellow-winged Honey-eaters (*Meliornis norae-hollandiae subassimilis*) came and have been here ever since. These birds were plentiful years ago, but have gradually decreased in numbers. The Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis loftyi*) has been calling vigorously. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes (*Coraciina norae-hollandiae melanops*) were to be seen in the red gums. In March a Regent Honey-eater (*Xanthomiza phrygia tregelasi*) was seen, this being the second occasion on which these birds have visited the district, the first time being on April 29, 1919. Then they were extremely plentiful, but this year they came in ones and twos. I noted them every day until March 9, since when nothing has been seen of them.

March 5.—A Goshawk (*Urospiza fasciatus*) came worrying the poultry in the yard, but soon disappeared on being disturbed, and it was chased by flocks of the European Starlings.

Another put in an appearance on March 10.

On March 5 noted several Pipits or Ground Larks (*Anthus australis adelaidensis*) on the open grass land.

March 8.—A pair of Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) were in the poultry yard selecting feathers for nesting.

March 9.—Noted the Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) unusually active in the fields where timber is thick, and I have seen it about during the month.

March 18.—A pair of Mistletoe Birds (*Austrodiacuum hirundinaceum*) were about at Lockleys, uttering their low, sweet, whistling calls. A most unusual visitor was a fine specimen of the Pale-headed Parrot (*Platyercus adseitus palliceps*) of Queensland, presumably an escapee, which was still about at the end of the month.

By J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

February 28.—A Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike has been about the place this month.

March 1.—I caught a young Stubble Quail in the hedge three days after the big grass fire near Glen Osmond.

March 10.—Saw a young Goldfinch being fed by a parent.

March 11.—Noticed about twenty White-fronted Chats in South Park Lands.

March 13.—Noticed about twenty White-fronted Chats in a paddock near Mitcham.

March 15.—A *Grallina* flew at a "Kitty" whilst it was rolling up to begin an end on the Parkside Bowling Club green.

March 16.—Hawk (C.C.) resting in a peppermint gum annoyed by two Willie Wagtails, which were only a few feet away and attacked it frequently.

March 18.—Same Hawk attacked by a Magpie whilst on the wing. Maggie was very discreet, and was feet behind at each snap which I could hear.

March 19.—Pardalote calling "peepoh" or "meat hook" heard for first time this year.

March 22.—A Spinebill seen in the garden.

#### APRIL, 1922.

By J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

Some of the visitors to this district have left us during the month, notably the large Wattle Birds and the Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets.

The Striped Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus striatus subaffinis*) has been about in the large gum trees, and was noted first on April 6.

April 7.—Female of the Red-capped Robin (*Whiteornis goodenorii*) was noted at Lockleys, but no male was present.

April 10.—Although the Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyano-leuca*) are quite common, and nest near the house, I have never seen them so plentiful as now. On the evening of the 10th I flushed quite a number from a small bushy tree where they

had congregated to roost for the night. In all there were about twenty.

April 11.—I was pleased to note several Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) feeding on the ground amongst the grass, showing that these old friends have come to stay. The Pale-headed Rosella that arrived last month was associating with them. This Rosella Parrot has quite made his home at Mellor Park, and comes down to drink from the wild birds' water-pot not far from the back door.

On the same day several Brown-headed Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*) were flying in a small flock. A small covey of White-browed Babblers (*Morganornis superciliosus*) were very inquisitive, and hopped right up to where I stood.

April 14.—Although the Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus*) is not a common bird, no fewer than three came to drink out of the water-pot, where next day I also noted a Black-chinned Honey-eater (*Melithreptus gularis loftyi*).

April 22.—A female Flame-breasted Robin (*Littleraphoebica albicans*) flitting about in search of insects.

On April 25 quite an invasion of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neorina*) was witnessed, the rain having brought out many gnats and flies, which attracted them in quite large numbers.

BY J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

The Black-chinned Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus gularis*), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrikes (*Graculus norae-hollandiae*), White-naped Honey-eaters (*Melithreptus lunulatus*), Yellow-breasted Shrike-tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*), Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*), Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*), and Crimson Parrots (*Platyercus elegans*) have been about the whole of the month.

On April 7, after the rain, Scarlet-breasted Robins (*Petroica multicolor*) and Spotted Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus punctatus*) put in an appearance.

The Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) has been seen on many occasions, and on April 9 one was attacked at the height of about 150 feet by four Magpies simultaneously, three attacking from above, downwards, and one from beneath, upwards. It was wonderful to see how the Hawk dodged the attack, but on one occasion one of the "downward" Magpies knocked out a mouthful of feathers from the Hawk's back. The snapping of beaks could be distinctly heard, but the Hawk did

not appear to fight, and after five minutes the Magpies ceased attacking.

On the 16th inst. a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) was heard, and was seen on 17th inst. near some thick shrubbery. It has not been heard nor seen since the last date. On 23rd inst. a Barn-owl (*Tyto alba*) was heard, and on 24th inst. a Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) was noticed at 6.50 p.m. on the bough of a *Pinus insignis*, six feet from the ground. On 22nd inst., on a visit to the National Park, Belair, I took a census of the birds seen and heard. I covered about a third of the area, and saw 288 and heard ninety-one birds of thirty-nine different species. The predominating birds were White-headed Honey-eaters (*Meliornis norae-hollandiae*), White-plumed Honey-eaters (*Meliphaga penicillata*), Superb Warblers (*Malurus cyaneus*), Wattle Birds (*Anthochaera carnuculata*), and Spotted Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus punctatus*), six birds.

By R. BECK, TAPLEY'S HILL ROAD.

April 2.—Three Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*). It was the first appearance of these birds in the district. They were shy and hard to observe for about ten days. They are now quite tame, and spend a lot of time in a Moreton Bay fig tree close to the back door.

April 9.—A Rufous-breasted Whistler (*P. rufiventris*). The first appearance here.

April 11.—A Red-capped Robin (*P. goodenorii*).

April.—Several Ground Cuckoo-shrikes (*Pteropodocys phasianella*).

Mr. W. Weidenbach reported having seen at Glen Osmond on April 27 and 28 several Regent Honey-eaters.

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MAY, 1922.

By J. W. MELLOR, LOCKLEYS.

The month has been one of activity amongst the Hawk family at Lockleys, several species having been observed.

On May 3 I noted a Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) flying round and uttering its well-known whistling call. These birds are somewhat partial to young rabbits when they come down here, but on the Murray and around Lakes Alexandrina and Albert and the Coorong I have noted that they are very partial to fish diet, especially the bodies of the "boney bream."

when these fish are cast up on the shores. On this account they are locally known as the "Fish Eagle."

On May 4 the Brown Hawk (*Tracideu berigora*), which was at one time plentiful in the district, but now scarce, was seen flying overhead.

All the month the little Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchueis cenchroides*) has been busy capturing mice. These are truly useful birds in keeping down the mouse pest.

The Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*) has also been diligent in securing the common Sparrows for food, and in this respect it also is a very useful bird. In dissecting the stomach of one of these birds, shot in the country and forwarded to me for identification, I found the remains of no less than three sparrows.

On May 5 I noted quite a number of Flame-breasted Robins (*Littleria chrysoptera phoenicea*), for the most part in sombre garb, probably females or young males, but here and there a beautiful old cock bird would stand out like a small flame of fire. These birds were, however, migrating, as by May 15 none was about, nor have they since been noted. They seldom stay more than a few weeks at the most, and none stays to breed, and I am of the opinion that these little birds are one and the same as the Tasmanian birds, and that they migrate to the Island State to breed.

On May 17 several Southern Spiney-cheeked Honey-eaters (*Acanthagenys ruficularis cygnus*) were about, their loud and beautifully liquid calls being heard at quite a distance away.

During the latter part of the month several Fantailed Cuckoos (*Cacomantis rubricatus*) have been about. They are very quiet indeed in themselves, but their presence is fully heralded by all and sundry of the small birds that make a great commotion while the Cuckoo is about.

The Red-backed or Grass Parrot (*Psephotus haematopterus*) has apparently come back to stay, as I saw several during the last few days of the month.

BY J. SUTTON, NETHERBY.

FLAME-BREASTED ROBINS.—First seen on May 7, and have been about the gardens every day since then.

RED-CAPPED ROBIN.—A female was seen on May 7—the first time I have noticed one here for four years. It has not been observed since.

FANTAILED CUCKOO.—One was seen on May 7 worried by two Willie Wagtails. It was not calling, and has not been seen or heard since that date.

GOLDEN-BREASTED WHISTLER.—A female was seen about Netherby on 12th inst. Male birds were heard singing in Long Gully on 24th inst.

BLUE MOUNTAIN LORIKEET.—Appeared about 16th inst., but only remained a few days.

WHITE-SHAFTED FANTAIL.—One arrived at Netherby on 26th inst.

MOPoke.—At 10.35 p.m. on 24th inst. a mopoke flew from a fence post by the footpath near Urrbrae in Fullarton Road. The post was six feet from the electric light.

At Myponga on 8th inst. many Crimson Parrots were seen. Crescent Honey-eaters were calling, and a fair number of Willie Wagtails was noticed.

At Aldgate on 20th inst. Tawny-crowned Honey-eaters were about, also, Crimson Parrots, Crescent Honey-eaters, White-shafted Fantails, Sordid Wood Swallows. A Fantailed Cuckoo was heard calling. No Wattle Birds nor Willie Wagtails were seen or heard.

At Long Gully on 24th inst. the Brown and White-throated Tree-creepers were near the Railway Station, and Golden-breasted Whistlers were seen. White-naped and White-bearded Honey-eaters were numerous.

On 13th inst. many Blue Mountain Lorikeets were in the National Park, but on the 24th inst. none was there.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st MARCH, 1922.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
To Balance brought forward . . . . .		34	18	4
" Members' Subscriptions paid—				
For year 1921-22 . . . . .		33	16	0
For previous year . . . . .		8	5	0
For year 1922-23 . . . . .		6	15	0
For year 1923-24 . . . . .		0	16	0
" Entrance Fees—				
For year 1921-22 . . . . .		0	15	0
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Vol. VI.

Part 8.

THE  
SOUTH AUSTRALIAN  
ORNITHOLOGIST,

A Magazine of Ornithology.

1st OCTOBER, 1922.

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE:

F. M. ANGEL, R.A.O.U.

A. G. EDQUIST

S. A. WHITE, C.M.B.O.U.

F. R. ZIETZ, R.A.O.U.

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Price, 2/-



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The Editorial Committee accepts no responsibility for the views or deductions expressed by any of its contributors. The Journal welcomes a free interchange of ideas with the object of extending the knowledge of our avifauna, but the author of each article is responsible for the opinions and deductions recorded.

— THE —  
South Australian Ornithologist.

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VOL. VI.]

1st OCTOBER, 1922.

[PART 8.]

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The South Australian Ornithological  
Association.

MONTHLY PROCEEDINGS.

—Meeting held on 30th June, 1922.—

The President (Professor J. B. Cleland, M.D.) was in the chair.

The following correspondence was dealt with:—

From the Hon. Secretary British Ornithological Union and the Editor "The Auk," advising that they had given instructions to the publishers of their magazines ("The Ibis" and "The Auk" respectively) to forward copies as issued in exchange for "The South Australian Ornithologist." A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to both authorities.

Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science.—Letter from Professor J. R. Wilton, the local State secretary, covering one from the local secretaries, Wellington, N.Z., intimating that the next meeting is to be held at Wellington, N.Z., on Tuesday, 9th January, 1923, and we were approached for the names of our delegates and reminded that offers of papers to be read at the meeting should be sent to the local State secretary as early as possible. Professor J. B. Cleland and Captain S. A. White were appointed as delegates.

A letter was received from Mrs. F. R. Zietz and Mrs. A. Zietz thanking the members for the letter of sympathy in their bereavement. It was decided by this meeting to purchase the complete set of "The Emu," offered to us by Mrs. F. R. Zietz, at the price of £4 10/-.

The following new members were proposed:—Messrs. H. J. Brewster Jones and Eric S. Paterson.

Swallows.—The President drew the attention of members to an article in the June number of the Medical Journal of Australia by John Dale, M.B.B.S., Medical Officer of Health.

W.A., entitled "Flies on a Sanitary Site and Typhoid in a Boys' Home:"—"On 9th March, 1920, at about 12 noon, a visit was paid to a municipal sanitary site where the contents of a number of pans (about 500) are buried each night. The soil consists of pure sand. . . . On the occasion of the visit there was a moderate breeze from the north, the sky was occasionally overcast, and heavy showers were falling at intervals. On arriving at the site it was noticed that a quadrilateral patch of ground was literally black with Swallows. It was found that this patch of ground corresponded to those trenches the contents of which had been buried from eight to 12 days before. On examination of the surface from which the Swallows were turned away, a large number of freshly-hatched flies were seen crawling about. On closer examination numerous small holes of a diameter of about two millimetres were seen on the surface of the sand, and it was presumed that these holes were made by the emerging flies. This was easily confirmed, and in certain situations it was possible to see flies emerging at the rate of several per minute from a patch of sand six inches square. The flies emerged very rapidly; almost as soon as the frontal sac on the top of the emerging fly's head was recognized breaking through the surface, the fly hopped out. The showers of rain had caused the surface of the sand to "set" tightly, otherwise the channels made by the emerging flies would not have been preserved. The disturbed Swallows returned almost immediately and settled within a few feet of the observer, devouring the flies eagerly. Apparently no other species of birds were availing themselves of the feast. . . . The flies were nearly all house flies (*Musca domestica*). A few larger "blow" flies were also seen emerging. . . . The countless flies which hatch out of the excreta trenches are brought there, of course, as eggs or maggots in the pans from the premises of the individual householder." It was decided to write to Dr. Dale to ascertain which species of Swallow he referred to.

The President also mentioned that during his recent trip to New Zealand he had observed the flight of two kinds of Albatrosses—the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*) and the Black-browed Albatross (*Diomedea melanophrys*). In starting the first impetus was obtained by flapping the wings, then the flight is affected by gravity in coming down rapidly to the food in the water, and thirdly by the wind force. He suggested that our next monthly meeting should be jointly with the University Science Club on the subject of "The Flight of Birds," and it was left to him to try to arrange this meeting

through Professor Kerr Grant. He also thought that he might get Professor A. G. Strong to inform us of the allusions to bird flight in poetry.

The birds discussed by the Vice-President, Mr. F. E. Parsons, were the Artamidae seen in South Australia. The specimens exhibited were shown by Messrs. J. W. Mellor and F. E. Parsons and the Museum, per Dr. A. M. Mergan. White-breasted Wood Swallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)—Breast, abdomen, and rump, white; dark slate head, back, throat, and tail. This bird is never far from water, and is seen in the big timber on the Murray as far down as Wood's Point. Migratory. White-browed Wood Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*)—Dark slate on back; white eyebrow; abdomen, rich chestnut; tail, tipped white. These birds are seen everywhere in South Australia. Migratory. Masked Wood Swallow (*Artamus personatus*)—Dark slate back; black throat, with white edge, underneath grey. Migratory, and comes south in the breeding season, in company with the White-browed Wood Swallow, and both those species consume great numbers of the young locusts. Black-faced Wood Swallow (*Artamus cinereus*)—A smaller bird, black face; grey breast; abdomen, darker grey; tail, tipped white. A Central Australian bird, but migratory, and has been noted in this State as far down as Port Augusta and Renmark. Wood Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*)—Chocolate-brown head; back and underneath and wings black, with white outer edge, tail tipped white. A very interesting note on this particular species, which may be seen about the Adelaide Plains and the Hills at the present time, was handed in by Mr. A. Crompton, of Upper Kensington (vide notes). All the young of the Wood Swallows are striped underneath and on the back, but the wings are a blackish colour.

—Meeting held on the 25th August, 1922.—

Mr. F. M. Angel in the chair (in the unavoidable absence of the President and Vice-President).

The new members proposed at the June meeting, Messrs. H. J. Brewster Jones and Eric S. Paterson, were duly elected, and Mr. J. W. Goodale was duly proposed and seconded for membership.

The following donations were notified and a vote of thanks was passed to each of the donors:—Mr. H. L. White, of "Bell-trees," Scone, N.S.W., forwarded a copy of "Index to The Emu," volumes 1 to 20, and Mr. Robert Hall, of Bellevue, Tasmania, presented a copy of his latest work, "Australian Bird Maps."

Correspondence laid upon the table.

A letter dated 8th July, 1922, was received from Dr. John Dale re "Swallows and Flies:"—"I was pleased to note that your members were interested to hear about the Swallows. The 'episode' took place over two years ago, soon after I arrived in Australia, and the account was written and forwarded to the Journal forthwith. As far as I remember—(1) Estimated size of patch—40 to 50 ft. x 20 to 30 ft. (2) Number of birds—Several hundreds, say 300. The Chief Inspector, Mr. Greenhill, who accompanied me, estimated the number at 500. (3) Species of Swallows—I have the impression that it was the Red-throated bird (the Welcome Swallow), but I am not certain. Mr. Greenhill tells me he has seen similar flocks on the Perth depot since we were together. I will keep your letter and try to verify the species."

Letter from the President and member of the Kangaroo Flat Bird Club advising the S.A.O.A. that Thomas Mitchell, aged 10 years 5 months, in 5th Grade at the school, was the winner of the Bird and Tree Competition for 1922, and thus his school is the holder of the S.A.O.A. trophy for that year. The school thanks us. It was decided to ask Mr. Edquist to let the Association see each year the six essays from which the prize-winner is selected.

Letter from the Field Museum of National History, Chicago, informing us, in reply to our request, that the name of our Association is on the Museum publication list to receive all issues of the Ornithological and Report Series. It was decided to send our thanks for this courtesy.

Exportation of Native Birds from Australia.—After some discussion it was proposed by Captain S. A. White, seconded by Dr. A. M. Morgan, and carried unanimously, "that our Association will support the R.A.O.U. in any action it may take in this matter."

Captain S. A. White then gave a description of some of the birds seen by him on the recent trip by motor to Darwin and back, and exhibited some of birds taken. Brown Hawks (*Accipiter berigora*), Desert Chats (*Ashbyia lorensis*), and Mrs. Morgan's Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius myrtac*) were seen up to the MacDonnell Ranges. Above these Ranges, in the grass-country, the birds changed. The country had deep creeks and heavy timber. In the big waterholes Spoonbills, Egrets, and White-fronted Herons were numerous. The birds were very tame. The Wild Turkeys walked into their camps. Many Native Companions were seen. In one flock there were over 100 birds, and they saw 20 to 30 dancing on one occasion. Emus

ran alongside the motor cars, and kangaroos merely moved out of their way. Right up to Darwin the Crimson-winged Parrots (*Psephotus pulcherrimus*) were plentiful. From Sturt Plain to Daly Waters Finches were very thick. At Barrow's Creek he obtained the Long-tailed Finch (*Poephila acuticauda*), Painted Finch (*Emblema picta*), Grey-headed Honey-eater (*Meliphaga keartlandi*), Grass Wren (*Amytornis textilis*), and White-fronted Honey-eater (*Glyciphila albifrons*)—its furthest north. The Banded Finch (*Lonchura bichenorii*), at Daly Waters. The Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*) and Horsfield's Bush Lark (*Mirafra javanica*), in the MacDonnell Ranges. The Rufous-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) was found from Oodnadatta to beyond Daly Waters; the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*) near Daly Waters, and also the Queensland border; the Little Wood Swallow (*Artamus minor*) from Oodnadatta to Darwin, also the Yellow-throated Minah (*Myzantha flexigula*). The Harmonious Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), and the Black Tree Creeper (*Climacteris melanota*) were also observed; the Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*) from Crown Point up to Darwin. The Apostle Bird (*Struthidea cinerea*) were very common. The Pratincole (*Stiltia isabellae*) were in hundreds on the grass plains from Newcastle Waters to the Queensland border. Naked-eyed Partridge Pigeons (*Geophaps smithi*) were very thick in the high grass in the Territory. The Flock Pigeons (*Histiophaps histrionica*) were found on the plain between Newcastle Waters and the Queensland border, and came to drink at the water pools in the evening in flocks of 500 to 600. Bronzewing Pigeons were numerous in the ranges. The White-breasted Cuckoo Shrike (*Graucalus hypoleucus*) and the Oriole (*Oriolus sagittatus*) were seen right through to Darwin and specimens of McGillivray's Parrot were obtained in Queensland. A Mopoke (*Ninox boobook*) was found on the plains between Newcastle Waters and Anthony's Lagoon. Cormorants—the four species—were in thousands at Newcastle Waters, and Pelicans were also very numerous there. White Egrets (*Egretta alba*) were plentiful there. Jabirus (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) were seen in the tropics. Rails were noticed in Darwin and numbers of quail were observed between each camp of the party. He had great difficulty in keeping any specimens taken because of the destructive hordes of ants everywhere in the north.

The Chairman, on behalf of the members, thanked the lecturer for the interesting evening.

## Order Passeriformes, Family Sylviidae, Genus Megalurus.

By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B. Ch.

*Megalurus gramineus*—The Little Grass-bird.

Description.—Upper surface, head, neck, upper back brown, each feather with a broad stripe of dull black in the centre; lower back and upper tail coverts, light yellowish-brown; over the eye a line of dull white. Under surface, chin white, with a few dark-brown spots; neck white, strongly spotted with dull black; breast, dull white; abdomen, dull yellowish-white in centre changing to buff on the flanks and under tail coverts and thighs; wing primaries, dull black; secondaries, dull black, edged with dull white; greater coverts, dull black, edged with fawn; under wing coverts, dull white; tail, dark brown, the shafts and a narrow line down the centre of each feather, black; bill brown; legs and feet, pale brown; iris dark brown. The sexes are alike in colour.

Total length of skin, 14 c.m.; wing, 5.4 c.m.; tail 6.5 c.m.

Distribution.—The whole of the southern part of Australia, including Tasmania and Kangaroo Island. It is a common bird during the summer months on the islands of St. Vincent and Spencer Gulfs, and they are still fairly numerous in the City of Adelaide, on the banks of the Torrens and in the Botanical Gardens.

Habitat.—Low-lying swampy country where there are reedbeds or samphire flats. On the Murray and Darling Rivers they are very numerous in the flooded country during high rivers, and breed in the half-submerged polygonum bushes.

Habits.—In the southern parts of South Australia they are migratory, arriving early in August and leaving some time towards the end of February or early in March; a few, however, remain throughout the winter, perhaps more than is generally supposed, as they are silent at that season of the year and are not conspicuous birds at any time. They live amongst the reeds or samphire, which they leave only to cross from one patch to another. In the reeds they are lively and quick in threading their way. They are inquisitive and easily called up by imitating their call. The tail is carried partly erect, but not carried over the back as with the *maluri*.

Flight.—Fluttering, of short duration, rarely more than a few yards from one clump of reeds to another.

Call.—Two or three long-drawn-out mournful whistles repeated at short intervals.

Food.—Small insects.

Nesting Season.—From the middle of August till the end of November, September being the principal breeding month.

Nest.—An open cup-shaped structure, built externally of dried grasses, strips of reeds or paper-bark, and mainly lined with feathers. As a rule two large curved feathers are built into the top of the nest in such a way as to completely cover the opening. A nest found at the Grange, S.A., on September 15th measured, height over all 9.5 c.m., depth of cavity 5.0 c.m., opening 40 x 50 c.m.

Eggs.—Three or four in a clutch. The nest mentioned above contained five eggs, but this is the only occasion on which I have seen so many. The eggs are long and oval, surface dull, ground colour white strongly speckled with dark red, sometimes so thickly as to almost conceal the ground colour.

Average measurement of nine eggs, 1.88 x 1.38 c.m.

Largest egg, 2.0 x 1.40 c.m.

Smallest egg, 1.85 x 1.40 c.m.

---

## Junior Ornithologists.

By A. G. Edquist.

In 1910 School Bird Protection Clubs were inaugurated in the Public Schools of South Australia.

The idea was to secure a large number of children's clubs officered by the youngsters themselves, unless the scholars wished the teacher to act as President.

During the course of Nature-study the teachers brought under the notice of the children the importance of birds to Australia, and urged them to band together and help their elders in protecting our unique and wonderful avifauna.

As a result over 500 clubs have been formed and tens of thousands of members have been enrolled.

With so many sharp-eyed observers interested in the welfare of the *native* birds, a better time is in store for our feathered friends.

One result has been that native birds are more numerous about the City environs to-day than was the case a few years ago, when the shanghai was as much a part of the schoolboy's outfit as was his pencil-case.



Schools' Competition Cup.

presented by The South Australian Ornithological Association.  
(From a block kindly lent by the Editor of "The Children's  
Hour.")

More than one ornithologist has remarked on the reappearance of certain birds in our parks during the last few years, and on the increased numbers of other species which were not entirely driven away.

The movement has the full support of the South Australian Ornithological Association. To show their practical sympathy with the movement the members have subscribed towards a trophy, which is offered for competition each year.

The winning club holds the cup at their school for twelve months.

The winner receives a photograph of the trophy and book prizes to the value of one guinea.

The second prize consists of one guinea's worth of books, part of the collection going to the winner of second prize and part to his school library.

The purpose of dividing the prize between the prize-winner and his school is to make him understand that by helping himself he is helping to make tradition for his school, and also that service for others is a worthy idea.

The competition consists in essay writing and in drawing birds from nature.

When essays are to be submitted for competition, each competitor is required to write two, one on a tree and one on a bird.

The essay which follows has been reproduced without alteration of detail. Sometimes the young observers are at fault, but usually their observations and deductions are very accurate, especially for young children.

#### FIRST PRIZE ESSAY.

By Thomas Mitchell, aged 10 year 5 months, of Kangaroo Flat Primary School.

#### —The White-browed Babbler.—

This fussy and restless bird is found in our district as well as on Eyre's Peninsula. It is known by the names of "Hopping Dolly," "Kangaroo Bird," or "Cat Bird," and sometimes as "The White-eyed Chatterer." It lives on insects which it finds under dead leaves or dry bark.

As it hops along, taking bounds about four or five inches in length, it overturns all kinds of leaves, twigs, and bark, and

with its sharp eyes and beak it is able to pick up and eat insects which to us are almost invisible without the aid of a magnifying glass.

Its nest is built of small dry twigs, and is made almost waterproof by the old grass which the Babbler collects and plaits together. She then lines her nest with soft feathers. This nest is dome-shaped, about eighteen inches long and seven wide, with an opening.

The eggs have hair-like lines along the surface, and are of a creamish colour. It lays all the year round, and generally chooses a thick bushy tree in which to build its nest. It generally lays from two to four eggs. Its young are the same colour as the old birds, which are cautious and stealthy in their movements if danger is near.

If a Babbler hears danger approaching it holds its head on one side for a moment ere it utters the shrill harsh and warning cry which makes known the approaching peril to its comrades.

A Babbler puts up a very plucky fight when defending its young. It feeds them on moths, flies, and several other species of insect life.

“I know the song the Babbler is singing,  
Out in the pine tree where he is swinging,  
Brave little fellow! The skies may be dreary,  
Nothing he cares while his heart is so cheery.”

---

## Some Weights, Measurements, and Temperatures of Birds.

By A. M. Morgan, M.B., B.Ch.

The following weights, measurements, and temperatures were taken during a trip to the Lennard River, in North-West Australia, during June, 1921:—

Name of Bird.	Weight	Wght. of Brain	P.c. of Brain to Body Weight.	Temperature.	Total Length.	Spread of Wing	Sex.
<i>Philemon citreogularis</i>	74.00	1.10	1.48	109.4	26.00	40.00	♂
<i>Meliphaga sonora</i> ...	12.00	0.70	5.83	108.6	18.00	24.50	♂
<i>Pachycephala</i> <i>rufiventris</i> ...	23.00	1.10	5.21	105.6	16.50	—	♂
<i>Microeca fascians</i> ...	6.50	0.4	6.15	105.0	12.50	22.50	♂
<i>Pomatostomus</i> <i>rubeculus</i> ...	64.00	2.00	3.12	109.0	23.00	31.00	♂
<i>Haleyon sanctus</i> ...	44.00	0.75	1.70	—	23.00	31.00	♂
<i>Aprosmictus</i> <i>erythropterus</i> ...	145.00	3.20	2.28	107.4	31.00	52.00	♂
<i>Aprosmictus</i> <i>erythropterus</i> ...	125.00	2.50	2.00	108.0	29.50	53.50	♂
<i>Aprosmictus</i> <i>erythropterus</i> ...	141.00	2.80	1.98	108.0	33.00	54.00	Juv
<i>Dacelo leachi</i> ...	269.00	3.00	1.11	102.0	—	—	—
<i>Smicronis flavescens</i> .	5.00	0.25	5.00	104.0	8.00	—	♂
<i>Smicronis flavescens</i> ...	5.50	—	—	—	7.50	13.50	—
<i>Miagra rubecula</i> ...	11.00	0.60	5.45	107.4	14.25	20.50	♂
<i>Stizoptera bichenovi</i> ...	8.00	0.40	5.00	105.6	10.75	15.50	♂
<i>Merops ornatus</i> ...	23.00	—	—	105.0	25.00	31.00	♂
<i>Siezura inquieta</i> ...	13.50	0.70	5.18	105.0	18.00	27.00	♂
<i>Chlamydera nuchalis</i> ...	197.70	4.20	2.12	109.8	36.00	50.00	♂
<i>Chlamydera nuchalis</i> ...	265.00	—	—	108.0	38.00	56.00	♂
<i>Geopelia tranquilla</i> ...	38.00	0.60	1.57	108.0	18.00	29.00	♂
<i>Artamus minor</i> ...	15.00	0.50	3.33	106.0	15.00	28.50	♂
<i>Campephaga tricolor</i> ...	24.00	0.55	2.29	—	19.00	29.50	♂
<i>Artamus melanops</i> ...	33.00	0.72	2.18	—	17.50	32.00	♂
<i>Sitella leucoptera</i> ...	12.50	0.50	4.00	—	11.25	22.00	♂
<i>Taeniopygia castanotis</i>	11.00	0.35	3.18	—	10.25	14.00	♂
<i>Ieracidea berigora</i> ...	544.60	4.00	7.34	—	42.50	94.00	♂
<i>Mirafra javanica</i> ...	20.00	0.50	2.50	—	14.50	21.50	♂
<i>Cacatua sanguinea</i> ...	584.60	7.50	12.82	—	46.00	87.00	♂

All weights are in grammes, and all measurements in centimetres.

## Bird Notes.

June, 1922.

By Alfred Crompton.

Wood Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*) have been clustering round the stem of a Pine tree in Statenborough Street, Upper Kensington, since June 3rd, the date on which they were first noticed this season. Most evenings the stem was covered for an estimated length of about 10 feet, and at a rough guess I reckon that at least 1,000 birds assembled every evening until the end of last week, when the number seems to have dwindled. On cold stormy days they began to cluster about 3.30 p.m., but on bright warmer days not until 5 p.m. On the latter days the birds began to arrive in the neighbouring trees about 3 p.m., and continued to do so until sundown.

The early birds settled on the tree stem some 30 odd feet from the ground, and the later arrivals attached themselves to the tree touching and above those already clustered.

On leaving the roost on fine mornings the top half of the tier usually left some 10 to 15 minutes before the lower half, and apparently swept right away to the feeding grounds in a south-westerly direction. The lower half went north-easterly. The tree was usually cleared a few minutes after 7 a.m., and by 7.30 a.m. none of the species could be seen.

Unfortunately I am not at home during the daytime, but I understand that none of the birds was seen about during the morning or early afternoon.

On Friday the 23rd June the birds were very restive, leaving the tree three or four times after they had first clustered. This was the first time they were noticed to do this.

I was not at home on the following Saturday or Sunday, but on Monday there seemed to be fewer birds than had been observed previously, and my family report there were fewer still on Wednesday, 28th, and Thursday, 29th, although the weather was so rough.

The birds were observed to cluster in the same tree for a few nights in 1919 and 1920, but were not noticed to do so in 1921.

By J. Sutton.

Netherby.—On 2nd inst. a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo was calling. On 19th inst. two Blue Mountain Lorikeets were seen. On 23rd inst. a Crow was heard. The Flame-breasted Robins have been here all this month, and the Scarlet-breasted Robin is occasionally seen. Of the occasional visitors the fol-

lowing have been noted during the month:—Adelaide Rosellas, Red-backed Parrots, Musk and Purple-crowned Lorikeets, Yellow-breasted Shrike Tits, Black-chinned and White-naped Honey-eaters, Wattle Birds, Peaceful Dove, Spotted Pardalotes, Magpie Larks, Brown Tree-creeper, White-shafted Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike, White Eyes, and Yellow-tailed Tit-warblers.

Kinchina.—During the month I visited Kinchina, a railway station beyond Monarto South on the Murray Bridge line, and in the mallee scrub I observed the following 42 species of native birds—Australian Brown Flycatcher, Grey Shrike Thrush, Wattle Birds, Honey-eaters—Singing, Spiny-cheeked, Yellow-plumed, Brown-headed, White-eared, and Wattle-cheeked; Robins—Redcapped, Scarlet-breasted, Hooded and Scrub; Magpies, White-browed Babblers, Welcome Swallows, White-shafted Fantails, Willie Wagtails, Restless Flycatchers, Adelaide Rosellas, Red-backed Parrots, Lorikeets, Peaceful Doves, Bronzewing Pigeons, Spotted-sided Finches; Cuckoos—Fantailed and Pallid; Spotted Pardalotes, Whistling Eagle, Brown Hawk, Kestrels, Laughing Jacks; Whistlers—Golden and Rufous Breasted; Sordid Wood Swallows, Butcher Birds, Bell Birds, Tit-warblers—Yellow-tailed and Chestnut-rumped; Whitefaces, and Black-breasted Plovers, Crows.

The area walked over may be described as a mile square, and on each trip I took a census of the birds observed.

First trip—29 species of native birds, 318 members; one introduced species, 70 members.

Second trip—33 species of native birds, 390 members; one introduced species, 106 members.

Third trip—34 species of native birds, 333 members; two introduced species, 28 members. The two species were Goldfinches and Sparrows—the latter in the greater number.

By J. W. Mellor.

The month has been cold and showery, and the birds have been hard pressed to find sufficient food, consequently they have become very tame, coming close to the house in search of something to eat. Laughing Jacks fly right up to where one is digging, in order to secure a worm, and then fly to a convenient post to eat it. Early in the month scores of Murray Magpies (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) were to be seen at Lockleys in the open fields, and the birds which usually nest each year above the house were also present.

Several Cuckoos have been about, notably the Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus*), which sleeps all the winter

and generally departs in the spring. Some Narrow-billed Cuckoos (*Neochalcites basalis mellori*) have been about also; I noted them on June 6 and after.

On June 13 several White-fronted Herons (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) were croaking and flying around in the trees, apparently seeking out their nesting places.

On June 13 I noted a large number of White-fronted Chats (*Ephthianura albifrons*) searching about amongst the small plants for insect food.

Flame-breasted Robins (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*) are still here, a male being noted on June 22.

On June 24 I noted a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) starting to build. This is early and may be the forerunner of an early spring.

Quite a number of Southern Silver Gulls (*Bruchigavia novae-hollandiae ethelae*) visited Lockleys during the month. They were following up the plough, which turned up a plentiful supply of grubs and insects.

By A. Keith Ashby.

I saw seven or eight Swift Lorikeets (*Lathamus discolor tregellasi*) on 28th May and two on 16th June, 1922, at Blackwood.

Regent Honey-eaters.—Mr. W. Weidenbach reported that these birds appear to have left Glen Osmond about 24th June, and Mr. A. Keith Ashby says they have appeared at Blackwood during June.

—July, 1922.—

By J. W. Mellor.

The Magpies have been extremely energetic with their building operations, and in consequence have become very aggressive.

Red-backed Grass Parrots (*Psephotus haematototus*) have remained with us, and from their manner seem to intend staying on indefinitely.

White-fronted Herons (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) are now nesting in the red gums.

The Flame-breasted Robin (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*) is still with us, and on July 4 I noted several in the open paddocks.

On July 6 I noted half a dozen Red-backed Grass Parrots (*Psephotus haematototus*) on the boxthorn bushes feeding on the berries and seeds of the African boxthorn. This proves

them to be a decided acquisition, as the Parrot does not swallow the berry whole, but breaks it to pieces with its bill, destroying the seeds before swallowing, and thus preventing the seed from germinating when it has passed through its digestive organs. In this respect they differ from the European Starling, which spreads the boxthorn over the country more than all other species of birds.

A very notable find this month is the Southern Grass Bird (*Poodytes gramineus dubius*).

On July 6 I heard its well-known call of "pee-pee-e" and "pee-pee-pee-ee," for, I have always stated, it makes a three-note call as well as a two-note. The little bird and its mate were in the thick cover of the boxthorn, and all through the month it has been heard within a hundred yards of the same spot. In all probability it will stay to breed. These little friends we used to call the little Reed-bird in the early days, as they were as numerous as the ordinary Reed-bird (*Conopoderus australis*), and their nests were always found in similar situations amongst the swamps and attached to the tall reeds growing in the water. Their nests were well known, as they always placed feathers in the rim and domed them above in the form of a little arch, and blue Bald-Coat feathers with a curve in them were almost always used, and the curved side placed inwards, as if the birds knew something of architecture.

On July 13 a Rose-breasted Cockatoo (*Eolophus roseicapillus*) was seen flying about in the big gums and making itself quite at home.

On July 15 noted several Spur-wing Plovers (*Lobibyr norachollandiae*) near some swampy ground at Lockleys, and next day a pair of Black-breasted Plovers (*Zonifer tricolor*) flew over, uttering their loud sharp calls, but did not settle near at hand.

On July 19 found that a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) had nearly finished building its nest quite close to the house and only about 10 or 12 feet from the ground, on the bough of a Norfolk Island pine. One of the old birds was just putting a beakful of hair into the bottom as a lining, and a pair of Willy Wagtails were greatly perturbed, as it was their usual tree for nesting. They were trying to frighten the Magpie away by pecking and flying at it incessantly, but without avail. I expect the Wagtail will have to leave the pine this year and nest elsewhere.

Another new find for Mellor Park on the 19th was the Southern Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cuculata rigorsii*). It was quietly sitting on a low twig of a bush near the garden, and

from the way in which it was at times flitting to and fro I should say that its mate was not far away in the bushes. It is surprising the variety of birds one sees about where the locality has been kept in its natural state and rigid protection accorded to the birds that come along.

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

July 4.—Black-breasted Plover heard, five of them seen on 28th inst.

July 5.—Five White-fronted Herons seen near the dam in Urrbrae.

July 8.—Two Blue Mountain Lorikeets and one Adelaide Rosella observed.

July 15.—At Kinchina the following new birds were noted:—Bell Bird, Fantailed Cuckoo, Tawny-crowned Honey-eater, White Eye, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, White-fronted Chat, and White-fronted Heron. A census of the birds observed was 36 species of native birds with 308 individuals, and two introduced species of two members.

July 16.—Greenfinches calling for the first time this season.

July 18.—Pallid Cuckoo heard for the first time.

July 19.—Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo again calling.

July 25.—Two Magpie Larks appeared at our birds' food table. The male has his right leg injured and it hangs down loosely with the claws turned upwards. The bird hops on its good leg. Both birds come round for food a few times daily since this date.

July 27.—Mopokes heard again. Those birds seem to frequent Netherby for a time and then leave.

July 29.—At Kinchina, new birds noted there were—Pallid Cuckoo, Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo, Little Tit-warbler, and the Short-billed Tree Tit. A Whiteface was lining its nest, which was built inside a space between the planks forming the back of the railway station platform. Five Starlings were seen here for the first time. A census gave 41 species of native birds with 357 individuals and two introduced species of 28 members.

—August, 1922.—

By J. W. Mellor.

The warming up of the weather and the quick advance of spring has hastened mating and the seeking of nesting quarters. The early birds have their nests well in advance. The Cuckoos have instinctively known this, and all through the

month two species have been about Lockleys, much to the discomforture of the various birds that are forced to become foster-parents.

The Pallid Cuckoo (*Heterosceus pallidus*) I noted again on August 1 calling loudly. The Honey-eaters were much concerned and were chasing the Cuckoo. On various occasions throughout the month I have noted different birds trying to frighten the Cuckoos away, but without avail.

On the first of the month, at Lockleys, I also noted the Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Neochalcites basalis mellori*). It was perched on the same tree that I noted it on last year, a white cedar, growing on the red sand dunes, and surrounded by thick boxthorn bushes, in which several Blue Wrens were threading their way and twittering. I visited one of the market gardens at Lockleys on the first day of the month, and was pleased to see several pairs of Flame-breasted Robins (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*) flying about amongst the fruit trees, and at times settling on the ground, picking up some insect or worm, and flying to an adjacent fruit tree to eat it. The owner of the garden, Mr. S. Lewis, I am glad to say, takes a great interest in the birds, and will not allow them to be disturbed. He stated that the Robins had been about for a long time, and were in the habit of entering the glass houses amongst the young tomato plants, where flies and gnats were plentiful. The Willy Wagtails, or Shepherd's Companions, were also his friends in this respect, and one pair last year actually built their nest on a post in the glass house,

Red-backed Grass Parrots (*Psephotus haematouotus*) have been in evidence amongst the old gums, and I am hopeful that they will breed this season. In company with them has been the Pale-headed Rosella (*Platycercus adscitus palliceps*), which has been about all the winter, but having no mate of his kind I am doubtful whether he will stay much longer.

On August 5 I had a good look at the Southern Grass Bird (*Poodytes gramineus dubius*) recorded last month, and which have been about ever since, and may stay to breed. They were calling loudly in the thicket of boxthorn, and on my answering them gradually came right up to me at the edge of the bushes. On the same day I noted a little South Australian Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera whitei*) in the garden.

The White-fronted Herons (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) have been coming into the large red gums right at the back door.

On August 10 I noted a pair of Black and White Fantails (*Leucocirca tricolor*) carrying bits of bark and cobweb to make

their nest. On the 20th inst. two pairs were gathering material to built with, both making their nests close to the house.

On August 10 a White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*) was seen lining its nest. On the same date a Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*) was being chased by several Southern Black-headed Minahs (*Myzantha melanocephala whitei*). The Minahs have started to nest, and no doubt this was the reason for driving the Cuckoo away.

On August 19 a pair of Magpie Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*) had finished building their neat mud nest high up on a red gum.

On August 23 several Southern Ravens (*Corvus coronoides perplexus*) were flying over high in the air, and going in a northerly direction and calling loudly. On the same date I noted a Southern White-plumed Honey-eater (*Ptilotula penicillata whitei*) carrying bits of shreaded bark and cobweb to build its nest. During the end of the month a pair of Welcome Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*) started to build their mud nest right above the front door in the same spot as last year.

By F. E. Parsons.

Members may be interested to know that the Swift Parrots (*Lathamus discolor*) are fairly numerous in the gum trees at Glen Osmond. I first noticed them about 10 days ago, and have seen them very day since. They are not at all shy, allowing one to get right under the tree while they are on the lower branches.

One flock of birds I tried to count while on the wing. It contained over 20.

By J. Sutton, Netherby.

August 1.—Flame-breasted Robin noted for the last time. They have been here since May 7.

August 4.—Regent Honey-eaters are still about. First noted on 28th April.

August 5.—In the National Park, Belair, the new birds noted were Regent Honey-eaters, Swift Parrots, two Mountain Thrushes, Adelaide Rosellas, Tawney-crowned and Crescent Honey-eaters, and Mistletoe Birds. Census taken gave 36 native species with 613 individuals, and three introduced species with 22 individuals.

August 12.—Fantailed Cuckoo calling for the first time this season.

August 20.—About 5.30 p.m. I saw one of the Falconidae—probably the Little Falcon—scaring along about 30 feet from

the ground, when a smaller bird, either a Sparrow or a Greenie, flew across the Falcon's track. That bird turned, got up full speed instantly, and followed and captured the smaller bird within 20 feet, and then soared down to the ground in the opposite direction and landed amongst some low bushes. The light was too bad to identify the kind of Hawk.

August 23.—In the National Park, Belair, Regent Honeyeaters and Swift Parrots were still there. New birds noted—Wedge-tailed Eagle and Black-breasted Plover. I saw a Tree Martin go to its nest in a hole in a stringybark gum. It was evidently feeding its young. Just near to that a female Scarlet-breasted Robin was building a nest in a fork of a limb in a peppermint gum. The male bird was close handy, but was not helping as far as I could see. About 50 yards away a male Spinebill was gathering nesting material, and whilst I watched him he twice pulled hair out of a small piece of rabbit skin.

August 19.—At Blackwood for 2½ hours. A few nests were found. One White-bearded Honey-eater's nest contained two young ones, and in another nest there were two eggs. The nests were built in hakeas not five feet above the ground. Census taken gave 24 native species with 144 individuals, and two introduced species with seven individuals.

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The Auk, Vol. 39, No. 1, January, 1922; No. 2, April, 1922; No. 3, July, 1922.

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The South Australian Naturalist, Vol. 3, No. 4, August, 1922.

Victorian Naturalist, Vol. 29, No. 3, July, 1922; No. 4, August, 1922; No. 5, September, 1922.

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