

A Trip to the Murray Mallee.

By J. Sutton.

The following account refers to a trip to the mallee lands across the River Murray and back to Adelaide from the 1st to 9th September, 1928, inclusive. The party consisted of Messrs. J. Neil McGilp, L. K. McGilp, F. E. Parsons, and J. Sutton. Dr. A. M. Morgan, through temporary indisposition, had at the last moment to drop out. The observations of all the members of the party are included in the following details:—

We left Mr. Parsons's house in Glen Osmond at 8 a.m. on Saturday, 1st September, by motor-car, and going through Crafers, West Stirling, Aldgate, Bridgewater, Nairne, Native Valley, Kanmantoo, Callington, Monarto South, Kinchina, Murray Bridge, and Wynarka, reached Karoonda, 92 miles, at 2 p.m. We obtained our food supplies, which had previously been ordered by letter from a store in that town, and then motored through Nunkeri to Enan Bore, some 12 miles south-east of Karoonda, and fixed up our tent beside the bore. About 22 miles before we reached Karoonda and on the east side of the River there was very little scrub, and most of the land was under crop. The country was similar on the way to Enan Bore, but about the bore there were some 5,000 to 6,000 acres of the natural mallee scrub, very low, most of it not five feet high, and in this scrub evidently the bird life, driven out of the

surrounding land as it was cleared, had sought refuge. We had brought a petrol-tin with rain-water with us, but as the bore-water was excellent we used that as soon as the rain-water gave out. We camped there from 1st to 4th September. The nights were very cold; the wind during the daytime was very strong from the north-west, and, although the weather was very threatening, only very slight falls of rain occurred. Mosquitoes, blowflies, flies, and ants were almost totally absent.

We left Enan Bore on 4th September at 8.25 a.m., motored back to Karoonda, where we replenished our stores and petrol, and proceeded beside the railway-line through Lowaldie, Borrika, Kilpalie, Sandalwood, and Halidon. At the last town we diverted from the usual route to pay a call on our member, Mr. C. H. Russell, at Lynwood Farm. Proceeding on from there we passed Mindarie Well, Areli Bore, and Shell's Well, and reached the railway-line again at Alawoona, and passed on through Malpas, Paruna, Meribah, Nadda, to Taplan. From there we went to a bore six miles east and near the Victorian border, but found that the windmill had been dismantled, as water from the River Murray was now laid on to that spot. We went northwards about one mile and pitched our camp in a pine (*Callitris*) forest near a dried-up salt marsh, which was covered with camomile about three inches in height, and the surrounding plain was dotted with low kopai or gypsum hillocks. The distance travelled for the day was 104 miles. Here we camped until the morning of the 8th September, and worked a fair amount of the surrounding country, where there was much timber pine, mallee, and black oak (*Casuarina lepidophloia*).

After leaving Karoonda we found that most of the country as far north as Taplan had been almost entirely cleared of the mallee flora, and as far as we could see on either side of the road, near the railway-lines, say three miles, the country was under crop or lying fallow. Practically for miles, save for here and there a patch of trees surrounding some settler's house, the only timber was on each side of the track in between the fences of the roads, which were about three chains wide. Out of the 92 nests noted during the trip 18 were found in trees beside the track. At Lynwood Farm we met with the first big mallees, and Mr. Russell keeps his property as a bird sanctuary. Just inside the front gate a Black-winged Currawong was sitting on a nest in a mallee, and did not leave it whilst we were there.

During our stay at Taplan Camp the weather was similar to that at Enan Bore—strong north-west winds, then lowering skies, but only the slightest falls of rain. We were again almost

free from mosquitoes, blowflies, flies, and ants, although the oologists told me that there were numberless ants in the trees.

We left our Taplan Camp on 8th September at 9.21 a.m., passed through cleared country, and reached Loxton, 26 miles, at 12.27 p.m. After purchasing supplies and petrol we went on to Wunkar, and, prior to reaching that town, we had a puncture, the only one on the trip, through picking up a narrow screw-bolt. As far as Wunkar the country was still cleared; there we turned westwards, but not by the usual route, and passed for miles through dense mallee country, where only occasionally a clearing with a crop was seen. We reached Swan Reach, after taking a wrong turning, at 6.15 p.m., were ferried over the River on the punt, and motored three miles to a patch of mallee, where we camped. As this had been a fine day—the best weather during the trip—we did not erect the tent, and two slight showers of rain fell about 3 a.m. on the morning of the 9th September.

We worked the mallee about our camp for one and a half hours, then motored through Sedan, Cambrai, Sanderston, Mount Pleasant, Birdwood, Narcoonah, Gumeracha, to Adelaide, which we reached at 1 p.m. (86 miles). During the whole trip we motored just on 450 miles.

I have to thank A. M. Lea, Esq., F.E.S., of the S.A. Museum, for the particulars of the stomach contents of the birds; Professor J. B. Cleland, for the scientific names of some of the flora; and Professor Harvey Johnston for information *re* the parasite on the Chestnut-crowned Babbler.

During the whole trip we noted 101 species, totalling 3,532 individuals. Of these, 85 species, comprising 2,652 individuals, were noted in the mallee lands east of the River Murray.

Ninety-two nests, or evidences of nesting, referable to 42 species, were observed:—

1. *Leipoa ocellata*, Mallee-Fowl (1).

This bird was seen crossing the track whilst we were motoring one afternoon about 3.30 p.m. The spot was about two-thirds of a mile south of our camp at Enan Bore. Although a thorough search was made on both sides of the track, no mound was found, nor was the bird seen again.

2. *Phaps chalcoptera*, Common Bronzewing (14).

Five were seen near Enan Bore, one near Halidon, seven near Taplan, and one near Littlehampton. In one instance a pair were on the track, and one of the birds did not flush until the car was about three feet from it. Two nests at Enan Bore—one in a mallee and eight and a half feet from the ground; two eggs, one broken and the other heavily incubated. A bird flushed from the nest. The second on a cassytha creeper on a

mallee and five feet from the ground; two eggs. A bird was on the nest and it did not flush until it was almost touched.

3. *Ocyphaps lophotes*, Crested Pigeon (31).

One was seen near Malpas, one near Meribah, one at Taplan, 19 near Taplan Camp, one near Wunkar, six between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and two at our camp at Swan Reach. Two nests near Taplan Camp, one six feet from the ground on the branch of a native pinetree, not completed. The other was six feet from the ground in a myall-tree. The bird was flushed from the side of the nest, ready for eggs.

4. *Zonifer tricolor*, Banded Plover (33).

Two were seen between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, two were noted at Enan Bore (one of them being heard at 3 a.m. and again at 5 a.m. one day), and 28 were noted near Taplan Camp, chiefly in pairs on the plains of the dried-up salt marsh east of the camp. These birds were nesting, and were very clamorous when anyone was walking on the plains. Two nests were found near that camp, each containing four eggs. They were in small depressions in the ground, and contained a few very small sticks. One bird was seen near Swan Reach.

5. *Haliastur sphenurus*, Whistling Eagle (2).

These were the largest birds of prey that we saw during our trip—one near Enan Bore and the other near our Taplan Camp.

6. *Falco berigora*, Brown Hawk (3).

Two were noted near our Taplan Camp. The second one was seen there late one afternoon. It flew past, carrying in its talons what appeared to be a rabbit. One was noted at our Swan Reach Camp.

7. *Falco cenchroides*, Nankeen Kestrel (7).

Two were seen at Enan Bore. One alighted on the wing of the windmill above our tent, screeched at us, and then flew away. One was seen near Borrika, one near Alawoona, one near Loxton, one near Kamantoo, and one near Callington.

8. *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*, Purple-crowned Lorikeet (71).

Thirty-seven were seen near Taplan Camp, one at Swan Reach Camp, three near Mount Pleasant, and 30 between Glen Osmond and Murray Bridge.

9. *Kakatoe leadbeateri* (Major Mitchell), Pink Cockatoo (37).

These were all seen near our Taplan Camp. Two nests were found in hollows in live mallees, one 25 feet from the ground and nine inches from the entrance, two eggs on 5/9/1928, three eggs on 7/9/1928; the other 24 feet from the ground and two and a half feet from the entrance, three eggs.

10. *Kakatoe roseicapilla*, Galah (76).

Seventy-one were seen near our Taplan Camp and five near Loxton. Three nests were found near Taplan Camp—one was in a hollow in a live mallee, 25 feet from the ground, young in nest; the second was in a hollow in a mallee, 30 feet from the ground and five feet down from the entrance, two eggs on a lot of gumleaves; the third was in a hollow in a mallee, 20 feet from the ground and 10 feet down from the entrance, three eggs on a thick bed of gumleaves and leafy twigs.

11. *Leptolophus hollandicus*, Cockatiel (Cockatoo-Parrot) (48).

All were seen near Taplan Camp. No nests were found. Two specimens were taken, ♂, ♀. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet grey; bill grey; total length $11\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings 19 in.; weight $3\frac{1}{4}$ oz. ♀—soft parts similar; total length $11\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings 17 in.; weight $3\frac{1}{2}$ oz.

12. *Barnardius barnardi*, Ringneck (Mallee) Parrot (85).

One was seen near Nadda, 57 near Taplan Camp, two near Loxton, 16 between Wunkar and Swan Reach, seven near our Swan Reach Camp, and two near Sedan. Four nests were found near Taplan Camp—one was 25 feet from the ground in a hollow in a live mallee, young in the nest. The second was 12 feet up in a live mallee, and 18 inches from the entrance. A few parrots' feathers were in the hollow, and the eggs were laid on wood-core broken up; five eggs, .3 to .6 incubation. A bird flushed from the hollow when the tree was tapped. The third nest was 15 feet up in a hollow in a live mallee and 18 inches from the entrance; five eggs. The fourth was 17 feet up in a hollow in a live mallee and eight feet from the entrance; four eggs. Two specimens were taken near Taplan Camp. ♂, ♂—iris brown; legs and feet grey; bill upper white tinged; with blue, lower greyish; inside mouth white; total length 13 in.; span of wings $18\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight 5 1-16 oz. The other male similar, but total length $13\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $19\frac{1}{8}$ in.

13. *Psephotus varius*, Mulga-Parrot (66).

Two were noted at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, two near Meribah, three near Nadda, five near Taplan, 45 near our Taplan Camp, four near Loxton, three between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and two at our Swan Reach Camp. Two nests were found near Taplan Camp—one 12 feet up in a dead spout in a live mallee and two feet down from the entrance; five eggs lying on crushed wood. The female was sitting on the eggs, and had to be lifted off and was released. The other nest was four feet up in a hollow in a live mallee and 18 inches down

from the entrance; five eggs. A specimen was taken near Taplan Camp.

14. *Psephotus haematogaster*, Blue Bonnet (12).

All were seen near our Taplan Camp. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris brown; legs grey; bill bluish white; total length 12 in.; span of wings $13\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight $3\frac{5}{8}$ oz.

15. *Neophema* sp.

A bird of this genus was seen at Enan Bore, but its species was not identified.

16. *Podargus strigoides*, Tawny Frogmouth (1).

This bird was seen near Loxton. It was sitting on a nest, 15 feet up in a mallee close to the track and in a very open position. It remained on the nest until the climber got within a few feet. There was one egg in the nest.

17. *Aegotheles cristata*, Owlet Nightjar (7).

Three were noted near Taplan Camp—one bird was heard calling early on two evenings close to our camp, two were seen about half-way between Taplan and Loxton, and two near Loxton. In six of the cases the bird as usual revealed its presence by looking out of a hollow when the tree was tapped. In one instance, near Loxton, a bird was seen in a hollow in a small dead mallee. The tree was pulled down, but it would not fly out. The tree was then rolled and kicked; still it would not come out. Finally the tree was split, when the bird flew away. The hollow was merely a roosting-place. About 100 yards away from the above tree, a bird, possibly another, was flushed from a hollow nine feet up in a mallee. The nest was a foot from the entrance, and contained three eggs lying on dry gumleaves. A second nest was in a hollow seven feet up in a mallee; one egg. A third nest was in a dead spout, 12 feet up in a live mallee; three nestlings. A fourth nest was 12 feet up in a hollow in a mallee; one egg.

18. *Eurostopodus guttatus*, Spotted Nightjar (3).

One was heard calling on two nights at Enan Bore, and two birds were flushed from the foot of a clump of open mallee about five feet in height on a rise in the scrub about two and a half miles from Enan Bore.

19. *Cuculus pallidus*, Pallid Cuckoo (41).

One was seen near Callington, one at Kinchina, one between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, two at Karoonda (one perched on a telegraph wire, and the other on the top rail of a fence of the local butcher's yard), one at Enan Bore at 3.25 a.m., 29 were noted near Taplan Camp (on 7th September we noted 19 and

the calling of both sexes was loud and continuous), one near Wunkar, one near Swan Reach, three near our Swan Reach Camp, and one at Narcoonah. A specimen was taken near Taplan Camp. ♂—iris brown (indistinct); eyelid lemon; throat mandarin-orange; legs and feet grey; bill, upper black, lower brown; total length 12 in.; span of wings 20 in.; weight $3\frac{7}{8}$ oz. Stomach contents: crammed with numerous caterpillars, including some hairy ones.

20. *Oucnavis osculans*, Black-eared Cuckoo (6).

Two were noted at Enan Bore, and four near Taplan Camp—one bird was noticed feeding another with a caterpillar. One bird at Enan Bore was calling for some time. It gave the drawn-out "feeee-er" and occasionally added the short, quick, sharp calls. A specimen was taken at Enan Bore. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet dark grey; bill black; inside mouth dark; total length $7\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings $12\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Stomach contents: heads and bodies of caterpillars weighing in all 3-16 oz.

21. *Chalcites basalis*, Horsfield (Narrow-billed) Bronze Cuckoo (12).

Five were noted at Enan Bore, one near Alawoona, five near Taplan Camp, and one at our Swan Reach Camp.

22. *Hirundo neoxena*, Welcome Swallow (7).

Two were seen near Callington, two at a bore near Wynarka, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and one near Mount Pleasant.

23. *Cheramoeca leucosterna*, White-backed Swallow (21).

Two were seen at Karoonda, three near Malpas, one near Meribah, two near Nadda, 10 near Taplan, and three near Loxton. Two nests were found in an excavation at the side of the track between Taplan and Loxton. In one the hole was excavated in sandy loam two feet from the surface, and the nest was two feet from the entrance, ready for eggs. In the other the hole was one foot from the surface, and the nest 18 inches from the entrance; one egg. Two specimens were taken. ♀—iris brown; legs and feet brown, bill black; inside mouth greyish; total length, bill to end of tail $4\frac{3}{4}$ in., bill to end of wing $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings $10\frac{3}{4}$ in.

24. *Hylochelidon nigricans*, Tree-Martin (23).

Twenty-two were seen near Taplan Camp and one near Loxton. A nest was found near Taplan Camp, eight feet from the ground in a hollow in a dead overhanging branch of a live mallee and one foot from the entrance; three eggs, .9 incubation. A bird flushed out on the tree being tapped.

25. *Rhipidura flabellifera*, Grey Fantail (2).

One was heard at Bridgewater and the other was seen in a mallee near the road at Enan Bore. It seemed to be annoyed with some White-browed Babblers which had flown into the same tree.

26. *Rhipidura leucophrys*, Willie Wagtail (40).

Ten were noted between Glen Osmond and Murray Bridge, eight between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, none at Enan Bore, two at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, one at Areli Bore, eight near Taplan Camp, four between Taplan and Loxton, two between Loxton and Wunkar, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, two at our Swan Reach Camp, and one at Mount Pleasant.

27. *Seisura inquieta*, Restless Flycatcher (9).

One at Kinchina, seven near Taplan Camp, and one near Loxton.

28. *Microeca fascians*, Jacky Winter (36).

One was seen near Nairne, one at Native Valley, eight near Taplan Camp, three between Taplan and Loxton, twelve between Loxton and Wunkar, seven between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and four at our Swan Reach Camp. A nest, not completed, was found at the side of the road between Loxton and Wunkar in a mallee and 18 inches from the ground. Both birds were building it.

29. *Petroica goodenovii*, Red-capped Robin (55).

None at Enan Bore. One, the first seen on the trip, was near the township of Taplan, 42 near our Taplan Camp, two between Taplan and Loxton, one near Loxton, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, five at our Swan Reach Camp, one near Sedan, and one near Mount Pleasant. Three nests were found near Taplan Camp—one seven feet up in a mallee, one egg; the second two feet up, and the third four and a half feet up, in mallees, being built. Two specimens were taken. ♂, ♂—iris blackish; legs, feet, bill, and inside mouth black; total length 4½ in.; span of wings 7 in.; weight ¼ oz.

30. *Melanodryas cucullata*, Hooded Robin (14).

One was seen near Littlehampton, three between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, none at Enan Bore, five near Taplan Camp, two between Taplan and Loxton, one between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and two at our Swan Reach Camp. A male near Taplan Camp had a loud one-note call that puzzled me for some time. A specimen was taken near Taplan Camp: ♂—iris brown; legs and feet leaden black; bill black; inside mouth flesh-colour; total length 5¾ in.; span of wings 11½ in.

31. *Pachycephala pectoralis*, Golden Whistler (2).

Only met with at Enan Bore. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris reddish; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth flesh colour; total length $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings 11 in. Stomach contents: a caterpillar, bits of two blowflies, grass bug (*Pentatoma*), many other fragments of insects.

32. *Pachycephala rufiventris*, Rufous Whistler. (17).

One was noted between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, none at Enan Bore, 15 near our Taplan Camp, and one between Taplan and Loxton. On one occasion, late in the afternoon, three birds of this species began singing, seemingly in emulation, when a motor-car noisily passed along a track close to them. All the birds immediately ceased singing, and remained quiet for the rest of the day.

33. *Pachycephala rufogularis*, Red-throated Whistler (4).

These were noted at Enan Bore. A nest was found which was attributed to this species. It was $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet up in an *Acacia calamifolia* in flower. In the tree there was much of a cassytha creeper below the level of the bottom of the nest, which was built in a fork and composed outwardly of fine sticks, a lining of strips of bark, then an inner lining of dead cassytha tendrils, ready for eggs. It was still empty two days afterwards. Two specimens were secured. ♂—iris red brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth flesh colour; total length 8 in.; span of wings 12 in.; weight $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. Stomach contents: a pinkish caterpillar about one and a half inches long, and two green caterpillars each three-quarters of an inch long, many portions of heads, legs, and bodies of caterpillars and one hard brownish seed. ♀—soft parts similar; total length $7\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings 11 in.; weight $1\frac{3}{8}$ oz.

34. *Pachycephala inornata*, Gilbert Whistler (3).

Three were seen at Enan Bore and five were noted near our Taplan Camp. Four specimens were taken at Enan Bore. ♂—iris reddish brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth flesh colour; total length 8 in.; span of wings $11\frac{1}{4}$ in.; weight 1 1-16 oz. Stomach contents: six caterpillars of two species; two weevils (*Rhinaria*), much down of small bird. At Taplan Camp. —♂—soft parts similar, except legs and feet, which were leaden grey; total length 7 in.; span of wings $12\frac{1}{8}$ in. Stomach contents: eucalyptus weevil (*Polyphrades longipennis*) and heads of two others, four seeds of berries, and slight amount of pulp.

The three species of Whistlers at Enan Bore were giving a similar call, simply "Fore-it," although one, which was

subsequently found to be a Golden Whistler, had a faint whip-call of the species in addition, but which it only gave occasionally. At our Taplan Camp the Rufous and Gilbert Whistlers called in the morning and evenings only. One Gilbert close to camp called "Orwhit" and a wheezy "Echung." I tried one early morning to stalk it amongst the pines, but without success. It seemed to have no other calls but those two. The Rufous, Red-throated, and Gilbert Whistlers were each heard, on different occasions, to call immediately after a gunshot.

35. *Colluricincla harmonica*, Grey Shrike-Thrush (66).

Four were noted between Glen Osmond and Murray Bridge, one near Wynarka, four near Karoonda, 16 at Enan Bore, one near Lowaldie, two near Borrika, one near Kilpalie, two near Alawoona, 19 near Taplan Camp, two between Taplan and Loxton, five between Wunkar and Swan Reach, four at our Swan Reach Camp, four near Sedan, and one near Cambrai. Two nests were found—one near Karoonda, four feet up in a native pine, ready for eggs; the other at Enan Bore, built on top of a porcupine bush (*Triodia irritans*), under a mallee and two feet from the ground, almost completed.

36. *Grallina cyanoleuca*, Magpie Lark (6).

Five were noted near our Taplan Camp not far from water-holes and one at Mount Pleasant.

37. *Oreoica gutturalis*, Crested Bellbird (31).

Two were noted between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, 11 at Enan Bore, one at Lowaldie, one near Areli Bore, one near Alawoona, two near Paruna, 11 near Taplan Camp, one at our Swan Reach Camp, and one near Sedan. Some of these birds were seen on the track as we motored along.

38. *Coracina novae-hollandiae*, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (45).

One was seen at Native Valley, one near Karoonda, two at Enan Bore, one at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, two near Areli Bore, five near Alawoona, 21 near our Taplan Camp, nine near Taplan, one near Loxton, one near Wunkar, and one between Wunkar and Swan Reach.

39. *Lalage tricolor*, White-winged Triller (Caterpillar-eater) (8).

First met with a little south of Alawoona, where four, all males, were seen on 4/9/1928; two near Taplan Camp, and a ♂ and ♀ were met with on 9/9/1928 about one mile east of Sedan.

40. *Cinclosoma castanotum*, Chestnut Quail-Thrush (7).

One was seen between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, at 14½ miles from Murray Bridge, one near Areli Bore, two near Alawoona, two at seven miles north-west of Taplan, and one between Wunkar and Swan Reach. All were noticed near the track. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet dark grey; bill and inside mouth black; total length 9½ in.; span of wings 11¼ in.; weight 2⅞ oz.

41. *Drymodes brunneopygia*, Southern Scrub-Robin (24).

One was noted between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, and 23 at Enan Bore. Nest.—Built amongst a debris of sticks on the east side of a mallee, with very rough sticks on the outside of the nest, ready for eggs. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris very dark brown; legs and feet olive brown; bill black; inside mouth grey; total length 8½ in.; span of wings 11⅓ in. Stomach contents: cockchafer beetle (*Scitala*), bits of weevil (*Polyphrades*), green-head ant (*Ectatomma metallicum*), sugar-ant (*Campanotus*), pismire ant (*Iridomyrmex*), small stone.

42. *Pomatostomus superciliosus*, White-browed Babbler (97).

Nine were noted between Glen Osmond and Murray Bridge, five between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, 52 at Enan Bore, two near Lynwood Farm, Halidon, two near Alawoona, two near Taplan Camp, nine between Taplan and Loxton, four between Loxton and Wunkar, seven between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and five at our Swan Reach Camp. The usual species found near Taplan Camp was *P. ruficeps*, but the above pair were seen close to our tent and identified. Four nests were found in occupation, three at Enan Bore—one in a shrub and eight and a half feet from the ground, three young birds flew out when the nest was touched; the second five feet up in a mallee, one egg; the third seven feet up in a mallee, ready for eggs; the fourth nest was between Loxton and Wunkar, 12 feet up in a prickly mimosa (*Acacia victoriae*) at the side of the track; two eggs.

43. *Pomatostomus ruficeps*, Chestnut-crowned Babbler (63).

Three were seen near Taplan and 60 near our Taplan Camp. This species has many varied and loud calls, much louder than the White-browed. One of the calls sounded to me like the beginning of the Laughing Kookaburra's call heard at a distance. Their nests are very large; some I saw were three to four times the size of a White-browed's. A nest near Taplan was 20 feet up in a mallee at the side of the track, a very large stick nest. A bird was seen to fly from the ground to the nest and enter. It was actually lifted off the eggs and released; two eggs. Three specimens were taken. ♂—iris light brown; legs and feet

leaden black; bill upper black, lower base light horn, the rest black; inside mouth fleshy; total length $8\frac{1}{4}$ in.; span of wings $10\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight $2\frac{1}{8}$ oz. Stomach contents of one bird: 18 caterpillars of two species, elytra of small ground beetle (*Harpalides*); of another bird, 19 caterpillars of two species, bits of eggshell. On the neck beneath the skin of one bird were a number of parasitical larvae, which Professor Harvey Johnston advises are *Echinorhynchus pomatostomi*. This parasite has been found on half a dozen species having similar feeding habits (see "Emu," Vol. XII (1912), pp. 105-12, where the species so affected are named as *Hylacola pyrrhopygia*, *Pomatostomus temporalis*, *P. superciliosus*, *P. rubeculus*, *Aphelocephala leucopsis* and *Climacteris wellsi*).

44. *Epthianura albifrons*, White-fronted Chat (80).

Three were seen between Murray Bridge and Karoonda, two at Enan Bore, one near Halidon, five near Alawoona, one near Meribah, 37 at our Taplan Camp, one near Taplan, 12 near Loxton, one near Wunkar, 16 between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and one near Mount Pleasant. Near Taplan Camp a bird was seen carrying food in its bill, but was not followed up. There also we found a male bird with a broken wing—iris light brown; legs, feet, and bill black; total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings 8 in.

45. *Epthianura tricolor*, Crimson Chat (3).

One was seen near Taplan Camp, and two on the roadside eight miles south-east of Loxton. A nest was found near Taplan Camp, two inches from the ground in a burnt portion of a small porcupine bush, partially covered by another burnt portion; two eggs.

46. *Smicrornis brevirostris*, Brown Weebill (125).

Three were noted at Monarto South, two at Kinchina, 11 near Wynarka, six near Karoonda, 48 at Enan Bore, four near Lowaldie, one near Borrika, three near Kilpalie, six near Areli Bore, 22 near our Taplan Camp, two near Taplan, six near Loxton, six at our Swan Reach Camp, and five near Sedan.

47. *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Eastern Whiteface (85).

Four were noted near Wynarka, none at Enan Bore, two at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, two near Areli Bore, three near Alawoona, 39 near Taplan Camp, 15 near Loxton, one near Wunkar, 11 between Wunkar and Swan Reach, five at our Swan Reach Camp, two near Sedan, and one near Cambrai. Nine nests were found (eight of them near Taplan Camp), all in hollows—(1) in a dead mallee six and a half feet up, four eggs; (2) in a dead mallee five feet up, one egg; (3) in a live mallee seven feet up, nestlings; (4) in a dead part of a live mallee, two

feet up, three nestlings; (5) in a fallen dead pine, five feet up, two nestlings; (6) in a dead mallee five feet up, a bird flushed out on tapping, not examined; (7) in a dead mallee, five feet up a bird went into the hollow, not examined; (8) in a dead mallee six feet up, nestlings. Between Loxton and Wunkar at the side of the track in a mallee, 20 feet up, three nestlings.

48. *Acanthiza hamiltoni*, Red-tailed Thornbill (31).

One was seen near Wynarka and 30 at Enan Bore. At the latter place two birds were noticed at work beginning a nest in a prickly bush and five feet from the ground. Two specimens were taken. ♂, ♀—iris red; legs and feet grey; bill dark brown; inside mouth black; total length, ♂ $4\frac{3}{8}$ in.; ♀ 4 in.; span of wings, ♂ $6\frac{3}{8}$ in., ♀ $6\frac{1}{4}$ in.; weight $\frac{1}{4}$ oz.

49. *Acanthiza uropygialis*, Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (34).

Twenty-six were noted near our Taplan Camp, one near Taplan, four near Loxton, one near Wunkar, and two at our Swan Reach Camp. At Taplan Camp a pair of birds was seen and one was carrying nesting material, not followed up. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris white; legs, feet, and bill black; total length 4 in.; span of wings $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight 3-16 oz.

50. *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*, Yellow-tailed Thornbill (57).

Two were seen near Glen Osmond, five at Native Valley, seven near Wynarka, one near Karoonda, 31 near Taplan Camp, one near Loxton, six near Wunkar, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, one at Mount Pleasant, and one at Gumeracha. Nests.—Near Taplan Camp, 12 feet up in a native pine, nest a double-decker; one egg. At Mount Pleasant a bird was seen carrying nesting material, which it took to a tree beside a house at the roadside.

51. *Hylacola cauta*, Shy Ground-Wren (48).

One was noted between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, 46 at Enan Bore, and one between Wunkar and Swan Reach. The birds about Enan Bore commenced to sing about 6 a.m., and continued for two or three hours. They began again about 5 p.m. and sang until it was dark. I have never met with such a number of this species as there were in the Enan Bore scrub. A bird was seen by Mr. Neil McGilp carrying nesting material as it went past, but he was unable to find the nest. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet leaden; bill black; inside mouth creamy; total length $5\frac{3}{8}$ in.; span of wings $7\frac{3}{8}$ in. Stomach contents: fragments of minute weevil (*Eriothinides*), leg of a small cockchafer beetle (*Melolonthides*), head, etc., of small bee, bits of minute spiders, many minute fragments of insects, fine grit.

52. *Calamanthus* sp., Field Wren (2).

These birds were heard in a patch of low mallee, two and a half miles from Enan Bore, about 8 a.m. They were singing beautifully, but we were unable to locate them.

53. *Cinclorhampus cruralis*, Brown Songlark (19).

One was noted near Wynarka, one near Karoonda, four at Enan Bore, one near Kilpalie, one near Halidon, one at our Taplan Camp, two near Taplan, seven near Loxton, and one near Sanderston.

54. *Amytornis striatus*, Striated Grass-Wren (43).

Forty-one at Enan Bore, and two in a patch of scrub adjoining the road-fence seven and a half miles from Taplan on our way to Loxton. Two nests were found at Enan Bore built in a kind of porcupine grass in separate bushes about 100 yards apart in a patch of broom-bush (*Baeckia behrii*). Both pairs of birds were seen. One of a pair returned to the nesting-site bush and hung around whistling very loudly and then flew from the ground into another low bush. One nest was nine inches from the ground, facing west, and was constructed entirely of grass and porcupine-grass spines: the entrance was large and rounded with a distinct hood over the nest; the inside was felted with grass, ready for eggs. The second nest faced north, was nine inches from the ground, and of similar construction. N.B.—These nests were quite different from that of *Amytornis textilis myall*, which was cup-shaped (see "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. VII, page 159). The *striatus* nests closely resembled those of the *Malurus* family, but with a better-formed entrance. This species is the wariest I know. Several times we located some in the undergrowth in a patch of broom-bush, yet they managed to leave it without our seeing them. One I saw ran so quickly along the ground and into the debris under a mallee that I was not sure whether it was a mouse or a bird. I had one good view only. I had gone back to take the particulars of a Honeyeater's nest which had been found and was returning along the sand track, about nine feet wide, when I saw a Grass-Wren, which had been disturbed, come to the edge of the track, stand for some seconds, and then run slowly across the track into the scrub on the other side. The only call I heard was a very faint sharp note. A specimen was obtained. ♂—iris, legs, and feet brown; bill and inside mouth black; total length 7 in.; span of wings $7\frac{1}{4}$ in.; weight 11-16 oz. Stomach contents: bit of small weevil, crammed with fragments of minute insects, mostly ants of the genera *Ectatomma*, *Iridomyrmex*, and *Pheidole*, bits of small flies, bits of small spiders, elliptic insect-egg, many minute fragments of insects.

55. *Malurus melanotus*, Black-backed Wren (23).

Twenty were noted at our Taplan Camp, two seven and a half miles from Taplan on our way to Loxton, and one near Loxton. Two Wrens were seen near Loxton, but were not identified. Four nests were found near Taplan Camp. Two nearly completed, but not lined, were suspended by the top and side in the top of two swamp thornbushes, and were constructed of the finest grasses. (3) Built in the top of a dead "roly-poly" bush, one of a dozen collected against a fallen native pine. The nest was about two inches from the top of the "roly-poly" bush and 18 inches from the ground, well lined with feathers. The opening was about one inch in diameter, and faced the north-west. Ready for eggs. Found on 5th, but was still empty on 8th September. (4) Built under the dead fronds of a branchlet of a limb of a native pine. The nest was touching the ground, and hung by the top to a piece of the fallen branchlet, ready for eggs. Two specimens were taken. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet dark brown; bill black; total length $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings 6 in.; stomach empty. ♀—iris blackish; legs and feet very dark brown; bill reddish brown; inside mouth flesh coloured. The call of this species is not unlike that of *M. cyaneus*. *M. melanotus* appeared to go up in the trees much more than *cyaneus* does. Mr. Neil McGilp saw a male after a shower of rain fly up into the fronds at the end of a branch of a native pine and bathe in the rain drops collected there.

56. *Malurus assimilis*, Purple-backed Wren (21).

One was seen at Kinchina, one at Karoonda, and 19 at Enan Bore. A specimen was taken at Karoonda. ♂—iris blackish; legs and feet dark brown; bill and inside mouth black; total length $5\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight 5-16 oz.

57. *Artamus superciliosus*, White-browed Wood-Swallow (8).

All were seen near Taplan Camp. One of these flew over our camp in a south-easterly direction at a height of about 250 feet on 8/9/1928, about 9 a.m.

58. *Artamus melanops*, Black-faced Wood-Swallow (16).

All were seen near Taplan Camp. A specimen was taken. ♀—iris chocolate; legs and feet slate colour; bill, upper base bluish tip black, lower bluish, then flesh colour with tip black; inside mouth blackish; total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $14\frac{3}{8}$ in.; weight 15-16 oz. Stomach contents: 11 caterpillars, bits of stink beetle (*Chalcopterus*), many small ants (*Pheidole*), and bits of others.

59. *Artamus cyanopterus*, Dusky Wood-Swallow (36).

One was seen at Callington, five at Kinchina, four between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, one near Kilpalie, 14 at our Taplan Camp, three near Taplan, four near Loxton, two near Wunkar, one between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and one near Mount Pleasant. A nest near Taplan Camp was in the top of a very old stub of a mallee; a portion of the stub extended nine inches upwards from the nest on three sides. The nest was constructed of dead camomile shrub and a little horsehair; three eggs.

Two Wood-Swallows were seen near Alawoona, but were not identified.

60. *Neositta pileata*, Black-capped Sittella (25).

Twelve were seen at Taplan Camp and thirteen at Swan Reach Camp.

61. *Climacteris picumnus*, Brown Tree-creeper (79).

Sixty-five were noted at Taplan Camp, five near Loxton, three between Wunkar and Swan Reach, three at our Swan Reach Camp, and three near Sedan. Two nests were found near Taplan Camp in hollows in dead mallees—one seven and a half feet up and two feet from the entrance, one nestling, half-fledged; the other four feet up and a foot from the entrance, one nestling, half-fledged. Three specimens were taken. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet leaden; bill black; inside mouth yellowish; total length $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $9\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight $1\frac{1}{8}$ oz. Stomach contents: five caterpillars of two species, bits of stink beetle (*Caedimorpha heteromera*), bits of ants, *Iridomyrmex*, *Pheidole*, *Campanotus*, and *Ectatomma metallicum*; mostly heads of soldiers of *Pheidole*. ♀—total length $6\frac{3}{8}$ in.; span of wings $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. ♀—total length $6\frac{5}{8}$ in.; span of wings 11 in.

62. *Climacteris affinis*, White-browed Tree-creeper (14).

All were seen near Taplan Camp. Some of these birds permitted a very close view, and were usually found in native pines and black oaks. Their song is reminiscent of those of the other members of the genus, but is more subdued than those of the Brown and White-throated Tree-creepers. Four specimens were taken. ♂—iris, very light brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth yellowish; total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings $9\frac{3}{4}$ in.; weight 13-16 oz. Stomach contents: small caterpillar, bits of small weevil (*Erirhinides*), head of small bee, bits of bright-blue mound-ant (*Iridomyrmex detectus* var.); many minute fragments of insects. ♂—total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings $10\frac{5}{8}$ in. Stomach contents: elytra of small

heteromorous beetle, numerous small larvae of clavicorn beetles, crammed with small ants, mostly of *Iridomyrmex*, but a few of *Pheidole*. ♀—total length $5\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings 10 in.; weight $\frac{7}{8}$ oz. Stomach contents: small caterpillar, small moth, bits of blowfly, head of sugar-ant (*Camponotus*), crammed with small pismire ants (*Iridomyrmex*). ♂—total length $5\frac{7}{8}$ in.; span of wings $10\frac{1}{2}$ in. Stomach contents: crammed with small pismire ants (*Iridomyrmex*), or fragments of them.

63. *Pardalotus xanthopygus*, Yellow-tailed Pardalote (25).

One was noted at Kinchina, three between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, one near Wynarka, one at Karoonda, 13 at Enan Bore, two near Lowaldie, one near Halidon, one near Areli Bore, and two at Taplan Camp. A specimen was taken at Enan Bore. ♂—iris dark brown; legs and feet light flesh colour; claws black; bill black; inside mouth flesh colour; total length $3\frac{1}{4}$ in.; span of wings 6 13-16 in.; weight 3-16 oz.

64. *Pardalotus ornatus*, Red-tipped Pardalote (47).

One was noted at Meribah (calling "Be quick"), 26 near Taplan Camp, three near Taplan, two near Sedan, 12 at Swan Reach Camp, and three at Mount Pleasant. At the last-named place two birds were seen carrying nesting material to a hollow 15 feet up in a mallee.

65. *Melithreptus gularis*, Black-chinned Honeyeater (3).

They were noted near our Taplan Camp. An early-morning call seemed to be made by this species.

66. *Melithreptus brevirostris*, Brown-headed Honeyeater (48).

One was noted between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, 40 at Enan Bore, two near Taplan, and five at Swan Reach Camp.

67. *Plectorhyncha lanceolata*, Striped Honeyeater (8).

Seven were noted near Taplan Camp and one at Swan Reach Camp.

68. *Gliciphila melanops*, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (28).

Five were noted near Wynarka, one near Karoonda, 19 at Enan Bore, one near Borrika, one near Sandalwood, and one near Nadda. Four nests were found at Enan Bore—(1) In some "black grass" (*Lepidosperma viscosum*) at the foot of a dwarf mallee and six inches from the ground, one egg on 2nd September, two eggs on 3rd, diameter of cavity $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., depth $1\frac{3}{4}$ in., depth externally $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; made of pieces of bark, lined with dried grasses with an inner lining of flower-down, rabbits' fur, and one Parrot feather (*B. barnardi*). A bird flushed off nest. (2) Four inches from the ground in "black grass" under a dwarf mallee, two nestlings. A bird flushed off nest. (3) One foot from the ground in a prickly shrub; one egg. (4) Nine

inches from the ground in "black grass" under a very low mallee (one of a clump), lined with rabbits' fur; two eggs. A bird flushed off the nest.

69. *Gliciphila albifrons*, White-fronted Honeyeater (12).

Eleven were noted at Enan Bore and one at Taplan Camp. A nest at Enan Bore was built on top of "black grass" and one foot from the ground in a low mallee clump, constructed of very old grasses, lined with decayed grasses and white flower-down; diameter of cavity 2 in., a deep cup; two eggs. A bird came to the nest whilst we watched. A specimen was taken at Taplan Camp. ♂—iris brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth yellow; at the outer junction of the eyelids a red spot; total length $6\frac{5}{8}$ in.; span of wings $9\frac{1}{2}$ in. Stomach contents: bits of winged ants and small spiders, many minute fragments of insects.

70. *Meliphaga virescens*, Singing Honeyeater (4).

One was noted at Callington, one at Kinchina, and two near Taplan Camp.

71. *Meliphaga leucotis*, White-eared Honeyeater (14).

Four were noted near Wynarka, six at Enan Bore, one near Borrika, one near Kilpalie, one near Nadda, one at Swan Reach Camp (the first early call of this bird was entirely new to me, later it called "You're a whit"). A nest was found near Enan Bore, two and a half feet up in a *Leptospermum*, lined with white flower-down; two nestlings. A bird was sitting on the nest, remained on whilst three of us were close, and did not flush until almost touched. A specimen was taken. ♂—iris grey; legs and feet leaden; bill black; inside mouth saffron; total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings $11\frac{1}{2}$ in. Stomach contents; small moth, larva of fulgorid bug, head of weevil (*Polyphrades*), bits of small ants, many minute fragments of insects.

72. *Meliphaga cratitia*, Purple-gaped Honeyeater (67).

One was noted near Wynarka and 66 at Enan Bore. Three nests were found at Enan Bore. (1) In a dwarf mallee six feet in height, the nest being four feet from the ground built in the five-pronged fork of a branchlet. On the southern side the nest was built up to a height of three-quarters of an inch to meet another branchlet, making the depth three and a half inches on the northern side and four and a quarter inches on the southern side, depth internally 2 in., diameter over all $3\frac{1}{2}$ in.; cavity $2\frac{1}{2}$ in., constructed of fine bark, cobwebs matted together and a few white cocoons, lined with fine bark, rabbits' fur, and half-green grass. A false start had been made beneath the bottom of the nest; two eggs.

A bird flushed off and fluttered about on the ground all round the nesting-tree. (2) Four feet up in a mallee, nearly completed. (3) Four and a half feet up in a mallee, ready for eggs. They were the most numerous species of birds at Enan Bore, and the first to call in the morning. Some of the calls were different from those I have heard from the species at Kinchina. To the north of our camp one bird gave a rattle-like note, then "Get up, get up" (the latter an early-morning call of the Singing Honeyeater), whilst to the south of the camp a bird gave a rattle-like note, then "Get-a-brick" (the latter like a call of the White-plumed Honeyeater). Three specimens were taken. ♂—iris dark brown; legs and feet dark grey; bill black; inside mouth orange; total length $6\frac{3}{4}$ in.; span of wings 9 in.; weight $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. ♀—iris very dark; legs and feet leaden; bill black; inside mouth yellow; fleshy appendage on side of neck purple; total length $6\frac{1}{2}$ in.; span of wings 9 in.; weight 19-32 oz. Juv.—iris blackish; legs and feet fleshy grey; bill dark horn; inside mouth yellow; fleshy appendage on side of neck yellow.

73. *Meliphaga ornata*, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (172).

Four were noted near Taplan, 122 near Taplan Camp, 23 near Loxton, three near Wunkar, six between Wunkar and Swan Reach, 11 at Swan Reach Camp, and three near Sedan. A specimen was taken at Taplan Camp. ♂—iris brown; legs and feet grey; bill black; inside mouth yellow; total length 6 in.; span of wings $8\frac{1}{2}$ in.; weight 9-16 oz.

74. *Myzantha flavigula*, Yellow-throated Miner (71).

First seen, a pair, at Areli Bore, 50 at Taplan Camp, one near Taplan, eight near Loxton, nine near Wunkar, and one at Swan Reach Camp. Two nests were found—one at Taplan Camp 15 feet up in a sandalwood tree (*Myoporum platycarpum*) made of coarse twigs then finer twigs and a lining of dried grass, diameter of cavity $3\frac{5}{8}$ in.; depth $2\frac{3}{4}$ in.; three eggs. A sapling, 20 feet long, had to be used to press the limb upon which the nest was built to the climber on account of the brittleness of the limbs of a sandalwood. The other nest was 15 feet up in a mallee at the side of the track between Loxton and Wunkar; two eggs and a nestling; one egg had a hole in it, whilst the other was just hatching out; the nestling was ready to fly. A specimen was taken. ♀—iris brown (indistinct); legs, feet, and bill yellow; naked skin behind eye yellow; inside mouth yellow; total length $9\frac{1}{4}$ in.; span of wings $14\frac{1}{4}$ in.

75. *Myzantha obscura*, Dusky Miner (21).

Fourteen were seen at Enan Bore, three in the township of Halidon, two near Taplan, and two 13 miles south of Loxton

on our way to Swan Reach. At Enan Bore four were seen flying north-westerly about 80 feet up at 6.10 a.m., and at 5.50 p.m. on the same day nine were seen flying south-easterly. Their calls are distinctive, and differ from those of the other Miners. A specimen was taken at Enan Bore. ♀—iris dark brown; legs and feet olive; bill and inside mouth yellow; skin near eye lemon; total length $8\frac{7}{8}$ in.; span of wings 14 in. Stomach contents: 14 caterpillars of two species, bits of three eucalyptus weevils (*Polyphrades*).

76. *Anthochaera carunculata*, Red Wattle-Bird (26).

One was noted near Ambleside, four at Monarto South, four at Kinchina, one near Wynarka, one at Enan Bore, seven at Taplan Camp, one near Loxton, three near Swan Reach, three at our Swan Reach Camp, and one near Sedan. A nest was found near Taplan Camp five feet up in a shrub; two eggs.

77. *Acanthagenys rufogularis*, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (103).

One was seen near Callington, 11 between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, four near Karoonda, 23 at Enan Bore, six near Lowaldie, one near Kilpalie, two near Halidon, five near Alawoona, two near Malpas, 30 near Taplan Camp, eight near Taplan, three near Loxton, three near Wunkar, and four at Swan Reach Camp. A nest was found at Enan Bore attached to ten branchlets of a mallee about eight feet from the ground and composed entirely of dried stems of green grasses and white spider-cocoons, lined with rabbits' fur only, diameter over all 4 in., internal cavity $3\frac{1}{4}$ in., depth externally $3\frac{1}{2}$ in., internally 2 9-16 in.; two eggs, fresh.

78. *Anthus australis*, Pipit (Groundlark) (45).

One was seen near Ambleside, four at Kanmantoo, two at Monarto South, one at Kinchina, one near Wynarka, one near Malpas, 18 near Taplan Camp, six near Loxton, two near Wunkar, seven near Swan Reach, one near Sanderston, and one at Mount Pleasant.

79. *Mirafra javanica*, Horsfield Bushlark (2).

One was seen near Taplan and one near Loxton—both on wire fences beside wheat crops.

80. *Corvus ceciliae*, Crow (115).

One was seen at Native Valley, 72 at Callington, one at Enan Bore, 27 at Taplan Camp, one near Taplan, one between Taplan and Loxton, three near Loxton, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, two at our Swan Reach Camp, and five at Mount Pleasant. The Crows were all observed from a distance, but the one which was seen between Taplan and Loxton may have been a Little Crow (*C. bennetti*), as it certainly looked smaller

than the other ones we had met with. Four nests were noted in trees beside the track. One, near Taplan Camp, was a large stick nest in a black oak 60 feet from the ground, not climbed to, but two birds' tails were projecting beyond the nest. No amount of noise could make the birds flush. The other three nests were between Taplan and Loxton—(1) a Crow flushed from a nest in a mallee 18 feet up, not climbed to; (2) 14 feet up in a mallee, being built; (3) 30 feet up in a mallee, at least two nestlings were heard "meowing" just like cats.

81. *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, White-winged Chough (88).

Seventy-four were seen near Taplan Camp (23 in one flock), eight near Loxton, four between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and two at Swan Reach Camp. Four nests were found, three near our Taplan Camp. (1) Twenty-five feet up in a sandalwood tree and built on top of an old nest of a Chough, made of cowdung lined with strips of bark with an inner lining of horsehair; five eggs. (2) Twenty-five feet up in a mallee, built on top of an old nest of a Chough, lined with shreds of bark, then horsehair; four eggs. (3) Twenty feet up in a mallee; the bottom part (3 in.) was made of cowdung, the top part (2½ in.) was a white colour which turned out to be "kopai" or gypsum, and in this latter part pieces of bark were mixed. It was lined with strips of bark, rabbits' fur, and a few feathers. It was 9½ in. in diameter at the top. Four eggs. (4) The fourth nest was found beside the track between Taplan and Loxton, 20 feet up in a mallee and made of mud in which strips of bark were mixed. It was lined with threaded bark. Five eggs. A bird flushed off the nest. The nests of this species are heavy ones, and to give one an idea of this six nests, made entirely of mud, in the South Australian Museum, were put on the scales, and weighed respectively 12¾, 12, 11¾, 10½, 8¼, and 6½ lb.

82. *Strepera melanoptera*, Black-winged Currawong (6).

Two were noted at Enan Bore, one at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, one near Areli Bore, one between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and one at Swan Reach Camp. Two nests were seen. One at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, a few feet from the gate, 25 feet up in a mallee. A bird was sitting on the nest, and remained on whilst we were talking to Mr. Russell. The other nest was near Areli Bore, 25 feet up in a mallee close to the track, a flimsy nest for this species, made entirely of cassytha tendrils, lined with rootlets and grass; diameter of cavity, 6½ in.; depth, 3¾ in.; two eggs. A bird flushed from nest.

83. *Cracticus torquatus*, Grey Butcher-Bird (33).

Three were seen between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, five at Enan Bore, one near Kilpalie, two near Areli Bore, four near Alawoona, one near Malpas, one near Meribah, ten at Taplan Camp, one near Taplan, two between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and three at Swan Reach Camp. A nest was found near Kilpalie, at the side of the track, seven feet up in a mallee, built of sticks and cassytha tendrils, lined with rootlets (mostly) and grass, diameter of cavity $4\frac{1}{2}$ in., depth 3 in.; four eggs. A bird was seen on the nest. A specimen was taken near Taplan Camp. ♀—iris brown; legs and feet leaden; bill, basal halves of mandibles bluish horn, the rest blackish; inside mouth grey: total length $11\frac{1}{8}$ in.; span of wings $16\frac{3}{4}$ in. Stomach contents: two large caterpillars, legs of weevil (*Polyphrades*) and of small cockchafer beetle (*Melolonthides*), two heads of small bees, sand-wasp (*Sphegidae*), bits of flying-ants.

84. *Gymnorhina tibicen*, Black-backed Magpie (124).

Five near Areli Bore, nine at Alawoona, two near Malpas, four near Paruna, two near Meribah, two near Taplan, 35 near Taplan Camp, nine between Taplan and Loxton, 14 near Loxton, 11 between Loxton and Wunkar, 30 between Wunkar and Swan Reach, and one about three miles east of Sedan. This last bird was by itself, and was about 12 miles to the west of the River Murray; all the other birds on the west side of the River were *G. hypoleuca*. Five nests were found at the side of the track—(1) near Areli Bore, 18 feet up in a mallee, usual stick nest, three eggs; a bird flushed off the nest; (2) near Taplan Camp, 25 feet up in a mallee, built outwardly of cassytha tendrils and lined with horsehair, three eggs; between Loxton and Wunkar three nests in mallee trees, in each case a bird was sitting on the nest and they were not climbed to; (3) 20 feet up, (4) 15 feet up, (5) 50 feet up. At Lynwood Farm, four miles north of Halidon, Mr. Russell stated that there were more *G. hypoleuca* than *G. tibicen*, and between his place and Areli Bore, five miles on, we saw five *G. tibicen* (one on a nest).

85. *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*, White-backed Magpie (488).

Three hundred and one were seen between Glen Osmond and Murray Bridge—158 of them in one paddock near Kanmantoo, 15 between Murray Bridge and Wynarka, two near Wynarka, four near Karoonda, three at Enan Bore, one near Kilpalie, one near Halidon, one at Lynwood Farm, Halidon, 14 near Swan Reach on the left (east) bank of the River Murray, eight at Swan Reach Camp (three miles from the west bank of the River), eight near Sedan, and 130 between Sedan and Adelaide.

Our meeting with *G. hypoleuca* on the east side of the River near Swan Reach may be accounted for by the fact that when approaching Swan Reach we took a wrong turning, and on nearing Nildottie we ascertained our position and had to turn back. The track we then took was close to the bank of the River for some miles. One nest was found—on Warla Hill, Callington, 15 feet up in a wild tobacco-tree (*Nicotiana glauca*), close to the road. A bird was seen on the nest. The limbs of the tree were so brittle that the nest was not examined. Although *tibicen* is generally credited with being a better singer than *hypoleuca*, such, as far as my experience went, was not the case on this trip.

The following sixteen species were seen only between Adelaide and the River Murray on the two routes:—

86. *Phaps elegans*, Brush Bronzewing (1).
Near Ambleside.
87. *Larus novae-hollandiae*, Silver Gull (2).
At Murray Bridge.
88. *Burhinus magnirostris*, Southern Stone-Curlew (1).
Gave three to four series of calls about 5.30 a.m. on 9th September at our Swan Reach Camp.
89. *Chenopsis atrata*, Black Swan (4).
On the River Murray at Swan Reach.
90. *Ninox boobook*, Boobook Owl (1).
Heard calling at our Swan Reach Camp at night on 8th September, and about 5.45 a.m. on 9th.
91. *Glossopsitta concinna*, Musk Lorikeet (1).
Noted at Nairne.
92. *Platycercus adelaidae*, Adelaide Rosella (2).
Near Nairne.
93. *Psephotus haematonotus*, Red-backed Parrot (5).
Three near Mount Pleasant and two near Gumeracha.
94. *Dacelo gigas*, Laughing Kookaburra (8).
One noted at Ambleside, two on Warla Hill, Callington, one at Swan Reach, one at Mount Pleasant, one at Birdwood, and two at Gumeracha.
95. *Petroica multicolor*, Scarlet Robin (1).
Near Nairne.
96. *Malurus cyaneus*, Superb Blue Wren (9).
Near Gumeracha and Campbelltown.

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97. *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*, Mistletoe-Bird (1).
Noted in Torrens Gorge.
98. *Meliphaga penicillata*, White-plumed Honeyeater (2).
One noted at Glen Osmond, the other at Gumeracha.
99. *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*, Crescent Honeyeater (1).
Noted near Crafers.
100. *Meliornis novae-hollandiae*, Yellow-winged Honeyeater (17).
Noted at Glen Osmond, Kinchina, Gumeracha, and the Torrens Gorge.
101. *Myzantha melanocephala*, Noisy Miner (26).
One noted at Ambleside, ten at Nairne, six at Native Valley, five at Mount Pleasant, one at Birdwood, and three at Gumeracha.
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