

Birds noted in the Port Augusta and Hawker Districts.

By J. Burton Cleland, M.D.

In the second week of November, 1928, I had the opportunity of accompanying the Conservator of Forests (Mr. E. Julius) on a short tour of inspection of the sandalwood (*Fraxanus spicatus*) areas of the Port Augusta district and the Forest Reserve at Wilpena Pound. As the object of the journey was botanical, only passing attention could be given to the birds. Moreover, the country was suffering from the effects of a prolonged drought. The weather itself was sunny and delightful, except for occasional winds and dust. On the first day a trip was made via Lincoln Gap to Whyalla and beyond (60 miles). Next day (9th November) we passed straight north to Uro Bluff and on to Beda Station, about 45 miles north of Port Augusta. We then turned due east, passing by the south end of Lake Torrens, making for Yadnamulka Station, when darkness overtook us. The country near Port Augusta has been almost denuded of trees, though saltbush and allied plants remain. Further out myall (*Acacia Sowdenii*), *Myoporum platycarpum* (false sandalwood), *Heterodendron oleifolium* (bullock-bush), mulga, and other shrubs with an undergrowth of salsolaceous plants form quite a considerable covering.

Next day we journeyed from Port Augusta to Quorn, and on to Hawker, and thence 41 miles north-east to Wilpena Station, where we stayed the night. The famous Pound was visited next day, and then a return made to Quorn. All this country was very dry, with the exception of the creek from Wilpena Pound.

In addition to the 43 species of native birds mentioned in the following list, *Geopelia placida*, a Thrush, and *Acanthiza pusilla* were noted in Wilpena Pound, making a total of 46 species seen or noted. The White-backed Magpie, Brown Climacteris, and *Myzantha flavigula* were also seen in the Pound. The total of individuals of native birds comes to 909. The number of miles traversed by motor-car, and during which these observations were made, was approximately 318. Crows were the commonest birds (217). Next came Galahs (108). Martins numbered 70, and Welcome Swallows 34. Magpies of both species numbered 90. Round Port Augusta, the White-backed Magpie is to be found. At Quorn both species occur. The White-backed was seen again in the Pound.

The distance has been split up into eight journeys, the first four in the Port Augusta district, the second four from Port Augusta to Wilpena Pound. In sequence, opposite each species are given the number of individuals seen on each journey. The journeys in their order were:—

- (1) Port Augusta, via Lincoln Gap to Whyalla and beyond, 60 miles.
- (2) Port Augusta, nearly due north, 40 miles to south of Uro Bluff.
- (3) From south of Uro Bluff to Beda Station, 30 miles.
- (4) Beda Station round the south end of Lake Torrens and then south-east to Yadnamulka Station, 34 miles.
- (5) Port Augusta to Quorn, 25 miles.
- (6) Quorn to Hawker, 47 miles.
- (7) Hawker to Wilpena Station, 41 miles.
- (8) Wilpena Station to Hawker, 41 miles.

Dromaius novae-hollandiae (Emu), 0,0,1,2; 0,0,0,0. Total, 3.
Ocyphaps lophotes (Crested Pigeon), 0,0,3,5; 0,0,0,0. Total, 8.
Larus novae-hollandiae (Silver Gull), 62,13,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 75.

Gabianus pacificus (Pacific Gull), 0,1,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 1.
Zonifer tricolor (Banded Plover), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,0,1. Total, 1.
Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae (White-faced Heron), 0,0,0,0; 0,4,0,0. Total, 4.

Haliastur sphenurus (?) (Whistling Eagle), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,1,1. Total, 2.

Falco cenchroides (Nankeen Kestrel), 0,0,0,0; 0,1,1,4. Total, 6.
 Large Hawks, 0,1,0,0; 0,2,0,0. Total, 3.
 Small dark Hawk, 1,0,0,0; 1,0,0,0. Total, 2.

Kakatoe sanguinea (Bare-eyed Cockatoo), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,11,3. Total, 14.

Kakatoe roseicapilla (Galah), 0,0,0,60; 17,2,12,17. Total, 108.

Barnardius barnardi (Ringneck Parrot), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,2,12. Total, 14.

Barnardius zonarius (?) (Port Lincoln Parrot), 6,0,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 6.

Psephotus haematonotus (Red-backed Parrot), 0,0,0,8 (?); 6,0,0,3. Total, 17.

Psephotus haematogaster (Blue Bonnet), 0,0,16,4; 0,0,0,0. Total, 20.

Psephotus (unidentified), 0,2,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 2.

Parrots, 0,0,1,2; 1,0,0,0. Total, 4.

Merops ornatus (Australian Bee-eater), 0,0,1,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 1.

- Hirundo neoxena* (Welcome Swallow), 3,2,0,0; 1,22,8,3. Total, 34.
- Cheramoeca leucosterna* (White-backed Swallow), 0,0,0,0; 0,2,0,0. Total, 2.
- Hylochelidon*, 0,0,0,0; 52,6,2,10. Total, 70.
- Rhipidura leucophrys* (Willie Wagtail), 0,0,1,0; 1,0,0,3. Total, 5.
- Petroica goodenovii* (Red-capped Robin), 0,3,4,0; 0,0,3,1. Total, 11.
- Pachycephala* sp. (Whistler), 0,heard,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 1.
- Grallina cyanoleuca* (Magpie-Lark), 0,0,0,0; 6,1,7,1. Total, 15.
- Coracina novae-hollandiae* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,1,0. Total, 1.
- Pomatostomus* sp. (Babbler), 0,2,10,0; 0,0,0,7. Total, 19.
- Epthianura aurifrons* (?) (Orange Chat), 0,0,0,0; 0,13(?), 0,0. Total 13.
- Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Eastern Whiteface), 0,0,4,2; 0,0,8,2. Total, 16.
- Acanthiza hamiltoni* (?) (Red-tailed Thornbill), 1,1,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 2.
- Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* (Yellow-tailed Thornbill), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,3,0. Total, 3.
- Cinclorhamphus*, 1,0,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 1.
- Malurus cyanotus* (Blue-and-White Wren), 0,0,1,1; 0,0,0,0. Total, 2.
- Malurus* sp., 0,0,0,0; 0,4,0,0. Total, 4.
- Artamus melanops* (Black-faced Wood-Swallow), 5,3,0,0; 0,0,0,0. Total, 8.
- Artamus cyanopterus* (Dusky Wood-Swallow), 4,0,0,9; 0,0,0,0. Total 13.
- Artamus* (not identified), 0,0,1,2; 0,0,0,0. Total, 3.
- Climacteris picumnus* (Brown Tree-Creeper), 0,0,0,0; 0,0,0,1. Total, 1.
- Meliphaga virescens* (Singing Honeyeater), 0,0,0,0; 2,0,0,0. Total, 2.
- Meliphaga* (not identified), 0,3,0,2; 1,0,0,0. Total, 6.
- Myzantha flavigula* (Yellow-throated Miner), 0,0,0,1; 1,0,0,0. Total, 2.
- Acanthagenys rufogularis* (Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater), 4,0,0,0; 1,0,0,0. Total, 5.
- Myzantha* or *Acanthagenys*, 0,0,0,3; 0,0,0,0. Total, 3.
- Anthus australis* (Groundlark), 2,1,1,3; 3,6,13,2. Total 31.
- Crows, 30,6,0,6; 15,40,40,80. Total 217.
- Gymnorhina tibicen* (Black-backed Magpie), 0,0,0,0; 1,0,0,0. Total, 1.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca (White-backed Magpie), 5,0,0,10;
13,0,0,0. Total 28.
Magpies (unidentified), 0,0,0,0; 0,19,18,24. Total, 61.
Unidentified native birds, 10,5,6,6; 3,4,4,0. Total, 38.
Sparrows, 5,1,0,0; 9,10,1,0. Total, 26.
Starlings, 0,0,0,0; 12,1,0,0. Total, 13.
Kangaroos, 0,0,0,26; 0,0,0,0. Total, 26.
Native species of birds, 43, with 909 individuals.
Introduced species, two, with 39 individuals.
Kangaroos, 26.
