

## Bird Notes:

By E. F. Boehm, Sutherlands, 19/8/1929.

Since my previous report (17/5/1929) the Emus (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) have come into the district, and are taking toll of the wheatcrops. Many of these fine birds get killed by running into barb-wire fences. I have occasionally found the dead body of an Australian Dotterel (*Peltohyas australis*) beneath a fence; presumably the bird flew against it. These Dotterels fly a lot at night, and I sometimes hear them calling as they pass swiftly overhead. Some time ago, near Sutherlands, I saw a flock of this species numbering over 70 birds. Seven Black Swans (*Chenopsis atrata*) were seen at Browlo Centre, and a Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*) was secured at Deep Creek last week. A Regent Honeyeater (*Zanthomiza phrygia*) was noted at Salt Creek, and numbers of Yellow-winged (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*) and White-naped (*Melithreptus lunatus*) Honeyeaters, with a few Red Wattle-Birds (*Anthochaera carunculata*), and a pair of Golden Whistlers (*Pachycephala pectoralis*) were seen at the same place. The Black-faced Wood-Swallows (*Artamus melanops*) have been noted, and a few solitary Pallid Cuckoos (*Cuculus pallidus*) have been seen. A Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*) was flushed from some mallee shoots, six miles north-east of Sutherlands, on 2nd July, 1929. It was secured. ♀—Iris dusky black; eyelids ringed yellowish; inside mouth pinkish; total length, 29.5 cm.; span of wings, 64 cm. Stomach

contents: remains of insects. In the same patch of mallee shoots I saw five Chestnut Quail-Thrushes (*Cinclosoma castanotum*), several families of the Purple-backed Wrens (*Malurus assimilis*) as well as a few White-eared Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga leucotis*). Several Shy Ground-Wrens (*Hylacola cauta*), a few Gilbert Whistlers (*Pachycephala inornata*), and Southern Scrub-Robins (*Drymodes brunneopygia*) were seen near Bower, in thick scrub composed of *Geijera linearifolia*, *Casuarina lepidophloia*, *Myoporum platycarpum*, and mallee, with a good undergrowth of salsolaceous plants. In this class of scrub the Chestnut-tailed Thornbills (*Acanthiza uropygialis*) and Purple-backed Wrens are unusually numerous; while the Chestnut Quail-Thrushes, Crested Bellbirds (*Oreoica gutturalis*), and Red-capped Robins (*Petroica goodenovii*) are more often met with than elsewhere. Seven Adelaide Rosellas (*Platycercus adelaidæ*) were recently noted, and Musk Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta concinna*) have passed over on occasions. Hawks of all kinds are scarce, doubtless due to the lack of a sufficient food supply, owing to the poor state of the country. A few solitary Nankeen Kestrels (*Falco cenchroides*), Brown Hawks (*Falco berigora*), and Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*) are the only Accipitriformes that have been noted during the past four months. The White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) are taking toll of the wheat-crops, and numbers of them have been shot or poisoned in this district on account of their depredations.

I have been down to Annadale, on the Truro-Blanchetown Road, and I worked the scrub near the old closed hotel (Halfway House). A good look out was kept for the Fuscous Honeyeater (*Meliphaga fusca*), but without success.