

Bird Notes.

By E. F. Boehm, Sutherlands, 23/5/1930.

Since my previous notes were made (see "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. X, p. 215), two large Accipitriformes with a slightly forked tail have been seen. I feel convinced that they were Fork-tailed Kites (*Milvus migrans*); in fact, I cannot imagine what else they could have been.

Flocks of Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*) and Musk Lorikeets (*G. concinna*) are frequenting the flowering eucalypts. These two species have always been subject to intense scrutiny from me, as I strongly suspected that the Little Lorikeet (*G. pusilla*), like the Swift Parrot (*Lathamus discolor*), is a casual visitor to the district, and would perhaps

be in their company. I was therefore less surprised than gratified on the 22nd inst. when I observed two Little Lorikeets among some white mallee (*Eucalyptus gracilis*) near Sutherlands, and was able to secure a specimen.

A few days ago I noted a number of Ringnecks (*Barnardius barnardi*) and Mulga Parrots (*Psephotus varius*) feeding on the seeds of potato weed (*Heliotropium europaeum*), which is very numerous this season.

Several Grey Fantails (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) have been observed. This species is never common, and there is no record of a nest having been discovered in the district.

Some mornings ago seven Chestnut Quail-Thrushes (*Cinclosoma castanotum*) were seen in a scrub of kangaroo-bush (*Geijera linearifolia*) and mallee shoots. Their calls—a series of plaintive, drawn-out whistles—were often heard. Upon five or six occasions I have seen males of this species perched on a mallee bough or on a false sandalwood, six or seven feet from the ground, and uttering the soft, tremulous whistling notes mentioned by Mr. Edwin Ashby in the "South Australian Ornithologist," Vol. X, p. 12. I have not as yet observed a female sitting on a bough or bush like the males, and it would appear that the latter only give this particular call in addition to the usual one.

While working some scrub bordering "Glenbower," at a spot about twelve miles north-east of Sutherlands, a Shy Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*) was seen sitting on the top of a kangaroo-bush fully eight feet from the ground, and was singing beautifully. When disturbed it flew, or rather dropped, straight to the ground, and was lost to view among the bluebushes (*Cratystylis conocephala*), which formed an admirable covering in the vicinity.

Three Whistlers (*Pachycephala*), namely, the Gilbert (*inornata*), the Rufous (*rufiventris*), and the Golden (*pectoralis*), have been noted during the month, and a solitary Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*) has frequented the district. The latter species is extremely rare here at all times, but further west, along the Murray Range, they are in larger numbers, and, I believe, breed there.

By J. B. Cleland.

Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*), eating small live crustaceans.—At Encounter Bay, in the first week of March this year, small crustaceans ("sandfleas," identified by Mr. H. M.

Haie as sand-hoppers (*Orchestia marmorata*) were abundant, hopping out of the banks of "seaweed" (*Posidonia*) in numbers, especially towards dusk. A Silver Gull, perching on a bank in front of us, was soon busily engaged in catching, or attempting to catch, the small shrimp-like creatures as they alighted. I have not before seen Silver Gulls catching living things.

Swamp-Hawk's Nest in a Cornfield.—I have been told that during last nesting season a Swamp-Hawk (*Circus approximans*) built its nest in Mr. Smith's wheatfield at Encounter Bay. When found, the eggs were far incubated.

King Quail (?) at Mount Compass.—On Saturday afternoon, 5th April, in partly drained swamp just south of the road to Cleland's Gully, two small very dark Quail, "almost black," my fellow-observer remarked, were flushed. These could hardly be anything else than the King Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*), which has been recorded previously from this locality.

Ringneck Parrots (*Barnardius barnardi*) at Beaumont.—On 11th April, at Beaumont, on a slightly showery afternoon, two Ringnecks in gorgeous plumage appeared in the white cedar and almond trees. They have probably been about for some weeks, as strange Parrots, not Rosellas, had been seen and heard.

By J. M. Bonnin.

Birds of Yorke's Peninsula.—The following is a list of the birds that I noted during a tour of Yorke's Peninsula in January, 1929:—Stubble-Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*); Bronze-wing (*Phaps* sp.); Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), one, at Sheoak Flat; Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*); Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*); Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Sheoak Flat; Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*); Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*); Fairy Tern (*S. nereis*); Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*); Pacific Gull (*Gabiamus pacificus*); Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*), six, at Port Vincent; Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*), one, at Sheoak Flat; Stint, probably the Red-necked (*Erolia ruficollis*); White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*); Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*); Mulga-Parrot (*Psephotus varius*); Parrot (*Neophema* sp.); Rock-Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*), along the coast from Sheoak Flat to Port Vincent; Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*); Fairy Martin (*Hylodchelidon ariel*); Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*); Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluri-*

cincla harmonica); Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*); Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*); Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*); White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*); White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*); Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*); Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*); Singing Honey-eater (*Meliphaga virescens*); White-plumed Honeyeater (*M. penicillata*); Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*); Red Wattle-Bird (*A. carunculata*); Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*); Pipit (*Anthus australis*); Raven (*Corvus coronoides*), 500 in a flock at sunset; White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*); Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*); White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*). At Corney Point at night Duck sp. were heard.

By Dr. A. M. Morgan.

March 9, 1930, at Buckland Park, Two Wells, S.A., noted the following species:—Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); Black-fronted Dotterel (*C. melanops*); Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*); Red-necked Stint (*Erolia ruficollis*); Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*E. acuminata*); Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*), two broods were seen, one with ten, the other with seven; Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*); Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*Kakatoe sanguinea*); Galah (*K. roseicapilla*); Singing Honey-eater (*Meliphaga virescens*).

March 16, 1930, at the same place, two Curlew Sandpipers (*Erolia testacea*) and a flock of 20 Black-fronted Dotterels were at a fresh-water pool. Two Black Swans (*Chenopsis atrata*), one immature, just beyond the cygnet stage, were found dead, probably shot by a sportsman (?). A Whistling Eagle was feeding off one body.

April 25, 1930.—A Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) and a Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*), ♀, were seen in the North Park Lands.

Dr. Guy Lendon informed me that a Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) he had collected weighed 9 lb., and that the pouch would hold 3 gallons of water.

Sir Lancelot Stirling advised me that some years ago he shot a Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*) near Terowie, S.A., which weighed 28 lb.

By Dr. A. S. Randell.

He saw on and about the islands near the Murray Mouth:—
 On 15th February, 1930, large flocks of Red-necked Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*) and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers (*E. acuminata*), many Curlew-Sandpipers (*E. testacea*) and Curlews (*Numenius cyanopus*). On 8th March, 1930, large flocks of Red-necked Stints and Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, many Curlew-Sandpipers, but no Curlews, and many Marsh-Terns (*Chlidonias leucopareia*), Crested Terns (*Sterna bergii*), and Fairy Terns (*S. nereis*) were seen. On 30th March, 1930, five Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) on the shore-line of the river at Goolwa. On 18th April, 1930, he observed 66 Curlews in one flock on the sandspit opposite Tauwitchere Reef. On 19th April, 16 Curlews were met with between the Murray Mouth and Goolwa. Within 200 yards of the Curlews there were about 20 birds larger than Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, and three of them had chestnut-coloured breasts. One peculiarity was noticed with regard to those birds, that when a bird ran forward a foot or so all the others would follow in unison. On 20th April he secured a Chestnut Teal (*Querquedula castanea*) in the Mundoo Channel, ♀; weight, 1 lb. 4 oz. On this trip just as many Red-necked Stints, Sharp-tailed and Curlew Sandpipers were seen as on the trip 4th to 7th April, described elsewhere, but the Greenshanks were not so numerous. Between 21st May and 25th May, 1930, were noted—four White Egrets (*Egretta alba*) at Ewe Island Creek on 21st. At Tauwitchere Reef, on 23rd, 37 Curlews, 25 White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*), eight Pied Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus ostralegus*), and one Sooty Oyster-catcher (*H. unicolor*). In the Mundoo Channel, on 24th, eight Greenshanks (*Tringa nebularia*) were seen, and others heard, eight Red-capped Dotterels (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) were noted. No Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, Red-necked Stints, Banded Stilts, or Avocets were seen on this trip, but fair numbers of Black and Mountain Ducks and Grey Teal were met with.

The following Ducks were obtained in Ewe Island Creek on 21st May:—Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*), ♂, weight, 2 lb. 12 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 11½ in. ♂, weight, 2 lb. 12 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 11 in. ♂, weight, 2 lb. 8 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 10½ in. ♀, weight, 2 lb. 5 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 7¾ in. ♀, weight, 2 lb. 4 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 9½ in. ♀, weight, 2 lb. 2 oz.; wing spread, 2 ft. 9¾ in. Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*), weight, 4 lb. 4 oz.; wing spread, 3 ft. 11 in.

By Edwin Ashby, Blackwood.

Regent Honeyeaters (*Zanthoniza phrygia*) arrived there on 12th May in fair numbers.

King Quail (*Excalfactoria chinensis*).—He obtained a specimen, ♂, on 7/2/1920, at Mount Compass. Another bird was seen at the same time and place.

By T. G. Souter, Kilkerran, from 20/10/1929 to 9/3/1930.

20/10/1929. — Three Australian Dotterels (*Peltohyas australis*) were feeding in a grass paddock in company with 22 Red-necked Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*). The Dotterels were about here until 9/12/1929, when three were again seen.

21/10/1929.—Two Crimson Chats (*Epthianura tricolor*) were seen, the first for the season. They did not stay as long this year as usual, no doubt owing to the good rains in the north. Last seen on 23/11/1929.

23/10/1929.—Eight nests of the Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus superciliosus*) were found within fifty yards of each other—one nest with one egg, six with two eggs each, and one with three eggs. There was quite a colony of this species here this year. Usually the Dusky Wood-Swallow (*A. cyanopterus*) is very plentiful, with an occasional pair of the Masked, but this year the reverse was the case. The first of the Masked was seen on 4/10/1929.

27/10/1929.—Two Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*), the first for the season, were seen near the house. A nest with four young was taken two miles north of Maitland, and that is the first record to my knowledge of their having nested in this district. The species were about until 5/2/1930.

4/11/1929.—One hundred and two White-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) were between this place and Point Pearce Mission Station, seven miles away. They were scattered all along the road in twos and threes, except for one lot of 53 that were together in a paddock which had just been stripped of oats. On 24/11/1929, 121 Magpies were in a paddock of 180 acres, and appeared to be feeding on grubs. This species is still very plentiful about here. On 7/3/1930 I had occasion to go to another farm six miles away twice on the same day. On the first trip there I counted 49, returning 52; on the second trip, in the afternoon, going, 65, returning, 48.

15/11/1929.—Two Blue-winged Parrots (*Neophema chryso-stoma*) were seen in a sandalwood scrub at Point Pearce, three

miles from the coast. I have compared these with the Rock-Parrots (*N. petrophila*), and feel sure that they were the Blue-winged, as they showed far more blue on the wings than the Rock-Parrots.

30/11/1929.—One hundred and sixty Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) were seen walking about on fallow land two miles inland from the sea. This is usually a sign of rough weather; in this instance it again proved correct, as we had rain-and-stormy-winds-the-next-day.

28/12/1929.—Three Budgerygars (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) were seen—the first for the season. Only one was seen after that, on 6th January, 1930.

16/2/1930.—Two Cape Barren Geese (*Cereopsis novae-hollandiae*) were seen on the coast road from Point Pearce to Port Victoria. One of this species was seen on Wardang Island in May, 1929.

28/2/1930.—Three Sacred Kingfishers (*Halcyon sanctus*) were seen. They seem to come about here in the summer. In the scrub at Balgowan I saw a Currawong. It looked like *Strepera intermedia*.

4/3/1930.—Fifty White-rumped Swifts (*Micropus pacificus*) were hawking over the house at noon, and were about for an hour. They flew out of sight and back again several times and in all directions. They would go up to a great height and then come down very low, to about ten feet. When last seen they were travelling in a south-westerly direction.

7/3/1930.—An Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*) was seen.

By W. H. Tubbs, Cobdogla, River Murray, 16/3/1930.

The most interesting items recently seem to be the presence of the following species:—Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*); White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*); White-breasted Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) and Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*). The Great Crested Grebe has been observed several times on the Cobdogla billabong, and also on Lake Bonney, generally singly, although there are three or four birds about. A White Ibis was observed on the Cobdogla billabong for a day. The White-breasted Sea-Eagle was seen on two occasions, each time circling over Lake Bonney at a fair height. On neither occasion did it stop long, for after circling round for about half an hour it flew away in a south-easterly direction.

A carcass of the Black-shouldered Kite was found. It had apparently been recently shot, but was already rather "high." The recent heavy rains inland have rather depleted the number of water-birds hereabouts.

By W. W. Weidenbach.

At Glen Osmond on 19th March, 1930, saw a Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*), and on 24th May, 1930, a Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*). At Happy Valley, on 28th May, 1930, a Blue-faced Honeyeater (*Entomyzon cyanotis*), hundreds of Purple-crowned Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*), very many Little Lorikeets (*G. pusilla*), and many Regent Honeyeaters (*Zanthomiza phrygia*).

By Ernest Whittington.

Saw 20 Curlews (*Numenius cyanopus*) on an exposed flat (tide out), a mile from Goolwa, in February, 1930.

A NEW RECORD FOR SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

CROCETHIA ALBA, SANDERLING.

Dr. A. S. Randell secured one on 25th May, 1930, on a sandspit off Sir Richard Peninsula, in the Goolwa Channel, about three miles below the town of Goolwa. There were four there, in pairs. Two others flew past his launch in Ewe Island Creek on 21st May, 1930. These are the first records of this species of migratory wading birds for this State. The specimen secured was presented to the South Australian Museum. It was a male acquiring adult plumage, total length 18.5 cm.; spread of wings, 36 cm.; weight, 48 grammes; iris dark brown; bill, legs, and feet black. Stomach contents: fragments of worms, fragments of hairy caterpillars, part of head of sugar-ant (*Campanotus*), elytron of small dung beetle (*Aphodius*), bits of small spider.

NOISY MINERS (*MYZANTHA MELANOCEPHALA*).

Mr. J. W. Mellor reports, on 30/5/1930, that these birds were still nesting, and some were feeding large young in the trees at Lockleys.

By J. B. Shekleton, Hilltown, S.A., 25/4/1930.

I have still got my pet Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*). When taken from the nest in January, 1929, he was just able to fly, and was one of three; one was cast out of the nest, and died, and the strongest bird flew away when disturbed. My

bird began to moult in the tail and wings last August, then a bit of colour showed on the leg feathers. It was December before he was clothed in the mature suit.

FLAME ROBIN (*PETROICA PHOENICEA*).

Birds of this species have arrived from the east for the winter.

Mr. W. J. Harvey, Coombe, reports having seen a female at Coombe on 3rd April, 1930.

Mr. J. W. Mellor noted the first Flame Robins of the season at Melior Park, Lockleys, on 18th April. They were flying about the paddock, settling on the fences and on the heaps of horse-manure, and catching flies from time to time. Under date of 30th May he further reports that they had been about all the month (May), and are quite tame. They fly about the tomato glass-houses in search of flies, etc.

Mr. F. E. Parsons, during a motor journey from Adelaide to Robe on 5th May, saw six Flame Robins between Langhorne's Creek and Meningie, 14 between Meningie and Salt Creek, 22 between Salt Creek and Kingston. On 6th May, 25 between Robe and "Konetta" (27 miles). On the return journey, on 9th May, he saw just as many Flame Robins.

Dr. A. M. Morgan saw about 20 of this species on 18th May at a place five miles south of Williamstown. They were on a bare hillside which had many gumtree-stumps. There were five males, the remainder being dull-coloured. A dead male was picked up.

Mr. J. Rau saw nine, two of them males, on the morning of 21st May, and two pairs on 24th May, on the South Park Lands, Adelaide.
