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*GRAY—Birds of Orroroo District.***Birds of Orroroo District.**

By James T. Gray, Orroroo.

24th November, 1931.—We have had a wonderful increase in the number and variety of birds about this year compared with previous years. Brown Songlarks (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*). I wrote of first seeing one on 30th June; after that they came in great numbers, flying and nesting in the paddocks right up to the edge of the township. Old residents say they do not remember seeing so many in one season. During a five-mile walk across the paddocks at no time was I out of hearing of a bird singing—most of the time three or four birds could be heard. Rufous Songlarks (*Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*) were in fair numbers, too, but few compared with the large number of the Brown Songlarks. I found the Rufous Songlarks always near or in the scrub. This year we have had a wonderful visitation of the three Chats (*Epthianuridae*), White-fronted (*albifrons*) in large numbers, Crimson (*tricolor*), quite common, and Orange (*aurifrons*) in fair numbers. I found nests of the White-fronted and Crimson built in tussocks of spear-grass. The nests were lined with fine grass, but no feathers, eggs three and four. The brooding bird, the female in each case, fluttered from

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the nest; as if injured, and flew near the ground: I found very few Orange Chats near the town, but they became more numerous as I went north. I have seen several Red-backed Kingfishers (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*) this year. A pair of Dusky Moorhens (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) nested and brought out a clutch of chicks in a clump of reeds in a pool of the creek here. This is a small pool and in a part of the creek that is a popular playground for the children of the town. Australian Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus australis*) have nested in the reeds and there has been a fine competition in singing. These clumps of reeds are not extensive, being only a few feet across and a few yards long and are scattered along the creek for a few hundred yards. It is surprising there should be so many birds in so small an area.

Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*). I have not seen any in the Pekina Creek, Orroroo, but obtained specimens from a creek about 12 miles to the north-east. Little Quail (*Turnix velox*)—I have flushed a number quite close to the town, but not any Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) though the latter are fairly plentiful five miles out. Purple-backed Wrens (*Malurus assimilis*) are plentiful, particularly in the lignum bushes, and I think I have seen other species of this genus here. A few Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) wintered here, but the big flocks have not yet arrived. I have seen a few Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*K. sanguinea*). They are not yet in numbers here. Cockatoo Parrots (*Leptolophus hollandicus*), Blue Bonnet (*Psephotus haematogaster*), and Mulga Parrots (*Psephotus varius*), are in numbers. They had not been noticed here during the last few years. Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*), Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), White-winged Trillers (*Lalage tricolor*), Masked (*Artamus personatus*), White-browed (*A. superciliosus*); and Dusky Wood-Swallows (*A. cyanopterus*) are very common.

16th December, 1931.—The Brown Songlarks have moved on. There are very few about at present. We noticed them thinning in numbers from the end of November. The Chats, too, are very much less in numbers. The following species have been seen additional to my list on page 103.—Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*); Little Quail (*Turnix velox*), Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*); Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*); Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*); Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); Australian Dotterel (*Peltohyas australis*); Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae*); Sharp-tailed Sandpiper

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*Bird Notes.*

(*Erolia acuminata*); Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*); Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*); Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*); Little Falcon (*Falco longipennis*); Winking Owl (*Ninox connivens*); Cockatoo-Parrot (*Leptolophus hollandicus*); Blue Bonnet (*Psephotus haematogaster*); Blue-winged Parrot (*Neophema chrysostoma*); Owlet Nightjar (*Aegotheles cristata*); Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*); Rainbow-Bird (Bee-eater) (*Merops ornatus*); Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*); Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*); Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*); White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*); Crimson Chat (*E. tricolor*); Orange Chat (*E. aurifrons*); Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*); Rufous Songlark (*C. mathewsi*); Reed-Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*); White-browed Wood-Swallow (*Artamus superciliosus*); Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picumnus*); Spotted Pardalote (*Pardalotus punctatus*); Yellow-tailed Pardalote (*P. xanthopygius*); Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*); Pipit (*Anthus australis*); Little Crow (*Corvus bennetti*); Black-winged Currawong (*Strepera melanoptera*); Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).

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