
GRAY—Birds of the Orroroo District.

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By James T. Gray.

So far I have not seen a Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*) here. The two Robins which are found here are the Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*) and the Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*). The latter are very tame, and allow one to approach quite close while they busily hunt insects in the rubbish in the mallee scrub.

I saw a Black-tailed Native-Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*) in the creek here on 25th April, 1933, for the first time. I observe many Dusky Moorhens (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) about the creek and Irrigation Dam. They nest in the rushes. On the following day I saw a *Tribonyx* in a street of the town, and as no others were noticed about the creek it may have been the same bird. A Banded Landrail (*Hypotaenidia philippensis*) was brought to me from the creek on 1st May, 1933, ♂, total length, 30 cm.; wing spread, 45 cm.; iris, red. I see the Little Grassbird (*Megalurus grammacus*) in a small clump of rushes in the creek every time I go there. A specimen taken 22nd April, 1933, was ♂, total length, 15.5 cm.; wing spread, 18 cm.; iris, light brown; upper mandible, darker brown than the lower one. Tapeworms (*Cestoda*) were present. An Australian

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Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*) was found in a street of the town, 4th January, 1933, with a badly broken wing; probably it had hit a telephone wire while flying; the skin was not broken, but profuse bleeding had taken place under the skin, ♀, total length, 21.5 cm.; wing spread, 32 cm.; iris, black. A Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*) was found on a road, 27th May, 1933, with an injured wing, the humerus-ulna-radius joint being disarticulated. The bird died soon after being found. It was badly bruised over the chest and had bled freely, ♂, total length, 45 cm.; wing spread, 61 cm.; iris, yellow; pharynx, white; bill, black; legs and feet, yellowish flesh colour. The bird was in good plump condition, but must have gone without a meal for some hours, as both the stomach and intestine were empty. There were no intestinal parasites. We had a number of Australian Goshawks (*Astur fasciatus*) about the town last summer. Several were shot when trying to get birds in aviaries. I watched one being chased across the town by Magpies (*Gymnorhina*), Magpie Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) this week, the chasing birds making a "regular commotion" as they flew about the slowly-flying Goshawk. Another day I watched a Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) repeatedly dive at a Goshawk which had perched on the chimney of a house. The Kestrel screeched all the time. The noise of the screeching and the flapping wings was loud enough to bring the people out of the surrounding houses to see what was happening. In the issue of the "S.A. Ornithologist" of 1st April, 1933, Vol. XI., page 67, Mr. M. W. Mules records the Black Honeyeater (*Myzomela nigra*) at Woodside, and the Editors gave a list of other places where it has been recorded. I saw several of them here on the hillsides on 10th September, 1932. They were with White-fronted Honeyeaters (*Gliciphila albifrons*) and both species were feeding from the blossoms on Eremophila bushes (*Eremophila maculata*).

The following is a list of birds of Orreroo District, additional to those printed in Volume XI., pages 103, 135, and 201:—*Hypotaenidia philippensis*, Banded Landrail; *Tribonyx ventralis*, Black-tailed Native-Hen; *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*, Banded Stilt; *Tringa nebularia*, Greenshank; *Rostratula australis*, Australian Painted Snipe; *Stiltia isabella*, Australian Pratincole; *Threskiornis molucca*, White Ibis; *Egretta alba*, White Egret; *Querquedula gibberifrons*, Grey Teal; *Biziura lobata*, Musk Duck; *Circus assimilis*, Spotted Harrier; *Falco berigora*, Brown Hawk; *Megalururus gramineus*, Little Grassbird; *Malurus cyanotus*, Blue-and-White Wren.