

CLELAND—Birds Between Oodnadatta and Musgrave Ranges.

## Birds Seen Between Oodnadatta and the Musgrave Ranges, S.A.

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In August, 1933, the seventh anthropological expedition organized by the Board for Anthropological Research of the University of Adelaide, in conjunction with the South Australian Museum, and financed in great part by a fund from the Rockefeller Foundation, administered by the Australian National Research Council, visited Ernabella in the Musgrave Ranges. As opportunity offered during the journey there and back, and in the Ranges themselves, notes were made on the birds observed, especial attention being naturally directed to any aspects having an anthropological bearing. Mr. N. B. Tindale and Dr. C. Hackett preceded the main party, of which the writer was a member, and spent two months traversing with camels the length of the Musgrave Ranges, and visiting the Mann Ranges and the sandhills south of these. They secured a few skins, obtained the native names of various birds, and found a very interesting association from the point of view of food supply between the seeds of the kurrajong (*Brachychiton gregoryi*), Crows, and the natives. Some of the natives in the Mann Ranges, in the centre of the reserves for the Aborigines and far beyond the outermost limits of white occupation, had seen and heard aeroplanes, imitating the noise they made. They are quite prepared to accept them as great birds, doubtless the result of the superior "magic" of the white man of whom they had heard and on a few occasions seen, but laughed to scorn the idea that human beings could be in the bellies of the birds themselves.

Ernabella, the headquarters of the expedition, is picturesquely situated in Glen Ferdinand, and near the eastern end of the Musgrave Ranges.

The following birds were noted at or near Ernabella itself:—  
*Lophophaps plumifera*, Plumed Pigeon.—A small party on the rocks.

*Ocyphaps lophotes*, Crested Pigeon.

*Uroaetus audax*, Wedge-tailed Eagle.—♂; 13/8/1933; bill, pallid horn, tip, darker; feet, pallid; total length, 91 cm.; span of wings, 196 cm.; weight, 6½ lb. The down is used by the natives for ceremonial purposes.

*Falco*, sp.—Black ? on the cheeks.

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*Ninox boobook*, Boobook Owl.—A skin was made of a bird captured by the natives. This inland form is smaller and paler than the coastal one. ♀; iris, light brown; bill, bluish horn, darker at apex; pharynx, grey and greyish flesh; legs, grey, scales paler; total length,  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches; span of wings,  $28\frac{1}{4}$  inches; weight, 6 oz.

*Hylochelidon nigricans*, Australian Tree-Martin.—Seen entering holes in trees.

*Petroica goodenovii*, Red-capped Robin.

*Melanodryas cucullata*, Hooded Robin.

*Colluricincla rufiventris*, Western Shrike-Thrush.

*Oreoica cristata*, Crested Bellbird, native name Pun-pun-pullala.—Caught by natives, and one wing pulled out. ♂? (only one gland); bill, brown; pharynx, yellowish; legs, dark grey; total length,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Aphelocephala leucopsis whitei*, Whiteface.—♂; iris, whitish; bill, pharynx, and legs, black; total length,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches; span of wings,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Acanthiza hamiltoni*, Red-tailed Thornbill.—In a creek bed looking over a giant saltbush. Sex, ?; iris, reddish brown; bill, pharynx, and legs, black; total length, 4 inches; span of wings, 6 inches.

*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*, Yellow-tailed Thornbill.

*Pyrholaemus brunneus*, Redthroat.—Singing sweetly in the giant saltbush. ♂ (testes large); iris, yellowish brown; bill, greyish brown; pharynx, greyish; legs, dark grey; total length,  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches; span of wings,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Malurus* sp.—Males not seen.

*Artamus melanops*, Black-faced Wood-Swallows.—Native name Talpu-talpu.

*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*, Mistletoe-Bird.—Native name Widjipilari.

*Meliphaga virescens*.—Singing Honeyeater, probably.

*Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*, White-plumed Honeyeater.

*Anthus australis*, Pipit.

*Taeniopygia castanotis*, Chestnut-eared Finch.—Njinji—the native name for the panic grass and of this bird, which eats its grain.

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*Corvus ceciliae*, Crow.—Not eaten by the natives, as it feeds on human excrement. ♂; iris, brown; bill, pharynx, and legs, black; total length,  $18\frac{3}{8}$  inches; span of wings,  $37\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Strepera intermedia centralia* (approaching *plumbea*), Brown Currawong.—Native name, pilal. ♂ (testes large); iris, lemon yellow; bill, pharynx, and feet, black; total length, 22 inches; span of wings,  $33\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

*Cracticus nigrogularis*, Pied Butcher-Bird.

At our first camp on the South Neales, 75 miles west of Oodnadatta, the following birds were noted:—Crested Pigeons, Port Lincoln Parrots (*Barnardius zonarius*), Thrush sp., Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*), and Chestnut-eared Finches.

## List of Birds Seen Whilst Travelling.

The following comprise the "journeys" referred to in the lists:—

(1) Oodnadatta to Ernabella, via Wellbourne Hill—280 miles (about  $13\frac{1}{2}$  miles, near Moorilyanna in the dark). August 5, 6, and 7.

(2) Return journey, via Granite Downs, Lambinna, and Todmorden. From Ernabella for 60 miles, and from Granite Downs 98 miles to Oodnadatta by day, the interval between at night. August 20, 21, and 22.

(3) Ernabella, westwards along the southern aspect of the Musgrave Ranges to Erliwanjawanja Waterhole, 37 miles. August 13.

(4) Ernabella, northwards to rockholes, 17 miles. August 17.

(5) Return from rockholes to Ernabella. August 17.

*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*, Emu.—Tracks and droppings were seen on return journey, 40 miles from Ernabella.

*Ocyphaps lophotes*.—(1) 1. (2) 1. (4) 2. Total, 4.

*Uroaetus audax*.—(1) 3. (2) 4. (3) 1. (4) 1. (5) 3. Total, 12.

*Falco berigora* (Brown Hawk).—(1) 1. Total, 1.

*Falco cenchroides* (Nankeen Kestrel).—(1) 1. Total, 1.

Hawks and Kites, unidentified.—(1) 15. (2) 15. (3) 3. (4) 3. (5) 1. Total, 37.

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Kite-Hawk.—(3) 1. Total, 1.

*Calyptorhynchus banksi* (Red-tailed Black Cockatoo).—(1) 4, between Moorilyanna and Ernabella. Total, 4.

*Kakatoe roseicapilla* (Galah).—(1) 30 (in one flock at 160 miles). (2) 21. Total, 51.

*Barnardius zonarius*.—(1) 45. (3) 30. (4) 6. (5) 9. Total, 90.

*Psephotus varius* (Mulga-Parrot).—(2) 4? Total, 4.

Parrots (unidentified).—(1) 3. Total, 3.

*Halcyon*, probably *H. pyrrhopygius* (Red-backed Kingfisher).—(1) 1. Total, 1.

*Cheramoëca leucosterna* (White-backed Swallow).—(1) 1. Total, 1.

*Rhipidura leucophrys* (Willie Wagtail).—(1) 2. (2) 2. (3) 2. Total, 6.

*Petroica goodenovii* (Red-capped Robin) probably.—(1) 3. Total, 3.

*Grallina cyanoleuca* (Magpie-Lark).—(2) 2. Total, 2.

*Oreoica gutturalis*.—(1) 5. (3) 4. Total, 9.

*Cinclosoma* (Quail-Thrush) sp.—(1) 1. Total, 1.

*Pomatostomus ruficeps* (Chestnut-crowned Babbler).—(1) 10. (3) 8. (5) 2. Total, 20.

*Epthianura tricolor* (Crimson Chat).—(1) 1. Total, 1.

*Aphelocephala* sp.—(1) 1? Total, 1.

*Acanthiza* sp.—(1) 1? Total, 1.

*Artamus melanops*.—(1) 64. (2) 9. (3) 6. Total, 79.

*Meliphaga virescens*.—(4) 2. Total, 2.

*Meliphaga* sp. (unidentified).—(1) 1. (2) 2. (3) 7. (4) 3. (5) 1. Total, 14.

*Myzantha flavigula*.—(2) 5. Total, 5.

Honeyeaters (unidentified).—(1) 4. (2) 5. Total, 9.

*Anthus australis*.—(1) 6. (2) 5. (3) 1. (4) 3. (5) 5. Total, 20.

*Taeniopygia castanotis*.—(1) 34. (3) 2. Total, 36.

*Corvus ceciliae*.—(1) 58. (2) 37. (3) 14. (4) 1. (5) 2. Total, 112.

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*Strepera intermedia*.—(3) 2. (4) 3. Total, 5.

*Cracticus nigrogularis*.—(1) 1. (2) 1. (5) 1. Total, 3.

*Gymnorhina* (Magpie) sp.—(2) 4. Total, 4.

Unidentified.—(1) 86. (2) 16. (3) 20. (4) 3. (5) 2.

Total, 127.

Total individuals, 670.

Feral Cats.—(1) 2, near Ernabella. Total, 2.

Rabbits.—(1) 8, near Ernabella. Total, 8.

The birds brought back by Mr. N. B. Tindale and Dr. C. Hackett were:—

*Barnardius zonarius*, Port Lincoln Parrot.—♂, 15/7/1933. Kanpi, S.A. Iris, brown; bill, horn colour; legs and feet, grey.

*Cheramoeca leucosterna*, White-backed Swallow.—♂, 15/7/1933. Kanpi, S.A. Iris, brown; total length, 15.5 cm.; span of wings, 27.4 cm. Native name, Kankeilka=Swallow.

*Melanodryas cucullata*, Hooded Robin.—♂, 15/7/1933. Kanpi, S.A. Iris, brown; bill, legs, and feet, black; total length, 17 cm.; span of wings, 28 cm.

*Oreoica gutturalis*, Crested Bellbird.—♂, 15/7/1933. Kanpi, S.A.

*Aphelocephala leucopsis*, Eastern Whiteface.—♂, 15/7/1933. Kanpi, S.A. Iris, brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish black; total length, 12 cm.; span of wings, 18 cm.

*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*, Redthroat.—♂, 15/7/1933.—Kanpi, S.A.

*Amytornis whitei*, Rufous Scrub-Wren.—♀, 17/7/1933. Eight miles north-west of Kunamata, S.A. Iris, brown; bill, bluish grey; legs and feet, greyish black; total length, 14.7 cm.; span of wings, 17.7 cm. This bird was captured by a native in a burrow beneath the overhanging side of a clump of porcupine grass (*Triodia*).

Spirit specimens, from Kunamata, S.A., 17/7/1933, were:—

*Aphelocephala nigricincta*, Banded Whiteface, ♂, ♂, ♀; *Melanodryas cucullata*, ♂; *Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*, White-plumed Honeyeater, ♂, ♀.

Kunamata is eight miles west of Mount Kintore, which is 25 miles south of the gap between the Musgrave and Mann Ranges, S.A. Kanpi is five miles south-south-east of Mount Berry, Mann Ranges, S.A.