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BONNIN—Birds of Yorke Peninsula.

## Birds of Yorke Peninsula.

By J. M. Bonnin.

Since my previous articles in this Journal (Vol. X, 1930, pp. 234-235, and Vol. XII, 1933, pp. 55-57) I observed the following species on Yorke Peninsula during December, 1934, and January, 1935:—

*Ocyphaps lophotes*, Crested Pigeon.—These are now more numerous than the Bronzewings (*Phaps sp.*). Flocks of six or more are now very common sights along the roads, while previous to 1930 these birds were unknown in the district.

The following species were seen on the flat at Port Vincent:—*Gabianus pacificus*, Pacific Gull (1); *Pluvialis dominicus*, Eastern Golden Plover (15); *Numenius cyanopus*, Eastern Curlew (12); *Tringa nebularia*, Greenshank (3); *Erolia testacea*, Curlew-Sandpiper (6); *Erolia ruficollis*, Red-necked Stint (a flock of about 100); *Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*, White-faced Heron (1); *Halcyon sanctus*, Sacred Kingfisher (1); many Cormorants, *Phalacrocorax fuscescens*, White-breasted; *P. varius*, Pied; and *Microcarbo melanoleucus*, Little Pied; *Hydroprogne caspia*, Caspian Terns; *Sterna bergii*, Crested Terns; *Sterna nereis*, Fairy Terns; *Larus novae-hollandiae*, Silver Gulls; and *Charadrius ruficapillus*, Red-capped Dotterels.

*Neophema petrophila*, Rock Parrot.—Only a pair was seen. None was noted in December, 1932 or 1933, whereas in the two years 1930 and 1931 they were very plentiful.

*Hylacola cauta*, Shy Ground Wren.—These occur in sparsely scattered little colonies all through the mallee scrub.

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*Mirafra javanica*, Horsfield Bushlark.—Occasional birds were seen about Port Vincent.

*Phalacrocorax varius*, Pied Cormorant.—These birds appear to maintain their numbers in spite of sportsmen (?) and foxes. Foxes are very numerous, and take a fair toll of Cormorants, as witnessed by the number of half-eaten carcasses lying on the top of the cliffs overlooking the beach. The stomach contents of two birds of this species were identified by Mr. H. M. Hale, Director of the South Australian Museum, as (1) A single Brush-tailed Pipefish (*Leptoichthys fistularius*) eighteen inches long. (2) One Velvet fish (*Aploactis milesii*) about six inches long, five Short-snouted Pipefish (*Syngnathus curtirostris*), and one Weed fish (*Cristiceps australis*).

The following data of birds taken are of interest:—

*Hydroprogne caspia*, Caspian Tern, January, 1933; ♀; iris, dark brown; bill, inside mouth and tongue, red; legs and feet, black; total length, 21½ inches; span of wings, 51 inches; stomach contents, a Rock Cod six inches long.

*Gabianus pacificus*, Pacific Gull, January, 1932; ♂ immature; iris, dark brown; bill, brownish black, tip, yellow, but extreme tip grey; inside mouth and tongue, horn colour; legs and feet, brown; total length, 25½ inches; span of wings, 60 inches; weight, 44 oz.; stomach contained a whiting ten inches long (evidently found on the beach).

*Pluvialis dominicus*, Eastern Golden Plover, December, 1932; ♀; iris, dark brown; bill, brownish black; inside mouth, whitish; legs, slate-grey.

*Numenius cyanopus*, Eastern Curlew, January, 1931; ♂; iris, dark brown; bill, brownish grey with under base pinkish; inside mouth, bluish pink; legs, blue-grey; total length, 25¾ inches; span of wings, 33¾ inches; weight, 27 oz.

*Tringa nebularia*, Greenshank, January, 1931; ♀; iris, very dark brown; bill, dark grey; inside mouth, light grey; legs, light olive green.

*Erolia testacea*, Curlew Sandpiper, 8th February, 1935; ♀; iris, dark brown; bill, tongue, and inside mouth, black; legs and feet, very dark grey; stomach contents, sea-lice.

*Erolia ruficollis*, Red-necked Stint, 8th February, 1935; ♀; iris, dark brown; bill, inside mouth, tongue, legs, and feet, black.

*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*, White-faced Heron, February, 1932; iris, whitish yellow; cere, greyish purple; bill, black above horn-colour below; inside mouth, purple; legs and feet, greenish yellow; soles of toes, lemon-yellow.

*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*, White-breasted Cormorant, September, 1929; sex, ?; iris, greyish blue; cere, dark blue-grey; bill, black above horn-colour below; legs and feet, black; stomach contained a Catfish 12 inches long.

*Microcarbo melanoleucus*, Little Pied Cormorant, January, 1929; sex, ?; iris, deep green; cere, grey; bill, black above horn-colour below; inside mouth and tongue, bluish; legs and feet, black; total length, 22 inches; span of wings, 40 inches.

*Halcyon sanctus*, Sacred Kingfisher, January, 1935; ♀; iris, dark brown; lower eyelid, blue; bill, black above, horn-colour below with tip black; mouth and tongue (very small) flesh-coloured; legs and feet, grey; stomach contents, remains of insects.

*Hylacola cauta*, Shy Ground-Wren, January, 1935; ♀; iris, light brown; bill, black; inside mouth and tongue, flesh-coloured; legs and feet, dark grey; stomach contents, small seeds.

*Mirafra javanica*, Horsfield Bushlark, January, 1935; ♂; iris, hazel; bill, brownish grey; inside mouth, brownish; tongue, flesh-coloured; legs and feet, light greyish brown; stomach contents, seeds.

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