
Bird Notes.

The Birds in the Abminga District, S.A. By H. Simpson.

The following species were noted there from 26th April to 22nd June, 1935:—

Geopelia cuneata, Diamond Dove.—Seen occasionally in small numbers feeding amongst the dry grass of flat water-courses.

Ocyphaps lophotes, Crested Pigeon.—Fairly numerous in the timbered flats. A flock comes around the cottages to water every morning.

Tribonyx ventralis, Black-tailed Native-Hen.—A few noticed around the waterholes in the Abminga and Ross Creeks.

Podiceps sp., Grebe.—Several pairs were seen on different occasions on waterholes. The species has not yet been identified.

Charadrius melanops, Black-fronted Dotterel.—A pair of these birds can always be seen around any of the waterholes.

Eupodotis australis, Bustard.—Very rare. (One was frightened off the railway line a few miles south of Rodinga, 121 miles north of Abminga. It stood nearby and watched the train go past quite unconcernedly.)

Querquedula gibberifrons, Grey Teal.—Common on most waterholes.

Malacorhynchus membranaceus, Pink-eared Duck.—Very common.

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Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.—Only a few pairs noticed.

Falco berigora, Brown Hawk.—Common around the place.

Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.—Numerous in the timbered creek flats and grassy plains.

Kakatoe roseicapilla, Galah.—Numerous on the grassy plains.

Barnardius zonarius, Port Lincoln Parrot.—Rare, only one pair noticed.

Psephotus varius, Mulga-Parrot.—One pair was seen at Ilbunga, 23 miles south of Abminga.

Melopsittacus undulatus, Budgerygah.—Seen in small flocks in the gidya (*Acacia Cambagei*) creeks.

Aegotheles cristata, Owlet Nightjar.—Very rare.

Halcyon pyrrhopygius, Red-backed Kingfisher.—Only one seen. It was sitting on a telegraph wire.

Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.—Several observed flying around the sheds.

Hylochelidon nigricans, Tree Martin.—Common around most of the waterholes.

Rhipidura leucophrys, Willie Wagtail.—This species is very common, especially around the flowering shrubs chasing insects.

Seisura inquieta, Restless Flycatcher.—Is a strange bird to me. It was detected on the Ilbunga waterhole on the Ross Creek. At first I mistook it for a Willie Wagtail, but when it hovered over one place and emitted its strange grinding call all the while, and noting its white breast and throat, I discovered it was not a Willie.

Petroica goodenovii, Red-capped Robin.—Very common in the small creeklets. I have never seen them in any other locality as numerous as they are here.

Melanodryas cucullata, Hooded Robin.—Two pairs were noticed in the vicinity of the Abminga Creek.

Pachycephala rufiventris, Rufous Whistler.—Very numerous.

Grallina cyanoleuca, Magpie-Lark.—Usually there are a few pairs around waterholes.

Oreoica gutturalis, Crested Bellbird.—Common; more often heard than seen.

Coracina novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—Occasionally seen.

Lalage tricolor, White-winged Triller.—Plentiful.

Cinclosoma castanotum, Chestnut-backed Quail-Thrush.—These birds are usually met with along the railway line, and

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fly up almost from under the wheels of the motor-quad. One had the misfortune to pause too long and was run over.

Pomatostomus superciliosus, White-browed Babbler.—A few flocks noticed in the creek.

Epthianura tricolor, Crimson Chat.—Seen daily on the grassy plains and sparsely timbered flats.

Aphelocephala sp., Whiteface.—A few small groups observed.

Malurus cyanotus, Blue-and-White Wren.—Common in the secluded gullies and watercourses.

Malurus assimilis, Purple-backed Wren.—A few of these birds can be usually noticed during a walk.

Artamus personatus, Masked Wood-Swallow.—Very common amongst the timber.

Dicaeum hirundinaceum, Mistletoe-Bird. — One or two occasionally seen during a stroll along the creek.

Pardalotus ornatus, Red-tipped Pardalote.—This species was seen at Ilbunga and seems to be rather numerous judging by the number of calls heard. The calls can also be heard near waterholes on the Abminga Creek.

(Last year I saw a "Diamond-Bird" at Edwards Creek which had red, yellow, and orange spots in its plumage—a prominent yellow spot on its throat. This seems to be *Pardalotus rubricatus*, Red-browed Pardalote*).

Meliphaga virescens, Singing Honeyeater. — Very common amongst the flowering shrubs and trees.

Meliphaga penicillata, White-plumed Honeyeater. — Numerous where box-gums are located.

Myzantha flavigula, Yellow-throated Miner.—Common near waterholes.

Anthus australis, Pipit.—Can be seen daily on the plains and tablelands around here.

Taeniopygia castanotis, Chestnut-eared Finch. — Frequents pools of water in the creek in small flocks.

Corvus sp., Crow and/or Raven.—They are plentiful, but I can never distinguish one species from the other.

Gymnorhina tibicen, Black-backed Magpie.—An odd one or two noticed about the place.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie. — Seen occasionally.

Hawks, Falcons, etc.—Several have been seen, but I could not definitely identify the species.

* Dr. Chenery, *S.A. Ornithologist*, Vol. VI., 83, 1921, gives an aboriginal name for this species as *Poopa-tella-lilla*, which appears to be descriptive of its call.—Editors.