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The Birds of Buckland Park.

By H. T. Condon and C. E. Rix.

Separately or together the writers have spent at least one whole day in this locality in almost every month of the year since late in 1932, and at one period in the nesting season of 1935 weekly visits were made. On each occasion, the various species seen, together with the details of the nests, eggs, young birds, and any other observations were kept, and are incorporated herein.

Interest in this locality was first stimulated by the large number of birds which could be observed there undisturbed in their wild state.

On 5th June, 1935, a visit was paid to a shaggery of Pied Cormorants in the mangroves of the seashore by H. T. C. with D. W. Brummitt, and another visit was made with R. F. Brown on 14th June, 1936.

Altogether 144 species have been recorded from this part, of which number we have met with 120. A large number breed in the locality.

The Locality.

Buckland Park is the name of a station which is situated near the sea-coast twenty miles in a direct line north-west of Adelaide and twenty-nine miles by road, and is owned by Mr. E. A. Brooks, of Two Wells. It comprises 3,500 acres, and the homestead is situated about two miles from the coast near Port Gawler. This latter place, which is still shown on maps, exists nowadays in name only; the remains of an old metal road leading to a tumbledown wharf in the mangroves testify to the former importance of the Port as a centre for ketches carrying wheat and shell-grit. For convenience, the whole of the district in the vicinity of Port Gawler is referred to herein as Buckland Park. It includes an area four miles by six miles, comprising mangrove and freshwater swamp land, open plains, teatree scrub, etc. In the accompanying map (fig. 1.) the main features of the locality are indicated.

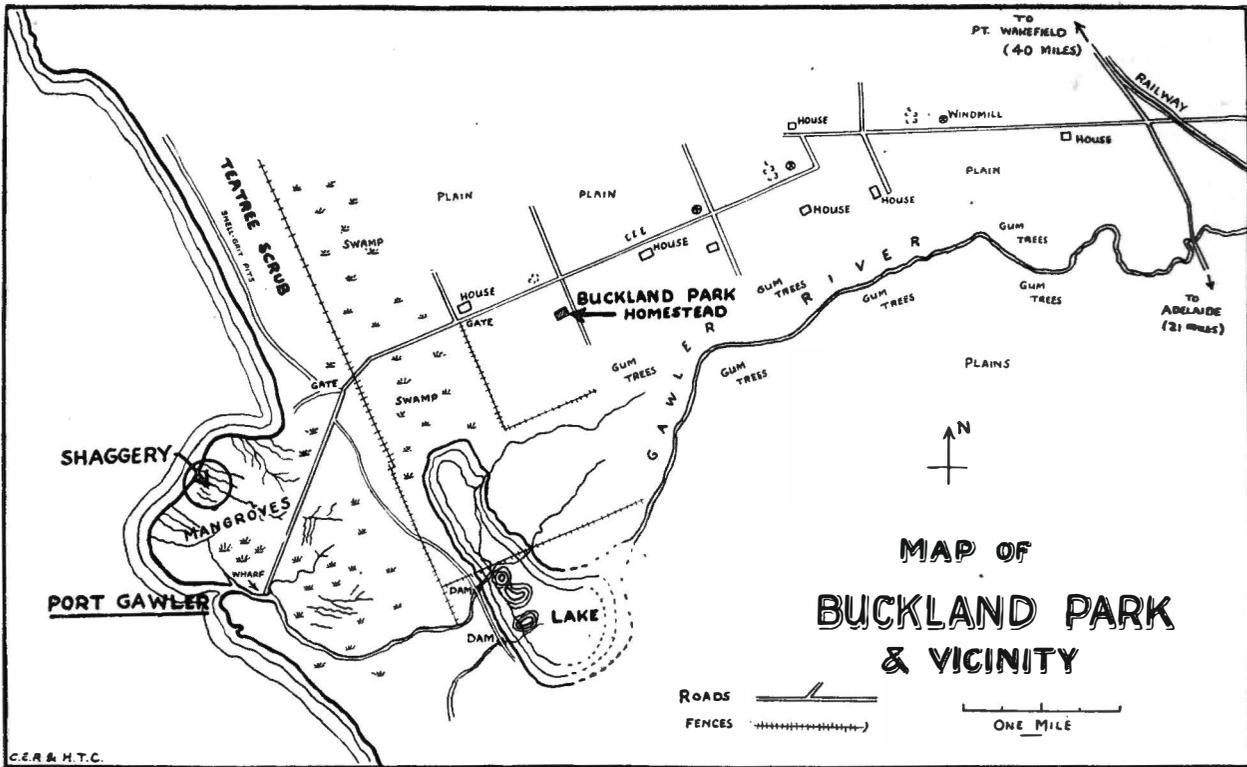


Figure 1.

1. *Teatree Scrub*.—This is a sandy strip about three-and-a-half miles long and a quarter to one-half a mile in width, and runs parallel to the seashore. The trees are from fifteen to twenty feet high, and the vegetation includes Coast Teatree (*Melaleuca halmaturorum*), Native Pine (*Callitris* sp.), Native Myrtle (*Myoporum insulare*), Native Willow (*Pittosporum phillyreoides*), Leafless Native Cherry (*Exocarpus aphylla*), and introduced Tobacco Bush (*Nicotiana* sp.).

2. *Tidal Flats*.—These attract thousands of wading and other birds.

3. "*Lake*" and *Swamp*.—The owner of Buckland Park has dammed back the Gawler River, causing it to spread over what were formerly samphire and saltbush flats. After the winter rains this artificial lake becomes a considerable expanse of water, and it is only in late summer that it is known to decrease in size appreciably. It is margined with Lignum (*Muehlenbeckia Cunninghamii*), which is especially dense on the eastern and southern sides, where it may be ten or twelve feet in height. At the southern end also there are patches of reeds and rushes. In the deepest parts the water may be over six feet deep and there are four islands situated near the centre of the lake. The largest island possesses a number of tall trees in which ducks, herons, and other birds have nested.

5. *Open Red Gum Forest*.—This extends along each bank of the Gawler River, and varies from a quarter to one mile wide. The trees are mainly Red Gums (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) often nearly 100 feet high and bearing a plentiful supply of nesting hollows. In parts there are dense patches of artichokes.

6. *Grassy Plains*.—These adjoin the Red Gums of the Gawler River and extend north and south for many miles.

The Birds.

Up to the end of 1935 the birds of the district have been little disturbed by human beings; large numbers of ducks can be approached closely in many cases on the "lake," which is barred to shooters. The increasing popularity of the beach for "crabbing" parties, picnickers, and speed-tests, however, threatens to alter this happy state of affairs. Birds of all species nested freely in 1935, and the nests of several ducks were found near the lake. In the mangroves Pied Cormorants have built a large shaggery, and cockatoos nest in the hollows of the

gum trees along the Gawler River. The following is a list of the species noted by the writers, and for sake of completeness a list of species recorded by others is appended.

(S) after the name of a bird denotes specimens have been obtained, and (B) denotes nests or eggs found.

Coturnix pectoralis, Stubble Quail.—Common on the grassy plains and about the swamps.

Phaps chalcoptera, Common Bronzewing (B).—Common in the teatree scrub.

Phaps elegans, Brush Bronzewing.—One seen on 1st March, 1936, near the lake in a patch of dried artichokes.

Ocyphaps lophotes, Crested Pigeon.—Fairly common around the swamp and teatree scrub.

Rallus pectoralis, Lewin Water-Rail (B).—Only one bird seen so far. An incomplete nest found was considered by Mr. J. Neil McGilp to belong to a bird of this species.

Porzana fluminea, Spotted Crake (B).—Although this bird has not been seen very often, several nests have been found in the lignum around the swamp. A typical nest was cup-shaped, made of grass, size $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter by 2 inches deep, and it was placed in the centre of a lignum bush. On 6th October, 1935, one nest of two eggs, one of four eggs; on 3rd November, 1935, one of four eggs.

Porzana pusilla, Marsh Crake (B).—Very frequently seen. When flushed they give a loud rattling call not unlike the note of a coffee-grinder. The nests are similar to those of the Spotted Crake, and they are found in similar situations, but one side is built up a little to form a kind of hood. One nest was found in a large samphire bush. On 3rd November, 1935, one nest with three eggs, three with four eggs each, and two in which young had hatched out, were found.

Tribonyx ventralis, Black-tailed Water-Hen (B).—Were very numerous from September to December, 1935, during which period they nested freely. The striking green eggs with brown spots are laid in a very neatly-made, cup-shaped nest composed of grass, nine inches diameter by four inches deep. The nests were generally found in the large lignum bushes a yard or so from the water's edge. On several occasions nests were found with the eggs just hatching. When such nests were approached, the newly-hatched birds quickly left the nest with the parent

birds, hid in the thick bushes close by, and kept up a continuous squeaking. The young are able to do this immediately they leave the egg, and this was observed in several cases. Nests: 6th October, 1935, more than a dozen nests empty, two with addled eggs; 3rd November, 1935, three nests with from one to eight eggs; 10th November, 1935, four nests with from two to six eggs.

Fulica atra, Coot (B) (S).—During the spring of 1935 the nests of this species were second in number only to those of the Little Grassbird. On 3rd October, 1935, thirty-eight nests were found, the total number of eggs being 218. The eggs, which are greyish white, freckled all over with fine black dots, are laid in a cup-shaped nest about nine inches in diameter by four to five inches deep, and placed about a foot or so above the water-level on the edge of a lignum bush. Little or no attempt is made at concealment. Many of the nests found on 10th November, 1935, contained eggs, which were chipping, and the young could be heard squeaking inside the egg. Several parties of young were seen swimming about, and newly-hatched ones were found in the lignum clinging to twigs above the water, squeaking loudly. At a distance the young birds' heads appeared red. One was caught as it lay, submerged under a lignum with only the nostrils visible above the water. Description of young Coot:—Frontal plate and posterior half of upper and lower mandibles vermilion, becoming orange towards the tip, with a sub-terminal band of vermilion, the tip being white; feathers around eye vermilion, skin on top of head vermilion, with a bright bluish patch of skin over each eye; fine hair-like feathers on top of the head black; long feathers on back and side of head, also a few on the wing, deep yellow. Legs and feet dark olive-grey, iris hazel. Remainder of body-feathers black, except for a few long, whitish feathers on the back, neck, breast, and abdomen; total length, 143 mm.; tarsus, 30 mm.; middle toe and claw, 39 mm.; weight, 50.5 grammes. On 9th January, 1936, four half-grown birds were seen swimming with a parent. Nests: 3rd October, 1935, thirty-eight nests; four with one egg each, three with two, five with three, two with four, four with five, four with six, seven with seven eggs each, six with eight eggs each, two with nine eggs each, one with fourteen eggs. Nests: 10th November, 1935; six nests which were being built on 3rd October, 1935, contained as follows:—One with two eggs, two with five eggs each, two with eight eggs each, one with ten eggs. Nests:

17th November, 1935; two nests with five eggs each. These had not been commenced on 3rd October, and the eggs were slightly incubated. The fourteen eggs in the nest found on 3rd October were now hatching.

Podiceps ruficollis, Little Grebe.—Frequently seen, but not in large numbers.

Podiceps poliocephalus, Hoary-headed Grebe.—Birds of this species were present in hundreds between 6th October, 1935, and 30th November, 1935, and they nested in numbers. On 3rd November, 1935, all the nests found were under lignum bushes. Nests were placed on the water in the centre of the bush. On 1st December, 1935, however, when the water-level had fallen to some extent, nests were found only on samphire bushes. The nests were in the form of a platform of water-weeds and were supported by a stick or bush. The eggs, which were invariably stained dark brown, actually lay in the water in many cases. When the bird left the nest it covered the eggs with weeds. Nests and eggs: On 3rd November, 1935, thirteen nests, thirty-three eggs, comprising three nests one egg each, four nests two eggs each, three nests three eggs each, two nests four eggs each, one nest five eggs—all these nests were under lignum bushes. On 17th November, 1935, three nests, seven eggs, comprising two nests two eggs each, one nest three eggs—all the nests were under lignum bushes. On 1st December, 1935, four nests and fourteen eggs, comprising two nests three eggs each, two nests four eggs each, on samphire in the open.

Diomedea melanophris, Black-browed Albatross (S).

Diomedea chlororhyncha, Yellow-nosed Albatross (S).—The Albatrosses were found washed up on the beach (see S.A. Ornithologist, Vol. XIII, pp. 149, 152, 1936.)

Phalacrocorax carbo, Black Cormorant.—Frequently seen near the lake.

Phalacrocorax ater, Little Black Cormorant.—Less frequently seen near the lake.

Phalacrocorax varius, Pied Cormorant (B) (S).—This is the most numerous species, and breeds in the locality.

Visit to Shaggery, 5th June, 1935.

There is a large colony of Pied Cormorants in the mangroves about three-quarters of a mile from the old road which leads to the ruined wharf at Port Gawler. The nests are placed in

mangroves about fifteen feet from the ground, and on each side of one of the innumerable tidal creeks which run through the mangroves. It extends for about 100 yards. There were about 200 adults, over eighty nests, and young at all stages. Many fully-feathered young in the nests—unable to fly. Also disgorged fish of the following species:—Tommy Ruff (*Arripis georgianus*), many; Spotted Whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*), Sand Flathead (*Platycephalus bassensis*), in great numbers; Estuary Catfish (*Cnidoglanis megastoma*). All were fish from eight inches long, the largest being about twelve inches long. The young birds disgorged fish at one's approach. There were many dead young of various ages beneath the nests. Among the nests examined there were clutches of one, two, three, and four eggs. One nest contained three young. Three immature birds with black throats and necks were observed flying with the other birds. They did not possess the bright orange spot in front of the eye, as did the adults. Although many eggs were either just hatching or fresh, breeding activities seemed to be drawing to a close. Two Whistling Eagles were seen flying low over the colony, to the great alarm of the Cormorants, but they appeared to be after the disgorged fish only. A solitary Black Cormorant (*P. carbo*) was also noted flying with the occupants of the colony.

Second Visit to Shaggery, 14th June, 1936.

One of the writers (H. T. C.) again visited the shaggery with R. F. Brown on the above date. The site of the colony has been moved about 100 yards further along the stream towards the sea-coast. It is much greater in extent, and is now on the southern side of the stream only. It was estimated that there were about 200 nests and 250 young birds in the colony. The majority of the young were about three-parts grown, but could not fly. On approaching the nests the young first disgorged their food, then crowded together on the outermost limbs of the mangroves and then tumbled to the ground and scurried to the stream, into which they dived hurriedly and swam away. Both banks of this stream (salt) possessed a fine growth of Sponges, of brick red, green, brown or greyish-white colouration. A few Sponges had been noticed in 1935, but they were more numerous in 1936. Many immature Cormorants with dark necks and breasts were noticed. One old bird was seen feeding a young one. The young bird put the whole of its head into the old one's throat, so that the eyes, etc., were invisible, and after a

minute or two withdrew it, and swallowed a large fish. No dead young birds were found, but there were numerous tracks of a fox, so that any remains may have been removed. Disgorged fish of the following species were noted:—Tommy Ruff (*Arripis georgianus*), two Sand Flathead (*Platycephalus bassensis*) about fifteen inches long, two Spotted Whiting (*Sillaginodes punctatus*), Rock Whiting (*Odax semifasciatus*); the examples of the two latter species were each about ten inches long.

Microcarbo melanoleucus, Little Pied Cormorant.—Less frequently seen.

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Pelican.—The largest number noted was twelve on 9th February, 1936. Four were seen on the lake on 17th November, 1935, and five on 1st March, 1936.

Chlidonias leucopareia, Whiskered (Marsh) Tern.—Common from August to December, especially in 1935.

Hydroprogne caspia, Caspian Tern (S).—Occasionally seen on the sea-shore in flocks up to twelve.

Sterna bergii, Crested Tern.

Sterna nereis, Fairy Tern.

Larus novae-hollandiae, Silver Gull.

Gabianus pacificus, Pacific Gull (S).—Three immature birds were seen on the beach on 16th February, 1935. (See S.A. Ornithologist, Vol. XII, p. 54, 1935.)

Haematopus ostralegus, Pied Oyster-catcher.—This species is frequently seen on the sand-bar about half a mile from the shore.

Haematopus unicolor, Sooty Oyster-catcher.—A casual visitor.

Erythrogonys cinctus, Red-kneed Dotterel.—Two birds were seen near the lake on 17th November, 1935.

Lobibyx novae-hollandiae, Spur-winged Plover (B).—Although no nests have been found, this common species probably breeds in the locality.

Zonifer tricolor, Banded Plover.—Commonly seen in the paddocks in autumn and winter.

Charadrius ruficapillus, Red-capped Dotterel.—Often seen with other small Waders, and on the sea-shore regularly.

Charadrius melanops, Black-fronted Dotterel.—A pair or two noted near the lake on each visit in the spring and summer.

Himantopus leucocephalus, White-headed Stilt (B).—Always seen on the lake and often on the sea-shore. Two nests (two eggs each) were found in October and November, 1935, respectively, and many young birds were noted. This bird probably nested in large numbers in 1934 and 1935. The nests were cup-shaped, composed of water-weeds, on a samphire bush above the surface of the water. In young birds, which could fly, the wings and hind-neck were mottled grey instead of black.

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus, Banded Stilt (S).—These birds arrive in February and depart in May (1934-5). On one occasion a flock of approximately 2,000 birds was seen on the beach. The call of this species is not as loud as, but more wheezy than, that of the White-headed Stilt (which is "cow-cow, cow-cow") and may be rendered "cow, cow, cow, cow," slowly and with equal pauses.

Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae, Red-necked Avocet.—A flock of fifteen was seen on the lake on 10th November, 1935, and also on 17th November and 1st December. Three were seen on the beach in February, 1936.

Numenius cyanopus.—Eastern Curlew.—Always to be seen from September to April on the seashore, often near the mangroves.

Numenius phaeopus, Whimbrel.—Six of these birds were seen near the mangroves on the shore in 1934, with Eastern Curlews. Five were noted feeding with a flock of Banded Stilts on the swamp on 9th February, 1936.

Tringa nebularia, Greenshank (S).—Usually seen in flocks from six to thirty in number on the lake, seashore, or in the tidal creeks in the mangroves. Call a high-pitched "chew-chew, chew-chew."

Erolia testacea, Curlew-Sandpiper (S).—Small parties are seen frequently, in company with Sharp-tailed Sandpipers or Red-necked Stints, but rarely alone (September to April).

Erolia ruficollis, Red-necked (Little) Stint.—Large flocks from 100-2,000 from September to April, on the beach or swamp.

Erolia acuminata, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.—Very common, September to April.

Capella hardwicki, Australian Snipe.—One seen on 7th September, one on 3rd November, and two on 10th November, 1935.

Notophoyx novae-hollandiae, White-faced Heron (B).—Very common. Breeds in mangroves and tall trees near lake.

Notophoyx pacifica, White-necked Heron.—One of this species was observed in a paddock about four miles from the lake on 7th September, 1935.

Chenonetta jubata, Maned Goose.—Flocks of up to ten birds were seen around the lake between September and December, 1935.

Chenopsis atrata, Black Swan (B).—Always present in large numbers (200-300 have often been counted at one time) on the lake. This species nested in numbers in 1935, and many nests were found. A few birds are often seen swimming about three-quarters of a mile out to sea.

Casarca tadornoides, Mountain Duck.—Five were seen on 9th February, and over thirty on 1st March, 1936.

Anas superciliosa, Black Duck (B).—Very numerous, often in hundreds. No nests were found in 1935, but many young birds were seen from October to December. On seeing an intruder, young birds dive and after swimming for six or eight yards under water, stop with just the nostril protruding. After a few seconds they swim on again for a similar distance. After repeating this five or six times the birds evidently tire and come to the surface, when they alternately scuttle and swim to safety.

Querquedula castanea, Chestnut Teal (S).—A flock of eight were seen on 3rd November, 1935, and odd birds are often noted with Grey Teal.

Querquedula gibberifrons, Grey Teal (B).—At times very numerous. Several used nests were found in the lignum on the eastern side of the lake, and many young birds seen in 1935.

Spatula rhynchotis, Blue-winged Shoveler (B).—One or more seen on each visit from September to December, 1935. One bird on 10th November was observed with eight ducklings.

Malacorhynchus membranaceus, Pink-eared Duck (B) (S).—Large numbers in the spring of 1935, when it nested freely. One nest of seven eggs was found on 7th September, 1935, and one in the fork of a tree on the largest island with one egg on 17th November. On this latter occasion also, two batches of young birds (three and four) were noted swimming about with the parent birds. The eggs, which are about the size of a bantam's and creamy-white in colour, are laid in a well-made



S. E. Terrill.

Plate XII.—A Nest of the Blue-billed Duck
(*Oxyura australis*).

stick or grass nest lined with grass, about eight inches in diameter and placed in a lignum about two feet above the water. The eggs were covered with a thick spongy matting of brown and white down.

Nyroca australis, White-eyed Duck (B).—Common in the spring of 1935. A few young birds were seen.

Oxyura australis, Blue-billed Duck (B) (S).—A pair of this species was first seen by the writers on 6th October, 1935, and on 20th October, 1935, Mr. J. Neil McGilp found the first nest of this species to be recorded from South Australia. Mr. McGilp has kindly supplied the following notes:—"After wading about among a large clump of lignum I caught a glimpse of a nest with two or three eggs showing through a lignum. I thought it to be the nest of a Musk Duck. Closer inspection revealed nine eggs, and the nest, although similar in structure to that of a Musk Duck, was not hooded over so much. I concluded that the nest belonged to a pair of Blue-billed Ducks. I hid in a clump of lignum to watch for the return of the owners of the nest. After waiting fifteen minutes I saw a fine male Blue-billed Duck in open water fifty yards away from the nest. He spent a deal of his attention to another clump of lignum, going to and fro and diving repeatedly. Shortly after the male was joined by his mate—both birds diving from time to time. Suddenly the female failed to rise to the surface with her mate. I waded carefully towards the nest, but although I saw nothing of the bird, I distinctly heard a "plomp" into the water, and a few seconds later I saw both birds in the open sheet of water. The female disappeared and rose to the surface about ten yards from the nesting clump. She dived again almost instantly, and evidently dived right under the nest, and did not show up again. I waded towards the nest, but, although, as previously, I heard the "plomp" as she left the nest, I did not see her until she joined her mate in the open water.

Description of Nest:—A deep bowl-shaped structure with the material carried up higher at the back forming about half a hood. It was made of lignum twigs and reeds, and was placed just above the water in the centre of a large lignum bush which stood in about two feet six inches of water. The nest measured eight-and-a-half inches in diameter and four inches deep, and could not hold more than nine eggs, unless a second layer was started. There was a clear area of water just at the entrance to the nest. A fair quantity of white down was

adhering to the material of the nest, but certainly there had been no attempt to envelop the eggs in down, nor was there sufficient down present to enable this to be done. I spent an hour and twenty-five minutes in watching the birds."

On 10th November, 1935, two deserted nests were found by one of the writers, one with eight eggs (Plate XII), the other with two eggs, and in each case the eggs were addled. One nest of two newly-laid eggs was found on 17th November, 1935. The birds themselves were seen each time on the little creek on the north-eastern side of the lake (see map), and the blue bill and reddish back of the male were very noticeable. They were never seen to fly, but were expert divers, like Musk Ducks. The female was very light in colour.

Biziura lobata, Musk Duck (B).—Fairly plentiful, one nest found on 10th November, 1935, contained two eggs, and several used nests were seen at various times.

Circus approximans, Swamp Harrier.—Common. One was seen to catch a small bird, but it was too far off to see clearly.

Astur fasciatus, Australian Goshawk.—Two birds noted on 1st March, 1936. One was flushed from the edge of a creek near the swamp, and blood-stained feathers were found near where it had risen; this bird was a fully adult specimen.

Haliastur sphenurus, Whistling Eagle (B).—Common. Six birds were seen together on 1st March, 1936, and one was flushed from a nest about eighty feet up in a red gum on this date.

Falco longipennis, Little Falcon.—One or two often seen.

Falco subniger, Black Falcon.—One or two usually seen hawking over the samphire flats.

Falco berigora, Brown Hawk.—Frequently seen. On one occasion a bird of this species flew over, uttering a chattering, parrot-like call.

Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.

Ninox boobook, Boobook Owl.—One was seen in the gum trees near the Gawler River on 9th February, 1936. Although it was a bright, sunny day, the sight of the bird did not seem to be impaired by the strong light, as it flew from tree to tree several times and closely watched the writers as long as they were in the vicinity.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala, Purple-crowned Lorikeet.—Flocks in the red gums and near the homestead.

Kakatoe galerita, White Cockatoos (B) (S).—These birds are present in great numbers.

Kakatoe sanguinea, Little Corella (B). *Kakatoe roseicapilla*, Galah (B) (S).—These two species have been introduced and have greatly increased in numbers.

Psephotus haematonotus, Red-backed Parrot.

Neophema elegans, Elegant Parrot.—Occasionally seen.

Neophema petrophila, Rock Parrot (S).—Common at times in the mangroves.

Lathamus discolor, Swift Parrot.—A flock of twelve was seen near the homestead in February, 1935.

Dacelo gigas, Kookaburra—Common in the red gums.

Halcyon sanctus, Sacred Kingfisher (S).—Frequently seen in the mangroves, teatree, and near the river.

Cuculus pallidus, Pallid Cuckoo.

Cacomantis flabelliformis, Fan-tailed Cuckoo.

Chalcites basalis, Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo.

Owenavis osculans, Black-eared Cuckoo.—Often heard in the spring and early summer in the teatree scrub.

Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.

Hylochelidon nigricans, Tree Martin.

Hylochelidon ariel, Fairy Martin.

Rhipidura flabellifera, Grey Fantail.—Common in the teatree scrub.

Rhipidura leucophrys, Willie Wagtail (B).—One nest containing three eggs in the teatree on 6th October, 1935.

Petroica multicolor, Scarlet Robin.—Only seen occasionally.

Petroica goodenovii, Red-capped Robin (B).—Occasionally seen in the teatree in fair numbers. Fourteen individuals were seen on 21st July, 1935.

Petroica phoenicea, Flame Robin.—Four pairs on a fallowed plot, one mile north of Virginia, on 5th June, 1935. One seen about a quarter of a mile from the homestead on 21st July, 1935.

Pachycephala inornata, Gilbert Whistler (B).—Two pairs of this species were noted in the scrub on several occasions. No nests were found, but on 2nd September, 1935, two immature birds were seen. Early one morning we noted the following

calls, "Chew, chew, chew; Chewy, chewy, chewy; Ee-chew, ee-chew; Cherwit cherwit (rasping); Chewe(tte), chewe(tte) (silent), Ee-erwhit, ee-erwhit." Also a peevish whistle.

Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike-Thrush.—Common in teatree (in August, 1935, especially).

Grallina cyanoleuca, Magpie Lark.

Pteropodocys maxima, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike.—Two or three seen in a paddock near the homestead in August, 1933, in the late afternoon.

Coracina novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—Seen in June, 1936.

Coracina robusta, Little Cuckoo-Shrike.—Two birds were observed at close range in the gum trees along the Gawler River on 9th February, 1936.

Lalage tricolor, White-winged Triller.—One seen on 10th November and a pair on 1st December, 1935.

Pomatostomus superciliosus.—White-browed Babbler (B) (S).—A permanent inhabitant of the teatree scrub.

Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat.

Acanthiza lineata, Striated Thornbill.—Often seen in the teatree.

Acanthiza nana, Little Thornbill.—A party of six was noted on the 6th October, 1935. They were greatly alarmed by a Grey Butcher Bird on a nearby tree; it was consuming an earth worm, about two inches long, and appeared disinterested in the Thornbills.

Acanthiza pusilla, Brown Thornbill.

Acanthiza hedleyi, Dark Thornbill (B) (S).—Breeds in the samphire near the mangroves.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa, Yellow-tailed Thornbill (B) (S).—Several nests, eggs, and young were found during September, 1935.

Sericornis maculatus, Spotted Scrub-Wren (B) (S).—Common in the mangroves.

Cinclorhamphus cruralis, Brown Songlark (B).

Cinclorhamphus mathewsi, Rufous Songlark.—Rarely met with.

Megalurus gramineus, Little Grassbird (B) (S).—Numerous. In places almost every clump of lignum contained a nest of this species in the breeding season. Accurate records of the nests were not kept on every visit, but on 3rd November, 1935, there were nineteen nests found containing forty-two eggs in all. Particulars of individual nests:—Four with one egg each, three with two eggs each, one with three, six with four, one with five, and two nests with two young in each, and two with three young in each. Fledglings were found in nests on every visit between 6th October and 30th December, 1935, and fresh eggs were found on the latter date.

Malurus cyaneus, Blue Wren (B).—A permanent resident in the mangroves.

Malurus cyanotus, Blue and White Wren (B).—As many as three adult males have been seen together in one day with about a dozen uncoloured birds. One deserted nest containing a broken egg was found on the western side of the lake. The nest was smaller than that of *M. cyaneus*.

Pardalotus ornatus, Red-tipped Pardalote.—Common in the red gums.

Zosterops halmaturina, Grey-backed Silvereye.—Common in the teatree scrub.

Meliphaga virescens, Singing Honeyeater (B).

Meliphaga penicillata, White-plumed Honeyeater (B).—Numerous near the Gawler River. Young birds seen on 1st March, 1936.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae.—Yellow-winged Honeyeater.

Myzantha melanocephala, Noisy Miner. — Common in the gum trees.

Myzantha flavigula, Yellow-throated Miner (S).—Seen about three miles from the homestead near Virginia on 9th February, 1935.

Anthochaera carunculata, Red Wattle-Bird. — Occasionally seen in the teatree.

Acanthagenys rufogularis, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (B) (S).—Very common in the teatree. One nest found on 6th October, 1935, attached to a horizontal fork in a teatree about twelve feet high. It was made of grass, fibre, and down woven into a flimsy, cup-shaped structure three-and-a-half inches in diameter by two inches deep. There were two flesh-pink eggs with a few dark spots.

Anthus australis, Pipit (B).

Taeniopygia castanotis, Zebra Finch (B).—These birds are often seen around the swamp, and a flock of about thirty was noted in a grassy paddock on 1st March, 1936. One nest was found in the lignum in the swamp. It was dome-shaped, made of grass with a side entrance, and contained five young, the legs and feet of which were black, the irides were hazel, and the feathers dark with longitudinal whitish stripes.

Corvus coronoides, Australian Raven (B) (S).

Corvus ceciliae, Crow (B) (S).—A resident told one of the writers that the Crows do little damage in these parts.

Cracticus torquatus, Grey Butcher-Bird (S).—A few always to be seen in the teatree. See notes on *Acanthiza nana*.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca; White-backed Magpie (B).

For the sake of completeness we are including an additional list of birds which has been compiled from the notes of other observers.

Additional Records.

Geopelia placida, Peaceful Dove.

Hypotaenidia philippensis, Banded Landrail.

Gallinula tenebrosa, Dusky Moorhen.

Porphyrio melanotus, Eastern Swamphen.

Pachyptila vittata, Broad-billed Prion (S).

Charadrius bicinctus, Double-banded Dotterel.

Tringa hypoleuca, Common Sandpiper.

Eupodotis australis, Bustard.

Egretta alba, White Egret.

Ixobrychus minutus, Little Bittern.

Stictonetta naevosa, Freckled Duck.

Circus assimilis, Spotted Harrier.

Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.

Elanus axillaris, Black-shouldered Kite.

Falco peregrinus, Peregrine Falcon (S.).

Tyto alba, Barn Owl.

Melopsittacus undulatus, Budgerigah.

Eurostopodus guttatus, Spotted Nightjar.

Artamus superciliosus, White-browed Wood-Swallow and/or
A. personatus, Masked Wood-Swallow.

Artamus cyanopterus, Dusky Wood-Swallow.

Melithreptus lunatus, White-naped Honeyeater.

Plectorhyncha lanceolata, Striped Honeyeater (Two Wells).

Meliphaga ornata, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (Two Wells).

Mirafra javanica, Horsfield Bushlark.

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