

Mannum Notes, from 12th to 16th May, 1936.

By Warren B. Hitchcock and R. F. Brown.

We reached Mannum at 5 p.m. on 12th and crossed the River Murray in the punt to our hut on the left bank. The next day we explored some lignum swamps nearby. On the 14th we went to a patch of mallee about two miles from the township. On the 15th we went down river about a mile following the limestone cliffs. The next day we left Mannum at noon. The following is a list of the species and individuals noted:—Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*) (1).—Sitting in a willow-tree near the swamp. It did not call and was very tame. Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) (2).—Flushed from the ground in the mallee. Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) (14).—Thirteen were flushed from the ground near the lignum swamp and one was seen in the mallee. Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) (11).—All seen early in the morning in the lignum swamp. Eastern Swamphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*) (7).—Five seen on 13th, rose from the water and made straight for the reeds in which they could be heard splashing around and clucking. Two were seen on 15th perching amongst willows. Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax ater*) (3).—Were seen in the river early in the morning. Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*) (132).—Noted everywhere along the river either sitting on posts or fishing in the shallows.

They roosted in a huge willow-tree on the right bank of the river in the bird sanctuary, and the limbs of the tree were practically whitened by the excreta. Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*) (5).—Three were seen on the river and two in the lignum swamp. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) (3).—One was seen on the 13th and two on the 14th at 7 a.m. Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—One was seen on the river. Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) (13).—All seen at the edge of the lignum swamp. Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*) (4).—Two of them immature. They were seen on a little stretch of sand on 13th. White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*) (9).—Seen in the lignum swamp feeding in the shallows. They could be approached fairly closely, and when disturbed did not fly far. White Egret (*Egretta alba*) (2).—One was seen in the lignum swamp and the remains of another were found in the same place. *Egretta* sp.—Two were seen in the lignum swamp on 13th. They were decidedly smaller than the other Egret seen. White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) (6).—Were seen on the river. Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*) (16).—When we were in the mallee on the 14th we saw a flock of sixteen flying in "formation" towards the river. The following morning, however, they were not about, so may have flown further up. Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) (4).—About 7 a.m. on the 14th these ducks were on a swamp and, as far as we could judge, belonged to this species. Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*) (3).—We flushed these birds from the lignum swamp. Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) (7).—One was seen on the 12th at 6 p.m. near the punt, and six on 13th near the lignum swamp. Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) (1).—This bird was seen on 13th over some samphire near our hut: it was about fifteen feet above the ground when it dived suddenly and struggled with a small rabbit on the ground. When disturbed it flew up with the rabbit in its talons and alighted about 200 yards away. On being again approached it left its prey and circled around in the hope of securing it again. Much fur had been pulled off the rabbit's back, and the claw marks showed distinctly. Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) (4).—Two were seen in the mallee and two along the river. We did not hear them whistle at any time. Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) (2).—Were seen in the mallee. They were observed to "side-slip" in flight. Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) (3).—All were seen along the river. Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) (1).—Heard calling from 10 p.m. to midnight (probably later) on 12th—occasionally it gave only a single note, "more." Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta*

porphyrocephala) (2).—Flew overhead in the mallee. Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) (3).—Were seen near the hut. Ring-neck (Mallee) Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) (5).—Were seen in the mallee. Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*) (10).—Were seen near the hut. Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*) (6).—Four ♂, two ♀ were seen in the mallee feeding on the ground. The female is easily distinguished by the red on the shoulder and its more sombre colouring generally. Laughing Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*) (3).—In willows on the river's bank. Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) (1).—Was seen flying in the mallee. Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Numerous around the river. On the 12th we caught a bird roosting in our hut and took this description:—Forehead, rusty brown; crown and back, steely blue; wings and all wing feathers, uniform brownish black; throat, rusty brown; breast and abdomen, greyish white; under tail-coverts, barred black and brown; upper tail-coverts, same colour as wings, but with a band of white spots; irides, dark brown; legs and feet, dark brown; bill, bluish black. White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) (8).—Seven were seen in the mallee on 14th "hawking" high up, and one was near the river at 7 a.m. the same day. Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) (2).—One was seen near the river, the other in the mallee. Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—Common near the river, and two were seen in the mallee. Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*) (2).—Were seen in the mallee. Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*) (4).—Three ♂, 1 ♀. Were seen in the mallee. Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*) (4).—Three ♂, one ♀. Were seen in the mallee. Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) (1).—♀ was seen near the limestone cliffs. Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) (2).—Were seen in the mallee. Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Numerous near the river. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novaehollandiae*) (2).—Both were seen on fence-wires early in the morning of 13th and 14th. White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*) (2).—Were seen in the mallee. Eastern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*) (16).—Common in the mallee. Little Thornbill (*Acanthiza nana*) (9).—Were feeding together in the mallee. Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*) (39).—Feeding in company with *A. nana*. Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) (3).—Were seen in the mallee. Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*) (2).—One was heard calling on 13th at 6.45 a.m. near the river, and the other was seen in some water-plants (reeds?) on 15th. Superb Blue Wren (*Maturus cyaneus*) (4).—One ♂, two ♀ were

seen on 13th and a ♀ on 15th. Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*) (16).—This flock was in a tree in the mallee busily feeding, head downwards. They took little notice of us. The handsomely barred under tail-coverts were very noticeable. Brown Treecreeper (*Climacteris picummus*) (3).—Were feeding on the ground in the mallee (?). Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops halmaturina*) (1).—Was seen near the river on 15th. Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*) (10).—One near the limestone cliffs, four in the mallee, and five on 15th. White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*).—Numerous in gumtrees by the river. Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*).—Numerous near the river. We were told that they were pests in the fruit-season. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufocularis*) (9).—One was seen in the mallee and eight on 15th, mostly around "wild tobacco" bushes—one of these was a young bird out of the nest, being fed. Pipit (*Anthus australis*) (3).—Were seen on a bare patch in the mallee. *Corvus* sp. (4).—Were seen near the river on 13th. White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*).—No birds were seen, but two old mud nests were found in the mallee. Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*) (5).—A bird was seen on 13th, two on 14th, and two on the 15th. Two of these birds were considered to be adults. White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Numerous near the houses about the river.

The following birds were noted on the journeys to and from Mannum:—Spur-winged Plover (4), near Yatala; Nankeen Kestrel (1); Laughing Kookaburra (1), near Gumeracha; Welcome Swallow; Fairy Martin (*Hylochelidon ariel*) (3); near Palmer; Willie Wagtail; Jacky Winter (3); Scarlet Robin (2); Red-capped Robin (1); Grey Shrike-Thrush (2); Magpie-Lark; Superb Blue Wren (4); Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*) (10); Brown Treecreeper (1); White-naped Honeyeater (*Melithreptus lunatus*) (2) in the Torrens Gorge; Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*) (3); Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis*) (1), in the Torrens Gorge; *Corvus* sp. (18), in an orchard near Palmer; and White-backed Magpies.