

## The Birds of Southern Yorke Peninsula.

By Howard E. A. Jarman.

On four occasions I have visited southern Yorke Peninsula—December, 1934; November, 1935; October, 1936; October, 1939. The first three visits were spent a few miles west of Warooka, which is a little inland from Hardwicke Bay, the “instep” of the Peninsula. Here the land has long since been cleared, scrub remaining only along the roadsides and on patches of land which is too stony for farming purposes.

The last trip, October, 1939, was spent at a farm in the Hundred of Carrabie, about ten miles back from Corny Point. Here much of the land is virgin or carries a growth of “second growth” scrub. However, it is being rapidly “taken up” and cleared.

Generally, the country is undulating and with no water-courses. There are some “pipeclay” swamps, usually thickly grown with “paperbark” teatree. Limestone is much in evidence, often forming considerable tracts of very stony country upon which the scrub is left. Several species of mallee are to be found, some only two or three feet high, and with teatree forms the bulk of the scrub. Sheoak (*Casuarina* (?) *stricta*) is common in parts. Porcupine grass (*Triodia*) is found in quite extensive areas at Carrabie only, as is a very dwarf pine. The tall mallee and teatree do not usually mix, generally forming separate communities.

Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*).—Apparently still plentiful between Corny Point and Cape Spencer and inland from these localities, where the thinly settled scrub offers a retreat. They are relentlessly persecuted at all times.

Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).—Occasionally seen by the people of Hundred of Carrabie. I saw a disused mound.

Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*).—Very common in the crops, where their loud call of “Churchee-wit” is heard both by day and night. They breed freely.

Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*).—Numerous in all parts. Much shot at by “sportsmen” throughout the year. Their nests with two egg clutches often found.

Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*).—Only identified at Carrabie, where it is as plentiful as the preceding species. Two nests at a height of three feet found in dwarf teatree and *Cassytha* tangles. The two newly-hatched chicks in one nest were blind;

and clad in greyish-white down. Their legs and feet were a dark, leaden grey, with a bill a little darker in colour.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—The birds are said to have been unknown in the district until about twelve years ago, but are now a common sight, coming right around the houses and being much more tame than either of the Bronzewings.

Fairy (Little) Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*).—Bodies found washed up on the beaches occasionally.

Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*).—Fairly common along the various beaches.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—In large numbers along the coast, and usually to be seen about Warooka township.

Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*).—Two birds seen at Corny Point and another at Port Turton, Hardwicke Bay, in 1936. All three had practically attained their adult plumage.

Arctic Skua (*Stercorarius parasiticus*).—Usually follow the coastal steamers across St. Vincent Gulf between Outer Harbour and Edithburgh.

Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*) and Sooty Oystercatcher (*H. unicolor*).—Occasional individuals or pairs of both species seen on the lonely beaches.

Australian Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—Common. Seen at times on rocky beaches at low tide.

Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).—Fairly common in paddocks.

Red-cap Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*).—Plentiful on sandy shores.

Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*).—One pair only near Pt. Turton in 1934.

Migratory waders were usually to be seen on the more rocky beaches, mostly *Erolia*, which I was unable to identify.

Eastern Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*).—Usually a few on rocky coastlines.

White-faced Heron (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*).—Fairly common along the coast at tidal pools. Also at a waterhole near Warooka.

Reef Heron (*Demigretta sacra*).—One bird only at Daly Head, near Carrabie.

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—A single specimen in the sea at Hardwicke Bay in 1935.

Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax varius*).—The only species identified and very common. Neither of the black species seen.

Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).—One pair only, near Warooka, in 1936. Hawks are rarely seen in the district.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*).—Occasionally seen.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*).—A pair seen at Daly Head in 1939.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*).—Rarely seen.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*).—A pair seen in captivity was taken from a nest in the vicinity of Corny Point. They are said to be rare visitors to the district.

Purple-crowned Lorikeet (*Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*).—Only noted once—a pair at Carrabie. Lorikeets are apparently rare in the district.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—In fair numbers around Warooka. Four only seen at Carrabie.

Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).—This beautiful parrot is numerous and quiet.

*Neophema* sp.—In 1934 on the shores of Hardwicke Bay about sixty birds of this genus were seen, probably being Rock Parrots (*N. petrophila*). They fed on the samphire growing at high tide mark.

Budgerigar (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—A few near Warooka in 1939.

Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—One bird only, near Warooka, in 1935.

Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).—Only noted a few times near Warooka and Yorketown.

Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*).—Occasionally seen, usually with foster parents. A large young Cuckoo in the nest of a pair of Spotted Scrub Wrens was presumably of this species. Soft parts:—Iris, slate; bill, black; inside mouth, vivid orange; legs and feet, pinkish; soles of feet, bright yellow.

Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).—About three adults at Carrabie.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Common, nesting freely in wells and buildings.

Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*).—Observed a few times only near Warooka.

Red-cap Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).—In small numbers near Warooka.

Brown Weebill (*Smicromis brevirostris*).—A breeding pair only seen, at Carrabie. Their nest, with two fledgelings, was in a dwarf mallee at a height of three feet.

Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*).—Not very common.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—Fairly plentiful.

Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*).—A nesting pair seen with callow young near Warooka.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—Quite common. A nest found near Warooka.

White-winged Triller (*Lalage tricolor*).—One bird only noted—a ♂ near Warooka.

Southern Scrub Robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*).—A few in tall mallee at Carrabie.

*Hylacola* sp.—Three Ground Wrens seen in the same locality as the preceding species. They uttered a very rich, loud song.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—Very common.

Brown Songlark (*Cinchorhamphus cruralis*).—A few between Edithburgh and Warooka.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albigrons*).—Very common and nest freely. Some frequent the seashore above high tide mark, as do some of the Pipits.

Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*).—A common small bird.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysoorrhoa*).—Numerous.

Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*).—Extremely plentiful, especially at Carrabie. A nest found on the ground under a tangle of felled branches held a young Cuckoo (see Fan-tailed Cuckoo).

Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*).—In small numbers near Warooka, but very common at Carrabie.

Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*).—Common. Nests often found—a niche in a tree trunk was used for two successive years. A larger species of the genus flew over on two occasions.

Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Only occasionally seen. Rare. Five eggs comprised the clutch of a pair near Warooka.

Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).—Fairly common.

Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*).—In small numbers.

Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*).—Common in tall mallee and thick "paperbark" teatree swamps.

Eastern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).—A few near Warooka and two at Carrabie.

Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*).—Rarely seen, and only in tall mallee.

Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops halmaturina*).—Common.

Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*).—Only noted a few times.

*Pardalotus* sp. Either Spotted (*P. punctatus*) or Yellow-tailed (*P. xanthopygus*) Pardalote.—A few at Carrabie, a pair having young in their nesting burrow.

Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*).—Very rare, apparently. Noted twice.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*).—Very common at Carrabie in the dwarf mallee and *Triodia*. Several nests found.

Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virèscens*).—Common, especially along coast. Breed freely.

Purple-gaped Honeyeater (*Meliphaga cratitia*).—Very common at Carrabie, a few near Warooka. Much given to scolding.

Red Wattlebird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—Common.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—Common. A number of their fine nests found.

Pipit (*Anthus australis*).—Numerous.

Horsfield Bushlark (*Mirafra javanica*).—A few at Warooka and one at Carrabie, singing above the crops.

Diamond Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*).—In small numbers near Warooka and Daly Head.

*Corvus* sp. Crow or Raven.—Common.

Brown Currawong (*Strepera intermedia*).—Common. A wary bird with a shrill cry of "Cree-ee-ling" or "Clink, clink." They have white under the wing and under the base of the tail, in addition to the white-tipped tail.

White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Very numerous.

Grey Butcherbird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Common.

Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).—About six at Corny Point in 1936.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).

