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Part 3

BIRDS OF MID-YORKE PENINSULA

PART II. (Continued)

By T. G. SOUTER, "GORTMORE," MAITLAND.

Astur fasciatus (Australian Goshawk).—Odd pairs seen. On one occasion a nest was found containing one half-grown young and one addled egg.

Accipiter cirrocephalus (Collared Sparrowhawk).—Occasionally seen.

Uroaetus audax (Wedge-tailed Eagle).—Not seen here for several years. I had a report last week of a pair seen lower down the Peninsula, at Warooka.

Haliaeetus sphenurus (Whistling Eagle).—This species was seen here for the first time in May this year, when a pair stayed for several days.

Haliaeetus leucogaster (White-breasted Sea-Eagle).—Not been seen here for several years.

Elanus axillaris (Australian Black-shouldered Kite).—Odd birds seen here in the early part of the year when stubble burning is being carried on.

Falco subniger (Black Falcon).—Seen occasionally when stubble paddocks have just been burned off.

Falco berigora (Brown Hawk).—Very common; always to be seen about here.

Falco cenchroides (Nankeen Kestrel).—Common and quiet. A pair have lived about the sheds here and take good toll of mice. I have found them nesting in a broken ventilator of a disused house, but usually they use the old nests of the year before in the mallee.

Ninox boobook (Boobook Owl).—A few pairs always about in the evenings and are to be seen in mallee.

Tyto alba (Barn Owl).—Odd ones appear here each year. Three years ago they were about in numbers. Last year one young one was seen that had just left the nest.

Trichoglossus moluccanus [Rainbow (Blue Mountain) Lorikeet].—Small flocks come here when flowering gums are in blossom.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Purple-crowned Lorikeet).—About in small flocks when mallee and flowering gums are in bloom.

Glossopsitta pusilla (Little Lorikeet).—Seen here for the first time last year, when they were here for three days feeding on the blossom of the flowering eucalypts in our garden.

Kakatoe roseicapilla [Galah (Rose-breasted Cockatoo)].—These birds are to be seen here in numbers of up to one hundred. They first appeared here in August, 1924, and have been about ever since, gradually increasing in numbers, and for several years now have nested here.

Leptolophus hollandicus [Cockatiel (Cockatoo Parrot)].—Appear here when it is very dry in the northern areas. In 1905 a friend of mine took young from a nest at Balgowan and had them in captivity for several years. I have only seen them here on two occasions and not for several years now.

Platycercus adelaidae (Adelaide Rosella).—One bird (probably an escaped cage bird) was seen along the sand dunes with flocks of mulga parrots for several years. It has not been seen since June, 1928, when it was trying to drive away a male mulga from its

mate while they were cleaning out a hollow in a sheoak.

Barnardius barnardi [Ringneck (Mallee) Parrot].—Odd pairs to be seen, though not plentiful.

Psephotus varius (Mulga Parrot).—Fairly plentiful in pairs and small flocks all the year.

Neophema elegans (Elegant Parrot).—Small flocks and pairs occasionally seen. A pair settled on a wall round the cowyards early this year.

Neophema petrophila (Rock Parrot).—Small parties always to be seen feeding along the wash, mainly on Point Pearce and a small island near the wash there.

Melopsittacus undulatus [Budgerygah (Shell Parrot)].—Come down here now and again when it is dry up north. In 1928 they visited here in thousands and numbers nested here. Usually they are only in small flocks.

Podargus strigoides (Tawny Frogmouth).—Not so plentiful now as they used to be, on account of more scrub being cleared, but still a few pairs are to be found in the small patches of scrub still standing. One bird was sitting in the middle of the road at dusk as I came home from Maitland.

Aegotheles cristata (Öwlet-Nightjar).—Odd ones flushed from hollows in the larger timber around Maitland and Minlaton.

Halcyon sanctus (Sacred Kingfisher).—A few of this species come around here during the summer; have not seen them for the last three years.

Eurostopodus guttatus (Spotted Nightjar).—One seen a few years ago. There is not enough scrub around here now for them.

Micropus pacificus (Fork-tailed Swift).—Seen nearly every year in small to large flocks hawking overhead. Last seen on March 30 this year.

Cuculus pallidus (Pallid Cuckoo).—Here every year from July onward, but mostly in August.

Cacomantis flabelliformis (Fan-tailed Cuckoo).—Occasionally seen.

Owenavis osculans (Black-eared Cuckoo).—Odd birds seen, but not very often.

Chalcites basalis (Horsfield Bronz e Cuckoo).—Seen here, but only odd birds.

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome Swallow).—

Very plentiful around all tanks at farm homesteads.

Cheramoeca leucosterna (White-backed Swallow).—A few always about; often seen amongst a flock of the Welcome Swallows.

Hylochelidon nigricans (Australian Tree-Martin).—Seen here occasionally.

Hylochelidon ariel (Fairy Martin).—Nested here in the stable in September, 1932; a few seen about since.

Rhipidura flabellifera (Grey 'Fantail).—A few pairs always about.

Rhipidura leucophrys [Willie Wagtail (Black and White Fantail)].—Fairly numerous. Last year a pair nested near the house and brought out one young. A few weeks later the same pair used the old nest again, when three eggs were laid, but never hatched out.

Seisura inquieta [Restless Flycatcher (Grinder)].—A few pairs come around here in the autumn, but I have never found them nesting here.

Microeca fascians [Jacky Winter (Australian Brown Flycatcher)].—A few pairs always about in all patches of scrub.

Petroica multicolor (Scarlet Robin).—Occasionally seen here from autumn until early spring.

Petroica goodenovii (Red-capped Robin).—This species is seen in fair numbers every year. It appears in April only.

Petroica phoenicea (Flame Robin).—Seen occasionally, the last record being June 24 this year, when a beautiful male bird was seen.

Melanodryas cucullata (Hooded Robin).—In fair numbers frequenting the coastal sand dunes amongst the sheoaks and wattle bush.

Pachycephala pectoralis (Golden Whistler)?—This a doubtful record, as only a female was seen a few years ago. It may have been *P. rufiventris*.

Colluricincla harmonica (Grey Shrike-Thrush).—A few pairs to be seen amongst the small patches of scrub still left standing.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie Lark).—A few pairs about; one pair roams around the homestead here when there is a drop in the barometer.

Oreoica gutturalis (Crested Bellbird).—Fairly plentiful; in nearly every small patch of scrub.

Coracina novae-hollandiae (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike).—A few birds to be seen from March to September. Several years ago a pair nested near Maitland; this is the only record of nesting.

Lalage tricolor [White-winged Triller (Caterpillar-eater)].—Seen here occasionally in October. In October, 1926, they nested in a patch of sandalwoods at Point Pearce in large numbers. The following year a few were seen and a couple of nests located.

Drymodes brunneopygia (Southern Scrub Robin).—Not seen near here for several years; last seen at Point Pearce.

Pomatostomus superciliosus (White-browed Babbler).—A very common species all through the district.

Epthianura albifrons [White-fronted Chat (Tang)].—In numbers at all times; generally nests in small colonies.

Epthianura tricolor (Crimson Chat).—Comes down here on odd years. In 1928 they nested here and were in numbers.

Epthianura aurifrons (Orange Chat).—Seen in small numbers occasionally.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (Eastern White-face).—A few pairs to be seen, although not very common.

Acanthiza lineata (Striated Thornbill).—Not very numerous; have found them nesting.

Acanthiza pusilla (Brown Thornbill).—A few to be seen near Balgowan.

Acanthiza uropygialis (Chestnut-tailed Thornbill).—A common bird all through the district.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa (Yellow-tailed Thornbill).—One pair has been around the homestead, for years; a common species throughout the district.

Cinclorhamphus cruralis (Brown Song-lark).—Very common during spring and summer, and odd birds to be seen through the winter.

Cinclorhamphus mathewsi (Rufous Song-lark).—A fair number here during spring and summer.

Malurus melanotus (Black-backed Wren) * ?—I have a note of this species, but as it was only seen once, it is very doubtful.

Malurus assimilis (Purple-backed Wren). Fairly common amongst the low scrub.

Artamus personatus (Masked Wood-Swal-

low).—To be seen at times along with *A. cyanopterus*. Not seen since October, 1929, when they were more numerous about here than the Dusky Wood-Swallow. There were eight nests within fifty yards of one another in one colony.

Artamus cyanopterus (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—The common species here every year. Odd birds have stayed throughout the year at times. Last seen this year in May.

Neositta pileata (Black-capped Sittella).—Numerous families to be seen searching the mallee for food.

Dicaeum hirundinaceum (Mistletoe-Bird).—Seen only once, in May, 1932. I have always been on the look-out for this species, as there are numerous clusters of mistletoe all through the sheoaks and tea-tree.

Pardalotus xanthopygius (Yellow-tailed Pardalote).—A few seen, usually in the autumn and winter.

Pardalotus ornatus (Red-tipped Pardalote).—Usually to be seen along with the above species.

Zosterops halmaturina (Grey-backed Silver-Eye).—Seen throughout the year in small families foraging in the garden for aphid and caterpillars.

Plectorhyncha lanceolata (Striped Honey-eater).—Not often seen, then only odd birds.

Melithreptus brevirostris (Brown-headed Honeyeater).—Pair seen on August 7, 1940.

Gliciphila melanops (Tawny-crowned Honeyeater).—Occasional birds seen, but not at all common.

Gliciphila albifrons (White-fronted Honeyeater).—Odd birds seen, but a rare visitor here.

Meliphaga virescens (Singing Honeyeater).—A very tame bird and by far the most numerous of the honeyeaters.

Meliphaga cratitia (Purple-gaped Honeyeater).

Meliphaga ornata (Yellow-plumed Honeyeater).—An occasional pair seen, but not every year.

Meliphaga penicillata (White-plumed Honeyeater).—Not seen until two years ago, when one bird was in the garden for several days; since then at odd times a pair have been seen.

* Vide S.A.O., Vol. ix, Pt. 2, P. 70.—

Meliornis novae-hollandiae (Yellow-winged Honeyeater).—Small parties seen when the flowering gums are in bloom.

Myzantha flavigula (Yellow-throated Miner).—Fairly plentiful in all patches of scrub.

Anthochaera chrysoptera (Little Wattle-Bird).—Not seen for several years.

Anthochaera carunculata (Red Wattle-Bird).—Seen at all times in fair numbers.

Acanthagenys rufogularis (Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater).—In small flocks, mostly along the sand dunes in the sheoaks and wattle bushes.

Anthus australis [Australian Pipit (Groundlark)].—Very plentiful. On two occasions an odd bird was seen with yellow markings, instead of the lighter brown common in this species.

Mirafra javanica (Horsfield Bushlark).—A few pairs seen. I have also found nests.

Zonaeginthus guttatus (Diamond Firetail).—About at times in small flocks; found nest-

ing in sheoaks along the sand dunes; on several occasions their nests have been found underneath nests of the Brown Hawk and Kestrel.

Corvus ceciliae (Australian Crow).†—Very plentiful; nesting from May to August.

Corcorax melanorhamphus (White-winged Chough).—Not a regular visitor, but odd birds occasionally appear.

Strepera intermedia (Brown Currawong).—Occasional odd pairs visit this part.

Cracticus torquatus (Grey Butcher-Bird).—A fairly numerous species; one pair used to come here regularly to be fed on meat scraps.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca (White-backed Magpie).—Very plentiful at all times; a pair is now building in a swamp within ten yards of the house, where they have nested for several years now.

† Is this the Raven (*Corvus coronoides*)?—Vide S.A.O., Vol. xvi, Pt. 1, Page 10.—
Editors.