

BIRDS SEEN ON KANGAROO ISLAND BY MEMBERS OF THE RALPH TATE SOCIETY

By MISS JOAN CLELAND.
(Continued)

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome Swallow).—Very common near Rocky River and along the coast near Cape du Couedic, Sou'-West River, and Stunsail Boom, where an old nest was found in a cavern near the beach.

Hylochelidon nigricans (Tree-Martin).—Flocks of about fifty were seen at Rocky River, particularly in the middle of the day, when it was quite common to see about thirty Martins and fifteen Swallows clustered together on the roof of the house.

Hylochelidon ariel (Fairy Martin).—Several near the coast at Cape du Couedic and Sou'-West River.

Rhipidura flabellifera (Grey Fantail).—Several in trees near Rocky River. Not very numerous and seemed more shy than usual.

Seisura inquieta (Restless Flycatcher).—One bird near Rocky River.

Petroica multicolor (Scarlet Robin).—Number of pairs in the larger timber near the Rocky River. The female was a little more brightly colored than usual.

Pachycephala pectoralis (Golden Whistler).—A pair was seen near the Breakneck River and two more pairs at Rocky River. On the only occasion I heard one sing, it sounded just like the call of the Rufous Whistler.

Colluricincla harmonica (Grey Shrike-Thrush).—Three birds were seen and others heard. One was very tame and came within two or three feet of me.

Coracina novae-hollandiae (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike).—Three birds were seen at Rocky River and two others flying near the road to Cape du Couedic.

Epthianura albifrons (White-fronted Chat).—Flocks of twenty to thirty were seen near the lagoon at Stunsail Boom. Many were seen on the mud banks in the company of a Greenshank, Red-capped Dotterels, and Stints. They appeared to be obtaining quite a lot of food, and ventured right up to the edge of the water.

Acanthiza lineata (Striated Thornbill).—

A few of these were seen in the scrub near Kingscote.

Acanthiza pusilla (Brown Thornbill).—These were very common in the scrub at Rocky, Breakneck, and Sou'-West Rivers. They sang pleasantly and frequently, and were seen in the low scrub and the overhanging branches of the larger trees. A specimen was taken at Sou'-West River. Iris, reddish salmon, paler round periphery; feet and bill, dark grey; throat, black.

Sericornis maculatus (Spotted Scrub-Wren).—One of these was seen at Kingscote and a number at Rocky River, where they were not uncommon. They were seen chiefly in the lower scrubs, and their harsh note was often heard. A specimen was obtained at Sou'-West River; iris, whitish; feet and bill, brown.

Hylacola cauta (Shy Ground-Wren).—One was seen in the recently (1938) burnt scrub on the road to Cape du Couedic.

Megalurus gramineus (Little Grass-Bird).—Two or three of these birds were seen amongst the bushes near the lagoon at Stunsail Boom. One was seen perched for a short time on a dry bush, but it soon disappeared along the ground.

Malurus cyaneus (Superb Blue Wren).—Families of these birds were seen at American River, Kingscote, Rocky River, Stunsail Boom, Sou'-West and Breakneck Rivers.

Artamus cyanopterus (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—Flocks of about thirty were seen in the large trees along the Rocky River.

Pardalotus ornatus (Red-tipped Pardalote).—These were seen in the tall trees near Rocky River, where one pair was noticed entering a hollow in one of the branches. Another nest was found in the entrance to Kelly's Hill Caves, in one of the small limestone pockets. The birds were watched returning to the nest about once every three minutes, and the young birds could just be seen. Another nest was found in a crevice in a cave on the cliff face at Stunsail Boom

beach. The country round here was very sandy, and the scrub consisted of small eucalypts. There were no large eucalypts within two miles.

Zosterops halmaturina (Grey-backed Silver-Eye).—This was one of the birds most frequently seen on Kangaroo Island. They were usually in flocks of fifteen to twenty near Rocky River, Stunsail Boom, Sou'-West and Breakneck Rivers, Cape du Couedie, American River, and Kingscote, particularly in the low scrub near the coast.

Melithreptus brevirostris (Brown-headed Honeyeater).—One was seen in some tall timber near Rocky River. It preened its feathers for about five minutes, and allowed me to get within two yards of it.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris (Eastern Spinebill).—These were quite common along the river banks. At the Breakneck River I found a nest in a teatree overhanging the creek. It contained two eggs. The bird was not easily disturbed and was very difficult to see when it was on the nest. Immature birds were seen near Rocky River.

Gliciphila melanops (Tawny-crowned Honeyeater).—This was seen and heard in the sandy country near Breakneck and Rocky Rivers. An immature bird was seen near the swamp and had the following description: back, dark brown, the edge of the feathers tipped with paler brown; breast, fawn, flecked with brown; chin, yellow; dark patch behind the eye.

Meliphaga leucotis (White-eared Honeyeater).—Three birds were seen along the Rocky River. One remained for ten minutes preening itself on a bough.

Meliphaga virescens (Singing Honeyeater).—One bird was seen at Kingscote.

Meliphaga cratitia (Purple-gaped Honeyeater).—These were very common near Rocky River, and were also seen at Sou'-West River. As many as five or six could often be seen in one small eucalypt and flocks of about a dozen were common. They were quite tame and often came within two or three feet of me. They kept chiefly to the small scrub, where they appeared to be collecting insects from the leaves, but they were also seen on the larger eucalypts, and occasionally in the flowering Sugar Gums. All those seen

at close quarters had bright yellow throat and gape.

One specimen was obtained at Rocky River. Iris, greyish brown; feet, grey, paler at back; bill, black; gape, yellow; pharynx, orange. Stomach contents: the remains of beetles (unidentifiable).

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera (Crescent Honeyeater).—These were very common near the creeks and rivers, where they tended to keep to the upper parts of the tall timber. Several immature specimens were seen near Rocky River.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae (Yellow-winged Honeyeater).—These were not as common as the Purple-gaped, Crescent, or Spinebill Honeyeaters. They were seen chiefly in the dry scrub away from the creeks, though one party often was seen squabbling in the bushes overhanging Stunsail Boom River.

Anthochaera chrysoptera (Little Wattle-Bird).—These were common in the large gums, particularly the flowering Sugar Gums, near Rocky River. Towards evening small flocks of about ten would collect in one tree and chortle.

Anthus australis (Australian Pipit).—Several pairs were seen in the grassy paddocks around the house at Rocky River and at Kingscote, Stunsail Boom and Sou'-West River.

Zonaeginthus bellus (Beautiful Firetail).—Two pairs were seen near Rocky River and one at Stunsail Boom. The former had very inconspicuous zebra-like markings on the breast, and even at close quarters (they came within three or four feet) the breast looked greyish green.

Aegintha temporalis (Red-browed Finch).—Small flocks of these were seen at Cygnet River and Rocky River. At the latter one nest was found in a teatree about twelve feet from the ground. It contained five eggs.

Corvus coronoides (Australian Raven).—These were seen near the coast and in the grassland areas near Sou'-West River and Stunsail Boom. They were seen on the beach, usually in groups of four to five, at Rocky River Mouth, Sou'-West River, and Stunsail Boom. They did not appear to be looking for food along the beach.

Strepera melanoptera (Black-winged Cur-

rawong).—These were common in the scrub near Rocky River, and were also heard at Stunsail Boom and Sou'-West River, and Cape du. Couedie. As well as their typical cry, which they uttered while flying, I also heard several whining like young magpies. I often saw them prising off the bark of the eucalypts in search of food.

One specimen was obtained at Sou'-West River. Iris, greenish yellow; feet and bill, black; under-bill for the last $\frac{3}{4}$ in., yellowish horn; gape margin, yellow, with greenish tinge.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca (White-backed Magpie).—These were only noticed in the paddocks nears Rocky River, and at Kingscote, Stunsail Boom, and Sou'-West River.

Passer domesticus (House Sparrow).—There were a few sparrows near the house at Rocky River, but they were not seen elsewhere on the Reserve.

Sturnus vulgaris (Starling).—These were also seen at Rocky River. The rapid spread of the boxthorn at Kingscote is probably due to these birds.

Carduelis carduelis (Goldfinch).—These were the most common of the introduced birds, and small flocks were seen near Rocky River, Breakneck River, and at Stunsail Boom and Sou'-West River.

Turdus merula (Blackbird).—One bird was seen at Kingscote.
