

FURTHER NOTES ON EARLY ORNITHOLOGY IN SOUTH AND CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

IV.—Notes on Birds in the Journal of Exploration by R. T. Maurice in 1901 and 1902 from Fowler's Bay to the Rawlinson Ranges and to Cambridge Gulf. (Abstracted by J. B. Cleland.)

In 1901, R. T. Maurice, accompanied by W. R. Murray, led an exploring expedition from Fowler's Bay to the Rawlinson Ranges, and in 1902, again accompanied by W. R. Murray, another expedition from Fowler's Bay to Cambridge Gulf. (Extracts from Journals of Explorations. By R. T. Maurice. Fowler's Bay to Rawlinson Ranges, and Fowler's Bay to Cambridge Gulf. Parliamentary Paper No. 43. Government Printer, Adelaide. 1904.) In each case the diary was apparently written by W. R. Murray. These Journals contain numerous references to birds observed.

In the first expedition, on May 16, 1901, at Fowler's Bay, a young emu was shot and emu chops, "very nice and tender," were eaten next day. On May 18, the party left Pidinga for Ooldea, and four emus were noted in travelling $9\frac{1}{4}$ miles; on May 19, six turkeys [Bustards] were seen and one shot; on May 20, an emu was shot at Crawford's Well and fourteen turkeys were seen. On May 23, having left Ooldea, an entry is made

"saw one bustard, crow hawks, and few rabbits"; on May 26 bird life was noticed as "very scarce; saw a small owl, two turkeys [Bustards], and a few rabbits"; on May 27, two crows and several minahs [*Myzantha* presumably], on May 28 five bustards, and on May 30 several minahs and an emu were recorded; on May 31 bird and animal life were noted as very scarce. On June 1 there was a dead emu in Mobun Native Well and a small flock of diamond sparrows [*Taeniopygia castanotis*], a few minahs, one Cooladie [*Cracticus nigrogularis*], two Ring-neck Parrots [Port Lincolns], and fresh emu tracks were noted. On June 2, a "pheasant" [*Leipoa*], a few diamond sparrows, and a crow were seen, but next day they saw no birds or animals. On June 5 two crows and on June 6 "a small species of laughing jack" [*Cracticus?*] were recorded. On June 8, round the well at Waldana was a flock of about 200 diamond sparrows and a few bronze-wing pigeons came in. On June 11 two eaglehawks and one mopoke [*Podargus* probably], on June 12 several ring-neck parrots and a few small birds, on June 13 two eaglehawks and a few quail, on June 18 a flock of diamond sparrows at a native well, on June 20 two eaglehawks and "several small birds

(species unknown),” on June 22 a flock of diamond sparrows at a soak, and eight pink-crested cockatoos [Major Mitchells], on June 23 three pink-crested cockatoos, on June 24 a few pink-crested cockatoos and a few diamond sparrows, on June 26 a few crows and quail with several small birds of unknown species, and on June 28 a flock of galahs (two of which were shot), and eaglehawks and diamond sparrows were seen.

Here they passed over the Western Australian boundary. On June 30 several cockatoos and on July 1 hawks, robins [Red-capped?], diamond sparrows, and “several small birds like the yellow hammer” [perhaps *Meliphaga penicillata (leilavalensis)* or *M. keartlandi*] were noted. On July 2 eight ring-neck parrots, on July 3 two small hawks and minahs, on July 4 a few crows, hawks, and diamond sparrows, and on July 5 several ringneck parrots, one crow, and a few diamond sparrows were recorded. On July 6 near the Cavenagh Ranges a dead emu was found in a rock-hole, and a few crows, diamond sparrows, minahs, and an eaglehawk were noted. On July 7 a greater variety of birds was seen, including magpies, crows, rock pigeons, quail and diamond sparrows, and next day in addition curlews [Stone Plover] and a mopoke [*Podargus* probably]. On July 11, quail, diamond sparrows, crows and hawks; on July 14 several hawks, crows, and small birds; and on July 15 a few quail and several small hawks were seen. On July 17 a mob of rock pigeons [*Lophophaps plumifera*] indicated the proximity of water, which proved to be Sladen Water in the Rawlinson Range. On July 19 crows, hawks, rock pigeons, and diamond sparrows; on July 20 fairly numerous quail; on July 22 several hawks; and on July 23 several eaglehawks and a few quail with several fresh emu tracks were seen. On July 24, with the Petermann Ranges in view a native pheasant [*Leipoa*] and several small hawks; on July 25 a few crows and minahs; on July 26 a few crows and hawks; on July 28 a couple of crows and a few hawks; on July 31 and August 1 crows and hawks; on August 2 two crows; on August 3, at the Musgrave Ranges, crows and hawks, and at water a flock of diamond sparrows; on August 4 crested rock pigeons, crows, hawks and diamond sparrows; on August 7, a few pigeons; and on August 8 at water a large flock of rock pigeons was recorded. On August 10, S. of the Musgrave

Ranges, a few crows; on August 12, near the Everard Ranges a few crows and diamond sparrows; and on August 13 a few hawks were noted. On August 15 at Oolarinna hawks and diamond sparrows at water, and “a small flock of birds very like a swallow, though not so swift of flight, black, with white tip to tail feathers” [*Artamus melanops*] was seen. On August 1, curlews, minahs, and red-crested cockatoos were seen, on August 21 a few hawks, on August 22 crows, hawks, and diamond sparrows, and next day six bustards, a few ring-neck parrots at the well, and “a flock (say forty) of the swallow-like bird noted at Oolarinna.” On August 28, the Airedale flushed a Lowan, which lodged in a mallee and was killed and eaten. On August 30, about a dozen bustards were seen and a fresh Lowan’s nest, containing one egg, was found.

On R. T. Maurice’s Exploratory Expedition from Fowler Bay to Cambridge Gulf in 1902, the following references to birds occur:—

On May 5, the second day after leaving Ooldea, six bustards were seen and several more next day. On May 11, one was shot, and W. R. Murray in his diary records them as numerous “at present in this country.” On June 5, at Umgulbullarinna Rockhole in the Everard Ranges the playground of a Bowerbird [*Chlamydera maculata*] was noticed, and on June 12, near the camp at Ernabella, a Bowerbird’s nest, the first Murray had seen in these parts, was found. The party left Ernabella on June 21, noting rock-pigeons and bronze-wings as being numerous as they followed the valley of the Ferdinand. Two emus were seen near Mt. Olga on July 7. On July 10, south of L. Amadcus, two pink-crested cockatoos [Major Mitchells] were noted. On July 23, somewhere near Mt. Liebig and the western end of the McDonnell Ranges at Thomas Reservoir, there was a flock of diamond sparrows [*Taeniopygia castanotis*], a few crested rock pigeons [*Lophophaps plumifera*], and crows and a few small hawks. On August 1, near Mt. Davenport, an emu was seen, and next day at a rock-hole in a gorge of this mount a flock of diamond sparrows and numerous rock pigeons; on August 3 two young emus a few days old were caught. Next day an emu was shot, a pool was seen where the natives had poisoned the water to stupefy emus, and plenty of rock pigeons were noticed. Still going north (now about 20^b

50'), an eagle-hawks' nest was found on August 10, only 10 ft. from the ground, showing the absence of any large timber for miles around. On August 22, near the Gardiner Ranges and Mount Brophy, more birds were seen than of late—parrots, cockatoos, and quail, and numerous fresh emu tracks. On August 24, approaching Sturt Creek, Murray states "one is suddenly out of desert into a land of plenty, for the waterholes here are swarming with game. Hundreds of ducks, thousands of corella, besides crested and bronze-wing pigeons, native companions, emu, etc." Next day they reached Dennison Downs Station.

V.—Diary of the Northern Exploration Party under Mr. Charles Winnecke during 1883.

(Abstracted by L. S. Francis.)

Mulligan River Camp (S.W. Queensland)—"Game, such as native companions (flamingoes), emus, dingos, several kinds of pigeons, and numerous other birds, are also abundant, and very careful to keep out of reach of our fowling piece." (Page 4.)

Tinargee Waterhole on Field River (east of Queensland border)—"A large number of pigeons, parrots, cockatoos, and other birds came here to water; we managed to shoot enough to make a stew." (Page 7.)
