

BIRDS OF TENNANT CREEK, NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

By HOWARD E. A. JARMAN.

Tennant Creek lies on the North-South Road approximately 340 miles north of Alice Springs. Barrow Creek is 140 miles south of Tennant Creek township and Banka Banka approximately 60 miles north. The township of Tennant Creek is situated among the low, rugged McDouall Ranges, the rich, gold-bearing properties of which led to the establishment of the town in such an inhospitable location. The watercourse and telegraph station which originally bore the name of Tennant Creek are several miles further north.

Generally speaking, the fauna, flora, and geography around the town are very similar to those of Banka Banka. However, Mulga (*Acacia aneura?*) grows thickly around Tennant Creek, but is not found further north.

The writer paid several fleeting visits to the town, and the following list comprises the birds seen there. Naturally, many more could be added to the quota, especially if work was done in the district after good rains.

List of Species:—Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*), Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*), Bustard (*Eupodotis australis*), Fork-tailed Kite (*Milvus migrans*), Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*), Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapil-*

la), Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*), Rainbow-bird (*Merops ornatus*), Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*), Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*), Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*), Magpie-lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*), Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*), Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*), Weebill (*Smicronis* sp.), Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus melanops*), Mistletoe-bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*)—my most northerly observation, Red-browed Pardalote (*P. rubricatus*), Golden-backed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus laetior*), Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*), Yellow-fronted Honeyeater (*M. plumula*), Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*), Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*), Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*), Pied Butcher-bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), and Crow (*Corvus* sp.). Rufous-crowned Emuwrens (*Stipiturus ruficeps*) have been seen near the Wauchope Hotel, midway between Barrow Creek and Tennant Creek, that being my most northerly record for the species.