

## BIRDS SEEN ON A CARAVAN TRIP AROUND YORKE PENINSULA

By L. S. FRANCIS.

This trip was made from March 15th to 28th, 1941. The typical scrub behind the coastal sand-hills consists of Mallee, Sheoak, Teatree (*Melaleuca* sp.), Native Willow (*Pitiosporum phillyreoides*), Quandong, etc. In the south-western section one finds Mallee, Sheoak, Hopbush, Quandong, and thick scrubs of dwarf Native Pine (*Callitris* sp.). The coastal flora is chiefly composed of Coast Daisy (*Olearia* sp.), Nitre-bush (*Nitraria Schoberi*), Coast Wattle (*Acacia longifolia*, var. *Sophorae*), *Goodenia* sp., the introduced Box-thorn, etc.

Mallee Fowl (*Leipoa ocellata*).—Old mounds of these birds were reported by two local residents as seen in the vicinity of Marion Bay.

Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*).—Near Corny Point and Warooka.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Common on the Peninsula; two on the sand-hills at Corny Point.

White-breasted and (or) Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*, *P. varius*).—There were numbers of Cormorants at Corny Point and also at Marion Bay, but I could not distinguish between these species.

Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*).—Fourteen seen at Corny Point.

Fairy Tern (*Sterna nereis*).—Near Corny Point Lighthouse.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—Corny Point, Marion Bay, etc.

Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*).—Two flew low over the beach at Corny Point while we were cleaning fish. The birds were immature.

Small Waders.—Five small waders about the size of Hooded Dotterels were seen at Corny Point. They had a streaked or mottled appearance on the back and wings, were dark on the breast and showed in flight white through the upper part of the wings, giving an appearance as of an outer band, with

dark marks under the wings. It was thought that they might be Turnstones (*Arenaria interpres*), but this species has no dark marks under the wings.

Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*).—Between Corny Point and Lighthouse.

Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus unicolor*).—Between Corny Point and Lighthouse. Shrill call just before flight.

Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—Two seen near Clinton.

Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).—Between Melton and Urania.

Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*).—Several of these attractive birds on the beach at Corny Point.

Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*).—Numerous at Corny Point.

Eastern Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*).—Corny Point to Lighthouse. Very wary birds.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*).—Numbers at Corny Point.

White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*).—Corny Point and Lighthouse.

White-necked (Pacific) Heron (*Notophoxyx pacifica*).—One seen near Lighthouse.

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—Two at Coobowie Inlet.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*).—A few birds seen singly at Marion Bay, Corny Point, and Edithburgh.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—Twenty near Melton, others near Brentwood.

Mulga-Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).—Several near Stansbury, one seen eating Boxthorn berries.

Rock-Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*).—Three settled among rocks at Corny Point close to the beach, and four were seen flying near the cliffs at the Lighthouse.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Corny Point and Marion Bay.

White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*).—Several on a fence near Clinton.

Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*).—One in Mallee at Marion Bay.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—Seen generally.

Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*).—One between Urania and Minlaton and one near Stansbury.

Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*).—Four seen near Stansbury in scrub.

Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).—One between Urania and Minlaton, and one near Ardrossan.

Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Seen generally.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—One at Corny Point.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—Several families of from seven to eight birds were seen during the trip near Urania, etc. At Wild Horse Plains near Port Wakefield a family was seen in the morning building a nest of stick, lined with feathers and down, in the top of a tall mallee, but the tree was deserted in the afternoon.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—Seen generally.

Brown Weebill (*Smicronis brevirostris*).—Four seen near Stansbury.

Eastern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).—Seen near Stansbury.

Red-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza hamiltoni*)?—Several in Coast Daisy bushes (*Olearia* sp.) on sandhills at Corny Point.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*).—Corny Point.

Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*).—In bushes on sandhills at Corny Point.

Rufous Field-Wren (*Calamanthus campestris*)?—Very wary birds, sneaking along the track between the bushes. Tail erect. Plaintive and sharp calls of "tu-tu" followed by canary-like warble of three or four notes from the tops of Coast Daisy (*Olearia* sp.) and Boxthorn.

Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*).—Family of four in scrub (*Alyxia buxifolia*, etc.) near Urania. Came closer after making lip-sounds. Male bird more wary than the others. Others seen at Corny Point in *Nitraria Schoberi*.

Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*).—Near Stansbury.

Yellow-tailed Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygus*)?—This is probably the species seen in Mallee scrub near Stansbury. Call like "Dit dit."

Grey-backed Silver-eye (*Zosterops halimaturina*).—Flocks seen at Corny Point, and others at Marion Bay.

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*)?—Several were seen flying into

the air above Mallee scrub near "The Dust-hole" on the way to Marion Bay.

Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*).—Seen generally in Mallee and along the beach at Corny Point. One had a Boxthorn berry in its beak.

Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*).—In Mallee near Ardrossan.

Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—One flock of approximately 130 birds flew over Corny Point. Common from Corny Point to Daly Heads.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—Numerous at Corny Point and also near Urania.

Pipit (*Anthus australis*).—Seen generally. One on the beach at Corny Point.

Diamond Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*).—One near Stansbury, also several probably

of this species were seen between Warooka and Corny Point.

Raven or Crow (*Corvus* sp.).—Seen generally.

Brown Currawong (*Strepera intermedia*).—Two seen between Warooka and Corny Point.

Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Several in bushes at Corny Point.

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

#### INTROUCED BIRDS

Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—Seen generally.

Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Seen generally.