

BIRDS NOTED BETWEEN FINKE RAILWAY STATION, ERNABELLA, AND THE EVERARD RANGES

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In September, 1945, during the course of an official visit to Ernabella Aboriginal Mission Station, notes were made when possible on the birds seen.

Finke Railway Station to Ernabella on the back of a motor truck, 200 miles, September 22—23. Numbers of birds observed:—Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*) 7, Dove (*Geopelia* sp.) 1.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) 1, Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*) 5, Fork-tailed Kite (*Milvus migrans*) 6, Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) 1, Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) 2, Hawks, unidentified 10, Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) 1, heard. Total birds of prey, 26.

Galahs (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) 5, Cockatoo-Parrot (*Leptolophus hollandicus*) 19, Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) 4, Bourke Parrot (*Neophema bourki*)? 3, Budgerigah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*) 33. Total parrots, 64.

Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*) 1, (80 miles west of Finke).

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) 1, Crested Bellbirds (*Oreoica gutturalis*) seen or heard 4, Babbler (*Pomatostomus* sp.) 1, Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*) 1, Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*) camp 80 miles west of Finke, the yellow of the rump seemed very pale, Black-faced Wood-swallow (*Artamus melanops*) 32, Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*) probably 16, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*) 2, *Meliphaga* sp. 1, "Honeyeaters" 2, Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*) 8, Chestnut-eared Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) 53, Crows 21, Pied Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*) 5, White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) 4, unidentified 79. Total birds, 328.

Kangaroos 68, Dingo 1.

Ernabella in Musgrave Ranges towards Everard Park in Everard Ranges via Upsan Downs and Shirley Well, about 70 miles, in motor truck on September 28. Numbers of birds observed: Brown Hawk 1, Kestrel 1, Hawks, unidentified 7, Galahs 12, Australian Tree-Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) 3, Thickhead (*Pachycephala* sp.)?, heard 3, Wedgebill (*Sphenostoma cristatum*), mostly heard, 4—from its note called locally the "Elizabeth" Bird, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) 3, Babbler (*Pomatostomus* sp.) 1, "Honeyeater" 1, Pipit 4, Chestnut-eared Finches 2, Crows 2, unidentified 11. Total birds 55.

Euros 2, Kangaroos 15.

Everard Park to Victory Well, 13 miles, September 29, numbers of birds noted: Brown Hawk 1, Galahs 7, Crows 2. Total 10.

Other Notes:—At Abminga, no red could be seen on the forehead of Port Lincoln Parrots. At Finke, Fork-tailed Kites were seen. At Ernabella, September 24—27, the C.U. Cuckoo (Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chalcites basalis*) was heard calling by day, and the Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*), the Bell-bird and the Pied Butcher-Bird at night; five Cockatoo-Parrots were seen on September 5; Tree-Martins (*Hylochelidon nigricans*) were noted; on a walk over rocky hills with a group of native boys, they picked up the tracks of some little bird on the sand leading to a cup-shaped nest partly under cover of a Porcupine Grass (*Triodia*) containing young birds—no trace of the parent birds which may have been *Amytornis*, the Grass-wren was seen near the nest though soon after a wild chase of some cover-keeping small bird took place through the tussocks of "spinifex" (*Triodia*), the boys found a nest of the Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike containing eggs, one of the parents making bold attacks on the climber. Black-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) were seen at Everard Park and young ones at Granite Downs.