

BIRDS NOTED ON THE EASTERN PORTION OF KANGAROO ISLAND

By A. F. C. LASHMAR.

The following species were observed from October 1, 1945, to March 1, 1946. Lashmar's Lagoon was quite dry in April, 1945, the first time since the 1914 drought. Heavy rains occurred in January and February, 1946. In February the level of the Lagoon was raised about 6 feet above the normal overflow-level owing to the large amount of water flowing into it from adjoining creeks. Several swamps in the vicinity were also filled.

The total number of species now identified by me in this area is 99. (A) indicates a new record, added since my return from the Army in September, 1945. (B) indicates a breeding record.

Little Penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) (B). Colonies at Cape Willoughby, Point Coutts and Penneshaw.

Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*) (B). Numerous during the harvest. Several Goannas (*Varanus* sp.) were killed and some had up to 8 eggs of this Quail in the stomach.

Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*) (B). Numerous.

Marsh Crane (*Porzana pusilla*) (B).

Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*) (B). Noted on Lashmar's Lagoon.

Coot (*Fulica atra*) (B).

Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*) (B). Found breeding in February.

Hoary-headed Grebe (*P. poliocephalus*) (B). Few seen; no nests.

Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*). One seen at Cape St. Albans late in October, 1945.

Pied Cormorant (*P. varius*). Common around coast.

Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*) (B). Seen around Lagoon and along Chapman's River.

Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*). Seen in December and January.

Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*) (B).

Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*). Common at Cape Willoughby and Penneshaw and Antechamber Bay.

Fairy Tern (*S. nereis*) (B). Occasionally seen.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*) Very common.

Sooty Oystercatcher (*Haematopus uni-color*). Often seen singly on rocky parts of the coastline at Capes Willoughby and St. Albans.

Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*) (B). Numerous.

Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*) (B). Disappear in the late summer.

Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*) (B). Common on the beaches, where they breed in December and January.

Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*) (B). Numerous on the mud flats.

Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*). A few often seen.

Southern Stone Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*) (B). Often heard calling at night.

White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*) (B). Numerous.

Brown Bittern (*Botaurus poiciloptilus*) (A). First record of this species; at Chapman's River in November, 1945.

Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis novae-hollandiae*). One bird in vicinity of Lagoon and nearby paddocks for several days in late October, 1945.

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*) (B). Breeds freely when water in Lagoon. In dry years the Swans stay about the Lagoon until too weak to fly, and then set out on foot to the sea or Chapman's River.

Chestnut-breasted Shelduck (*Casarca tador-noides*) (B). Not common.

Grey (Black) Duck (*Anas superciliosa*) (B). Bred freely in this area this season. Occasionally a nuisance in barley crops, where they eat much grain.

Blue-winged Shoveler (*Spatula rhynchotis*) (B). A few about in the backwaters left by the floods.

Chestnut Teal (*Querquedula castanea*) (B). Not numerous.

Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*). Were very plentiful on the Lagoon in the late Spring and early Summer, but since the January floods only old birds are to be seen.

Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*) (B). Very plentiful on the Lagoon; often observed kicking up the water behind them and at intervals giving their peculiar single-note whistle.

Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*) (B). Often observed flying low over the crops, although to my knowledge there is only one pair in the locality. They are fond of the eggs of the domestic turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) and will also take the young birds.

Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) (B).

Australian Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus*). Specimen picked up dead on February 19, 1946, at Chapman's River; sex female (immature).

Wedgetailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*) (B). Common.

Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) (B). Not common. I have never found them breeding in this area but others have seen occupied nests.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) (B). Common.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). An irregular visitor—coastal or along Chapman's River.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*) (B). Common.

Rainbow Lorikeet (*Trichoglossus moluccanus*). Present in hundreds when the Eucalypts are flowering.

Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus funereus*). These birds do not seem to visit us as often as they did years ago, perhaps because there is less "Prickly Acacia" about now. They used to rip open the stems of the Acacia to obtain the "waikerries" or white grubs living in the wood.

White Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*) (A). A single bird seen at Penneshaw on February 2, 1946.

Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*) (B). Multiplying rapidly and becoming a pest in the almond trees, grain crops and hay paddocks.

Crimson Rosella (*Platycercus elegans*) (B). Few about at present.

Rock Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*). Usually seen at Cape Willoughby.

Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basa-*

lis) (B). Seen and heard in October and November, 1945. Not common.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*) (B). Always present; sometimes in large flocks.

Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*) (B). Usually seen near water.

Willie Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) (?B). Rare. This year I saw this species attempting to breed here for the first time. Two females constructed a nest and each laid three eggs. This is the first time I have seen more than a single bird.

Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*) (B). Common; breeds near Chapman's River.

Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*) (B). More numerous this year than I have ever known them to be.

Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*) (B). Plentiful.

Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*). Rare visitor.

Blackfaced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*) (B). Common.

White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*) (B). Always about. A pair seen feeding newly-hatched young on February 21, 1946.

Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*) (B). Sometimes seen near creeks and running waters.

Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*) (B). Seems to favour heathy country, and less numerous than Striated Thornbill.

Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*) (B). Very common; usually in teatree swamps and heath.

Shy Ground Wren (*Hylacola cauta*) (B). Fairly numerous in poorer class of country.

Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*). One bird seen and heard in early November.

Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*) (B). Not as plentiful this season as usual, perhaps due to the drying up of the Lagoon in autumn, 1945.

Superb Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*) (B). Very plentiful.

Dusky Wood Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*) (B). Common.

Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*) (B). Very common.

Eastern Spinebill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*) (B).

Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*) (B).

White-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga leucotis*) (B). Common in the scrub.

Purplegaped Honeyeater (*Meliphaga cratitia*). Generally in flocks of more than a dozen birds.

Crescent Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*) (B). An early nester (often about the middle of July). Common.

Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*) (B). Fairly plentiful in the open scrubs.

Pipit (*Anthus australis*) (B). Common.

Beautiful Firetail (*Zonaeginthus bellus*). Seldom met with.

Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis*) (B). Very plentiful in the Chapman's River area.

Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*) (B). Common.

Robs eggs of domestic turkey, fowl and their chicks. Also may cause trouble amongst young lambs and lambing ewes.

Black-winged Currawong (*Strepera melanoptera*) (B). Common. Takes fruit in orchards.

White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*) (B). Very common. Flocks in March.

The following additional species have been recorded previously by me from this area, the references being given below.

Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*) (B); Eastern Swampphen (*Porphyrio melanotus*); Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*); Australian Gannet (*Sula serratator*); Pied Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*); White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*); Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*); Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Erolia acuminata*); Curlew - Sandpiper (*Erolia testacea*); White-breasted Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*); Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus axillaris*); Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*); Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*); Fork-tailed Swift (*Micropus pacificus*); Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*); Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*); Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*); Australian Ground-Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata*); Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*); Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*); Little Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera chrysoptera*).

REFERENCES:

- (1) Lashmar, Allen F. C., 1935, S.A. Orn. 13 (1), 5-8.
- (2) Lashmar, Allen F. C., 1936, *ibid.*, 13 (7), 200-203.
- (3) Lashmar, Allen F. C., 1937, *ibid.*, 14 (3), 59-64.
- (4) Lashmar, Allen F. C., 1938, *ibid.*, 14 (7), 183-185.