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[PART 1.

Notes on some of the Birds observed on Mount Dandenong, Victoria, October, 1914.

The Lyre bird was seen several times. There were evidences of their scratchings in all the gullies visited. Although the season was too far advanced to hear them calling, on most mornings about 7 a.m. one could be heard in a gully near the house where we stayed, going over a series of warbling or gurgling notes, uttered apparently while feeding amongst the fern. It could hardly be called a song although the notes reminded one somewhat of the Blackbird. As we drove up through the township of Mount Dandenong a Lyre bird was calling in a series of loud, rather unpleasing notes repeated monotonously without variation. This particular bird has, we were informed, been in continuous occupation of this particular gully that runs right into the centre of the township. My informant said that in the calling season this bird imitated the varied sounds of the township. Perhaps the most interesting bird met with was the Victorian Pilot bird (*Pycnoptilus floccosus sandlandi*, Mat.). I should judge that several pairs frequent most of the gullies. Their full, rich song was most striking, being a run of about seven to ten notes, the closing notes of the song having some faint resemblance to the swish of the stock whip, which is developed so remarkably in the song of *Psophodes*.

The *Pycnoptilus* have a strong vein of curiosity. On several occasions on hearing the note of the male I sat down under thick growths of hazel, musk, and other bushes where one could see some distance amongst the stems. It was not long

before the cock bird, followed a few yards behind by the hen, ran out from under a log and continued to travel in a semi-circle round me about 15 yards distant in a series of short runs and rapid jerky movements: every few moments it would utter its short song. Although so near it was mostly hidden by some branch or fallen trunk. While the tail is erected at an angle it was not carried erect as in *Malurus*.

I did not hear the hen bird utter any note, but simply follow the cock at a distance of a few yards. I did not see them on any occasion rise into the bushes, but on several occasions watched them run over fallen tree trunks.

The Victorian Coach Whip bird (*Psophodes olivacens scrymgeouri*, Mat.) were very numerous in the high fern and low scrub that covered the wider portion of the valley. They were very tame. We had several opportunities of hearing the hen finish the song of the cock: on one occasion the hen was on the opposite side of the cart track to the cock.

Although I met with *Climacteris erythroptis* (the red-brown Tree Creeper) at this spot on the occasion of my visit three years ago I was unable to identify it on this occasion. Its near neighbour *Climacteris leucophaea* (white-throated Tree Creeper) was very numerous, owing to the lofty nature of the trees upon which they search for their food it was impossible to distinguish between the two species at the height above the ground at which they were usually seen. Unless there is some marked distinction in the notes of the two species it is quite possible that *C. erythroptis* is not uncommon but difficult to locate.

A flock of gang gang cockatoos was heard in the tops of the lofty gums. *Platycercus elegans* and *Platycercus eximius* were both fairly common. The bronze, pallid, and fantailed cuckoos were numerous, the latter in great numbers uttering its full breeding notes that are rarely heard in South Australia.

The Victorian scrub wren (*Sericornis longirostris*) was in numbers, running about the fern like mice. One was in the usual position of hunting for insects on a small tree, some 20 ft. from the ground. The song of the male is very pleasing, but rather weak in volume. The green rumped Shrike robin (*Eopsaltria australis viridior*) was nesting, one nest with young was decorated with long strips of bark, but no lichen. Perhaps the bird that lent most charm to the gullies was the Vic-

torian Thickhead, *Pachycephala pectoralis youngi*. There were many pairs in each gully. The cock birds, resplendent in their gold and black and white plumage, would pour out their rich and varied notes to listeners only a few feet away. I think we have no bird whose notes more closely resemble those of the nightingale. The more retiring Timixos (*Pachycephala olivacea tregellasi*), Allied Olive Thickhead, were seen several times.

The Mountain Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata dendyi*) were to be seen in the early morning and evening feeding on the damp moss-covered logs in the bottom of the gullies. The Victorian Grey Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica victoriae*) had adopted the note of the Australian Oriole (*Mimeta sagittata*), and added the same to its repertory. I was misled on several occasions by this note. The Oriole is fairly common in the more open forest country at the foot of the mountain, but I did not note it near the summit.

One pair of the charming little Rose-breasted robin (*Belchera rosea* Gld.) were met with far up the gully in the thick low scrub, and a deserted nest in the fork of a sapling about 8 ft. from the ground. But strange to say that a breeding male in female plumage was shot out of the top of one of the high gums, where it had been feeding out of gunshot for some time.

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