

Birds Observed at Stonyfell, S.A.

By R. CROMPTON.

The following list of birds has been made up during the last 35 years by my brothers and myself.

Stonyfell is situated at the foot of the escarpment of the Mount Lofty Range, five miles directly east of Adelaide. Within a mile and a half there is a variety of country. The quartzite hilltops, covered with stringy bark scrub, intersected by deep gullies, with thick undergrowth and permanent water. The shale hill sides, clothed with peppermint gums and black wattle (acacia), interspersed with grass slopes, spreading out on to the plains. Also patches of red gum and poor land, covered with stunted red and blue gum, wattle kangaroo hedge bush and low bushes. There are also several hundred acres of vineyard, olives, orchard, and garden, and a few surface dams, which make temporary resting places for various waterfowl. Owing to successive bush fires the scrub is gradually disappearing. The poor land is also being cleared for cultivation with the aid of chemical manures, and the ever-approaching suburbs are causing many species to disappear, consequently many of the following birds may never occur again in this district. The names are taken from "A List of the Birds of Australia," by G. M. Mathews, except that binominals are used for dominant species.

(1) *Coturnix pectoralis*—Eastern stubble quail.—Fairly common in the early summer, formerly much commoner. A few used to nest; no nests found for many years.

(2) *Synoicus ypsilophorus sordidus*—Southern brown quail.—A few came in spring years ago; found one nest about 1885. This bird has long since disappeared.

(3) *Ortygodes varius*—Eastern painted quail.—Fairly common in the scrub on the hilltops.

(4) *Austrotornix velox*—Eastern painted quail.—Only visits us in the early summer; never common. Used to nest about here.

(5) *Pedionomus torquatus*—Plain wanderer.—Came in countless numbers one season in the early eighties. They were so tired and hungry that they could be killed with a stick. Some were taken by throwing a crab net over them. After a few days most of them moved on, but a few stayed for the rest

of the summer. These soon became very wild. This bird has never been seen since, no nests were found.

(6) *Geopelia placida tranquilla*—Eastern ground dove.—A recent arrival in this district, now fairly common. Has nested here for several years lately.

(7) *Phaps chalcoptera*—Bronze-winged pigeon.—This once common bird was completely exterminated by the early settlers, but since it has been totally protected, an occasional solitary bird visits us.

(8) *Hypotaenidia phillippensis australis*—Eastern buff-banded rail.—Formerly visited us every winter and nested, leaving in the early summer. This bird has been absent the last few years, probably owing to the clearing of its cover.

(9) *Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus*—Short-tailed petrel.—A single bird caught on the ground, from which it could not rise; apparently blown in by a gale about 1894.

(10) *Bruchigavia novæhollandiæ ethelæ*—Southern silver gull.—A single bird settled here about 1889.

(11) *Lobibyx novæhollandiæ*—Spur-winged plover.—Occasionally a few rest here for a day or two; last seen 1913.

(12) *Zonifer tricolor*—Black-breasted plover.—Same as the last species, but come oftener; last seen November, 1914.

(13) *Burhinus magnirostris*—Eastern stone plover.—Usually a few present, more common than formerly; nested last year.

(14) *Herodias alba symatophora*—White egret.—A single bird shot on a dam about 35 years ago.

(15) *Notophox novæhollandiæ*—White-fronted heron.—A single bird seen very occasionally.

(16) *Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae*—Australian night heron.—A single bird has visited us on two occasions.

(17) *Botaurus poiciloptilus*—East Australian bittern.—A single bird, January, 1915.

(18) *Chenopsis atrata*—Eastern black swan.—Flocks of these birds fairly often fly over, especially at night; never known to settle.

(19) *Cereopsis novæhollandiæ*—Cape Barren goose.—A single bird came here many years ago and stayed a day or two.

(20) *Casarca tadornoides*—Mountain duck.—A single bird settled here many years ago.

(21) *Anas superciliosa rogersi*—Black duck.—Used to come occasionally; none seen for a long time.

(22) *Virago castanea*—Eastern teal (grey teal).—Used to settle here occasionally; none for about 20 years.

(23) *Phalacrocorax carbo*—Black cormorant.—A single bird about 20 years ago.

(24) *Mesocarbo ater*—Little black cormorant.—Fairly common in 1893-1894; only a very few since.

(25) *Hypoleucus fuscescens*, or *Hypoleucus varius hypoleucus*—White-breasted cormorant.—Two birds only; last seen about 1894.

(26) *Microcarbo melanoleucus*—Little cormorant.—A very occasional bird; none seen for many years.

(27) *Circus assimilis*—Spotted harrier.—Formerly an occasional pair; not seen for many years.

(28) *Uroaetus audax*—Wedge-tailed eagle.—Still fairly common, formerly very much commoner.

(29) *Milvus korschuan affinis*—Allied kite.—Occasionally seen years ago; not noted for a long time.

(30) *Falco longipennis*—Little falcon.—Occasionally met with.

(31) *Falco hypoleucus*—Grey falcon.—Not seen for many years.

(32) *Ieracidea berigora*—Striped brown hawk.—Common.

(33) *Cerchnèis cenchroides*—Nankeen kestrel.—Quite common.

(34) *Spilogloux boobook*—Boobook owl.—Quite common; may be heard any moonlight night; much more numerous than formerly.

(35) *Tyto alba delicatula*—Masked owl.—Always a few present.

(36) *Trichoglossus novahollandie*—Blue-bellied lorikeet.—Came in vast numbers in the autumn of 1878, then not seen for about thirty years. A few pairs seen at times during the last few years. Considerable numbers with us just at present, no doubt owing to the dry season.

(37) *Glossopsitta concinna*—Musk lorikeet.—A migratory bird; very common at times.

(38) *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*—Purple crowned lorikeet.—Also extremely common when the gum trees are in flower.

(39) *Glossopsitta pusilla*—Little lorikeet.—Rarer than the last species, although they come along with them, in fair numbers to eat the gum tree honey.

(40) *Calyptorhynchus funereus*—Black cockatoo.—This bird has almost disappeared. Years ago they were fairly plentiful in the stringy bark ranges.

(41) *Cacatoes galerita*—White cockatoo.—At one time small flocks were seen occasionally. None seen for many years, except a flock of about 150 rested here for about two days in February, 1906.

(42) *Platyercus elegans adelaidae*—Adelaide rosella.—Always a few present; more plentiful of recent years.

(43) *Psephotes haematonotus*—Red-backed parrot.—This bird used to be fairly plentiful, but disappeared in the early eighties; none seen since.

(44) *Neonanoides chrysogaster*—Orange-bellied parrot.—A rare bird many years ago; none now.

(45) *Lathamus discolor tregellasi*—Victorian swift lorikeet.—Fair numbers came one season years ago. Three birds seen in 1914, probably this bird, but no specimens taken.

(46) *Melopsittacus undulatus*—Betcherrigah or shell parrot.—A few may be found on the grass land when the seed is ripening; unusually numerous the last three years.

(47) *Podargus strigoides*—Tawny frogmouth.—Fairly common.

(48) *Acgotheles cristata*—Owlet nightjar.—May be seen hawking moths on still moonlight nights; probably fairly common.

(49) *Alcyon azurea victoriae*—Blue kingfisher.—Was never common. Not seen for many years.

(50) *Dacelo gigas*—Brown kingfisher or laughing jackass.—Always present, although not in great numbers. Occasionally nests are found.

(51) *Sauropatis sancta*—Eastern sacred kingfisher.—Always a few present.

(52) *Cyanalcyon pyrrhopygius*—Red-backed kingfisher.—A single bird observed about thirty years ago.

(53) *Heteroscenes pallidus*—Pallid cuckoo.—Fairly common in the spring. Breeds here.

(54) *Cacomantis rubricatus*—Fantailed cuckoo.—Fairly common.

- (55) *Neochalcites basalis mellori*—Narrow-billed bronze cuckoo.—Quite common.
- (56) *Lamprococcyx plagosus*—Bronze cuckoo.—Not so plentiful as the foregoing species.
- (57) *Hirundo neoæna*—Welcome swallow.—Very common.
- (58) *Hylochelidon nigricans cayleyi*—Tree martin.—A common bird; nests in the air bricks.
- (59) *Lagenoplastes ariel*—Fairy martin.—Fairly common; does not nest in this immediate vicinity.
- (60) *Microeca fascians*—Brown flycatcher.—Not very plentiful; have never found its nest.
- (61) *Petroeca multicolor frontalis*—Southern scarlet-breasted robin.—A common bird, may be seen at all times of the year. Nests here.
- (62) *Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*—White-fronted robin.—Single birds. Visit us very occasionally in winter.
- (63) *Whiteornis goodenovii*—Southern red-capped robin.—Usually not at all common; very plentiful just now.
- (64) *Melanodryas cucullata vigorsii*—Southern hooded robin.—Only an occasional bird.
- (65) *Pachycephala pectoralis fuliginosa*—South Australian yellow-breasted thickhead. Not at all common.
- (66) *Levinornis rufiventris inornatus*—Southern rufous-breasted thickhead.—Quite common; nests freely. This bird has increased very much in the last ten years or so.
- (67) *Rhipidura flabelifera whitei*—South Australian fantail.—Fairly common, although never found nesting.
- (68) *Leucocirca tricolor*—Black-and-white fantail.—Always very common.
- (69) *Seisura inquieta*—Restless flycatcher.—Fairly common, much commoner of recent years. Never found nesting.
- (70) *Coracina novæhollandiæ melanops*—Black-faced cuckoo shrike.—Always a few present, sometimes in great numbers. Occasional nests found.
- (71) *Morganornis superciliosus*—White-browed babbler.—A small company seen occasionally; more frequent visitors of recent years.

(72) *Cinclorhamphus cruralis cantatoris*—Southern brown song lark.—Rare; used to be more plentiful when more hay was grown in this district.

(73) *Oreocincla lunulata dendyi*—Victorian ground thrush.—Inhabits the scrub on the top of the ranges.

(74) *Ephthianura albifrons*—White-fronted chat.—Very common; nests every year.

(75) *Conopoderas australis*—Southern reed warbler.—A single bird in a crop of sorghum in 1909.

(76) *Geobasileus chrysorrhous*—Yellow-rumped tit.—Always a very common bird; nests very freely.

(77) *Geobasileus reguloides australis*—Southern buff-rumped tit.—A rare bird.

(78) *Malurus cyaneus leggii*—Southern blue wren.—Very tame and common; always several nests in the garden.

(79) *Campbellornis personatus munnæ*—Masked wood swallow.—Common at times, absent for long periods. This bird was unusually plentiful in October-November of 1914.

(80) *Campbellornis superciliosus*—White-browed wood swallow.—Comes and goes with *C. personatus*.

(81) *Pseudartamus cyanopterus*—Wood swallow.—A common bird. Comes in great numbers in stormy weather, evidently for the protection of the thick trees. Occasional nests found.

(82) *Colluricincla harmonica victoriae*—Victorian grey shrike thrush.—A very common, although shy, bird; seems to be increasing.

(83) *Grallina cyanoleuca*—Magpie lark.—Fairly common; very common of late years; nests.

(84) *Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconoto*—White-backed magpie.—Always very common; much more plentiful and tamer of recent years.

(85) *Falcunculus frontatus flavigulus*—Green-bellied shrike tit.—Fairly numerous.

(86) *Climacteris leucophaea grisescens*—Southern white-throated tree creeper.—Not very plentiful.

(87) *Zosterops lateralis westernensis*—Southern white eye.—Very common.

(88) *Austroicaeum hirundinaceum*—Mistletoe bird.—Quite common.

(89) *Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygius*—Yellow-rumped pardalote.—Fairly common.

(90) *Pardalotinus¹ striatus subaffinis*—South Australian pardalote.—Very plentiful.

(91) *Melithreptus lunatus adalaidensis*—Southern white-naped honey eater.—Quite common.

(92) *Melithreptus gularis loftyi*—Southern black-chinned honey eater.—Plentiful.

(93) *Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris loftyi*—Mountain spine bill.—Quite plentiful.

(94) *Zanthoniza phrygia tregellasi*—Southern regent honey eater (warty faced honey eater).—A few birds seen occasionally.

(95) *Ptilotula penicillata whitci*—Southern white-plumed honey eater.—Very common.

(96) *Melinornis novae-hollandiae subassimilis*—South Australian white-bearded honey eater.—A very common bird.

(97) *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera indistincta*—Southern crescent honey eater.—Fairly common in the thick scrub in the bottoms of the deep gullies. Comes into more open country in winter.

(98) *Myzantha melanocephala whitci*—Southern white-headed miner.—First few pairs arrived in 1902. These have increased and spread till now there are thousands.

(99) *Paraptilotis chrysops samuclii*—Dark yellow-faced honey eater.—Always fairly plentiful.

(100) *Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*—Southern red wattle bird.—Always common in the ranges. In the early autumn they come down to the plains to feed, always returning in flocks to the hills to roost. When going down in the morning they fly straight down, but on returning in the evening they follow one another from tree to tree, always taking exactly the same route.

(101) *Dyotornis paradoxus*—Brush wattle bird.—Always a few present; commoner just at present than for many years.

(102) *Anthus australis adalaidensis*—Southern pipit.—Extremely plentiful.

(103) *Stagonopleura guttata philordi*—Southern spotted-sided finch.—A single pair seen occasionally.

(104) *Taenopygia castanotis*—Chestnut-eared finch.—Small flocks seen only very occasionally; nested last year.

(105) *Aegintha temporalis loftyi*—Mountain red-browed finch.—Fairly common, especially in winter.

(106) *Covus coronoides*—Australian raven.—These birds used to come in immense flocks, especially in summer, moving on in a day or two. A straggler or two usually remained behind and became very mischievous until they were shot. They are rarely seen now, and only in small companies.

(107) *Strepera melanoptera*—Black-winged crow-shrike.—Now rare; a disappearing bird. A single bird seen 1914.

Introduced birds—

Starling.

Blackbird.

Goldfinch.

House sparrow.

Greenfinch.
