

A JOURNEY TO COOPER CREEK

By BRIAN GLOVER.

During the period September 24 to October 2, 1955, my wife and myself travelled by car from Adelaide to Cooper Creek, visiting Upper Eyre Peninsula on the return journey. Apart from the first night spent with relatives at Peterborough, we camped alongside the track, selecting as wide a variety of habitats as possible for our various camps.

Our route lay through Burra to Peterborough, making a detour to a large lagoon, lined with box gums and lignum, near Oodl-wirra. This unfortunately was dry. Several hours were spent in scattered mallee in the hills about Peterborough. The road to Hawker is through almost completely bare, flat to undulating country, with big red gums (*E. camaldulensis*) lining the larger creeks, and an occasional small patch of native pine (*Callitris*) on some of the smaller creeks. Some of the low hills were covered with saltbush.

From Hawker to Wilpena, the country is again bare, with occasional patches of mallee, and red gum-lined creeks. A few miles south of Wilpena is an extensive area of native pine. The Wilpena Creek (flowing strongly) and Wilpena Pound are well clad with large trees, and most of one day was spent in this area. The ranges north of Wilpena are very bare, except for the gum-lined creeks, with small patches of mallee about Blinman, and a extensive area of mallee not far west of Blinman on the road to Parachilna. For much of its length this road follows, and crosses many times, a large creek, flowing quite strongly at the time of our visit.

West of the ranges the country is flat to undulating saltbush, with scattered bushes of various sizes, and this type of country, with occasional low hills, gum-lined creeks and small patches of scrub, extends to Leigh Creek, where there is a change to flat saltbush, with practically no vegetation more than a foot or two high, except for very occasional clumps of large bushes, for example at Wirrawilla, south of Marree.

N.E. of Marree, along the Birdsville Track, is very flat saltbush country, broken by an occasional sandy creek-bed, lined with large bushes, or, as with the Clayton, coolabahs (*Eucalyptus coolabah*). One large sandhill was traversed. Although very desolate to the eyes of one not accustomed to it, this

area was said to have been in its best condition for many years. Recent rain had turned much of the track into a quagmire, but the sun and wind was drying it rapidly.

The Cooper floodwaters were encountered about two miles past Etadunna. The flooded area was clothed with scattered coolabahs, and the surrounding country with a low shrubby growth (saltbush, etc.).

The return journey was along the same route as far as Parachilna, then west of the ranges to Quorn, this area being generally very bare, then via Pichi-Richi Pass to Port Augusta and on to Whyalla, this latter road being through country partly open saltbush and partly mallee and myall (*Acacia sowdenii*). From Whyalla west to Iron Knob is through myall scrub. The last day was spent between Iron Knob, Port Augusta and Port Pirie, the whole of the afternoon being spent in an unsuccessful search of every patch of roadside scrub between Port Augusta and Port Germein for the Turquoise Wren. A nocturnal drive from Port Pirie to Port Adelaide completed the trip.

Throughout the journey frequent short stops were made along the route to make a brief survey of birds present. A large number of birds were noticed whilst driving, especially in the flat saltbush type of country where birds were continually being flushed. Driving slowly, most of these birds could be identified with a reasonable degree of certainty.

In this and the following brief description of vegetation, the words "saltbush" and "bluebush" are used rather loosely and are not intended to refer definitely to *Atriplex* spp. and *Kochia* spp. respectively.

The most intensive bird observing was done at each of our camps, where I arose at or before dawn and spent two to three hours before breakfast in as thorough a survey possible of the country within about a mile of camp. Because of this a brief description of each of our camp-sites will be given; also as an indication of the variety of birds in different areas, the number of species recorded on my pre-breakfast rambles is given (i.e., under similar conditions at the same period of each day).

Camp 1.—Peterborough.

Camp 2.—(26 species).—A few miles south of

- Wilpena, on the bank of a red gum lined dry creek, at the edge of an extensive area of dense *Callitris* scrub (in places the pines so close together as to be almost impenetrable); about a mile from the ranges, here fairly thickly clothed with shrubby growth, and with some patches of mallee at the foot.
- Camp 3 (15 species).—A few miles north of Wilpena, on a small but flowing red gum lined creek in the ranges. Apart from an odd mallee and some patches of *Triodia* the surrounding hills were quite bare.
- Camp 4 (18 species).—18.5 miles north of Leigh Creek, in slightly undulating, almost shrubless saltbush country, with a small ($\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 acre) area of shallow water remaining after recent rains. At this camp I had the unique experience of identifying (by their calls) two species of birds new to me, before dawn, whilst still in bed. These were the Cinnamon Quail-Thrush and Rusty Field-Wren. Confirmation by sight record of both these birds was however a much more difficult task, as both, although apparently quite numerous, were extremely shy.
- Camp 5 (45 species).—Cooper Creek Floodwaters. Camped on edge of floodwaters, which here covered the track, among chenopodaceous shrubs up to 3 ft. high, with within a quarter mile the coolabahs in and along a more extensive area of floodwaters. At this camp flies were particularly troublesome, being in unbelievably large numbers.
- Camp 6 (29 species).—Scott's River, south of Copley. A large creek, lined with red gums; dry but with a few stagnant pools; low hills on one side. Country bare but for a few small patches of mallee and a Casuarina-like small tree.
- Camp 7 (34 species).—Gordon, 22 miles north of Quorn, on a large, flowing, red gum lined creek in otherwise rather bare country. Some large bushes growing along erosion gullies. R. Schodde and myself spent two nights here in September, 1953, the more important observations being reported in vol. XXI, pp. 15-17, of this journal.
- Camp 8 (35 species).—About half-way between Whyalla and Iron Knob in myall scrub, containing other small trees (e.g. Quondongs), close to edge of a large area of bluebush.
- Regarding the weather, conditions were generally fine and pleasant, the only rain being a shower at Camp 3, and the only really unpleasant day being October 1 (Camp 7 to Camp 8), when gale force north winds blew from a few hours after dawn until well into the night.
- In all 135 species of birds were recorded, but apart from a few more important records only observations made north of Terowie are included here.
- Little Quail (*Turnix velox*).—Several seen at Camp 4, Wirrawilla and Cooper Creek. On flushing called a squeaky "Chip-chip-chip, chip chip." A white patch on flanks conspicuous in flight.
- Rock Dove (*Columba livia*).—About farms and townships from Adelaide to Terowie. Recorded just north of Parachilna. One dead bird on road south of Lincoln Gap.
- Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*).—Small flocks at Wirrawilla, the Clayton, and Scott's River (Camp 6). Call a repeated "Coo-coo," sometimes varied to "Coo-oo coo coo," distinct from call of *G. placida*.
- Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*).—One at Camp 3; one between Port Augusta and Port Germein.
- Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Recorded at all camps except Scott's River, and on nearly all stages of the journey except between Camp 4 and the Cooper, although recorded at both these places.
- Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*).—A flock of 20+ at the Cooper.
- Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*).—One seen on Cooper floodwaters.
- Hoary-headed Grebe (*P. poliocephalus*).—At least 20 seen on Cooper floodwaters.
- Little Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*).—One at Cooper Creek; several at Port Augusta.
- Cormorants (unidentified).—One black at Gordon, several large black and white at Whyalla.
- Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*).—Three north of Leigh Creek, hawking over waterless saltbush flats; several at Camp 4, Etadunna and Cooper Creek. Most had forehead and crown black, but at least one (at Cooper Creek) had a black patch through the eye only. Call,

- a chattering, broken "a-a-a-a," and a short "uk-uk."
- Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—Port Augusta.
- Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*).—Several at Cooper Creek.
- Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—One, possibly 2 pairs at Cooper Creek.
- Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).—A pair with young at Etadunna, and two seen, others heard calling at night at Camp 8.
- Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius alexandrinus*).—10+ on shore of Lake Harry.
- Black-fronted Dotterel (*C. melanops*).—Two between Blinman and Parachilna, 1 at the Clayton, several at Gordon.
- Australian Dotterel (*Peltohyas australis*).—Three near Lake Harry; 1 dead on road south of Marree.
- White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucoccephalus*).—Two at Cooper Creek.
- Waders, unidentified.—A small flock of waders at Lake Harry too far off to identify. About size of Sharp-tailed Sandpiper.
- Australian Pratincole (*Stiltia isabella*).—36 Counted between Marree and the Cooper, with in addition at least a dozen on the shores of Lake Harry and 2 at Cooper Creek. Call "Whee-ee tee."
- ? Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola pratincola*).—Whilst we were negotiating a large sandhill between the Clayton and Dulkaninna, my wife saw a Pratincole with a strongly forked tail. As *Stiltia* has an unforked tail, it seems likely that the bird seen was an Oriental Pratincole.
- Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*).—17 at Cooper Creek.
- Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*).—Two at Cooper Creek; 1 between Etadunna and Dulkaninna.
- Spoonbill (*Platalea* sp.).—Two at Cooper Ck.
- White-faced Heron (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*).—One between Blinman and Parachilna, 1 at Camp 4, 4+ at Cooper Creek, 1 at Gordon.
- White-necked Heron (*N. pacifica*).—10+ at Cooper Creek, 1 between Dulkaninna and the Clayton.
- Black Swan (*Cygnus atratus*).—One at Cooper Creek; several on Lake Harry.
- Plumed Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*).—Two, possibly 4, at Cooper Creek. The shyest of the ducks seen.
- Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).—20+ at Cooper Creek; 2 at Gordon.
- Grey Teal (*A. gibberifrons*).—Many hundreds at Cooper Creek. One brood of very young ducklings, and a nest with at least 9 eggs down the hollow trunk of a coolabah. Several at Gordon, including 4 almost full grown but flightless juveniles.
- Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*).—Hundreds at Cooper Creek, including a brood of half-grown young. A flock on Lake Harry.
- White-eyed Duck (*Aythya australis*).—Four at Cooper Creek.
- Ducks, unidentified.—Large flocks on Lake Harry.
- Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*).—One between Dulkaninna and Etadunna; 2 at Cooper Creek.
- Swamp Harrier (*C. approximans*).—Two at Cooper Creek.
- Accipiter* sp.—1 between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*).—Two north of Leigh Creek, and single birds north of Hawker, at Wilpena Pound, Camp 3, south of Marree, Lake Harry, and between Dulkaninna and Etadunna.
- Little Eagle (*Hieraetus morphnoides*).—One at the Clayton, 1 south of Mernmerna, 2 at Gordon, 2 between Quorn and Port Augusta, 1 at camp 8, and several between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).—Several between Peterborough, Ororoo and Hawker, 1 at Cooper Creek, and several between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Black Kite (*Milvus migrans*).—Three north of Ororoo, 2 south of Leigh Creek, 2 at Farina, several at Marree, Etadunna, Cooper Creek, Dulkaninna, Leigh Creek to Scott's R.; 2 at Gordon, 3 between Quorn and Port Augusta, 1 two miles south of Nectar Brook, and 1 between Mambray Creek and Baroota.
- Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus notatus*).—One near Mambray Creek.
- Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*).—Two at Gordon, very tame; call a tremulous, screaming "eee eee eee eee."
- Brown Hawk (*F. berigora*).—Single birds south of Hawker, Cooper Creek, Quorn, to Port Augusta, Camp 8, and between Stirling and Port Germein.

- Kestrel (*F. cenchroides*).—Recorded in all areas visited. Flushed from nest at Camp 4.
- Boobook Owl (*Ninox novae-seelandiae*).—Heard at Camps 2 and 6.
- Corella (*Kakatoe sanguinea*).—Several south and north of Hawker; Camps 2 and 3, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, to Leigh Creek; camp 4, Cooper Creek, Etadunna to Dulkaninni, Scott's R., Parachilna to Hawker, and Gordon. No large flocks seen, and numbers invariably lower than of the Galah.
- Galah (*K. roseicapilla*).—Recorded throughout entire journey. Large flocks at Camp 3, Scott's R., and Gordon.
- Cockatiel (*Leptolophus hollandicus*).—Several at Etadunna, 2 at the Clayton, and a flock of 10+ at Scott's R.
- Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adelaidae*).—Several between Kapunda and Burra.
- Ringneck (*Barnardius barnardi*).—One between Kapunda and Burra; 3 between Orroroo and Hawker; recorded also at Camp 2, Wilpena Pound, Camp 3, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, Scott's R.; Gordon and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematoptus*).—Recorded between Orroroo and Hawker, Camp 2 (2 birds), and Gordon.
- Mulga Parrot (*P. varius*).—One male at Camp 2; recorded between Blinman and Parachilna; 2 between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Blue Bonnet (*N. haematogaster*).—One at Peterborough, several at Cooper Creek, 2 east of Iron Knob.
- Budgerigah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—A small flock between Peterborough and Orroroo, 1 between Orroroo and Hawker, 10+ at Camp 2; 20+ east of Parachilna; 20+ at Scott's R. Also recorded north of Leigh Creek, the Clayton, the Cooper and Etadunna.
- Red-backed Kingfisher (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*).—One between Greenock and Kapunda, 1 at Camp 3, 2 west of Blinman; also between Parachilna and Leigh Creek, the Clayton, Scott's R., Camp 8 (1 bird), and east of Iron Knob.
- Sacred Kingfisher (*H. sanctus*).—Heard calling, Wilpena Pound.
- Spotted Nightjar (*Eurostopodus guttatus*).—Heard calling at night at Camp 4.
- Black-eared Cuckoo (*Misocalius osculans*).—One seen, others heard at Camp 8.
- Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*).—Heard at Camp 2, between Blinman and Parachilna, and at Cooper Creek.
- Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Recorded between Camp 3 and Blinman; at Marree and Dulkaninna, between Marree and Leigh Creek, and 6 between Iron Knob and Port Augusta. One of these latter birds was paced at 40 m.p.h. by the car speedometer.
- White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*).—Single birds only between Parachilna and Leigh Creek, and between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*).—Recorded between Orroroo and Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, Cooper Creek, Scott's R., and Gordon.
- Fairy Martin (*H. ariel*).—Very numerous between Marree and Hawker, where they appeared to be nesting under culverts beneath the railway line, which parallels the road much of the way. Also recorded at Camp 4, the Clayton, Scott's R., and Gordon.
- Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura fuliginosa*).—Several in scrubs between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Willy Wagtail (*R. leucophrys*).—Recorded between Orroroo and Hawker, Wilpena Pound, Camp 3 to Blinman, Beltana, Scott's R., Gordon, Camp 8, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough and at Camp 8.
- Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*).—Recorded only between Greenock, Kapunda and Burra.
- Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough and at Peterborough (a pair with two flying young).
- Hooded Robin (*Melanodryas cucullata*).—Two at Camp 8.
- Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*).—Recorded at Camp 2, Wilpena Pound, Blinman to Parachilna, Camp 8, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Grey Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*).—Recorded at Peterborough, Hawker to Wilpena, Camp 2, Wilpena Pound, Blinman to Parachilna, and Stirling to Port Germein (1 flying young).
- Western Thrush (*C. rufiventris*).—One at

- Camp 8. The pale rufous undertail coverts were quite noticeable. The song heard varied slightly from typical Grey Thrush song, although basically similar.
- Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).—Recorded at Peterborough, Peterborough to Orroroo, Hawker to Wilpena, Cooper Creek (4 birds), Etadunna, the Clayton, Scott R. and Gordon.
- Crested Bellbird (*Oreoica gutturalis*).—Heard between Blinman, Parachilna and Leigh Creek, at Scott's R., Camp 8, and east of Iron Knob.
- Wedgebill (*Sphenostoma cristatum*).—Fairly numerous in large shrubby growth, on flats east of Parachilna, and between Parachilna and Leigh Creek; also recorded between Leigh Creek and Camp 4, and in large bushes east of Stirling (2 seen, others heard).
- Ground Cuckoo-Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*).—One at Etadunna.
- Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*).—Recorded at Peterborough, Camps 2 and 3, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, Scott's R., Beltana, Gordon, Camp 8, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- White-winged Triller (*Lalage suerii*).—Recorded at Peterborough (1 female), in *Callitris* between Orroroo and Hawker (at least 2 singing males and 1 female), flats east of Parachilna (1 male), the Clayton (several singing males), Cooper Creek (several), Scott's R. (several), and Gordon (1 male).
- Cinnamon Quail-Thrush (*Cinclosoma cinnamomeum*).—Camp 4. Although only 3 or 4 birds were seen, calls could be heard from all directions, indicating that the species was really quite numerous. The cinnamon color of the upper parts is very conspicuous in flight and enabled ready identification of 4 single birds flushed along the road between Leigh Creek and Marree. The call is quite distinctive, and is best described as a soft but penetrating "i-i-eee," with a distinct resemblance to the call of the Little Grass-bird.
- White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough, Orroroo to Hawker to Wilpena, Camp 2, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, Camp 8, east of Iron Knob and Stirling to Port Germein.
- White-fronted Chat (*Ephthianura albifrons*).—Recorded south of Hawker, Port Augusta to Whyalla and Camp 8.
- Crimson Chat (*E. tricolor*).—Seen only at Wirrawilla, where several pairs were present, one with flying young. The juveniles resembled the female in having the red rump, but the red of the breast was very dull or lacking.
- Orange Chat (*E. aurifrons*).—Numerous between Leigh Creek, Marree and the Cooper, being flushed frequently from alongside the track. Small parties at Camp 4 and the Cooper. Voice a reedy "weet" and a squeaky "weet weet."
- Gibber Bird (*Ashbya lovensis*).—Chat-like birds with plain-colored rumps flushed frequently along the Birdsville Track were probably of this species, but the only definite identification was of a small party between Dulkaninna and the Clayton.
- Weebill (*Smicrornis brevirostris*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough, Peterborough, north of Hawker, Camp 2, Wilpena, Camp 3, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna, Scott's R., Beltana, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough, Peterborough, Orroroo to Hawker, north of Hawker, Blinman to Parachilna, Cooper Creek, Gordon, Camp 8, Iron Knob to Port Augusta, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*).—The inland (chestnut-rumped) form of this species was recorded at Camps 2 and 3, and Wilpena Pound.
- Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*A. uropygialis*).—Recorded at Camp 8 only.
- Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoea*).—Recorded lagoon east of Peterborough, Peterborough, Peterborough to Orroroo to Hawker (one nest c. 9 ft. up in a *Callitris* and overhanging the road, another in a roadside shrub), north of Hawker, Camps 2 and 3, Scott's R., Beltana, Gordon, Camp 8, Iron Knob to Port Augusta, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Redthroat (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*).—A male singing in lignums bordering lagoon east of Peterborough.
- Rusty Field-Wren (*Calamanthus isabellinus*).—Recorded only at Camp 4, and be-

- tween Camp 4 and Leigh Creek. From the amount of song heard, appeared to be quite common, but being very wary only a few birds were actually seen fairly closely. Although obviously only a form of *C. campestris*, this bird is nevertheless easily distinguished in the field, providing a reasonably good view of it can be obtained. The upper parts are much paler than *C. campestris*, the head is unstriped, or only very lightly striped, and striations of the back and underparts (particularly the back) are much less conspicuous.
- Brown Songlark (*Cinclorhynchus cruralis*).**—Recorded in open country throughout the whole journey. Generally plentiful.
- Rufous Songlark (*C. mathewsi*).**—First recorded between Greenock and Kapunda, and then noted on all other stages of the journey; along the Birdsville Track was recorded only at the Clayton.
- Western Grass-Wren (*Amytornis textilis*).**—A pair in bluebush (?) flats at Camp 8. The striated throat separates this species from all other South Australian members of the genus except *A. purnelli*, from which species *A. textilis* can be distinguished by its much paler underparts.
- Little Grassbird (*Megalurus gramineus*).**—Heard at Cooper Creek.
- Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*).**—Recorded at the Clayton and between Etadunna and Dulkaninna.
- White-winged Wren (*Malurus leuconotus*).**—Confined to saltbush-type country and recorded south of Hawker, Leigh Creek to Camp 4, Camp 4 (began calling 3.00 hours and continued until after dawn), Cooper Creek, Scott's R., Gordon, Gordon to Quorn, Port Augusta to Whyalla, Camp 8, Iron Knob, Iron Knob to Port Augusta, Stirling, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Purple-backed Wren (*M. assimilis*).**—Inhabits taller shrubs than does *M. leuconotus*. Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough, north of Hawker, Wilpena Pound (in *Triodia* on a hillside), Gordon, Camp 8, Stirling, and Stirling to Port Germein (very numerous).
- Black-faced Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cinereus*).**—Recorded east of Parachilna, Leigh Creek to Camp 4 to Marree (nest with young at Wirrawilla), Cooper Creek, the Clayton, Scott's R. (2), Port Augusta to Whyalla, Camp 8, Stirling (4). Calls included a harsh "ap" and "ap ap" from the nesting birds at Wirrawilla, and a reedy "weet weet."
- Dusky Wood-Swallow (*A. cyanopterus*).**—Recorded at Wilpena Pound (1 bird), Blinman to Parachilna and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*).**—A small party in savannah woodland between Kapunda and Burra.
- Brown Tree-Creeper (*Climacteris picumnus*).**—Recorded between Kapunda and Burra and at Wilpena Pound.
- Mistletoe Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*).**—One at Scott's R.; also at Camp 8.
- Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*).**—Recorded at Camp 2, Wilpena Pound, Camp 3, Camp 3 to Blinman, the Clayton, the Cooper, Scott's R., Gordon and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Red-browed Pardalote (*P. rubricatus*).**—At Cooper Creek this species appeared to equal in numbers *P. ornatus* which it superficially resembles. Main differences are the spotted crown (striped in *ornatus*), the red patch above and in front of the eye, continuing backwards as a yellow eyebrow line (yellow spot to white eyebrow line in *ornatus*), yellow band on folded wing (white band, with red spot at front end in *ornatus*), and call. The call has a Pardalote quality and can be recorded as "Do; doo-doo-doo-doo," the first note lower pitched and sharp-cut. The call sounds not unlike the distant "Pinking" of a Rosella. One was seen feeding on ants which were running up a coolabah limb.
- Brown-headed Honeyeater (*Melithreptus brevirostris*).**—Several at Camp 2; also between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Pied Honeyeater (*Certhionys variegatus*).**—A pair at Wirrawilla. The male closely resembles a male Hooded Robin in plumage, including the tail pattern, but could hardly be mistaken for the Robin, being much slimmer, having a longer, down-curved beak, and being much more active. The female is very plain—upper parts brown with light edges to wing feathers, under whitish.
- Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*).**—Recorded at Peterborough, Parachilna to Leigh Creek, Cooper Creek (1 bird),

- Port Augusta to Whyalla, Camp 8 (numerous), and Stirling.
- Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (*M. ornata*).—Several between Stirling and Port Germein.
- Yellow-fronted Honeyeater (*M. plumula*).—Numerous in mallee west of Blinman.
- White-plumed Honeyeater (*M. penicillata*).—Recorded at lagoon east of Peterborough, Wilpena Pound, and in large red gums along creeks from Blinman to Parachilna to Leigh Creek, also on the Clayton and Scott's R.
- Yellow-throated Miner (*Myzantha flavigula*).—Recorded between Orroroo and Hawker; Camp 2, Wilpena, Camp 3, Camp 3 to Blinman to Parachilna to Leigh Creek, the Clayton, the Cooper, Scott's R., Camp 8, Iron Knob to Port Augusta and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—Recorded at Camps 2 and 8.
- Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—Recorded at Peterborough, south of Hawker, Camp 4 to Marree, Camp 8 (numerous), Iron Knob to Port Augusta, and Stirling to Port Germein.
- Pipit (*Anthus australis*).—Recorded throughout the whole journey.
- Diamond Firetail (*Zonaeginthus guttatus*).—A small flock at Camp 2.
- Zebra Finch (*Taeniopygia castanotis*).—Recorded on the flats east of Parachilna, Parachilna to Leigh Creek to Marree (very numerous at Camp 4; several nests at Wirrawilla), the Clayton, Cooper Creek, Scott's R., Parachilna to Hawker, and Gordon. Generally common.
- Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).—Recorded at Greenock, between Kapunda and Burra, and at the lagoon east of Peterborough.
- Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).—Recorded about habitations throughout most of journey, including Marree, Dulkaninna and Iron Knob.
- Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*).—Recorded north to as far as Blinman, and west to Camp 8 and Iron Knob.
- Raven (*Corvus coronoides*).—Recorded throughout whole of journey.
- ? Little Crow (*C. bennetti*).—Calls resembling those of this species heard north of Beltana and at Cooper Creek.
- Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Recorded at Camp 2, Camp 3 to Blinman, Parachilna to Leigh Creek, Scott's R., Camp 8 (3 birds), Iron Knob to Port Augusta to Port Germein.
- Black-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*).—First noticed north of Terowie, and thence recorded throughout most of the journey. The only definite record on the Birdsville Track was on the Clayton, and on Upper Eyre Peninsula a single bird with a narrow black saddle was seen between Iron Knob and Port Augusta.
- White-backed Magpie (*G. hypoleuca*).—Was recorded north to Camp 3, with an almost certain record from Blinman. On the return journey first noted at Gordon, and from there throughout the rest of the journey.
- Magpies, unidentified.—Camp 4 (heard), Cooper Creek, Dulkaninna to the Clayton, and Camp 8.