

## BIRDS OF THE MANNUM AREA

by J. B. COX

From June, 1969, until October, 1971, I resided at Mannum, a small town on the River Murray, fifty-two miles east of Adelaide. During this period, and on several occasions in 1972, I had ample opportunity to observe the birds which occurred in the district. The area that I was able to cover more thoroughly, and which this paper embraces, extends from the Mount Lofty Ranges in the west to the vicinity of Goondooloo and Karoonda in the east, from the Sturt Highway in the north to Murray Bridge and Tailem Bend in the south. Flowing almost north to south, the River Murray divides the area in two, while the River Marne, which extends eastwards from the Mount Lofty Ranges and enters the Murray at Wongulla, and Reedy Creek are the only other prominent watercourses.

Reedy Creek rises in the Mount Lofty Ranges and enters the area in review at Palmer, then flows south-eastwards until it reaches the Murray at a point about five miles south-west of Mannum. Approximately four miles before the creek reaches the Murray, it enters a large area of low-lying land, bordered by low limestone cliffs, which, during times of much rain, is liable to flood, as in October, 1970. This area consists of large expanses of shallow water connected to the Murray, along with three rain- or flood-water pools, which annually evaporate and in the process create an ideal habitat for waders and waterfowl. Additionally, there is an area of open mud-flats formed by silt from the creek. The vegetation consists mainly of samphire, lignum and reeds, while the red gum is the principal tree. This fundamentally swamp area is unique to the district and supports a large and varied population of breeding and migrant birds. It is my opinion that it should be given a high priority status in respect to future conservation.

The country away from the influence of the Murray consists mainly of mallee, much of which has been cleared or is in danger of being levelled. There are, however, still large areas of virgin land to the north and good tracts of mallee in the vicinities of Chapman's Bore, Karoonda and Bowhill.

Glenburr Scrub is one such area, and is situated twenty miles east of Mannum.

As it would be impossible for one observer to cover such a large area adequately in so short a time, species which it is thought could occur are listed as "No record." Species recorded breeding are marked with a "B"; obviously many others do breed, but no positive evidence of their doing so was recorded. A total of 215 species were recorded in the area; while at Reedy Creek alone, 148 species were seen.

The order of species is that of H. T. Condon's *Handlist*. I have differed from some of Condon's vernacular and scientific names, giving reasons for my disagreement in the case of the latter.

### SYSTEMATIC LIST

1. EMU *Dromaius novaehollandiae*—One bird seen near Sandleton on March 20, 1971. The only record.

11. (BLACK - THROATED) LITTLE GREBE *Podiceps novaehollandiae*—Common on the Murray and Reedy Creek at all times. A noticeable difference between this species and the Red-throated Little Grebe *P. ruficollis* is the former's willingness to fly and show the prominent white wing patches which *P. ruficollis* (in Europe at least) lacks.

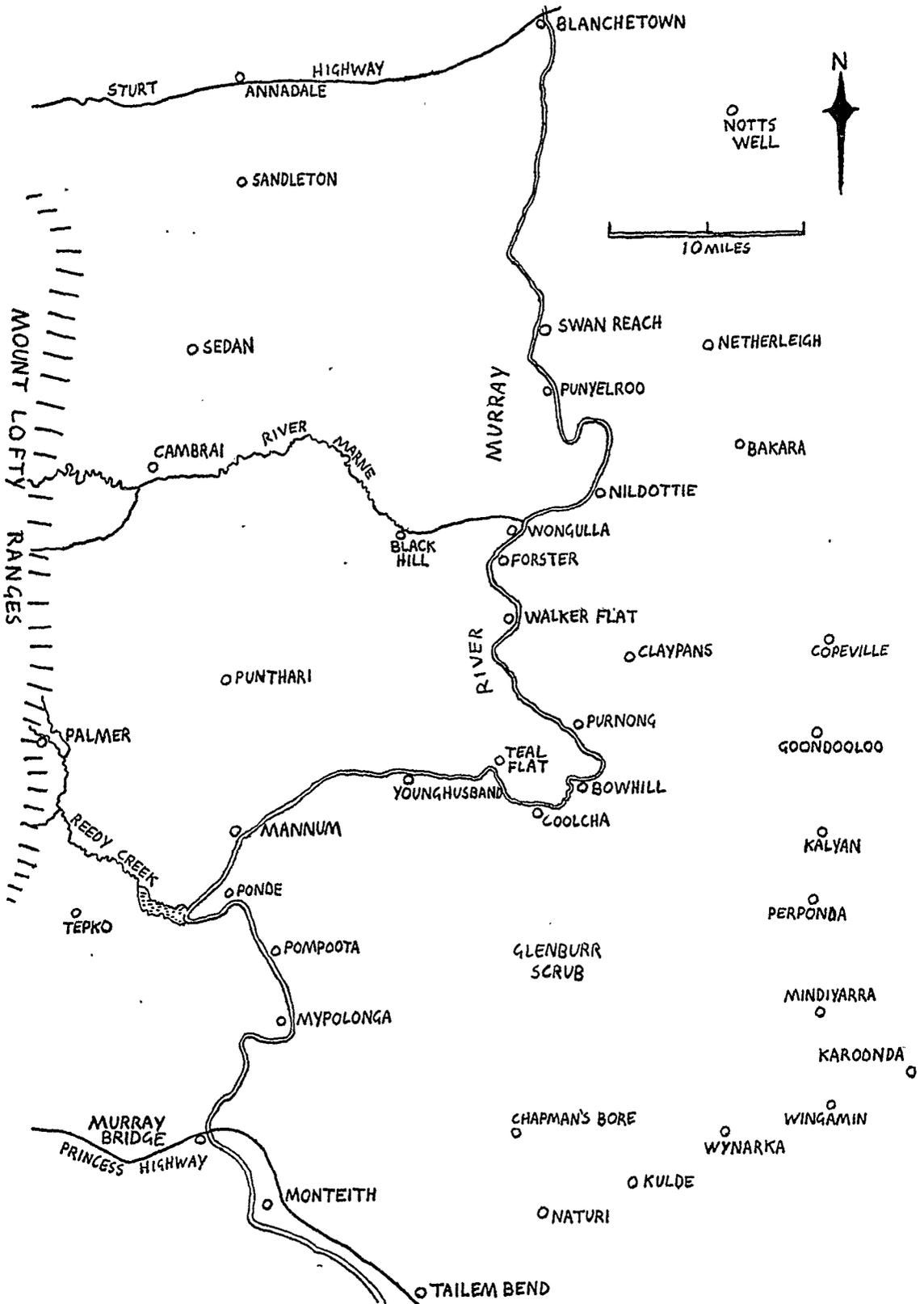
12. HOARY-HEADED GREBE *Podiceps policephalus*—Common on the river at all times.

13. GREAT-CRESTED GREBE *Podiceps cristatus*—A regular visitor to the quieter stretches of the river, recorded from July to March. Maximum recorded was 25 on October 26, 1969.

40. AUSTRALIAN PELICAN *Pelecanus conspicillatus*—Common at all times on the Murray and Reedy Creek and sometimes seen flying over other areas away from water.

44. BLACK CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax carbo*—Common on the Murray and Reedy Creek but not in large numbers.

45. LITTLE BLACK CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*—Very common on the Murray and other waters at all times.



47. PIED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax varius*—Uncommon, only very occasionally seen on the river.
48. LITTLE PIED CORMORANT *Phalacrocorax melanoleucos*—Very common, occurs in large numbers on the Murray as well as being present on almost any patch of water.
51. DARTER *Anhinga anhinga*—No record.
53. WHITE-FACED HERON *Ardea novae-hollandiae*—Common. Frequents any area of water and is very common in irrigation areas.
54. WHITE-NECKED HERON *Ardea pacifica*—Probably a regular visitor in small numbers. Recorded from March to September, usually single birds; but sometimes two or three were seen together.
55. CATTLE EGRET *Ardeola ibis*—One seen on irrigation fields near Mannum on July 26, 1969. From September 13, 1970, until November 25, 1970, two birds frequented some pig stys, next to the river about five miles north-east of Mannum, and by October 10, 1970 one had attained breeding plumage. A bird returned to the same area during August and September in 1971.
56. LITTLE EGRET *Egretta garzetta*—One was seen at Wongulla from August 8 to 12, 1970, and again on June 14, 1971. An obviously different individual was also observed near Swan Reach on August 12, 1970. One at Walkers Flat on July 4, 1971. A party of six were at an area two miles west of Bowhill from July 10, 1971, until August 4, 1971. One at Reedy Creek on August 3-4, 1971.
57. PLUMED EGRET *Egretta intermedia*—One bird two miles north-east of Mannum on August 9, 1969, and again from April 12, 1970, until May 2, 1970. Two were present six miles upstream on June 6, 1970. Another recorded in the same area again on August 4, 1971.
58. GREAT WHITE EGRET *Egretta alba*—Common on the Murray and at Reedy Creek most of the year; usually absent from November until February. 124 were counted between Mannum and Bowhill on August 4, 1971.
- Condon (1968), lists *E. garzetta* and *E. intermedia* as rare. I believe that with regular observations, they both may prove to be regular visitors to the Murray. It may be significant that most of the *Ardeiformes* seen have mainly been recorded in the cooler months.
60. NANKEEN NIGHT HERON *Nycticorax caledonicus*—Common in some areas on the Murray; often difficult to locate.
62. BROWN BITTERN *Botaurus poiciloptilus*—One seen near Mannum on August 21, 1969. Probably more common than this one record would suggest.
63. WHITE IBIS *Threskiornis molucca*—Common, especially in irrigation areas.
64. STRAW-NECKED IBIS *Threskiornis spinicollis*—Little difference from *T. molucca*.
66. GLOSSY IBIS *Plegadis falcinellus*—Reedy Creek: two on September 29-30, 1970; one on December 6, 1970. The only records.
67. ROYAL SPOONBILL *Platalea regia*—Common in small numbers along the Murray and at Reedy Creek.
68. YELLOW-BILLED SPOONBILL *Platalea flavipes*—Less common than *P. regia*. Present most of the year.
79. CAPE BARREN GOOSE *Cereopsis novaehollandiae*—No record. A landowner at Reedy Creek informed me that four were present there in 1968.
80. BLACK SWAN *Cygnus atratus*—Very common on the Murray and Reedy Creek. B.
82. FRECKLED DUCK *Stictonetta naevosa*—Five at Reedy Creek on May 17, 1970.
83. CHESTNUT-BREASTED SHELDUCK *Tadorna tadornoides*—Moderately common on the Murray and at Reedy Creek except during the breeding season.
84. (AUSTRALIAN) BLACK DUCK *Anas superciliosa*—Common on most waters. B.
85. MALLARD *Anas platyrhynchos*—Seen occasionally on the Murray. The "Khaki Campbell" domestic breed is occurring in increasing numbers, because of "escapes."
86. CHESTNUT TEAL *Anas castanea*—Common, in small numbers and mainly in the cooler months. Has bred at Reedy Creek on two known occasions. B.

87. GREY TEAL *Anas gibberifrons*—Very common. Occurs on most waters. 2,000 plus at Reedy Creek on March 1, 1970.
88. BLUE-WINGED SHOVELER *Anas rhynchos*—Uncommon, but can usually be found during the winter in small numbers at Reedy Creek or on the Murray.
91. PINK-EARED DUCK *Malacorhynchus membranaceus*—At Reedy Creek; two, November 15, 1969; four, May 31, 1970 to August 23, 1970; three, September 25-26, 1970. Five, seven miles north-east of Mannum on July 4, 1970.
92. WHITE-EYED DUCK *Aythya australis*—Common on the quieter parts of the Murray, and at Reedy Creek. Occurs mainly in the non-breeding season when flocks of 100 plus can be seen.
94. MANED WOOD-DUCK *Chenonetta jubata*—Recorded mainly from Reedy Creek during the summer, maximum of 25 on February 7, 1970. Was only seen by the Murray rarely and in very small numbers.
96. BLUE-BILLED DUCK *Oxyura australis*—Moderately common on the quieter parts of the Murray, usually in pairs or small parties. B.
97. MUSK DUCK *Biziura lobata*—Very common on the Murray and at Reedy Creek. B.
99. BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE *Elanus notatus*—Common; fluctuates in numbers. 15 were seen in the air together near Mannum on March 17, 1970. B.
102. BLACK KITE *Milvus migrans*—Two sightings in 1969, seven in 1970, and one in 1971, all of single birds. It is not known how many individual birds were involved, but two were seen flying together near Glenburr Scrub on December 12, 1970. All records were from December to June.
105. WHISTLING KITE *Haliastur sphenurus*—Very common; mainly in areas with water. B.
107. BROWN GOSHAWK *Accipiter fasciatus*—Moderately common in most areas.
108. COLLARED SPARROWHAWK *Accipiter cirrhocephalus*—Condon (1968), gives the status of this species as "uncommon." I found it in about the same numbers as *A. fasciatus*. This species tends to fly lower than *A. fasciatus* and keep more below the canopy. It is altogether more secretive; but a perched bird usually allows a very close approach. These habits may help to account for the status given this species by Condon.
- LITTLE EAGLE *Hieraaetus morphnoides*—Common throughout the year. Both light and dark phases, the former the commoner. B.
- WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE *Aquila audax*—Quite often seen but not common. Local population is probably increased by immigrants in the summer. B.
- WHITE - BREASTED SEA - E A G L E *Haliaetus leucogastor*—One seen, three miles north-east of Mannum on April 12, 1970.
- SPOTTED HARRIER *Circus assimilis*—Moderately common visitor from July to March. B.
- SWAMP HARRIER *Circus approximans*—Common, usually near water. B.
- GREY FALCON *Falco hypoleucos*—One adult bird seen nine miles north-east of Mannum on August 12, 1970. This bird was first seen flying towards my wife and myself at a range of about 500 yards low over the ground. At this stage it appeared to be a peregrine-type of falcon, but as it came nearer the different shape and flight became apparent. The wing-beats were nowhere near as rapid as a Peregrine's *Falco peregrinus*, and although they were still powerful, each stroke was deeper. The wings were thick at the bases, tapering to a point and longer in proportion than that of *F. peregrinus*. The latter feature was made more noticeable by the fact that the tail was shorter and did not appear tapered. When the bird was passing in front and below (we were on a rise) the very pale plumage became clear. The whole upper surface was a pale grey apart from darker wing-tips. As it drew level, at no more than 100 yards distance, the bird rose in the air, soared above us and then continued on its way. The under surface was the same pale grey with darker wing-tips; but the tail was noted to be finely barred darker. From below the bird had a "dirty" appearance being whiter on the breast and face.

117. BLACK FALCON *Falco subniger*—Recorded all months except April and July, the majority of sightings in the summer. Quite often birds were seen in pairs, especially at Reedy Creek, which is a favourite haunt of birds of prey.
118. BROWN FALCON *Falco berigora*—Common. Two birds, which were obviously of this species, were seen flying over Mannum on February 2, 1970. They both had the entire underwing coverts a dark brown. These could possibly be referable to another race than *centralia* or to the "true dark Phase—resembles Black Falcon" as mentioned by Condon, (1968) 2. Many other, probably immigrant, birds of prey were in the district at the time of this sighting. I have never seen a Black Falcon with the wings held above the horizontal; they typically fly, and glide, with them held in a slight bow. Were it not for their flight and shape, with their dark brown underparts, the two Brown Falcons mentioned could have been mistaken for Black Falcons. B.
119. LITTLE FALCON *Falco longipennis*—Rather uncommon, the majority of sightings being in the summer.
120. PEREGRINE FALCON *Falco peregrinus*—Seen at any time of the year but not common.
121. NANKEEN KESTREL  
*Falco cenchroides*—Very common. B.
123. MALLEE-FOWL *Leipoa ocellata*—Occurs in the mainly virgin mallee areas where it is not uncommon. Threatened by land clearance. B.
124. STUBBLE QUAIL *Coturnix pectoralis*—Common. Oddly enough, even though many trips were undertaken at night, this was the only species of quail recorded in the district. B.
131. BROLGA *Grus rubicundus*—One bird was seen on muddy ground by floodwater, near Younghusband on July 17, 1971. On my approach the bird flew up and went off high to the south.
133. BANDED LANDRAIL *Rallus philippensis*—Recorded from Reedy Creek. Single birds seen only occasionally.
134. SPOTTED CRAKE *Porzana fluminea*—Common on the Murray and at Reedy Creek. These birds are most frequently seen when the water level is low.
135. MARSH CRAKE *Porzana pusilla*—One seen, one mile upstream from Mannum on August 30, 1969.
136. SPOTLESS CRAKE *Porzana tabuensis*—One, six miles north-east of Mannum on March 14, 1970; two, Younghusband, July 17, 1971.
137. BLACK-TAILED NATIVE HEN *Tribonyx ventralis*—Common, fluctuates in numbers but is present on most watercourses all of the time.
138. MOORHEN *Gallinula tenebrosa*—Very common on most waters. B.
139. PURPLE GALLINULE *Porphyrio porphyrio*—Very common on most waters. B.
140. COOT *Fulica atra*—Very common on the Murray. B.
142. PAINTED SNIPE *Rostratula benghalensis*—Recorded only from Reedy Creek; one female, October 18, 1969; one male and one female, November 15, 1969; two females, November 22, 1969.
145. MASKED PLOVER *Vanellus miles*—Common, mainly in the vicinity of water. B.
146. BANDED PLOVER *Vanellus tricolor*—Common, most often seen on open ground away from water, but is seen at times by the river. B.
147. GREY PLOVER *Pluvialis squatarola*—One seen at Reedy Creek on January 1, 1970.
148. PACIFIC GOLDEN PLOVER *Pluvialis dominica*—One at Reedy Creek from November 9, 1969, to December 13, 1969.
150. RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL *Charadrius alexandrinus*—Sometimes seen on muddy ground around by the Murray, as many as 50 may be present at Reedy Creek where it has bred. B.
151. DOUBLE-BANDED DOTTEREL *Charadrius bicinctus*—One at Reedy Creek from July 28, 1970, until August 23, 1970, by when it had attained breeding plumage.
153. LARGE SAND-DOTTEREL *Charadrius leschenaultii*—A large *charadrius* was seen on three occasions from November 30, 1969 to December 13, 1969 at Reedy Creek.

Good views were obtained at 30 yards in clear light with 10x binoculars. Detailed field-notes were taken, and field-sketches were made of the bird at rest and in flight. I subsequently identified the bird as *Charadrius leschenaultii*. As the bird seemed to have a thinner bill than is usual for this species, my description and drawings were sent to Mr. F. T. H. Smith, co-author of the wader section of Slater's *Field-Guide*, who has had substantial field-experience of *C. leschenaultii* and of *C. asiaticus veredus* (which he and I considered to be the only alternative possibility). After careful consideration, Mr. Smith confirmed my identification. The description and drawings are still available for inspection in my possession.

155. BLACK-FRONTED DOTTEREL *Charadrius melanops*—Very common, occurs by most waters. B.

156. RED-KNEED DOTTEREL *Charadrius cinctus*—Moderately common along the Murray and at Reedy Creek where it has bred. B.

157. AUSTRALIAN DOTTEREL *Peltohyas australis*—No record.

162. WOOD SANDPIPER *Tringa glareola*—Regular summer visitor in small numbers to Reedy Creek and other areas of the Murray. All records are from September to April; maximums—Reedy Creek, nine on February 15, 1970, five miles north-east of Mannum, 10 on April 12, 1970, and January 23, 1971, 13 on December 5, 1970. I would suggest at least 30 individuals could be present in the area during the summer.

164. GREENSHANK *Tringa nebularia*—Common summer visitor to wet areas, not in much greater numbers than the preceding species, but birds are more widespread.

165. MARSH SANDPIPER *Tringa stagnatilis*—Reedy Creek; one on November 9, 1969; one from September 26, 1970 until November 22, 1970.

166. COMMON SANDPIPER *Tringa hypoleucos*—Two at Mannum sewage works on December 14, 1969. One near Young-husband on April 19, 1970. Two at Reedy Creek on October 17, 1970. One at Murray Bridge sewage works on April 23, 1972.

168. BLACK-TAILED GODWIT *Limosa limosa*—Single birds at Reedy Creek on November 15, 1969, and October 24, 1970.

170. CURLEW SANDPIPER *Calidris ferruginea*—Recorded in small numbers at Reedy Creek between July and April; maximum of 11 on August 16, 1970. One, five miles north-east of Mannum on December 5, 1970.

171. RED-NECKED STINT *Calidris ruficollis*—Recorded every month, regular at Reedy Creek and along the Murray. Maximum, 120 at Reedy Creek on January 4, 1970.

173. SHARP-TAILED SANDPIPER *Calidris acuminata*—Recorded from Reedy Creek and along the Murray between August and April. Maximum numbers, 326 at Reedy Creek on November 1, 1970, and 454 on January 11, 1970.

176. LESSER KNOT *Calidris canutus*—One at Reedy Creek on September 13-14, 1969. This bird was seen at very close range and is a species which I have been very familiar with for many years. Notes were nonetheless taken and submitted.

179. JAPANESE SNIPE *Gallinago hardwickii*—Single birds only recorded from Reedy Creek during November and December.

181. BLACK-WINGED STILT *Himantopus himantopus*—Common along the Murray and at Reedy Creek. B.

182. BANDED STILT *Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*—Reedy Creek, two immatures on September 20 and 26, 1969, 39 adults and two immatures on January 10, 1970.

183. RED-NECKED AVOCET *Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*—Fairly common at Reedy Creek and along the Murray. Sometimes in flocks of 40-plus.

184. SOUTHERN STONE CURLEW *Burhinus magnirostris*—No record.

186. AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE *Stiltia isabella*—Reedy Creek, two on December 13, 1969, and one on January 18 and 24, 1970.

190. SILVER GULL *Larus novaehollandiae*—Very common along the Murray at all times, also occurs in most areas at times.

194. WHISKERED TERN *Chlidonias hybrida*—Present in large numbers during the spring; main arrivals in September. A few birds always appear to be on the Murray throughout the year.

195. GULL-BILLED TERN *Gelochelidon nilotica*—Reedy Creek: one immature on October 25, 1969, one in breeding plumage on September 26, 1970, seven in breeding plumage on September 27, 1970. Two birds in breeding dress were seen hawking over irrigation fields near Mannum on September 10, 1970.
196. CASPIAN TERN *Hydroprogne tsche-grava*—Occurs along the Murray and at Reedy Creek in small numbers most of the year.
200. CRESTED TERN *Sterna bergii*—On the Murray, near Mannum; one on October 4, 1970, one on August 10, 1969, two on April 23, 1972. All these birds were seen during south-westerly gales.
205. PEACEFUL DOVE *Geopelia striata*—Fairly common along the Murray and Reedy Creek. B.
206. DIAMOND DOVE *Geopelia cuneata*—Up to three birds were present at Reedy Creek from July 12, 1969, to October 18, 1969. These birds were often seen feeding by the edges of a dried-up creek. This creek is an offshoot from the main stream, and although the bed is wide and consists of deep sand, it is dry most of the year. The birds were mainly seen on the ground, but they also frequented the low herbage and red gums which bordered the creek. No evidence of breeding was found. Very good views were obtained of these birds, the red eye-ring and white spots on the back being clearly seen. From the actions of these birds I consider them to be wild and not "escapes."
207. COMMON BRONZEWING *Phaps chalcoptera*—Common in areas of mallee, less numerous in largely cleared parts.
211. CRESTED PIGEON *Ocyphaps lophotes*—Common in most areas, more so in the cleared districts.
- 211A. DOMESTIC PIGEON *Columba livia*—Commonly kept as racing pigeons. Many birds are in a feral state breeding in buildings and the cliffs along the Murray. It is my opinion that these birds form a great future danger to the wheat farmers. They form large flocks and descend frequently on wheatfields. Birds of prey seem to be the only effective check on the population of this species; and it can be expected that as the predators will inevitably diminish, the pigeons will expand their numbers at an even faster rate and possibly become as numerous as the Wood Pigeon *C. palumbus*, which, in England, in recent years, has undergone a remarkable population explosion.
- 211B. SPOTTED TURTLE-DOVE *Streptopelia chinensis*—This species now occurs at Mannum and Murray Bridge, with individuals being seen further afield. Whether this species will affect the smaller native doves may be found out in the next few years. B.
216. SULPHUR-CRESTED COCKATOO *Cacatua galerita*—Common along the Murray and the Marne; scarcer south of Walkers Flat. B.
217. PINK COCKATOO *Cacatua leadbeateri*—Two birds seen at Black Hill on November 16, 1969.
218. LITTLE CORELLA *Cacatua sanguinea*—Common on the Murray and the Marne; south of Wongulla it is only an occasional visitor, sometimes in large flocks.
220. GALAH *Cacatua roseicapilla*—Very common throughout the area. B.
223. PURPLE-CROWNED LORIKEET *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*—Occurs in most areas between March and September with only odd parties at other times.
225. COCKATIEL *Nymphicus hollandicus*—Common summer visitor; most birds arrive in August and are gone by February. B.
226. REGENT PARROT *Polytelis anthopeplus*—No record.
229. CRIMSON ROSELLA *Platycercus elegans*—Adelaide Rosella *P.e. adalaidae* occurs occasionally at Reedy Creek. One bird found dead on road just west of Mannum; one seen in mallee country 15 miles east of Mannum on June 15, 1971. Also occurs along the Marne where intermediates with the following race are common. Yellow Rosella *P.e. flaveolus*, fairly common along the Murray north of Wongulla. Rare further south.
231. MALLEE RINGNECK PARROT *Barnardius barnardi*—Common in areas mainly away from the Murray; but it does frequently occur along the banks, and this is probably the most common parrot in the area. B.

233. RED-BACKED PARROT *Psephotus haematonotus*—Common in most southern parts of the area; rarer in the dry northern parts; occurs commonly by the Murray. B.
234. MULGA PARROT *Psephotus varius*—Common in mainly mallee areas; at times occurs by the river. B.
235. BLUE BONNET *Psephotus haemato-gaster*—Occurs near Tailem Bend; only once have I seen this parrot in another part of the area (two on the Mannum-to-Murray Bridge road in 1971). Even though it is common to the north and south of the area, I can only consider it as rare in the districts between Murray Bridge and Blanchtown.
239. BLUE-WINGED PARROT *Neophema chrysostomus*—Nine, two miles north of Mannum on April 12, 1970. Several flocks of 12-15 birds were seen five miles north of Wynarka on October 3 and 4, 1970. Two birds at Reedy Creek on October 17, 1970.
240. ELEGANT PARROT *Neophema elegans*—Quite often seen in the southern parts of the area during the spring and summer. I have not seen this species north of Bowhill. Birds are usually in small parties. Has bred in the vicinity of Reedy Creek. B.
243. BUDGERYGAH *Melopsittacus undulatus*—Common visitor between October and February. B.
246. PALLID CUCKOO *Cuculus pallidus*—Common visitor between June and February. B.
247. FAN-TAILED CUCKOO *Cacomantis pyrrhophanus*—Uncommon but has been seen in most southern parts of the area. At Glenburr Scrub, in September, 1971, two Shy Heath-wrens *Hylacola cauta* were seen feeding a young cuckoo of this species.
248. BLACK-EARED CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx osculans*—One near Reedy Creek on June 7, 1970. Recorded on a few occasions near Chapman's Bore, September and October, 1971.
249. HORSFIELD BRONZE-CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx basalis*—Common between the months of June and February. B.
250. GOLDEN BRONZE-CUCKOO *Chrysococcyx lucidus*—One seen at Reedy Creek on July 26, 1970.
252. BARN OWL *Tyto alba*—Common, often found as a road casualty. Most often seen in cleared areas or in the Red Gums by the Murray, where it probably breeds.
254. BOOBOOK OWL *Ninox novaeseelandiae*—Common; this owl can be found in most areas. B.
257. TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides*—Common in most areas. B.
258. OWLET NIGHTJAR *Aegotheles cristatus*—Probably common; can at times be flushed from hollows; rarely seen otherwise.
259. SPOTTED NIGHTJAR *Eurostopodus guttatus*—Common in mallee and heathland. Can often be seen at dusk along mallee tracks, and is not infrequently flushed in daytime.
261. FORK-TAILED SWIFT *Apus pacificus*—Seen only in the vicinity of Mannum. 200-plus on February 18, 1971, 50-plus on March 14, 1971, and 15 on April 9, 1971.
263. LAUGHING KOOKABURRA *Dacelo novaeguinae*—Common in areas of red gums. B.
264. RED-BACKED KINGFISHER *Halcyon pyrrhopygius*—In a narrow valley one mile north of Mannum, one bird was seen on November 16, 1969. Up to four birds were seen in this same area from October 18, 1970 to December 6, 1970. On November 21, 1970, a bird was observed excavating a burrow in the steep banks of an almost permanently dry creek which centres down the valley. On the following days a bird was seen in the immediate vicinity, but was not seen to enter the now completed burrow. It was possible that another bird was in the burrow, but breeding could not be confirmed as I was not able to make any later visits. On November 9, 1969, one bird was seen one mile east of Mannum.
265. SACRED KINGFISHER *Halcyon sanctus*—Moderately common along the Murray and Reedy Creek.
266. AUSTRALIAN BEE-EATER *Merops ornatus*—Common visitor from September to March. B.
268. HORSFIELD BUSHLARK *Mirafra javanica*—Rare. Only very rarely observed. Two seen near Reedy Creek on September 13, 1970. Otherwise only single birds seen.

269. SKYLARK *Alauda arvensis*—This species seems to be fairly common in the mainly agricultural areas. Condon (1968) does not give this species' range as extending to the mallee, but does that of the preceding species. It therefore seems that the Skylark is replacing the Bushlark in this area.
270. WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo tahitica*—Common most of the year. B.
271. WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW *Cheramoeca leucosternum*—Has been seen in every month, usually in parties of up to ten birds. B.
272. TREE MARTIN *Petrochelidon nigricans*—Common, mainly occurs between July and March. B.
273. FAIRY MARTIN *Petrochelidon ariel*—Common, as the preceding species, they often occur together. B.
274. PIPIT *Anthus novaeseelandiae*—Very common in most areas. B.
275. GROUND CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Pteropodocys maxima*—Six on open land near Glenburr Scrub on May 3, 1970; two in the same area on May 23, 1970.
276. BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina novaehollandiae*—Common, is more numerous from June to December.
278. WHITE-WINGED TRILLER *Lalage sueurii*—Very common in October, 1969, when almost every patch of scrub had a singing male present. No record for 1970; but birds again common in 1971, during September and October.
- 278B. BLACKBIRD *Turdus merula*—Is present in most of the river towns. B.
280. SOUTHERN SCRUB ROBIN *Drymodes brunneopygia*—Common in most areas of virgin mallee. Also occurs in some re-growth areas.
282. CHESTNUT-BACKED QUAIL-THRUSH *Cinclosoma castanotum*—Fairly common in most areas of virgin mallee. Has been seen in re-growth areas.
286. WHITE-BROWED BABBLER *Pomatostomus superciliosus*—Very common in most areas. B.
287. CHESTNUT-CROWNED BABBLER *Pomatostomus ruficeps*—Occurs commonly, in suitable habitat, i.e. shrubland with scattered mallee in lower rainfall areas, on the western side of the Murray from the Sturt Highway south to about three miles north of the Marne.
288. LITTLE GRASSBIRD *Megalurus gramineus*—Common along the Murray and Reedy Creek.
289. CLAMOROUS REED WARBLER *Acrocephalus stentoreus*—Common along the Murray, Reedy Creek and, in places, on the Marne. This species is mainly present from July to March. McGill (1970), treats the Australian race *A. australis* as a different species from the nominate form (as he also does the two races of the Great Reed Warbler *A. arundinaceus*), on the grounds that the names of the nominate forms have been infrequently used in Australian literature. Nevertheless, the Australian bird occurs as far west as Israel where it is sympatric with *A. arundinaceus*; and in the two species there is only slight variation between the races. Thus there seems no justification for McGill's treatment. As there are many species in the old world which are also known as "Reed Warblers," I have used the more world-wide vernacular name in my treatment.
290. GOLDEN-HEADED CISTICOLA *Cisticola exilis*—Only recorded from two localities along the western bank of the Murray, these being one mile upstream and seven miles upstream from Mannum. The birds are always present, but appear few in number.
291. BROWN SONGLARK *Cincloramphus cruralis*—Very common, mainly a spring and summer visitor, but some birds have been seen at other times.
292. RUFOUS SONGLARK *Cincloramphus mathewsi*—Occurs from July to January; not very common but singing birds are noticeable in the spring.
293. WHITE-FRONTED CHAT *Ephthianura albifrons*—Common, sometimes occurs in great numbers and large flocks may be seen; 250 in one flock in October, 1969. B.
294. CRIMSON CHAT *Ephthianura tricolor*—No record. According to local residents this species was present during the spring of 1968, and even bred near the Mannum oval.
295. ORANGE CHAT *Ephthianura aurifrons*—One male and one female at Mannum on November 23, 1969. One male at Reedy Creek on October 17, 1970.

297. SOUTHERN WHITEFACE *Aphelocephala leucopsis*—Very common. B.
302. WEEBILL *Smicornis brevirostris*—Common in areas away from the river, more so in mallee stands.
303. LITTLE THORNBILL *Acanthiza nana*—Rather scarce, recorded mainly from the south-western sector of the area. Contrary to Condon (1968), I consider it as very rare in the mallee country, east of the Murray and north of Mannum.
305. YELLOW-TAILED THORNBILL *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*—Common in most parts.
308. CHESTNUT-TAILED THORNBILL *Acanthiza uropygialis*—Common in most parts, but less inclined to be near the river than the preceding species.
310. BROWN THORNBILL *Acanthiza pusilla*—Common in suitable habitat. Appears to be confined to virgin or re-growth mallee areas.
313. SHY GROUND-WREN *Hylacola cauta*—Fairly common in virgin or re-growth mallee areas.
320. STRIATED GRASS-WREN *Amytornis striatus*—Occurs in porcupine grass in mallee areas north from Chapman's Bore, where it is not uncommon, to Glenburr Scrub. It could possibly be in other areas. B.
322. MALLEE EMU-WREN *Stipiturus mallee*—No record. Even with much searching in suitable habitats, I failed to find this species. If it does occur in the area, it must be very rare, as I am usually quite able to locate Southern Emu-Wrens and Grass-Wrens.
324. BLUE WREN *Malurus cyaneus*—Very common along the Murray and at Reedy Creek. Birds become scarce north of Wongulla. B.
325. BLACK-BACKED WREN *Malurus melanotus*—Uncommon; prefers the edges of mallee areas and re-growth areas. Does not occur south-west of Mannum.
327. WHITE-WINGED WREN *Malurus leucopterus*—Occurs in the north-western corner of the area, from the Sturt Highway south to Sandleton, where it is not uncommon.
328. VARIEGATED WREN *Malurus lamberti*—Common in areas mainly away from the river; but does, in places, reach the Murray. I have seen mixed flocks of this species and *M. cyaneus*. B.
330. GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa*—To this area this species is a non-breeding visitor between April and September, when it is common and widespread.
332. BLACK-AND-WHITE FANTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys*—Common. In the winter months this species may be very numerous, when I believe the local population may be supplemented with immigrants. B.
335. RESTLESS FLYCATCHER *Myiagra inquieta*—Moderately common; can occur in most parts.
336. BROWN FLYCATCHER *Microeca leucophaea*—Common in areas mainly away from the river. B.
338. RED-CAPPED ROBIN *Petroica goodenovii*—Common in most parts. B.
339. FLAME ROBIN *Petroica phoenicea*—Mannum; one male, July 20, 1969; one male, April 10, 1970; one uncoloured bird, August 14, 1970.
341. HOODED ROBIN *Petroica cucullata*—Moderately common in most parts. B.
343. GOLDEN WHISTLER *Pachycephala pectoralis*—Common, mainly in the areas of denser mallee.
344. RUFOUS WHISTLER *Pachycephala rufiventris*—Common. Avoids the denser mallee where it is to some extent replaced by the preceding species. Occurs in most other areas, including the Murray flats, and has been seen in gardens.
345. RED-LORED WHISTLER *Pachycephala rufogularis*—Only recorded from the Chapman's Bore area where it occurs in mallee with porcupine grass.
346. GILBERT WHISTLER *Pachycephala inornata*—Uncommon, prefers the older mallee with little undergrowth.
348. GREY SHRIKE-THRUSH *Colluricincla harmonica*—Common in most areas. B.

349. SHRIKE-TIT *Falcunculus frontatus*—Two birds in red gums by the ferry at Mannum on August 16, 1969.
350. CRESTED BELLBIRD *Oreoica gutturalis*—Common in mallee areas.
353. SITTELLA *Neositta chrysoptera*—Fairly common; appears to have no habitat preference except that it frequents trees. Nests found have been in mallee. B.
354. BROWN TREECREEPER *Climacteris picumnus*—Common in most areas and extends down to the river in places. B.
357. WHITE-BROWED TREECREEPER *Climacteris affinis*—No record.
358. MISTLETOE-BIRD *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*—Moderately common. B.
360. YELLOW-TAILED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus xanthopygus*—Common in areas consisting mainly of virgin and re-growth mallee.
362. STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*—Common in most parts. This species breeds in holes in banks as well as in trees. B.
364. SILVEREYE *Zosterops lateralis*—Not common during the summer, when it does occur in vicinity of towns. Large numbers arrive in April, and the species is then common in all areas until September. These winter visitors have very brown flanks which would suggest that they belong to the race *Z. l. lateralis*. The birds present most of the year appear to be the local race *Z. l. halmaturina*.
366. BLACK HONEYEATER *Certhionyx niger*—A pair was present at Glenburr Scrub from October 11-17, 1970. They kept to the edges of the mallee and also to re-growth.
367. PIED HONEYEATER *Certhionyx variegatus*—One, apparently an immature male, near Reedy Creek on October 18, 1969 (Cox, 1970). One adult male, in mallee, at Glenburr Scrub on December 5, 1970.
368. SINGING HONEYEATER *Meliphaga virens*—Very common in most parts but avoids the denser mallee. B.
370. YELLOW-FRONTED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga plumula*—No record. Although I have seen this species in other districts, I could not locate it south of the Sturt Highway. I suggest—if any birds have been recorded from this area—that they are probably wanderers out of their normal range, or that the records may be erroneous.
372. PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga cratitia*—Fairly common in mallee areas. B.
374. WHITE-PLUMED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga penicillata*—Very common in red gum areas. Has also been seen in mallee near Sedan (White plumes clearly seen). B.
375. YELLOW-PLUMED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga ornata*—Common in mallee areas.
376. WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER *Meliphaga leucotis*—Common in mallee areas.
378. BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus brevirostris*—Common in most parts.
379. WHITE-NAPED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus lunatus*—On May 31, 1970, two birds of this species were observed in red gums at Reedy Creek.
380. BLACK-CHINNED HONEYEATER *Melithreptus gularis*—Uncommon, has only been seen west of the Murray where it is probably only a visitor.
384. WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER *Phylidonyris albifrons*—Moderately common in virgin and re-growth mallee areas.
385. TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER *Phylidonyris melanops*—Uncommon; occurs in heath-type country and re-growth mallee areas.
386. STRIPED HONEYEATER *Plectrohyncha lanceolata*—Uncommon, prefers the older mallee; and although seen near the river, it does not often extend out of the mallee.
390. NOISY MINER *Myzantha melanocephala*—Common along the Murray, Marne and Reedy Creek. B.
391. YELLOW-THROATED MINER *Myzantha flavigula*—Common in areas away from the river. B.
392. BLACK-EARED MINER *Myzantha melanotis*—Recorded in virgin mallee areas from Chapman's Bore to Glenburr Scrub. This species is not common. Birds have

always been observed in compact parties of 10-25 individuals. Hawking for insects in flight just above the canopy appears to be a favourite feeding method of this species. There seems to be no variation in plumage between individual birds, and I have never seen them associating with *M. flavigula*, some of which show darker rumps than normal.

393. BLUE-FACED HONEYEATER *Entomyzon cyanotis*—One seen in trees consisting mainly of red gums at the Mannum caravan park from February 13 to 18, 1971. It had been present for at least five weeks before this, according to Mr. A. Tingay, who was staying in the park in this period.

397. RED-WATTLE BIRD *Anthochaera carunculata*—Although some birds are present most of the year in the red gums along the Murray, this species seems to be mainly a winter visitor (April to September), when it is common and widespread throughout the area.

398. SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER *Acanthagenys rufogularis*—Common in most parts.

398A. GOLDFINCH *Carduelis carduelis*—This species is widespread in the area, but is not very numerous.

402. DIAMOND FIRETAIL *Emblema guttata*—Uncommon; has only been recorded from two areas; and the most seen together is five on April 5, 1970, to the east of Mannum.

403. ZEBRA FINCH *Poephila guttata*—Common, more so in 1969 when it was very numerous and flocks were common in gardens. B.

403A. HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus*—Very common except in the more remote areas. B.

403C. STARLING *Sturnus vulgaris*—Very common and widespread. B.

404. OLIVE-BACKED ORIOLE *Oriolus sagittatus*—One bird seen at Mannum on June 16, 1969. For my account, see Crouch, 1970, p. 200.

405. MAGPIE-LARK *Grallina cinerea*—Very common in areas where there is water; sometimes observed in drier parts near homesteads. B.

407. WHITE-WINGED CHOUGH *Corcorax melanorhamphus*—Common in the drier

parts, mainly the older or grazed mallee areas. Has at times been seen down by the Murray. B.

409. MASKED WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus personatus*—Common visitor from September to December in mainly mallee areas. B.

410. WHITE-BROWED WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus supercilliosus*—Same comments as for the preceding species, with which it commonly associates. B.

412. DUSKY WOOD-SWALLOW *Artamus cyanopterus*—Common, occurs most of the year in mainly mallee country. B.

414. GREY CURRAWONG *Strepera versicolor*—Moderately common in virgin mallee areas.

415. PIED BUTCHER-BIRD *Cracticus nigrogularis*—No record. I believe that the area covered by this paper is not within the range of this species.

416. GREY BUTCHER-BIRD *Cracticus torquatus*—Moderately common in most parts.

417. AUSTRALIAN MAGPIE *Gymnorhina tibicen*—Common to all parts. This area is in the intermediate zone of the two South Australian races of this species. The White-backed *G. t. leuconota* is the common bird of the western parts, while the Black-backed *G. t. tibicen* is commoner in the east. B.

420. AUSTRALIAN RAVEN *Corvus coronoides*—Common, B. Two dead specimens of this bird have been examined in the area.

421. LITTLE RAVEN *Corvus mellori*—Very common. Many dead specimens have been examined in the area. B.

422. LITTLE CROW *Corvus bennetti*—No record. I have not found this species south of Morgan, which is 24 miles north of the area covered.

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