

BIRDS RECORDED AT MT. RESCUE CONSERVATION PARK

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INTRODUCTION

Mt. Rescue Conservation Park is located in the Hundreds of Archibald (Sections 7, 8, 9 and 10) and Makin (Sections 3 and 4) in the upper South-East of South Australia. The entrance to the park lies some 16 km east of Tintinara. This list includes birds seen along the margin of the park and up to $\frac{1}{2}$ km outside the boundaries of the park. All sight observations by me were on section 8 of the Hundred of Archibald. The park covers an area of 28,385 ha. Access is difficult and 4-wheel drive vehicles are advisable.

The soil type in the areas of the park visited is essentially sandy. A few outcrops of limestone are encountered. The area conforms to the picture of a "sea of mallee," although in fact it is broken up into areas of vegetation dominated by *Banksia ornata* on lower ground, alternating with ridges dominated by *Eucalyptus incrassata*, *oleosa* and *foecunda* and *Xanthorrhoea australis*. A few small stands of Stringy Bark *E. baxteri* are present. One cleared area was visited, which is the area known locally as Jimmys or Eden Well. This was an Aboriginal burial ground; and there is some evidence of strata of charcoal in the sand drift areas. There are some introduced plants in this cleared area of approximately 4 ha. In

this list this cleared area will be referred to as Jimmys Well.

This list has been compiled from sight observations made during a visit to the park on May 13-16, 1976. There have been very few bird observations recorded for the area, and I have taken the opportunity of incorporating in this list the birds banded and sight-recorded during an expedition to the area by M. H. Waterman on July 6-7, 1963 (ref. M. H. Waterman, 1963, Banding Report (6-7th July, 1963) *S.A. Orn.* 24:18). These records are identified in this list by the initials M.H.W. following the record. Two records from October, 1974, by Shane Parker are also included in the list, and these are identified by the initials S.P.

BIRD LIST

EMU *Dromaius novaehollandiae*.

Tracks seen at a point about 2 km from entrance, and birds seen along the margins of the park. Also sight-recorded by M.H.W.

COLLARED SPARROWHAWK

Accipiter cirrhocephalus.

One seen at close range in the margin area.

WEDGE-TAILED EAGLE *Aquila audax*.

At least one pair observed on several occasions. Also M.H.W. (sight recorded).

MALLEE FOWL *Leipoa ocellata*.

One long-abandoned nesting mound found in the park.

QUAIL species.

M.H.W. (sight-record).

COMMON BRONZEWING

Phaps chalcoptera.

Several birds seen in the park in several locations. Probably common in the area.

CRESTED PIGEON *Ocyphaps lophotes*.

Many birds seen in the cleared areas in the park and along the margins of the park.

YELLOW-TAILED BLACK COCKATOO

Calyptorhynchus funereus.

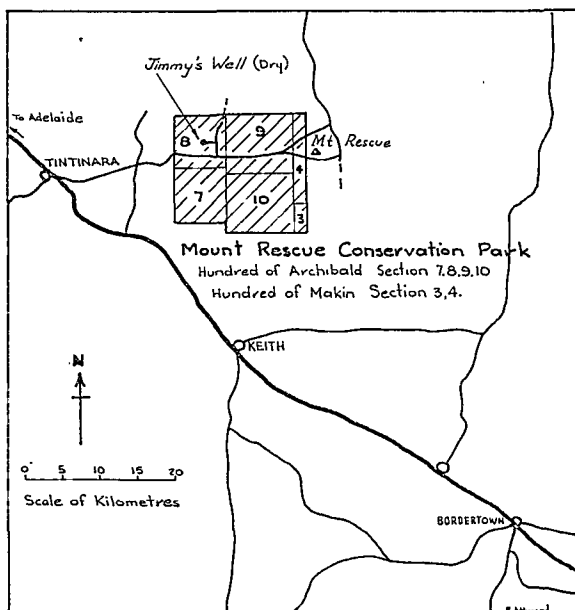
A flock of more than 160 seen on two occasions, and a pair of birds seen on one other occasion.

GALAH *Cacatua roseicapilla*.

Small flocks of these birds were present in all areas of the park visited.

EASTERN ROSELLA *Platycercus eximius*.

M.H.W. (sight record).



RINGNECK PARROT *Barnardius barnardi*.

Fifteen separate sightings in the park. Also M.H.W. banded two specimens.

RED-RUMPED PARROT

Psephotus haematonotus.

Several were seen in the marginal areas.

HORSFIELD BRONZE-CUCKOO

Chrysococcyx basalis.

M.H.W. (sight record).

TAWNY FROGMOUTH *Podargus strigoides*.

M.H.W. (sight record).

WELCOME SWALLOW *Hirundo neoxena*.

Common in the park.

TREE MARTIN *Cecropis nigricans*.

Two birds seen at Jimmys Well.

BLACK-FACED CUCKOO-SHRIKE

Coracina novaehollandiae.

M.H.W. (sight record).

CHESTNUT QUAIL-THRUSH

Cinclosoma castanotum.

One female seen in mallee at the entrance to the park.

WHITE-BROWED BABBLER

Pomatostomus superciliosus.

One flock seen in the margin areas. M.H.W. banded one specimen.

SOUTHERN WHITEFACE

Aphelocephala leucopsis.

Two seen in the park in mallee.

WEEBILL *Smicrornis brevirostris*.

Very common in the mallee areas of the park. Also M.H.W. banded eight specimens.

STRIATED THORNBILL *Acanthiza lineata*.

M.H.W. banded one specimen.

YELLOW-RUMPED THORNBILL

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa.

Very common along the margins of the park. Also M.H.W. banded one specimen.

BUFF-RUMPED THORNBILL

Acanthiza reguloides.

M.H.W. banded four specimens.

BROADTAILED THORNBILL

Acanthiza apicalis.

One small flock seen 3 km north of Jimmys Well. M.H.W. banded specimens which he gives the name Brown Thornbill *Acanthiza pusilla*. I suggest, on the basis of current knowledge of the distribution of these two forms, that the birds banded by M.H.W. were *Acanthiza apicalis*.

FIELDWREN *Sericornis fuliginosus*.

One was seen. It is interesting to note that the Shy Hylacola *Sericornis cautus* has not yet been recorded for the park.

SUPERB BLUE WREN *Malurus cyaneus*.

M.H.W. banded four specimens.

GREY FANTAIL *Rhipidura fuliginosa*.

Two seen at Jimmys Well.

WILLIE WAGTAIL *Rhipidura leucophrys*.

A few were seen in the park. Common along the margin areas. Also M.H.W. sight record.

SCARLET ROBIN *Petroica multicolor*.

M.H.W. sight record.

HOODED ROBIN *Melanodryas cucullata*.

One pair at Jimmys Well.

GOLDEN WHISTLER

Pachycephala pectoralis.

M.H.W. banded two specimens. S.P. sight record of several.

RED-LORED WHISTLER

Pachycephala rufogularis.

One male was observed on several occasions in mallee close to the entrance of the park.

GREY SHRIKE THRUSH

Colluricincla harmonica.

Common along the margins of the park. Also M.H.W. sight record.

CRESTED BELLBIRD *Oreoica gutturalis*.

Often heard in the park, but not sighted.

YELLOW-RUMPED PARDALOTE

Pardalotus xanthopygus.

M.H.W. banded one specimen.

STRIATED PARDALOTE *Pardalotus striatus*.

Several present in Stringy Bark trees near the entrance to the park. M.H.W. banded one specimen recorded as *P. substriatus*.

SILVEREYE *Zosterops lateralis*.

M.H.W. banded 43 specimens of this species.

SINGING HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus virescens.

One of the four most common birds of the park. The other three being the Red Wattle Bird, Yellow-winged Honeyeater, and Purple-gaped Honeyeater.

PURPLE-GAPED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus cratitus.

Common. M.H.W. banded 47 specimens.

WHITE-EARED HONEYEATER

Lichenostomus leucotis.

M.H.W. sight record.

BROWN-HEADED HONEYEATER

Melithreptus brevirostris.

A flock seen at Jimmys Well. Also M.H.W. banded 23 specimens.

YELLOW-WINGED HONEYEATER

Phylidonyris novaehollandiae.

Abundant in all areas of the park visited. Also M.H.W. banded 10 specimens.

WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER

Phylidonyris albifrons.

Common in some areas of the park. The birds I observed had a very clear and sharp division between the black throat and the white chest.

TAWNY-CROWNED HONEYEATER

Phylidonyris melanops.

A common bird in the park. Also M.H.W. banded specimens, and S.P. sight-recorded the species as common in October, 1974.

NOISY MINER *Manorina melanocephala.*

Three seen in a large Stringy Bark tree just outside the park.

RED WATTLEBIRD

Anthochaera carunculata.

Abundant in the park. Also M.H.W. banded one specimen.

SPINY-CHEEKED HONEYEATER

Acanthagenys rufogularis.

Very common in the larger trees at Jimmys Well and other places in the park. Also M.H.W. banded three specimens of this species.

HOUSE SPARROW *Passer domesticus.*

These birds were present at a farm less than $\frac{1}{2}$ km from the entrance to the park.

DUSKY WOODSWALLOW

Artamus cyanopterus.

A very common bird in most areas of the park. At one time I counted more than 100 birds above our camp site.

GREY CURRAWONG *Streptera versicolor.*

M.H.W. sight record.

GREY BUTCHER BIRD *Cracticus torquatus.*

One bird seen in the margin of the park.

WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE

Gymnorhina tibicen leuconota.

A few in the park. One pair at Jimmys Well. Common in the margins of the park. Also M.H.W. sight record.

AUSTRALIAN RAVEN *Corvus coronoides.*

Common in the park. Also M.H.W. sight record.

LITTLE RAVEN *Corvus mellori.*

Not as common as the Australian Raven.

Other species of birds undoubtedly are present in the park, either as residents or as seasonal visitors. Much of the habitat looks ideal for the Western Whipbird *Psophodes nigrogularis* and I suggest that it would be a rewarding place to search for this species.

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