

## Birds of Port Broughton.

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Port Broughton is situated upon an arm of the sea on Spencer's Gulf, about midway between Port Pirie and Wallaroo. The surrounding country was originally dense mallee scrub, now all cut down and replaced by wheat, except along the roads, all of which have a belt of scrub on either side of track; and, two or three small patches which have so far escaped. The largest piece of virgin scrub is a government reserve of about 100 acres, near Clement's Gap, about 15 miles from the township. The creek is margined by large mangroves, and there is a mangrove covered island, about four miles below the town. On the western side of the creek is a large sapphire swamp, intersected by many small creeks. There is also on this side a large patch of acacia and sheaoak scrub. There is a fine well-kept hotel, the landlord of which Mr. Wall, is most obliging in assisting visitors to see the district.

## Birds observed.—

(1) *Coturnia pectoralis*—Stubble Quail.—Very common, constantly heard calling in the wheat fields.

(2) *Austrotornia velox*—Button Quail.—Several birds were put up and one was found dead in the mangroves.

(3) *Phaps chalcoptera*—Bronze-wing pigeon.—Rare, occasionally heard calling in the mallee at Clement's Gap.

(4) *Microtribonyx ventralis whitei*—Black-tailed native hen. Seen in thousands on a swamp near Snowtown.

(5) *Thalasseus bergii poliocercus*—Crested tern.—A few birds seen fishing over the creek.

(6) *Bruchigavia novae-hollandiae ethelæ*—Silver Gull.—Very common, they sometimes come right into the township.

(7) *Gabianus pacificus*—Pacific Gull.—There were always a few birds hovering about the end of the jetty.

(8) *Hydrochelidon leucoparvia fluviatilis*—Marsh Tern.—Seen in numbers hovering over a swamp near Snowtown.

(9) *Haematopus ostralegus longirostris*—Pied oyster-catcher. A single bird seen on a mud flat at low tide.

(10) *Lobivya novae-hollandiae*—Spur-winged plover.—A few birds seen on the borders of the mud flats.

(11) *Leucopolius ruficapillus*—Red-capped dotterel.—Common on the beach, a few were in pairs, but most of them were in small flocks.

(12) *Glottis nebularis glottoides*—Greenshank.—A few solitary birds were seen feeding near the edge of the mangroves.

(13) *Carphibis spinicollis*—Straw-necked ibis.—Seen on a swamp near Snowtown.

(14) *Herodias alba*—White egret.—Seen on the Snowtown Swamp. A flock of seven roosted during the day on the mangroves opposite the town.

(15) *Nyctophox novae-hollandiae*—White-fronted heron or blue crane.—Common along the shores of the creek.

(15) *Notophox novae-hollandiae*—White-fronted heron or on the Snowtown swamp.

(16) *Mesocarbo ater*—Little black cormorant.—Common in the water and roosting on the mangroves.

(17) *Hypoleucus varius hypoleucus*—Orange-faced cormorant. Very common, many hundreds roosted at night in the mangroves opposite the town. There is a large "rookery" of these birds on the mangrove island to the north of the town; consisting of hundreds of nests in the mangroves. The bushes which have been occupied for some years are all dead, presumably killed by the guano; the nests were not occupied at the time of our visit, as in the locality the breeding season is the autumn.

(18) *Microcarbo melanoleucus*—Little pied cormorant.—Fairly common usually in company with the last species.

(19) *Circus approximans gouldi*—Swamp hawk.—Not common, an occasional bird seen hawking over the crops or samphire flat.

(20) *Cerchneis cenchroides*—Kestrel.—Not common, a few birds seen in each patch of scrub.

(21) *Pandion haliaetus cristatus*—Osprey.—A solitary bird sat on top of the mast of a yacht in the harbour, for the greater part of one afternoon. I was told that a few years ago, a pair built a great stick nest on one of the beacons marking the channel, but it had fallen down at the time of our visit.

(22) *Leptolophus auricomis*—Cockatoo parrot.—A pair seen investigating hollows in the mallee.

(23) *Psephotus varius rosinae*—Many-coloured parrot.—Only two pairs seen in the mallee bordering the roads.

(24) *Melopsittacus undulatus*—Shell parrot.—Very common, seen daily in small flocks, and also nesting in the hollow mallee trees.

(25) *Osmaceros ornatus*—Bee-eater.—Common. They were in pairs preparing to nest.

(26) *Neochalcites basalis mellori*—Narrow-billed bronze cuckoo.—Not common.

- (27) *Lamprococcyza lucidus*.—Broad-billed bronze cuckoo.—Only seen once.
- (28) *Hirundo neoxena*.—Welcome swallow.—Very common; breeding.
- (29) *Cheramoeca leucosternum stonci*.—Black and white swallow.—A pair found nesting in a sand bank near Bute.
- (30) *Lagenoplastes ariel*.—Bottle swallow.—Uncommon; only a few birds seen in the township, none elsewhere.
- (31) *Microeca fascians*.—Brown flycatcher.—Very common; breeding. A newly hatched chick was quite naked, black, and had the eyes closed.
- (32) *Whiteornis goodenovii*.—Red-capped robin.—Fairly common; they had apparently finished breeding.
- (33) *Smicrornis brevirostris viridescens*.—Short-billed tree-tit. Seen occasionally in the short mallee.—Not common.
- (34) *Lewinornis rufiventris inornatus*.—Rufous-breasted thickhead.—Common in the patches of mallee and along the roads; a bird shot proved to be a male in breeding condition, but in female plumage. Iris, dark brown; legs and feet, dark grey; inside of mouth, yellowish white. Total length, 17.75 c.in.
- (35) *Rhipidura flabellifera whitei*.—White-shafted fantail.—Only a solitary bird seen.
- (36) *Leucocircā tricolor*.—Wagtail.—Common; breeding. Some had young out of the nest, while others were still building.
- (37) *Seisura inquieta*.—Restless fly-catcher.—Several pairs seen; one pair was feeding large young.
- (38) *Coracina novahollandiæ melanops*.—Black-faced cuckoo shrike.—A few birds seen apparently only passing over.
- (39) *Lalage tricolor*.—White-shouldered catterpillar bird.—Many pairs seen; one male bird seen building nest.
- (40) *Morganornis superciliosus*.—White-browed babbler.—Common; they had finished breeding.
- (41) *Cincloramphus cruralis cantatoris*.—Black-breasted song lark.—Very common in the wheat crops and grass lands.
- (42) *Epthiantra albifrons*.—White-fronted tin-tac.—Common on the sapphire flats. Breeding.
- (43) *Podytes gramineus dubius*.—Grass bird.—Common on the sapphire flats. Breeding.
- (44) *Acanthiza pusilla hamiltoni*.—Red-rumped tit.—Common in the mangroves, and also in the mallee; a male and female were collected. Total length 11 c.in. Iris, light brown; bill

upper mandible black, lower dark horn colour; legs and feet, dark brown; inside of mouth, black.

(45) *Acanthiza uropygialis augusta*—Chestnut-rumped tit. Not common; one pair found breeding.

(46) *Acanthiza iredalei sub. sp.*—These birds were common in a patch of acacia and sheoak scrub. Across the creek from the town. A male and female collected differ considerably from western and central Australian specimens, and will probably be described as a new sub-species. Total length, ♂ 10.25 c.m.; ♀ 10 c.m. Iris, white; bill, black; legs and feet, very dark brown.

(47) *Geobasileus chrysorrhous addendus*—Yellow-rumped tit. Common in the mallee and about the township. Breeding.

(48) *Pyrrholaemus brunneus*—Red-throat.—While “chirping” up some acanthizae in the acacia scrub, a male of this species came within a few feet of me, this was the only one seen.

(49) *Sericornis maculatus sub. sp.*—Common in the mangroves. Iris, light grey; legs and feet, light brown; bill—upper mandible, dark brown; lower, light brown. Total length, 13 c.m. I have not been able to determine to which sub-species this specimen belongs.

(50) *Leggeornis lamberti assimilis*—Purple-backed wren.—Common in the acacia scrub, the mallee and the tall samphire; very shy, a male bird had the iris dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, dark brown.

(51) *Pseudartamus cyanopterus*—Dusky wood-swallow.—Fairly common in the mallee. They were in pairs, and some of them still building their nests. No other species of wood-swallow was seen. Probably on account of the good season inland they have not migrated this year so far south as usual.

(52) *Colluricincla harmonica victoriae*—Grey shrike thrush. Common in the mallee and about the township.

(53) *Grallina cyanoleuca*—Magpie lark.—Only one pair seen near the township.

(54) *Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*—White-backed magpie.—Common, nesting in the mallee along the roads and in the scrub. Some had young out of the nest, while others were still sitting.

(55) *Bulestes torquatus*—Butcher bird.—Fairly common in the mallee; one pair was feeding young out of the nest.

(56) *Oreoica cristata clelandi*—Crested bell-bird.—Very common; often seen on the roads. They came almost into the township, and could be heard calling from the hotel.

(57) *Aphelocephala leucopsis*—White face.—Uncommon; a few pairs only seen in the mallee.

(58) *Neositta pileata tenuirostris*—Black-capped tree-runner; one small flock seen, consisting of three males and one female. Their nest measured the highest side, 11 c.m., opening, 6 x 5 c.m.; depth of cavity, 4.5 c.m. There were some bits of newspaper in the lining. The female measured 11.80 c.m.; total length. Iris, orange brown; ring round eye, bright yellow; bill, yellow at base, dark reddish brown at tip; legs and feet, bright yellow; inside the mouth, flesh colour. All the males were bringing food to the sitting bird. The nest contained three slightly incubated eggs.

(59) *Zosterops lateralis westernensis*—Silver-eye.—A few birds seen in the acacia scrub near the sea.

(60) *Pardalotus punctatus canthopygus*—Yellow-rumped diamond bird.—Fairly common in the mallee.

(61) *Pardalotinus striatus subaffinis*—Striped diamond bird.—Uncommon; only one bird seen.

(62) *Melithreptus atricapillus mallee*—Brown-headed honey-eater.—Fairly common in the mallee; a male collected had the iris, dark brown; bare skin behind eye, dull yellow; inside of mouth, orange. Stomach contents, caterpillars.

(63) *Plectorhyncha lanceolata neglecta*—Striped honey-eater. A pair seen building a nest in a sandal wood (*Myoporum sp.*) overhanging a road.

(64) *Meliphaga sonora*—Singing honey-eater.—Very common; some of them had young out of the nest, while others had fresh eggs.

(65) *Lichenostomus ornatus*—Yellow-plumed honey-eater.—Common in the mallee; a male collected had the iris, dark brown; bill, black; legs and feet, brownish grey; inside of mouth, yellow. Total length, 15.5 c.m.

(66) *Myzantha flavigula*—Yellow-throated minah.—A few pairs found breeding in the mallee, not common.

(67) *Acanthagenys rufogularis cygnus*—Spiny-cheeked honey-eater.—Very common; most of them had finished nesting, but one nest was found with young about a week old; the chicks were clothed with scanty grey down—eyes not open.

(68) *Anthus australis adelaidensis*—Pipit or ground lark.—Seen in the open country; not common.

(69) *Mirafra javanica secunda*—Common in the wheat crops. All the birds seen were very light in colour.

(70) *Corvus coronoides*—Raven.—Common in all classes of country. They had finished breeding.