

A Fortnight on Kangaroo Island (South Aus.)

By J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U.

On October 11, Mr. Frank E. Parsons and self left Port Adelaide per the "Karatta," and reached Kingscote, the chief port of the island, the same evening. The following morning we left for Stokes Bay, a distance of about 30 miles west from Kingscote. Upon arrival we were made very welcome by Mr. George Bell, who had so kindly invited us to stay with him.

We worked the country from the coast line at Stokes Bay well in towards the centre of the island. Although we found the walking fairly heavy and the scrub conditions rough on clothing, we were able to get through a fair amount of ornithological work.

The Emu Wren was obtained. This is the first time a skin has been obtained of the island form of this bird. Mr. Parsons is describing this new sub-species in this journal, under the name of *Stipitrus n. halmaturina*. We collected very few eggs, though many signs of breeding were observed and proved we were a little late for the general breeding season.

We were dissatisfied with the country that we worked, a great deal of it being unsuitable for profitable production.

A few scattered areas were being farmed or grazed with sheep; judging the Flinders Chase Reserve in comparison with the country we saw, we are at a loss to understand why so much opposition was shown to the Reserve. We noted a single kangaroo in its native state but many tracks were observed, the same applies to a certain extent to the wallaby and possum, though a few of each were seen. We also saw a porcupine and a few goanna, but there must be a good many of these about, judging by the signs we observed.

We were greatly assisted in our work by our host, for he knows every inch of the locality and was able to direct us to favoured spots for bird life. Mr. Bell is a keen student of bird and animal life of the island.

While at Stokes Bay we heard that a nest and eggs of the Mallee Fowl had been found at Snug Cove, towards the western end of the island. We did not see any sign of this specie. We surmise that the nest was built by some of the birds liberated on the island.

The following birds were observed by us during our stay on Kangaroo Island, with a few notes on same. The nomenclature is after Mathews' Handlist of Australian Birds.

Eudypptula minor undina—A dead bird was picked up at Stokes Bay, on the coast.

Coturnix pectoralis—Plentiful on cleared areas.

Cosmopelia elegans neglecta—Saw a fair number of the Bronzewing, but not a specimen obtained.

Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus—Plentiful, observed on sea voyage and close to coast line.

Thalasseus bergii poliocercus—Noted a few pairs only.

Bruchigavia novahollandiae ethelae—Very common on coast and on inland lagoons, near Wisanger.

Haematopus ostralegus longirostris—Observed at Kingscote on sandy beach; only two pairs noted.

Haematopus fuliginosus—Noticed several times on Rocks at Stokes Bay and Kingscote.

Lobibyx noveahollandiae—Plentiful wherever plain, open country was found. Eggs and young noted.

Zonifer tricolor—Not so plentiful as previously mentioned species. Eggs taken on Cygnet River. Clutch, 4 eggs; nest, a depression in ground, horse manure lining, and a ring of manure round eggs.

Leucopilius ruficapillus—Noted a few times, mostly at fresh-water lagoon, near Wisanger.

Charadrius cucullatus—There appeared to be a pair of this specie on every sandy cove along beach, near Stokes Bay. A pair with three young were observed.

Himantopus leucocephalus—A large number were noted wading in shallow water of fresh lagoon, near Wisanger.

Burhinus magnirostris—One bird only observed, but many were heard calling at night.

Notophya novae hollandiae—These birds were observed along coast, rivers and lagoons.

Nycticorax caledonicus australasiae—Only one bird was noted; it roosted in low gums about 100 yards from homestead at Stokes Bay.

Anas superciliosa rogersi—Very plentiful, found breeding on Cygnet River. Seven young noted at waterhole (rain), in midst of a growing crop.

Phalacrocorax carbo novae hollandiae.

Mesacarbo ater.

Hypoleucus fuscesens.

Microcarbo melanoleucus.

Fairly common round coast line.

Circus approximans gouldi—Only specimen noted near Wisanger, soaring over crops.

Urospiza fasciata—A pair noted at Pioneer Bend, on Cygnet River.

Accipiter cirrocephalus—A single representative noted at Stokes Bay.

Uroaetus audax—Noted several times, but only at a great distance, and always on wing.

Hieracidea berigora—Noted on two occasions.

Cerchmeis cenchroides—Everywhere plentiful; a clutch of 4 eggs taken from hollow branch of gum, height from ground, about 18 feet.

Pandian haliaetus cristatus—A pair were seen resting on old nest on a rocky spur of coast line; the nest is used annually, evidently by these two birds.

Spiloglaux boobook halmaturina—A few were seen, but a lot of calls heard at night; a female shot, contained a fully developed egg, which broke in the fall to earth.

Trichoglossus novae hollandiae—Very plentiful in timbered country and on Cygnet River; nesting in hollow. No eggs found, but a pair of young cut out of a large, dry gum.

Glossopsitta concinna.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala.

Noted only at and near Kingscote.

Calyptorhynchus funereus whitei—A few birds noted on Cygnet River.

Cacatoes galerita rosinae—Two or three pairs noted.

Platycercus elegans melanopterus—Common where any timber abounds. Found breeding in hollow branches.

Cacomantis rubricatus—Fair number about, found nest of Blue Wren with Fantail Cuckoo egg, also parent Blue Wrens feeding fully fledged cuckoo.

Neochalcitis basilis mellori—Only occasionally seen. Nest of Blue Wren, with egg of this specie, found at Kingscote.

Hirundo neoxena—Common everywhere; found breeding under bridges and in sheds.

Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi—Numerous.

Petroica multicolor halmaturina—Few of this species were noted.

Pachycephala sub-species—Two birds taken, but both appeared in immature plumage. Evidently *P.p. halmaturina*. Clutch, 2 eggs, and male parent taken at Kingscote.

Rhipidura flabillifera whitei—Fairly numerous; nest containing two heavily incubated eggs taken Cygnet River. Nest, a beautifully constructed "wineglass, with base of stem broken off" pattern, and placed in a fork of black titree, overhanging the River. Found by following male as it hunted, and fed the female on the nest.

Leucocirca tricolor—Only a pair seen; seems to be very rare on Kangaroo Island. Its place is taken by—?

Seisura inquieta—Which is very numerous. Noticed that this specie made the "grinding" noise only when poised in air, hovering over some object, but not when on ground, or sitting on posts—a very favourite position. Quite as tame as *L. tricolor* around homesteads; visited.

Coracina novæhollandiæ melanops—A large number observed in timbered country.

Hylacola cauta maturina—A great many of these birds were observed, but few nests with eggs found; a good number of "just flying" young about.

Cinclohamphus cruralis cantatoris—Plentiful on the open cleared land and in crops.

Epthianura albifrons—We noted a fair number of this specie, and found a nest "just building."

Acanthiza pusilla zietzi—Rather common; found breeding, and nests in course of construction.

Acanthiza lineata whitei—Wherever trees were found, we saw this active little species hunting through the leaves.

Sericornis maculatus ashbyia—Numerous. Many nests were found, but the young had just left or the birds had been disturbed. No eggs were found.

Stipiturus melachurus halmaturina Parsons.

See description elsewhere in this issue of S.A. Ornithologist.

Psuedartamus cyanopterus—A few were noted; most plentiful near Wisanger.

Colluricincla harmonica halmaturina—Found breeding near Kingscote; 3 young in nest, in fork of low tree.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota—Plentiful.

Zosterops lateralis halmaturina—Found breeding, and very numerous.

Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygus.

Pardalotus striatus subaffinis.

Noted both species; the latter only found breeding.

Melithreptus atricapillus magnirostris—Numerous in scrub and trees.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris halmaturina—Plentiful, and found breeding; eggs and young found.

Gliciphila melanops braba—Found breeding; common bird of the scrub.

Nesoptilotis leucotis-thomasi—Very few noted.

Lichenostomus cratitius—Plentiful in trees; found breeding, nest suspended in foliage; two eggs to clutch. Bird sat very closely.

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera halmaturina—Common along watercourses; eggs and young found.

Meliornis novae hollandiae halmaturina—Found breeding; all clutches found were of two eggs.

Anthochaera chrusoptera halmaturina—Plentiful near Kingscote; a few noted elsewhere.

Anthus australis adelaidensis—Found breeding, two eggs found near Pioneer Bend, on Cygnet River.

Staganopleura guttata philordi—Seen once only.

Aegintha temporalis loftyi—Fairly common; nest built inside of old crow's nest contained 4 eggs.

Corvus coronoides perplexus—Breeding; young found.

Strepera melanoptera halmaturina—Common.

Maturus cyaneus ashbyi—Plentiful everywhere; nesting freely in low acacia. A pair remained about the Homestead at Stokes Bay, and came within a yard or two of us, when they were hunting grubs, etc., in garden. The male being a very beautifully colored specimen, evidently several years old.