

The Birds of Rivers Murray and Darling and the District of Wentworth.

PART II.

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Glossopsitta porphyrocephala (Purple-crowned Lorikeet).
—A fairly common bird all over the district.

Calyptrorhynchus banksii (Banksian Cockatoo).—Found
on the Darling, from Albermarle to Wilcannia. The young
have been taken by men on river boats.

Cacatoes galerita (Sulphur-crested Cockatoo).—A very
common bird along the Murray: It does not go out back to
the mallee country.

Lophochroa leadbeateri (Pink Cockatoo).—Fairly common
in the back country, where it nests in the hollow mallee trees.
It only comes into the river in dry seasons. They all had
young in the nest in October, 1919.

Ducorpsius gymnopsis (Bare-eyed Cockatoo).—Does not
come below Burlundy, 40 miles north of Wentworth by road,
on the Darling, but more plentiful further north. It is often
seen in company with *C. galerita*.

Eolophus roseicapillus (Galah).—Very plentiful in parts
of the district; most numerous in the back country, where it
breeds in the hollow mallees. After the breeding season, they
congregate in large flocks.

Leptolophus auricomis (Cockatoo Parrot).—A migratory
species, arriving usually in September, from the North. It
is found almost exclusively in the mallee, and never remains
about the river gums.

Polytelis anthopeplus (Black-tailed Parrot or Rock Pebbler).—Found in limited numbers along the Darling as far up as Pooncarie, but is not found near the Wentworth end of the river. It is a fairly common bird lower down the Murray. It is a shy bird, except when near the nesting hole, which is always in a tall river gum. They go a long way back into the mallee to feed.

Platycercus flaveolus (Yellow Parrot).—A common bird along the river frontages. It never goes far from the river gums.

Barnardius barnardi (Mallee Parrot).—The commonest parrot in the district. It is met with both along the river frontages and in the mallee.

Psephotus haematonotus (Red-backed Parrot).—A very common and tame species found along the river banks and in box country. It does not go far back from permanent waters.

Northiella haematogaster xanthorrhoea (Yellow-vented Parrot).—Plentiful in the mallee and sandalwood country, but does not come in to the river gums. A specimen collected at Lake Victoria has red under tail coverts, while others collected from the same flock had them yellow.

Psephotus varius (Many-coloured Parrot).—Fairly common in black oak (*Casuarina sp.*), where it nests. It is never seen along the river frontages.

Melopsittacus undulatus (Shell Parrot).—A migratory species. It comes down from northern districts in September in numbers, depending on the season. In 1919 very few appeared, while in 1917, they were present in hundreds of thousands.

Podargus strigoides (Tawny Frogmouth).—A fairly common bird in the mallee and box country.

Aegotheles cristata (Owlet Nightjar).—A common bird in the mallee and box country, where it nests in the hollow spouts.

Dacelo gigas (Great Brown Kingfisher or Laughing Jack-ass).—Very common along the river frontage, but becomes rarer as one leaves the gum country. They are destructive to both the young and eggs of other species. The smaller birds treat them as natural enemies.

Cyanalcyon pyrrhopygius (Red-backed Kingfisher).—A migratory species, arriving early in October. It keeps mostly to the open country, where it breeds in any suitable bank.

Sauropatis sanctus (Sacred Kingfisher).—Also a migratory species, arriving in September. It prefers the gum country along the Murray and Darling.

Cosmaerops ornatus (Bee-eater).—Arrives late in September, and is common in the sandhill country; only a few arrived in 1919.

Eurostopodus mystacalis (White-throated Nightjar).—Rarely seen, but more often heard at night. A single specimen was flushed from near the river bank at Chowilla, on the Murray, in 1917.

Heteroscenes pallidus (Pallid Cuckoo).—Arrives in the district at the end of July, though odd birds remain throughout the winter. It sings all night at times, during a moon. It is not known to breed in the district.

Neochalcites basalis (Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo).—Fairly common in box and mallee country.

Lamprococcyz plagosus (Broad-billed Bronze Cuckoo).—Plentiful in good seasons, very few in 1919. The commonest hosts here are *A. uropygialis* and *Hallornis cyanotis* (White-Winged Wren); an egg was also found in a nest of *Smicrornis brevirostris*. They arrive in July.

Hirundo neowena (Welcome Swallow).—Common and present throughout the year. A pair builds each year under the punt at Wentworth, which crosses to and fro over the river all day.

Cheramoeca leucosternon (White-breasted Swallow).—Common near Renmark and between that place and Morgan, where they breed in the banks of the limestone pits along the road, and in the banks of the river. Less common further up the river, though odd pairs are still to be met with along the Murray and Darling and other water-courses.

Hylochelidon nigricans (Tree Swallow).—Plentiful in the Wentworth district, and remains all the year round.

Lagenoplastes ariel (Fairy Martin or Bottle Swallow).—The most numerous swallow; every cliff and suitable bank on the Murray and Darling has its group of nests; they also breed under large fallen trees, bridges and the eaves of houses. At the Wentworth public school and post office the nests have to be repeatedly hosed down. The recess under the tank of the water tower at Renmark has a triple row of nests around it.

Microeca fascinans (Brown Flycatcher).—Common. It is met with along the rivers and in the back country

Whiteornis goodenovii (Red-capped Robin).—Common in the box flat country, and in the scrubby back country.

Melanodryas cucullata (Hooded Robin).—Sparingly distributed throughout the district. They are very local in their habits. They breed early, a nest having been found in August with young.

Smicrornis brevirostris (Short-billed Tree-tit).—A very common bird in the box country, and is to be met with to a less extent in the mallee.

Lewinornis rufiventris (Rufous-breasted Thickhead).—A common bird in the out-back country.

Gilbertornis rufogularis gilberti (Gilbert's Thickhead).—Not met with near the rivers. Prefers the acacia or "current bush" country.

Rhipidura flabellifera (sub-spec.).—An autumn visitor only; does not breed in the district.

Leucocirca tricolor (Black-and-White Fantail, or Wag-tail).—Present in pairs all the year round, very local in their habits. They breed early sometimes, having young in the nest in August.

Seisura inquieta (Restless Flycatcher).—Present throughout the year in pairs, and fairly common. The female makes a loud, clear call, once repeated, when sitting on the nest.

Pteropodocys maxima (Ground Cuckoo-Shrike).—Met with in small parties of five to seven in number, always in open country, such as scattered sandalwood, black oak, or pine timber. They spend much time on the ground, and are shy birds.

Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike).—Not common. Met with occasionally in pairs, both along the rivers and in the back mallee country. Of three nests found in October, 1919, two were in sandalwoods and one in a mallee.

Lalage tricolor (White-shouldered Caterpillar-bird).—Arrives in the district in September, and remains to breed. They are more plentiful in good seasons; very few came in 1919.

Cinelosoma castanotum (Chestnut-backed Ground-bird).—Occurs in the mallee near Renmark, but has not been seen further up the river.

Morganornis superciliosus (White-browed Babbler).—Very common.

Pomatostomus ruficeps (Chestnut-crowned Babbler).—Not so common as the last, and found mostly in the back country. It appears to prefer open bluebush country with belts of timber at intervals.

Cincloramphus cruralis (Brown Song-lark).—Plentiful and breeding in good seasons. In 1919, a dry season, scarcely one was to be seen or heard.

Ptenoedus mathewsi (Rufous Song-lark).—Comes in numbers in good seasons.

Epthianura albifrons (White-fronted Chat or Tin-Tac).—Common all the year round.

Parepthianura tricolor (Red-fronted Chat).—Plentiful in the back country in 1917, a good year. In 1919, only odd pairs were seen.

Aurepthianura aurifrons (Orange-fronted Chat).—A regular spring visitor, but fewer in dry seasons.

Conopoderas australis (Reed-warbler).—Fairly common where any reeds are still growing along the water-courses. They were fairly plentiful in 1917, in the cane grass swamps, and were found breeding in the same year in polygonum swamps.

Poodytes gramineus (Grass-bird).—A very common bird when the polygonum and cane grass swamps are full.

Acanthiza nana (Lemon-breasted Tit).—Only found in pine and needle-bush country. They are unevenly distributed and very local in their habits. They are occasional hosts of the Narrow-billed Bronze-cuckoo.

Acanthiza uropygialis (Chestnut-rumped Tit).—The commonest tit in the district; found almost exclusively in the back country.

Geobasileus chrysorrhous (Yellow-rumped Tit or Tom-tit).—Not at all plentiful. They spend much time on the ground.

Pyrrholaemus brunneus (Red-throat).—Common in the saltbush flats near Renmark, and a single bird was heard near Lake Victoria Station. They were not seen elsewhere.

Malurus cyaneus leggei, *sub.-sp.* (Blue Wren).—A few birds were seen and one collected on a flooded polygonum swamp at Rufus Creek in October, 1917.

Malurus melanotus (Black-backed Wren).—Found only in the outback scrub; not at all commonly seen. But they are quiet and shy, and could easily be overlooked.

Hallornis cyanotis (White-winged Wren).—The commonest wren in the district. They are confined to the saltbush flats. They breed in August and September.

Leggeornis lamberti assimilis (Purple-backed Wren).—Fairly common. They are met with in pairs in the scrubby acacia country, and in the "old man" saltbush growing between the trees on the box flats.

Artamus leucorhynchus leucopygialis (White-rumped Wood-Swallow).—A migratory species, arriving at the River banks in September. They do not go in flocks, and are never found far from water. We found nests in hollow spouts, well below the opening, in old magpie larks' nests, and one in the perpendicular fork of a box tree.

Campbellornis personatus (Masked Wood-Swallow).—A yearly visitor; it arrives from the North, late in September, in large flocks in company with the next bird.

Campbellornis superciliosus (White-browed Wood-Swallow).—Similar in habits and movements to the previous bird.

Austrartamus melanops (Black-faced Wood-Swallow).—Migratory, but not in flocks. It prefers sparsely timbered plain country, away from the rivers.

Pseudartamus cyanopterus (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—A resident species generally in pairs; found both near the river and in the box country. This bird and *C. superciliosus* and *personatus* have a delightful subdued song, interspersed with imitations of a few bars of the songs of other birds.

Colluricincla harmonica (Grey Shrike Thrush).—A common bird. They are found in pairs both in the river timber and in the scrub country, but less plentifully in the latter; they commonly nest in the tops of broken stumps.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie Lark).—A very common bird. It is met with in great numbers on the river frontages, and a pair or so are usually to be found around each tank out back.

Gymnorhina tibicen (Black-backed Magpie).—The common species in the district. Never seen in great numbers.

Gymnorhina leuconota (White-backed Magpie).—This bird is probably present in small numbers. A very tame pair inhabited the Wentworth common for a time, but they were possibly escaped cage birds.

Cracticus nigrogularis (Black-throated Butcher-bird).—Not common and confined to the river gums and box flats. They are very local in their habits, and may be heard in the same small area every spring. They have a beautiful note during the breeding season, and also throughout the year in the early morning. They are fond of chasing and pouncing upon spar-

rows, which know them as natural enemies, give the warning cry at once, and dart from cover. One was seen holding a sparrow by the leg on the ground, unable to get enough purchase to knock it on the ground, and afraid to let go for a fresh grip. The sparrow was released, and hopped promptly under the wood pile.

Bulestes torquatus (Collared Butcher-bird).—A fairly common bird, both in the river frontages and in the outback scrub. They are most destructive to small birds, and are robbers of the worst character.

Oreoica cristata (Crested Bell-bird).—A common bird in the acacia shrub, and occasionally met with on the box-flats. They decorate their nests here, as elsewhere, with live caterpillars; nesting begins in August.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (White-face).—A common and universally distributed species. They are very early breeders.

Neositta pileata (Black-capped Treerunners).—Rare birds in the district. They are met with occasionally in small flocks in the casuarina country. They do not come into the rivers.

Climacteris erythroptera superciliosa (White-browed Tree-creeper).—Found almost exclusively in casuarina country. They are shy and very silent, and are easily overlooked. The nest is difficult to locate.

Neoclimalia picumna (Brown Tree-creeper).—A common bird in the box flats and in the river gums. Sometimes, but more rarely, met with in the mallee scrub.

Zosterops lateralis (Silver-eye).—A visitor, only in the autumn and late winter. They do not breed in the district.

Austrodicaeum hirundinaceum (Mistletoe Bird).—Plentiful in the spring months, and odd pairs to be met with all the year round.

Pardalotus punctatus xanthopygius (Yellow-rumped Diamond Bird).—Fairly common in the mallee scrub about Renmark and Paringa. They were not met with near Wentworth.

Pardalotus striatus (Striped Diamond Bird).—Common both along the rivers and in the mallee scrub country.

Melithreptus gularis (Black-throated Honey-eater).—Uncommon. Pairs are met with occasionally in the box flats year after year.

Melithreptus atricapillus (Brown-headed Honey-eater).—Fairly common bird in the box country; also met with in the back scrub country; they move about in small flocks.

Plectorhyncha lanceolata (Striped Honey-eater).—Not common. Pairs are met with occasionally in the box flats in the district. They are met with occasionally in small flocks.

Cissomela nigra (Black Honey-eater).—Uncommon. A bird was collected at Lake Victoria in October, 1917, and a few appeared near Wentworth in late October, 1918. They were not known to breed.

Gliciphila albifrons (White-faced Honey-eater).—Migratory and fairly plentiful in the spring months. Frequents acacia and sandalwood scrubs when these are in flower. They nest sometimes in sandalwoods, a few feet from the ground, and sometimes in low bushes a few inches from the ground. The nest is a very poorly constructed affair for a honey-eater.

Meliphaga sonora (Singing Honey-eater).—Not at all common, but odd pairs met with occasionally, especially in tobacco-bush flats.

Lichenistomus ornatus (Yellow-plumed Honey-eater).—Strictly confined to the mallee; generally found in small colonies. They are very local in their habits.

Ptilotula penicillata (White-plumed Honey-eater).—Very common in the river gums and box flats. It does not go inland.

Myzantha melanocephala (Noisy Minah).—A very common bird in the river gums of the Murray and lower part of the Darling; on the upper part of the Darling its place is taken by *M. flavigula*, which here comes into the river gums.

Myzantha flavigula (Yellow-throated Minah).—A very common bird in the back country. They only come into the frontages where the Noisy Minah is absent. This bird and the Raven may be the only birds met with for miles when travelling in the back country during the summer.

Coleia carunculata (Red Wattle-bird).—A rare bird; only met with in the mallee, and then seldom.

Acanthagenys rufogularis (Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater).—A very common and resident species. It is found in all classes of country.

Entomyzon cyanotis (Blue-faced Honey-eater).—A fairly common bird, strictly confined to the river gums.

Microphilemon orientalis (Yellow-throated Friar Bird).—Common on the river frontages. They are migratory, arriving in September.

Anthus australis (Pipit or Ground Lark).—A common bird on the plains.

Staganopleura guttata (Spotted-sided Finch).—Odd birds have been seen at the Curlwa irrigation settlement.

Taeniopygia castanotis (Chestnut-eared Finch).—Fairly common on the irrigation settlements.

Chlamydera maculata guttata (Yellow-spotted Bower Bird).—Uncommon; a few birds were seen at Kulkyne Station, on the Murray. From reports it appears that this bird is now much rarer than it was a few years ago.

Corvus coronoides (Raven).—Common throughout the district.

Corvus bennetti (Small-billed Crow).—An inland bird. It seems to prefer open country, away from the rivers.

Strepera sp.—A bird of this genus is occasionally met with in the mallee country. They are exceedingly shy, and so far no specimen has been obtained for identification.

Struthidea cinerea (Grey Jumper).—A small family of these birds was located at a tank on the road from Wentworth to Cuthro, but on the tank drying up they left.

Corcorax melanorhamphus (White-winged Chough).—A common bird, both on the box flats and in the mallee. They are sometimes met with long distances from known water.
