

A Trip to the South-East of South Australia.

—By J. Sutton.—

Professor J. B. Cleland and myself left Adelaide by the express train on December 5th, 1922, and arrived at Kalangadoo (285½ miles) at 5.42 a.m. on Wednesday morning. After breakfast we started on our walk to Millicent (22 miles). The country is absolutely flat with big gum-trees. Near to Kalangadoo, in the old Koorine estate, some fine crops were

seen, and a few miles further on a sawmill, where the redgum blocks for the Adelaide streets were being cut. The plain continues for 11 miles, when Mount McIntyre is reached, where there is a small State plantation. The road then gradually rises for three miles through bracken, scrub, and big gums as far as the State forest of Mount Burr. The main road cuts through this forest, and for three miles it is bordered by splendid plantations of *Pinus insignis*. The area of this forest is 20,370 acres, of which 3,917 acres are planted with various pines and gums. Shortly after passing the forest the road goes over the shoulder of Mount Muirhead, and from there one gets a magnificent view of the plains, with Millicent five miles away. With the friendly assistance of three carters during the trip we reached Millicent at 7 p.m.

On Thursday, at 10.15 a.m., we were motored to Lake Bonney (8½ miles from Millicent). We were dropped about 1½ miles from the water, and were called for at 5.30 p.m. The lake is situated in a large basin, which is bounded on the eastern and western sides by sandhills—those on the western side vary from a half to one mile from the sea. The lake is 16 miles long by three miles at its widest point, and at the south-western corner it ends in swamps, which, it is said, extend to the sea. The water of the lake is good for drinking purposes, and at the north-eastern corner there is a beach which is made up of millions of small shells.

On Friday morning we walked to the scrubby and timbered country about two miles north-west of Millicent, and returned at 1 p.m. Our original intention was to go on to Beachport and return by train to Adelaide, but through the kind invitation of Dr. Rolland, of Millicent, we were enabled to motor back to Adelaide via the Coorong. We left Millicent on Friday at 6.55 p.m., and reached Robe (62 miles) at 10 p.m., where we stayed the night. It rained slightly during this journey. We did not pass through Beachport, but turned off four miles from that town, and in the dim light we could see parts of Lakes George, St. Clair, and Eliza. The country appeared to be very flat and scrubby.

On Saturday we left Robe for Kingston at 9.16 a.m. Rain began to fall fairly heavily at 7.30 a.m. and continued until 11.30 a.m., when it cleared off altogether. We reached Kingston (27 miles) at 10.32 a.m., left again at 11.6 a.m., and travelling along the Coorong arrived at Meningie (92 miles) at 7.5 p.m. We had lunch 27 miles from Kingston, just after our only stoppage for ten minutes on account of the track.

As about an inch of rain had fallen over the Coorong district on Wednesday and Thursday the track was under water in a great number of places, but only one sand-drift was met with. From McGrath's Flat to Meningie the road is excellent. We stayed at Meningie for the night.

On Sunday morning (December 10th) we walked along the shore of Lake Albert before breakfast, left Meningie at 9.20 a.m. for Adelaide (91 miles), and reached Fullarton at 1.38 p.m., after a very enjoyable trip.

The outstanding feature was—ornithologically—the finding of the Yellow Robin. (*Eopsaltria australis*) with nest and one egg at Lake Bonney on December 8th, 1922; another the view of the Pines in the State Forest at Mount Burr; and a third the enormous numbers of rabbits infesting Millicent and the adjacent country.

A census of the birds seen during the trip was taken; and, outside of 15,000 allowed for the waterfowl we saw on the Coorong, there were noted 100 species of native birds with 9,655 individuals, and four introduced species with 3,588 individuals.

The following is a list of the species observed, together with remarks thereon:—

Dromaius novae-hollandiae, Emu.—One seen on the top of one of the highest sandhills near the sea at the Coorong—27 miles from Kingston—on December 9th.

Quail (sp. ?).—One seen on the Coorong; but not identified.

Phaps elegans, Brush Bronzewing.—Four seen in our journey along the Coorong.

Tribonyx ventralis, Black-tailed Native Hen.—Fifteen on the Coorong and one on the shore of Lake Albert at Meningie.

Parphyrio melanotus, Bald Coot.—One bird was seen in the main drainage channel in Millicent.

Fulica atra, Coot.—This species was not definitely identified until we reached Meningie, where there was a great number near the shore of Lake Albert.

Podiceps poliocephalus, Hoary-headed Grebe.—First seen on Lake Bonney, where 18 birds were counted (nine of them being young birds), 20 noted between Robe and Kingston, and two this side of Kingston.

Chlidonias leucopareia, Whiskered (Marsh) Tern.—Four seen at Lake Bonney, three at Robe, 31 on the Coorong; and 41 on a sandspit in Lake Albert at Meningie.

Larus novae-hollandiae, Silver Gull.—Seen everywhere, mostly near water; 295 were counted between Millicent and Langhorne's Creek.

Lobibyx novae-hollandiae, Spur-winged Plover.—Found near the swamps and also on the dry land near the road. Three were seen between Mount McIntyre and Millicent, and 112 were noted between Robe and Langhorne's Creek.

Zonifer tricolor, Black-breasted Plover.—Thirteen birds in all were seen between the mile-post 54 miles from Kingston and Meningie.

Charadrius ruficapillus, Red-capped Dotterel.—Four noted on the Coorong, over 50 miles from Kingston, and five at Meningie (two of the latter flew on to the main road when we disturbed them from the shore of Lake Albert).

Charadrius melanops, Black-fronted Dotterel.—One bird was seen on a small swamp near the old Government House at Robe.

Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae, Red-necked Avocet.—A flock of over 400 was seen on a swamp near the Coorong, about 50 miles from Kingston, and 10 along the shore of Lake Albert at Meningie.

Pisobia acuminata, Sharp-tailed Stint.—Eighty-one seen on the small swamp near the old Government House at Robe; 1,393 were counted from Robe, along the Coorong, to Meningie, and 41 on the shore of Lake Albert at Meningie.

Snipe (sp. ?).—Two birds seen, but not identified, on a swamp between McGrath's Flat and Meningie.

Burhinus magnirostris, Southern Stone-Plover.—Two heard calling at Kybybolite at 2 a.m. on December 6th.

Threskiornis molucca, White Ibis.—Thirteen birds in all seen—one on the drainage channel between Millicent and Lake Bonney, and the other 12 at Lake Bonney.

Threskiornis spinicollis, Straw-necked Ibis.—Eight were seen from the train between Coonawarra and Kalangadoo, and 33 were noted between Kalangadoo and Mount McIntyre, chiefly rising from the swamps.

Notophya novae-hollandiae, White-faced Heron.—Thirteen seen between Kybybolite and Millicent—three at Lake Bonney, two between Millicent and Robe, and 11 on the Coorong.

Notophya pacifica, White-necked Heron.—Six noted between Kalangadoo and Mount McIntyre.

Nycticorax caledonicus, Nankeen Night Heron.—Fourteen birds were flushed, about noon, from the tops of high

gum-trees in a small plantation near the Mount McIntyre school. Beneath the trees were found lots of the pinkish shell remains of yabbies, evidently ejected by these birds. On being disturbed they croaked not unlike a hen.

Chenopsis atrata, Black Swan.—There were fair numbers on the swamps in the Coorong; 1,275 was the count. A pair with four cygnets was seen on Lake Albert at Meningie.

Anas superciliosa, Black Duck; *Virago gibberifrons*, Grey Teal.—Great numbers of both species were seen on the Coorong. In one part, near McGrath's Flat, for about a mile and a half, there were probably over 10,000 birds, including other waterfowl; 145 Black Duck and 200 Grey Teal were counted on Lake Albert, near the hotel at Meningie, in the early morning of December 10th.

Biziura lobata, Musk Duck.—Three birds were seen—one on the swamp near the old Government House at Robe, one between Robe and Kingston, and one between Meningie and Wellington.

Phalacrocorax carbo, Cormorant.—One only seen, a very big specimen, on a drainage channel running into Lake Bonney.

Phalacrocorax ater, Little Black Cormorant.—A pair were seen on the little swamp at Robe, three birds on the Coorong, and one near Wellington.

Phalacrocorax varius, Pied Cormorant.—A pair observed on the little swamp at Robe.

Microcarbo melanoleucus, Little Pied Cormorant.—One bird seen on Lake Bonney.

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Pelican.—One hundred and six recorded—eight on the Coorong, 21 on Lake Albert at Meningie, eight on the River Murray at Wellington, and 69 on Lake Alexandrina.

Circus approximans, Swamp Harrier.—Twenty-four noted. The white base of the tail is a distinctive mark when the bird is in the air. Six birds were seen between Kalangadoo and Millicent, nine on the Lake Bonney trip, seven on the Coorong, and two near Meningie. Whilst walking through the Mount Burr Forest a Swamp Harrier was observed to dive at a bird; apparently a Honey-eater, but it missed.

Haliastur sphenurus, Whistling Eagle.—Twenty-three in all seen. Between Kalangadoo and Millicent ten birds were noted, and their well-known whistle was heard almost continuously for some hours. When returning from Lake Bonney in a motor, ten Whistling Eagles, six Crows, and a

Magpie were perched on three dwarf trees and the fence-posts on the roadside a mile out of Millicent.

Ieracidea berigora, Brown Hawk.—One noted near Penola and two between Kalangadoo and Millicent.

Cerchneis cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.—Thirty-two birds recorded—two near Penola, three at Lake Bonney, two at Robe, 17 along the Coorong, and eight between Meningie and Echungung.

Glössopsitta porphyrocephala, Purple-crowned Lorikeet.—Seventeen noted between Kalangadoo and Millicent. The species was not heard again until leaving Langhorne's Creek.

Calyptorhynchus funereus, Black Cockatoo.—Thirteen in all were seen—two at Kalangadoo; two in the Mount Burr Forest, and nine at Millicent.

Leptolophus hollandicus, Cockatoo Parrot.—At 8 a.m. on 10th inst. two were seen flying over Meningie.

Platycercus elegans, Crimson Parrot.—Eight seen between Mount McIntyre and Millicent, and three at Lake Bonney. The species was not met with again until we passed Strathalbyn.

Platycercus eximius, Rosella.—Fifteen recorded—eight between Kalangadoo and Millicent, three near Lake Bonney, and four on the Coorong.

Barnardius barnardi, Ring-necked (Mallee) Parrot.—Five were seen on the Coorong; three of them were perched on the telegraph wires for some time.

Pscphotus haematonotus, Red-backed Parrot.—These birds were met with everywhere we went, and 68 were counted—seven between Penola and Kalangadoo, 14 between Kalangadoo and Millicent, 12 on the Lake Bonney trip, eight near Millicent, five between Robe and Kingston, 18 along the Coorong, and four from Meningie on.

Dacelo gigas, Laughing Kookaburra.—Forty recorded—one at Glenroy, 26 between Kalangadoo and Millicent, four on the Lake Bonney trip, eight north-west of Millicent, and one between Millicent and Robe. None was seen or heard along the Coorong.

Halcyon sanctus, Sacred Kingfisher.—One bird was heard calling as we passed through Aldgate.

Cuculus pallidus, Pallid Cuckoo.—Two were heard between Kalangadoo and Millicent.

Bronze Cuckoo (sp. ?).—Near Lake Bonney a female Blue Wren was seen feeding a young Bronze Cuckoo. Close to the wool-scouring works, Lake Bonney, two Bronze Cuckoos

were seen sitting on a wire fence, and they appeared to be mating. On December 7th, on the walk north-west of Millicent, two Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Geobasileus chryssorhoa*) were seen, each attending to a young Bronze Cuckoo. They were watched for some time, and on two occasions the young Cuckoos flew into the same Stringy-bark tree, and twice both Cuckoos flew to one Thornbill returning with food; but when the young Cuckoos were in different trees each one was fed by a different foster-parent. To us there did not appear any difference in the sound of the squeaks of the young Cuckoos. All the Bronze Cuckoos referred to above were of a dark-bronze colour.

Hirundo neowena, Welcome Swallow.—This species was met with everywhere we went; 240 birds in all were noted, and 122 of those were seen between Meningie and Langhorne's Creek.

Cheramoeca leucosternum, White-backed Swallow.—One bird only was seen on a telegraph wire five miles west of Langhorne's Creek.

Hylochelidon nigricans, Tree Martin.—Eighty-eight noted on the trip, but none along the Coorong; 36 of them were seen between Kalangadoo and Mount McIntyre, and 43 between Meningie and Langhorne's Creek.

Hylochelidon ariel, Fairy Martin.—Six seen on the Kalangadoo and Millicent Road near the beginning of the Mount Burr Forest, and on an adjacent cliff five nests were observed.

Microeca fascinans, Jacky Winter.—Ten seen between Kalangadoo and Millicent, two north-west of Millicent, and two near Wellington.

Petroica multicolor, Scarlet Robin.—Five in all noted—three north-west of Millicent (one of which, a male bird, appeared to be moulting); two others between Robe and Kingston.

Rhipidura flabellifera, Grey Fantail.—Fifteen counted between Kalangadoo and Millicent, 19 on the Lake Bonney trip; 10 north-west of Millicent, three between Robe and Kingston, and two along the Coorong.

Rhipidura leucophrys, Willie Wagtail.—Nineteen noted—one at Glenroy, three between Kalangadoo and Millicent, two at Lake Bonney, two north-west of Millicent, one between Robe and Kingston, six along the Coorong, and four after leaving Meningie.

Seisura inquieta, Restless Flycatcher.—One bird only was seen—in the town of Millicent.

Graucalus novae-hollandiae.—Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—Sixteen seen—six between Kalangadoo and Millicent, one north-west of Millicent, eight along the Coorong, and one near Meningie.

Drymodes brunneopygia, Southern Scrub-Robin.—One bird was heard calling in the scrub about 6.40 p.m. six miles south of Meningie.

Pomatostomus temporalis, Grey-crowned Babbler.—Ten noted in the scrub along the Coorong. It is a larger bird than *P. superciliosus*, and the calls are slightly different.

Cinctoramphus cruralis, Brown Song-Lark.—Although only 20 were noted, this species was seen everywhere but on the Lake Bonney trip.

Ephthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat.—Next to the Magpie, this species was the most numerous. These birds were seen everywhere, and the total noted was 536, of which 342 were along the Coorong.

Acrocephalus australis, Reed Warbler.—Three were heard singing in the reeds at Wellington whilst we were waiting for the punt.

Megalurus gramineus, Little Grass-Bird.—At 10 p.m. on December 9th, near the hotel at Meningie, one of these birds was heard calling. At 6.30 a.m. the next morning one bird was again calling, and was flushed from an African Box-thorn clump near the water's edge, and another was calling in the patch of reeds in Lake Albert near the Meningie Hotel.

Acanthiza pusilla, Brown Thornbill.—As soon as the scrub began along the road at Mount McIntyre this species was seen and heard; it was also met with at Lake Bonney, Millicent, Robe, and once along the Coorong; 77 birds in all were noted.

Geobasiliscus chryssorhoa, Yellow-tailed Thornbill.—This species was met with everywhere; 84 birds in all were noted, and 29 of those were seen north-west of Millicent.

Sericornis frontalis, White-browed Scrub-Wren.—Fourteen noted—one at Lake Bonney, one north-west of Millicent, eight at Robe, and four on the Coorong.

Malurus cyaneus, Blue Wren.—This species was met with everywhere; 93 birds in all were noted.

Sphenura broadbenti, Rufous Bristle-Bird.—Five of these birds were noted, two of them being seen. At Robe at 6 a.m. on December 9th we got up and walked to the beacon and

back. Just as we reached the little swamp near the old Government House, a Bristle-Bird was flushed out of a clump of trees, and ran past and behind us to some scrub. The bird seemed to be as large as a Scrub-Robin, but a darker brown colour, and did not erect its tail. Three other Bristle-Birds were heard calling, but they were not seen. The other bird seen was on the Coorong. As we got to the top of a scrubby sandhill a Bristle-Bird was seen about 100 yards away on a clear patch of sand. Its tail appeared to be longer than the rest of its body, and was carried slightly downwards. On being disturbed it ran (or hopped) very quickly up a sandhill, amongst the scrub, for about 60 feet, and disappeared over the top.

Artamus personatus, Masked Wood-Swallow.—Six seen between Mount McIntyre and Millicent and 150 near Lake Bonney. These latter birds were migrating northwards at a great height, and it was some time before they could be identified. Later six were seen near Echunga at a height of about 50 feet.

Artamus cyanopterus, Dusky Wood-Swallow.—Twenty-seven in all were seen—two between Mount McIntyre and Millicent, one north-west of Millicent, 11 along the Coorong, and 13 between Langhorne's Creek and Echunga.

Grallina cyanoleuca, Magpie-Lark.—This species was met with everywhere; 74 birds in all were noted.

Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike-Thrush.—This species was met with everywhere; 32 birds in all were noted. Two birds seen in the plantation at Mount McIntyre were distinctly rufous on the face, top of head, and nape of the neck.

Falcunculus frontatus, Crested Shrike-Tit.—One bird was seen near Lake Bonney. It sang occasionally—a very pretty song and altogether different from that usually given by the species about Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges.

Pachycephala rufiventris, Rufous-breasted Whistler.—Two heard—one near Lake Bonney and the other north-west of Millicent; the latter bird was in full song.

Eopsaltria australis, Yellow Robin.—Two seen a mile from Lake Bonney on December 8th in the scrub at the foot of the sandhills forming the lake basin at the north-east corner. A nest with one egg was found, the female bird being at the nest. Another was heard calling north-west of Millicent.

Timacteris picumna, Brown Tree-Creeper.—One bird was seen climbing a very big dead gum-tree about four miles from Kalangadoo.

Climacteris leucophaea, White-throated Tree-Creeper.—One bird was heard calling near Mount McIntyre.

Zosterops lateralis, White Eye.—First seen at Lake Bonney, where a nest was found not far from the water in the top of a Melaleuca-tree about 10 feet high; the nest contained two young birds. Fourteen were counted at Lake Bonney, six at Robe, two between Robe and Kingston, and 13 along the Coorong.

Pardalotus striatus, Red-tipped Pardalote.—Twenty noted—17 between Kalangadoo and Millicent, two near Lake Bonney, and one north-west of Millicent.

Pardalotus xanthopygius, Yellow-rumped Pardalote.—Thirteen recorded between Mount McIntyre and Mount Burr Forest.

Melithreptus lunulatus, White-naped Honey-eater.—One bird was seen at the Mount Burr Forest.

Melithreptus brevirostris, Brown-headed Honey-eater.—One seen and another heard along the Coorong, about 50 miles from Kingston.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris, Spinebill.—Two seen in a tree in the scrub near Lake Bonney.

Meliphaga virescens, Singing Honey-eater.—These birds were not noticed until we reached Robe, where they seemed plentiful; they were also seen about Kingston and along the Coorong; 56 birds in all were seen.

Meliphaga chrysops, Yellow-faced Honey-eater.—Sixteen noted between Kalangadoo and Millicent.

Meliphaga leucotis, White-eared Honey-eater.—Two at the Mount Burr Forest.

Meliphaga penicillata, White-plumed Honey-eater.—Eighteen counted between Kalangadoo and the Mount Burr Forest.

Meliornis pyrroptera, Crescent Honey-eater.—Five noted between Mount McIntyre and the Mount Burr Forest.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae, White-bearded Honey-eater.—Fourteen noted between Mount McIntyre and the Mount Burr Forest, two at Lake Bonney, five between Robe and Kingston, and 106 along the Coorong.

Myzantha garrula, Noisy Miner.—Two seen between Kalangadoo and Mount McIntyre, and 11 along the Coorong.

Anthochaera carunculata, Red Wattle-Bird.—Fourteen counted between Kalangadoo and the Mount Burr Forest.

Anthochaera chrysoptera, Brush Wattle-Bird.—First noticed at Lake Bonney, where 11 birds were seen, one north-

west of Millicent, four at Robe, 13 between Robe and Kingston, and 42 along the Coorong.

Acanthagenys rufogularis, Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater.—This species was the most numerous Honey-eater seen on the trip; 123 birds in all were noted—two between Mount McIntyre and Millicent, 22 at Lake Bonney, eight north-west of Millicent, nine at Robe, seven between Robe and Kingston, and 75 along the Coorong.

Anthus australis, Pipit.—Ninety-six recorded—29 between Kalangadoo and Millicent, three near Lake Bonney, five at Robe, three between Robe and Kingston, 31 along the Coorong, and 25 between Meningie and Echunga.

Mirafrja javanica, Bush-Lark.—Four noted about the crops in the former Koorine Estate, near Kalangadoo, and two near Millicent.

Zonaegehinthus bellus, Fire-tailed Finch.—Three seen in the Titree near Lake Bonney. Six birds of the Finch family were seen at Robe, but were not identified, but were probably of this species.

Aegintha temporalis, Red-browed Finch.—Two birds of this species were seen at Lake Bonney.

Corvus ceciliae, Raven.—Seventy-one in all seen—three at Penola, 14 between Kalangadoo and Millicent, six on the road to Lake Bonney, 26 along the Coorong, and 22 at Meningie.

Strepera melanoptera, Black-winged Bell-Magpie.—Three noted along the Coorong; one bird was watched at a distance of 30 feet.

Cracticus torquatus, Collared Butcher-Bird.—Four of these birds were heard—three near Lake Bonney and one north-west of Millicent.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.—Excepting the Wild Fowl, this species was the most numerous seen, and totalled 596. Between Kalangadoo and Millicent 95 were counted, and between Meningie and Langhorne's Creek 225.

Introduced Birds.—Goldfinch, 148; Greenfinch, 12; House-Sparrow, 780; and Starling, 2,645. Blackbirds were not observed until we reached Stirling West; 537 of the Starlings were seen in the open country between Kalangadoo and Millicent, and were principally in the just-dried, or drying, swamps close to the road.