

## Some Notes on Birds seen during a Holiday Trip in South-West Queensland.

By A. Chenery.

A start was made from Broken Hill on 15th August, 1923, the party including Dr. MacGillivray, Mr. P. D. Riddell, M.A., Director of the Technical College, Broken Hill, who is also a skilled photographer, and our driver. The conveyance was a Dodge car converted into a single-seater with a lorry body. The objective was the Charleville district, where we thought it possible that a species of *Sericornis* found in that locality by Mr. Broadbent, of the Queensland Museum, some years previously, might be rediscovered. The first stage of some 300 miles was across the Western Division of New South Wales to Wanaaring, on the Paroo River, passing *en route* Wonnaminta, Morden, Yancannia, Bootra, and Urosino stations. Odd pairs of Australian Dotterels (*Peltohyas australis*) were seen, as well as Bennett's Crows (*Corvus bennetti*), which were nesting freely in the Mulga trees. One nest examined contained seven eggs. White Cockatoos (*C. sanguinea*) and Galahs were plentiful along all the watercourses, where hollow gumtrees afforded nesting sites. On two occasions Galahs were flushed from hollow gate-posts which the birds had taken possession of as nesting sites. On two occasions, also, Pardalotes (*P. ornatus*) were flushed from holes in gate-posts.

Between Bancannia, some 100 miles north of Broken Hill, and Wonnaminta we noticed many Whistling Eagles, feeding on caterpillars. Wood-Swallows were heard and seen high in the air on their annual southerly migration. An occasional Kestrel and pairs of Ringneck and Blue-Bonnet Parrots were also noted. During a stroll round Wonnaminta homestead on the following morning we were shown the previous year's nesting hollow of a Red-backed Kingfisher burrowed into the mud wall of one of the buildings. Bottle-Swallows or Fairy Martins were getting busy in the blacksmith's shop, and a solitary Australian Goshawk was seen to fly into a Gum on the waterhole. In the creek I met with the Crested Wedgebill for the first time on this trip, and a Swallow-tail Kite (*M. migrans*) was soaring over the station buildings.

After leaving Wonnaminta in the afternoon, we stopped the car some seven miles along the road with the object of climbing to the top of Koonenberry, a range of hills which forms a landmark for many miles in this flat country. This necessitated a tramp of some five miles, with a stiff climb at the end. During

this walk over a plain covered with fine saltbush we found a nest of the White-fronted Chat (*E. albifrons*) with three incubated eggs, and another of the Orange-fronted species with the egg of a Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo, all incubated and left undisturbed. Here, also, we found a nest of the Singing Honey-eater in an "old man" saltbush well out on the plain—rather an unusual site. It contained two incubated eggs. Near the foot of the range I found the nest of the Crested Wedgebill with two well-fledged young. Their bodies were covered with greyish-black down, legs were black, gape yellow, and irides dark-brown. Nest was in a bunch of dead mistletoe in a "Dead Finish," or Prickly Acacia. This range, which is well clothed with shrubs and trees, amongst which Mulga and Leopard Wood were prominent, with a few Pines near the summit, was disappointing as regards bird life. I saw a few Red-capped Robins and Brown-rumped Tits (*G. uropygialis*), but no Hawks.

During a stay of some three days at a creek a little farther on, owing to car trouble, we had an opportunity of seeing most of the bird life in the vicinity. A Little Eagle had a nest containing one egg in a Gum, a pair of Black-backed Magpies had a nest near the camp, and a pair of Yellow-throated Miners and Crested Bronzewing Pigeons were found attending to domestic duties, the former with young and the latter sitting on incubated eggs. Brown-winged Wrens (*M. assimilis*) and Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters were present along the creek. During a long walk one day we were fortunate in striking a patch of flowering *Eremophila* (*E. maculata*), locally known as Wild Fuchsia. Here we found some Pied Honey-eaters, one pair having a nest with three eggs in one of the flowering shrubs some two feet from the ground; and many Black Honey-eaters, who have a single plaintive note constantly repeated (these were not found nesting). White-fronted Honey-eaters (*Glyciphila albifrons*) were also plentiful, and nests were found in the low bushes, some containing two eggs, some three eggs, and two with half-fledged young. A Singing Honey-eater had a nest with two eggs in a Hybrid Gidyea (*Acacia carua*), and during the morning a Wood-Swallow (*A. cinereus*) was noted building its nest, and a solitary Brown Quail was flushed. Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters were plentiful, and so were the White-plumed (*M. penicillata*), but no nests of these two species were found. After return to camp and luncheon, Dr. MacGillivray and Mr. Riddell walked for some miles in another direction. The only bird of interest they saw was a Spotted Night-jar, flushed from the ground on the side of a rocky hill. I noted a peculiarity of

the Pied Honey-eater near the camp. This was a solitary male bird, who kept up a plaintive call of three notes while it flew high into the air, spreading its tail like a fan, and performing aerial gymnastics. It evidently had not managed to find a mate, and was some miles from the patch where we saw all the other Honey-eaters. The mated ones there were silent, and indulged in no fancy flying. The Mistletoe-Bird (*Dicaeum*) was also noted during our stay, and small flocks of Babblers (*P. ruficeps*). The pretty trilling song of the Crested Wedgebill was also frequently heard. Many fresh Emu tracks were seen in the moist soil, but no birds.

From Morden on to Yancannia and Bootra there was little of interest in the bird line, but a few Emus were seen. After passing Bootra we saw our first pair of Grey Jumpers (*Struthidea*) at a tank. They were plentiful further on. At our camp next morning we found a nest of the Rufous Song-Lark, and saw a pair of Leadbeater's Cockatoos. Many Black-headed Graucalus were about the Boxtrees. Here, also, I noticed the first Caterpillar-eaters (*C. tricolor*). Yellow-throated Miners, Galahs, Bennett's Crows, and Bare-eyed Cockatoos, with the Pallid and Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoos, completed the list. During the next stage, from here to Urosino, we saw quite a number of Emus. At No. 7 Bore we were amused to see a black Galah sitting on the wires over the engine-shed. She had evidently been exploring the smoke-stack as a possible nesting site, and had gathered a coating of soot on her feathers. Wanaaring is only a village, and the Paroo a series of channels with no properly defined banks, and at the time of our visit a chain of mostly shallow waterholes. A pair of Wood-Ducks was seen here. Going north along the Paroo to cross into Queensland at Hungerford one noted the river birds once more, not heard since leaving Menindie on the Darling. Amongst these were the Grey Thrush (*C. harmonica*) and Peaceful Dove. We had now left behind the Bare-eyed Cockatoos, and saw no more of them until we came west again on our return. The Western Division of New South Wales seems to be the principal home of these birds. There were no Black Cockatoos, although they are fairly numerous lower down the Paroo, I am told. On the road to Hungerford we found two nests of the Brown-rumped Tit (*G. uropygialis*), one building and one with three eggs; also saw a few pairs of the Black-throated Butcher-Bird, many Wood-Swallows, chiefly White-eyebrowed (*A. superciliosus*) and Masked (*A. personata*), and Black Honey-eaters (*Myzomela nigra*). We also saw one

Grey Falcon (*F. hypoleucus*). Between Hungerford and Eulo (85 miles) nothing of interest was seen.

At Eulo we left the Paroo and turned east, running into Cunnamulla, another 45 miles over a good road, and crossing the low watershed between the Paroo and Warrego. A pair of Blue-Bonnets (*P. hæmatogaster*) was seen, also Brown Tree-creepers (*C. picinnâ*) in a patch of Gidyea scrub, where we halted for a late luncheon. Some Babblers were identified as *P. temporalis*, and this species was with us all the way up the Warrego and down the Bulloo until near Thargomindah, where the White-browed (*P. superciliosus*) came on the scene again.

They were having a dry time at Cunnamulla, and we did not work any country in the neighbourhood. It is a flourishing town. The surrounding country is well timbered, but very level. We saw our first pair of Brolgas (*Antigone rubricunda*) near a bore drain just outside the town.

After one night there we left at midday next day for Charleville (125 miles) along the Warrego all the way. Some 30 miles on this road we renewed acquaintance with our old friends the Kookaburra (*D. gigas*) and the Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*C. galeritâ*), not seen since leaving the Darling. I neither saw nor heard the Kookaburra on the Paroo above Wanaaring. There are some very fine Redgums in the Warrego channels. Some more pairs of Brolgas were also seen. At one halt I saw five Red-winged Lorries (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*), my first introduction to these fine birds. At Charleville, later, one man had about 50 or more of these birds, which he had trapped at various times, in a wire-netted cage. He was just keeping them, and was not a professional bird-catcher. When Dr. MacGillivray suggested purchasing half a dozen for his flight aviary in Broken Hill, the man, an Irish migrant and storekeeper, practically refused to part with them. If I lived in Charleville I feel sure that cage, which was much too small, would be found open and, I hope, empty, one morning. Other birds noticed before reaching our camping-place, some 60 miles from Cunnamulla, were Brown Tree-creepers (plentiful), Brown Flycatchers (*Microeca fascians*), Galahs, Ravens (here replacing Bennett's Crow, none of which was seen since leaving the Paroo), many Whistling Eagles (*H. sphenurus*), and an occasional Kestrel and Goshawk (*Astur fasciatus* or *approximans*). No Wedgetail Eagles seen; probably all poisoned. Grey Jumpers (*Struthidea cinerea*) were also seen frequently. Of course, we were travelling fast and missed many birds.

Just past Wyandra, where the railway from Charleville to Cunnamulla touches the river again, we camped for the night

on the Warrego channels. These contained water, but not flowing. Islands of higher land, densely wooded with Teatree and Redgums, divide the river into three or four channels. In flood-time these streams, running through such level country, must have a spread of a half to two-thirds of a mile. During the night we were serenaded by many Boobooks, and also heard the Owllet Night-jar (*Ægotheles cristata*). Some native Bears helped in the concert from time to time.

In the morning we identified two species of Pardalotes (*P. ornatus*) and Red-lored (*P. rubricatus*), the Jay (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*), Magpie-Lark, and Crested Pigeon (*O. lophotes*), Yellow-throated Friar-Bird (*P. citreogularis*), Grey Jumpers, and Brown Tree-creepers, Brown-headed Honey-eater (*M. brevirostris*), and an occasional pair of Ringnecks (*Barnardius barnardi*); also one Red-shouldered Lory (*Aprasmictus*), but no Blue-Bonnets or Grass-Parrakeets of any kind. Why? I wonder. Boxtrees were in bloom; so were the Bloodwoods (*E. terminalis*), and there appeared to be a fair amount of dry seeding Mitchell grass in the channels. Yet the Parrot tribe was very conspicuous by its absence right along the trip; we did not see a Warbling Grass-Parrakeet (*M. undulatus*) until we were getting down into New South Wales again north of Tibooburra.

Before entering Charleville later in the day we passed through a belt of rather dense sapling scrub with undergrowth of Eremophila and Cassia. Here we noted both the Collared and Black-throated Butcher-Birds, Spiny-cheeked and White-plumed Honey-eaters, a species of Gerygone, Wee-bills (*Smicrorhynchus brevirostris*), Friar-Bird (*P. corniculatus*), Hooded Robin, and Brown-headed Honey-eater (*M. brevirostris*).

Our first visit to Charleville, which is a prosperous town with over 2,000 inhabitants, situated on the Warrego, but dependent for its water supply on an artesian bore, occurred on a Saturday afternoon. As there were one or two business men whom we wished to interview, we decided to camp in the neighbourhood over the week-end and return again on Monday. With this object we retraced our steps down river for some 14 miles and camped in a secluded bend of the river, where there was a good waterhole. On our return journey we saw a Bronzewing Pigeon (*P. chalcoptera*), some Ground Cuckoo-Shrikes (*P. maxima*), and Zebra Finches. At this camp we thoroughly explored the channels lined with Teatree, Box, and Redgum timber and also the higher land away from the river, which was well timbered with Pine, Gidyea, and Box trees, and an undergrowth of Eremophila and Cassia scrub. During the night

Boobook Owls and Native Bears again enlivened proceedings, and Stone-Plovers were heard.

First thing in the bird line we noticed on the Sunday morning was a Hawk flying low over the camp with a stick in its claws. After watching this bird make frequent journeys to and fro over our heads to a nesting site on a horizontal limb of a tree some 50 feet from the ground, it was identified without any doubt as the Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*). I believe these birds are not at all common. It was the first the writer had seen, at any rate. This bird caught the thin dead sticks as it flew over the top of a tree and broke them off with its claws. On returning to the nest, many of the sticks dropped to the ground, and, in its efforts to prevent this wasted labour, she (I presume it was the female) used to spread her wings downward on either side of the fork in which the foundations were being laid. She only appeared to work during early morning and late evening.

During this day we identified the Crested Shrike-Tit (*Falcunculus frontatus*), many Peaceful Doves, Crested Bronzings, Sulphur-crested Cockatoos, Pallid and Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoos, two Cuckoo-Shrikes (*G. novae-hollandiae* and *robustus*), Mistletoe-Bird, Tree-runners (*Neositta chrysoptera*), building, many Bell-Birds (*Oreoica gutturalis*), Noisy Miner (*M. garrula*), which here displaced the Yellow-throated, two species of Friar-Birds (*P. corniculatus* and *citreogularis*), Smicromis, building, two species of *Acanthiza* (*uropygialis* and *naïna*), the latter building, *Gerygone fusca* (it had a very sweet trilling song and fed in the topmost leaves of the trees), two species of Tree-creeper, the Brown and White-browed, a small Brown Honey-eater, which also has a sweet little song (*Stigmatops indistincta*), Rufous-breasted Whistler, Red-capped Robin, Grey Jumpers, one Frogmouth (*P. strigoides*), Whistling Eagles, Black-breasted Plovers, Brown Flycatchers, two species of Pardalote (Red-lore and Striated), White-plumed Honey-eaters, numerous in the river channels, the Black-chinned Honey-eater (*M. gularis*), the Babbler (*P. temporalis*), Red-winged Lory, Cockatoo-Parrots, Restless Flycatcher, and Wagtail.

On our return to Charleville on the Monday we stopped at a patch of flowering *Eremophila* near the road, and found many Honey-eaters busy, amongst them being the Blue-faced (*E. cyanotis*). Here we also saw some Spotted Bower-Birds (*Chlamydera maculata*).

In the afternoon we left Charleville and followed a good road with dense patches of *Gidyea* or Mulga scrub on either

side, and ran west towards Adavale (116 miles from Charleville). Camped at Abbathala Waterhole, about 75 miles, that evening, crossing the Langlo River on our way. This proved a poor place for birds. There was a good long waterhole fed by a bore drain. A solitary Pelican and a few Black-Ducks were the only waterfowl noted. In the morning some dense Gidyea scrub was explored, and many Rufous-breasted Whistlers, Black Honey-eaters, Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters, Tree-runners (*N. chrysoptera*), and Babblers were seen; also a Blue-Wren (*M. melanotus*) and White-browed Tree-creeper. Our journey was continued in the afternoon, and a range of high hills was crossed. These were all wooded, and looked promising from the road, which follows a narrow tableland along the highest portion of the range, from which the ground slopes steeply into gullies on either side. From this elevation other ridges running parallel with intervening gullies could be seen stretching for some miles. After finding water at the foot of the range, camp was made. Returning to the tableland in the morning, a gully was worked for some hours, but no bird life of any interest was met with. The country seemed too dry, although it was densely wooded.

On-resuming the journey we noted a Ground-Bird running amongst the stones on the bare roadway, and this was secured. It has been identified as the female of the Chestnut-breasted Ground-Bird (*C. castanotum*). No sign of the male was seen. There was no evidence, on dissection, of this bird breeding. At a luncheon stop some miles out of Adavale the surrounding country gave evidence of having received a more recent wetting than that on the range, and was gay with wild flowers and flowering shrubs. Birds were numerous, but no new varieties were noted. The little Brown Honey-eater (*Stigmatops*) was left behind here as far as I could judge, and was not heard again during the trip. Near Adavale we crossed the Blackwater Creek, which is kept going by a bore drain, and then passed through the town, which is of no size. After another seven miles we crossed the Balloo River for the first time and turned south for Quilpie, about 62 miles. We camped near Emadilla, an out-station of Milo, 27 miles from Adavale, that night, seeing nothing of interest except an Echidna along the road, which crossed and recrossed the Bulloo at intervals. The Noisy Miner was present at this camp, not the Yellow-throated.

Early next morning a flock of seven large birds flew across some distance from the camp, which I feel sure were Bustards, although there were many Brolgas about. The flight is different, and also the shape of the bird generally. After

crossing the Bulloo for the fourth time we left the car and walked down the river channels, instructing our driver to wait for us at the next crossing. We plugged along for nearly four hours before sighting the car again, but had very little reward. There was ample cover in the shape of trees and shrubs, and the long Mitchell and kangaroo grass gave sanctuary and food to both Kangaroos and Wallabies. There was ample water, but birds were scarce.

The sum of our observations during this walk was made up of some Whistling Eagles, one Goshawk with nest in a Boxtree lined ready for eggs, an odd Fork-tail Kite, a few Kookaburras, a White-browed Wood-Swallow's nest with two fresh eggs, a Peaceful Dove on its nest containing two eggs. This nest was in an unusual and exposed situation. A piece of thick bark had peeled off the trunk of a Boxtree some ten feet up the trunk, and was projected outwards almost at right angles. On this ledge the little bunch of sticks was placed. Other nests found were a Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater's with two eggs in a Swamp Acacia and a Brown Flycatcher's with eggs. During this long ramble we saw two Sulphur-crested Cockatoos and one Galah! No Bare-eyed Cockatoos (*C. sanguinea*) since leaving the Western Division Plains. A few Chestnut-eared Finches and Black-faced Wood-Swallows, I believe, complete the list. The only birds at all plentiful were "Greenies" and Wood-Swallows. So much for the Bulloo. I do not think a Parrot of any sort was seen during this walk. Later on, during a halt for repairs to our back spring, we noted the Rufous Song-Lark, Cockatoo-Parrots, one pair of Red-rumped Grass-Parrakeets, Noisy Miners, both the White-browed Babbler and *temporalis*, and more Galahs. The Wedgebill was also present. These birds had been left behind at the Paroo, or even further back than Wanaaring. Towards evening we passed close to the Comongin Station homestead, which is situated on a fine sheet of water, mostly artificial. On this we noted Pelicans, some Ducks, Teal, and White-eyes, and a Cormorant or two.

Next morning, on nearing Quilpie, we saw our first Black Cockatoos (*C. banksi*) feeding in some Leopard Wood trees. Later on, at Quilpie, I counted a flock of 27 flying over the town. Quilpie is the present western terminus of the Toowoomba-Charleville line, and is some 600 miles from Brisbane. It is mostly cattle country around. Shortly after leaving on our further stage of 125 miles to Thargomindah, the back spring broke, and the car had to be unloaded and taken back to the local blacksmith for temporary repairs. During the wait we wandered along the Bulloo and discovered a Yellow-throated

Miner's nest in a Gidyea-tree with three eggs, and a Grey Juniper with its mud nest containing six eggs in a Gidyea. While watching this family of birds, we counted at least half a dozen different individuals fly on to the nest and sit on the eggs, to be replaced in a few minutes by another. Before climbing to the nest I expected to find it empty, but it contained six fresh eggs which appeared to have been contributed by two separate females, as four of them were shaped and marked differently to the other two. This nest was not built on a fork, but on a slim horizontal limb about 1½ inches in diameter. We also saw a Crested Bronzewing sitting quietly on her nest. Country was very dry here, and the waters in the channels fast drying up. We had seen no Emus since leaving Abbathala, 75 miles west of Charleville. Late in the afternoon we were on the move again through South Comongin Station, where we replenished our meat supply and camped, after crossing the Bulloo for the sixth time—still some 90 miles from Thargomindah.

During a halt next morning to examine some likely-looking scrub at the edge of a plain we saw many Straw-necked Ibis, two Wedgetails feeding on a dead bullock, many Whistling Eagles feeding on caterpillars, a Grey Juniper's nest with three eggs, Red-capped Robins, Rufous Song-Larks, Brown-rumped Tit (*G. uropygialis*), Black-breasted Plover, Restless Fly-catcher, Yellow-throated Friar-Birds, Yellow-throated Miners, Cockatoo-Parrots, Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters, "Greenies," and Brolgas on the open plains. We also saw one Sparrow-hawk. Road very rough this day—all travelling-stock route, cut up in wet weather, now caked and hard as flint—just like travelling over a much-magnified nutmeg-grater. Some 18 miles from Thargomindah the road crosses some steep ridges which come in from the west. We called at Norley Station, which is owned by Sir Sydney Kidman, and ran into Thargomindah after 6 p.m. on Saturday, 1st September. Wood-swallows, the Masked and White-browed, were numerous, and a few Ground Cuckoo-Shrikes were noted. Thargomindah is a poor sort of town, which has seen better days. We appreciated a warm shower-bath of bore water, however.

At 1.30 p.m. on Sunday we ran out west to Bullawarra Lake and Swamp, 17 miles, and camped. While here, during that evening and next morning, we saw many Straw-necked Ibis, which flew in large companies into the swampy country at evening and out again on to the plains in the morning. No nesting swamp was found, however. The water in the "Lignum" was only about 18 inches deep, and rapidly drying

up. The Lake was some 15 to 20 miles round, I should say, and was lined with Redgums and Swamp Acacias. Ducks and Native Hens had finished breeding. There were many Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*) chicks running around in the shallows. On the swamp we identified Black, White-eyed, Pink-eared, and Freckled Ducks, Grey Teal, and Lesser-maned Goose, Red-kneed and Black-fronted Dotterel, Spur-winged Plover, Spoonbill (*P. flavipes*) (no Swans and no Herons); also the Swamp Harrier (*C. assimilis*), Little Grass-Bird, and Reed Warbler. On the Lake margin a pair of Little Falcons, Kestrel, Bare-eyed Cockatoo, Galahs, Brolgas, "Greenies," Whistling Eagles, a pair of Blue-Bonnet Parrots, a pair of Red-rumped Grass-Parrakeets, and Wedgebills. The only find of interest here was a pair of Winking Owls (*N. connivens*), the female being flushed from a hollow in a Gum some eight feet from the water in which the tree stood. There were three fledglings in the nest. The male bird appeared from another roosting hollow. This is a fine Owl, with bright yellow eyes and powerful talons. The only sound I heard them make was a subdued "Who" or "Oh." The Little Falcons swooped at them repeatedly when we flushed them into the branches of the tree, but they did not appear to worry in the least.

After leaving Bullawarra, still running due west we saw large flocks of Straw-necked Ibis flying towards the farther end of the Lake, where there were probably more swamps, but we did not investigate. We saw our first Warbling Grass-Parrakeets shortly after, and some fine Bustards quite near the road. Here, also, I noted saltbush and bluebush again, none of which had been seen since entering Queensland. The Grey Range could now be seen in the distance ahead. This forms part of the watershed between the Bulloo and the Wilson rivers. About six miles from Thargomindah, out on the open stony plains, we saw a pair of Gibber Birds (*Ashbyia lovensis*) and an odd Brown Hawk of dark plumage. We camped that evening on a creek lined with Gidyea. Many Cockatoo-Parrots in flocks were seen.

Next morning was spent in working this creek or water-course, because there was no water except where we camped. A Sparrowhawk's nest, containing one egg, some 25 feet up in a Gidyea was found. White-winged Choughs (*C. melanorhamphus*) and Grey Jumpers were also found nesting. Brown-winged Wrens (*M. assimilis*), "Greenies," with young, White-browed Tree-creeper's nesting hollow, with young, Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater, Red-capped Robin with young and with eggs, Mistletoe Bird, nesting, with two eggs, Red-backed King-

fisher, Magpie-Lark with eggs, White-browed Wood-Swallow with young, Yellow-tail (*A. chrysorrhous*), nesting. The original egg cavity contained a single egg of the N.B. Bronze Cuckoo. The presence of this parasite had evidently annoyed the owners, and a new egg cavity had been constructed on the opposite side nearer the bottom of the nest. Willie-Wagtails and a pair of Fantails (*R. flabellifera*), with some Zebra Finches, about complete the list. The country since leaving the Lake had become much more open, with stony plains intersected by dry watercourses and little timber. Further on, after leaving camp in the afternoon, we came to our first good old red sand-hill—sure sign that we were approaching a country of lessened rainfall. Nockatunga cattle station, 3,500 square miles area, on the Wilson; which was reached at sundown, is situated on a stony ridge overlooking the Wilson River channels and a permanent waterhole. It belongs to the Hughes estate, a family well known in South Australia, with other property near Gladstone and Kinchega and Kars Stations on the Darling near Menindie.

We spent a day here and did some walking along the Wilson, but bird life was again disappointing. A nest of the White-winged Wren (*M. leuconotus*) being built was found, and that of the Black Honey-eater with young, a Wedgebill with young, some Spoonbills, and flocks of Ibis. I renewed my acquaintance here with the Beantree (*Bauhinia*), last seen in the Cooper's Creek country.

Ten miles from the station took us to Nocunda, which consists of a police station and hotel. Goats form the bulk of the visible live stock. From here the road to Bransby, some 50 miles, is ill defined, and after crossing the Wilson channels we took a wrong track—there was no road—for some eight to ten miles. The country was open stony tableland. However, the nest of an Australian Dotterel, with three eggs, was found during the run. Returning to where we turned off we found an old Ford car track which we knew led to Bransby, and this was successfully followed.

This and the next day witnessed further trouble with our car, and we made slow progress over rough cattle-tracks. Brolgas were plentiful, and Ibis could be seen over the Wilson swamps to the north in very large flocks. Some Lesser Maned Geese paid a visit to a waterhole on which we camped. At one extensive waterhole further on the ground was covered with Ibis, resting in the shade of the trees in the late afternoon. The sight of these birds as they rose in the air and the noise of their



wings was something to be remembered. There must have been many hundreds.

On leaving the camp next morning we were nearing Bransby. The road was more defined, and the surface hard and smooth. Here were extensive open plains covered with vegetation, and we soon saw Gibber Birds, Pratincoles (*S. isabella*), Australian Dotterels, and Bush-Larks (*Mirafra horsfieldi*). We also identified a Black Falcon on the wing. Here again we met with the Bare-eyed and Major Mitchell Cockatoos. During the day Gibber Birds were frequently seen and two nests found, one containing a single egg and the other a full set of three. Two eggs of the Pratincole were also found on the bare ground, and were most difficult to see owing to the perfect blending of their colouration with their surroundings. We were not successful in finding any nests of the Bush-Lark, but the song of the male bird as he soared high in the air was a joy to hear. Bennett's Crows were again in evidence.

Working some Mulga scrub next morning on our way down the Yanco Creek and Warri Warri we found a nest of the Black-faced Wood-Swallow, built on top of an old Finch's nest containing four eggs, and one of the Black Honey-eater with two eggs. This little bird sat very close, and allowed one almost to touch her before flying off. Their little frail nests are hard to see, as they resemble so closely the colours of the bough—generally a dry one—on which they are placed. Wedge-bills, Wood-Swallows, Rufous Song-Larks, Warbling Grass-Parrakeets, Doves, Crested Bronzewing, and Cockatoo-Parrots were plentiful.

After passing through the Warri gate in the Queensland fence we ran into Tibooburra, arriving there at 8.30 p.m. on 9th September. From there the mail route was followed to Broken Hill, 215 miles, and nothing of interest in the bird line was seen except a pair of Spotted Harriers near Milparinka and some more Australian Dotterels.

This rambling article does not pretend to be a complete list of the birds seen, but includes all those of any interest. I have tried more to note the local distribution of some of the more common forms. Personally, I was disappointed in the general scarcity of varieties met with in travelling over such an extensive area.

This is, as near as possible, Dr. MacGillivray's and my own list of species identified. I am not sure that he has the Grey

Falcon in his list, but we certainly saw one between Hungerford and Eulo:—

<i>Dromaius novae-hollandiae.</i>	<i>Uroaetus audax.</i>
<i>Synoicus australis.</i>	<i>Hieraetus morphnoides.</i>
<i>Turnix velox.</i>	<i>Haliastur sphenurus.</i>
<i>Geopelia placida.</i>	<i>Milvus migrans.</i>
<i>Geopelia cuneata.</i>	<i>Lophoictinia isura.</i>
<i>Ocyphaps lophotes.</i>	<i>Ieracidea berigora.</i>
<i>Phaps chalcoptera.</i>	<i>Falco peregrinus.</i>
<i>Tribonyx ventralis.</i>	<i>Falco subniger.</i>
<i>Fulica atra.</i>	<i>Falco longipennis.</i>
<i>Erythrogonyx cinctus.</i>	<i>Cerchneis cenchroides.</i>
<i>Charadrius ruficapillus.</i>	<i>Ninox boobook.</i>
<i>Charadrius melanops.</i>	<i>Ninox connivens.</i>
<i>Lobibyx novae-hollandiae.</i>	<i>Podargus strigoides.</i>
<i>Zonifer tricolor.</i>	<i>Ægotheles cristata.</i>
<i>Peltohyas australis.</i>	<i>Eurostopodus guttatus.</i>
<i>Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae.</i>	<i>Cacatua galerita.</i>
<i>Stiltia isabella.</i>	<i>Cacatua sanguinea.</i>
<i>Burhinus magnirostris.</i>	<i>Cacatua roseicapilla.</i>
<i>Eupodotis australis.</i>	<i>Calyptorhynchus banksi.</i>
<i>Antigone rubicunda.</i>	<i>Leptolophus hollandicus.</i>
<i>Threskiornis spinicollis.</i>	<i>Aprosmictus erythropterus.</i>
<i>Platalea flavipes.</i>	<i>Barnardius barnardi.</i>
<i>Notophox novae-hollandiae.</i>	<i>Psephotus haematogaster.</i>
<i>Notophox pacifica.</i>	<i>Psephotus haematonotus.</i>
<i>Chenopsis atrata.</i>	<i>Psephotus varius.</i>
<i>Chenonetta jubata.</i>	<i>Melopsittacus undulatus.</i>
<i>Anas superciliosa.</i>	<i>Dacelo gigas.</i>
<i>Virago gibberifrons.</i>	<i>Halcyon pyrrhopygius.</i>
<i>Spatula rhynchotis.</i>	<i>Cuculus pallidus.</i>
<i>Nyroca australis.</i>	<i>Chalcites basalis.</i>
<i>Stictonetta naevosa.</i>	<i>Hirundo neoxena.</i>
<i>Malacorhynchus membranaceus.</i>	<i>Cheramoeca leucosternum.</i>
<i>Phalacrocorax carbo.</i>	<i>Hylochelidon nigricans.</i>
<i>Phalacrocorax ater.</i>	<i>Hylochelidon ariel.</i>
<i>Pelecanus conspicillatus.</i>	<i>Microeca fascians.</i>
<i>Circus assimilis.</i>	<i>Petroica goodenovii.</i>
<i>Circus approximans.</i>	<i>Melanodryas cucullata.</i>
<i>Astur fasciatus.</i>	<i>Smicrornis brevirostris.</i>
<i>Accipiter cirrhocephalus.</i>	<i>Falcunculus frontatus.</i>
	<i>Oreoica gutturalis.</i>
	<i>Pachycephala rufiventris.</i>
	<i>Rhipidura flabellifera</i>

- Rhipidura leucophrys.*  
*Seisura inquieta.*  
*Pteropodocys maxima.*  
*Graucalus novae-hollandiae.*  
*Graucalus robustus.*  
*Campophaga tricolor.*  
*Pomatostomus temporalis.*  
*Pomatostomus superciliosus.*  
*Pomatostomus ruficeps.*  
*Cinclosoma castanotum.*  
*Cincloramphus cruralis.*  
*Cincloramphus mathewsi.*  
*Epthianura albifrons.*  
*Epthianura aurifrons.*  
*Epthianura tricolor.*  
*Ashbyia lovensis.*  
*Anthus australis.*  
*Mirafra javanica.*  
*Acrocephalus australis.*  
*Megalurus gramineus.*  
*Acanthiza nana.*  
*Geobasileus uropygialis.*  
*Geobasileus chrysorrhous.*  
*Malurus leucopterus.*  
*Malurus assimilis.*  
*Malurus melanotus.*  
*Artamus superciliosus.*  
*Artamus personatus.*  
*Artamus cinereus.*  
*Aphelocephala leucopsis.*  
*Sphenostoma cristatum.*  
*Neositta chrysoptera.*  
*Neositta pileata.*
- Climacteris picumna.*  
*Climacteris superciliosus.*  
*Pardalotus ornatus.*  
*Pardalotus rubricatus.*  
*Dicaeum hirundinaceum.*  
*Grallina cyanoleuca.*  
*Colluricincla harmonica.*  
*Gerygone species ?*  
*Plectorhyncha lanceolata.*  
*Myzomela nigra.*  
*Glyciphila albifrons.*  
*Certhionyx variegatus.*  
*Stigmatops indistincta.*  
*Meliphaga virescens.*  
*Meliphaga penicillata.*  
*Melithreptus brevirostris.*  
*Melithreptus gularis.*  
*Myzantha flavigula.*  
*Myzantha garrula.*  
*Entomyzon cyanotis.*  
*Acanthagenys rufogularis.*  
*Philemon corniculatus.*  
*Philemon citreogularis.*  
*Chlamydera maculata.*  
*Taeniopygia castanotis.*  
*Corvus coronoides.*  
*Corvus bennetti.*  
*Corcorax melanorhamphus.*  
*Struthidea cinerea.*  
*Cracticus torquatus.*  
*Cracticus nigrogularis.*  
*Gymnorhina tibicen.*
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