

Birds observed at Roper River, Northern Territory.

The following are a few birds noted from the Roper River during several visits between April, 1921, and June, 1922. The Mission Station is situated about 75 miles from the mouth of the river on the northern bank, between Walmaja Lagoon, which lies four miles north-east, and Wajelai Lagoon, which is two miles west of the station. Lomaerima Lagoon is 10 miles east of the station on the southern bank. Yalwara (or Rennie's) Lagoon is some eight miles up the river, and is a large half-moon-shaped permanent lake at the foot of a rocky hill. Leichhardt's Bar is at the end of the navigable portion of the river, about one hundred miles from the mouth.

The natives at the Mission Station belong to the Mara tribe, at Yalwara and Leichhardt's Bar to the Ngalakan and Mangarai,

while further south are the Allawa. They all have definite names for each bird, but these names differ considerably in each tribe. Thus the name for Emu is—Mara, juruiwiri; Allawa, kanajaja; Ngalakan, ngurundi; Ngandi, urupan; Rembarunga, urupan; Nungubuiju, wain; Kittarungo, wayin. The last four tribes, are all to the north of the Roper River in Arnhem's Land. The difference between the words is sometimes very marked even in adjoining tribes, while in others a similar root can be traced. In still other cases tribes many miles apart may have a closely similar word. A few examples of this variation in the bird names is given below in the form of a table. The Wandaran is a small tribe between the Mara and the Nungubuiju.

TRIBES.	<i>Calyptorhynchus Banksi</i> (Black Cockatoo).	<i>Kakatoe galerita</i> (White Cockatoo).	Native Companion.	Cormorant.
MARA	leradoma	ngerola	kodaruko	karakarak
ALLAWA	leradoma	ngerola	darukmanji	ibibiwalina
NGALAKAN	nokodarabiya	nokongerik	bodorulko	makojojo
NGANDI	kadarabiya	angerik	banami	makararak
REMBARUNGA	darabiya	marupor	bodolko	karakarak
RITTARUNGO	darabiyangara	marupor	banami	jingadar
WANDARAN	awarak	maralngar	—	maworuboru
NUNGUBUYU	nangari	ralna	wondaruta	gundunuruogu

TRIBES.	<i>Anseranus Semipalmata</i> . (Pied Goose.)	Yellow-billed Spoonbill.	Australian Crow.
MARA	languna	bulunbulun	wanganangin
ALLAWA	languna	bolonbolon	wangolai
NGALAKAN	nukulanguna	—	waparayang
NGANDI	langunayung	kokarala	awawa
REMBARUNGA	jamoi	pulunpulun	wawa
RITTARUNGO	languna	karala	wawa
WANDARAN	—	—	—
NUNGUBUYU	numma	louiya	uwak

The names for some birds are clearly suggested by their calls, e.g., the above names for the Crow. Another case in point is the Ingura name for the Dove, "Tararakuku."

- Dromaius novae-hollandiae* (Emu).—Mission Station.
- Synoicus australis* (Brown Quail).—Mission Station.
- Geopelia placida* (Peaceful Dove).—Mission Station.
- Charadrius melanops* (Black-fronted Dotterel).—Wajelai.
- Burhinus magnirostris* (Southern Stone Plover).

Several were noticed on the open flats near Wajelai and Walmaja. Among the Mara people this bird is believed to call out at night when disturbed by "spirits," and thus its cry is much disliked. The Allawa name is "korabi," and they attach a similar significance to its call when heard at night.

Eupodotis australis (Australian Bustard).—Leichhardt's Bar, Lomaerima.

Threskiornis spinicollis (Straw-necked Ibis).—Wajelai, also at mouth of Roper River in many hundreds.

Dendrocygna eytoni (Plumed Whistling Duck).—Wajelai.

Anas superciliosa (Black Duck).—Wajelai, Lomaerima.

Virago gibberifrons (Gray Teal).—Lomaerima.

Ninox connivens (Winking Owl).—Wajelai.

Eolophus roseicapilla (Galah).—Yalwara, Mission Station.

Leptolophus hollandicus (Cockatoo-Parrot).—Leichhardt's Bar. A very large flock came to the Bar to drink at dusk.

Kakatoe galerita (White Cockatoo).—Mission Station, Leichhardt's Bar, Yalwara.

Dacelo leachi (Blue-winged Kookaburra).—Mission Station.

Halcyon pyrrhopygius (Red-backed Kingfisher).—Mission Station.

Myiagra rubecula (Leaden Fly-catcher).—Mission Station.

Melanodryas cucullata (Hooded Robin).—Mission Station.

Pachycephala rufiventris (Rufous-breasted Whistler).—Mission Station.

Graucalus novae-hollandiae (Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike).—Mission Station.

Lalage tricolor (White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater).—Mission Station.

Smicrorornis flavescens (Yellow Weebill).—Mission Station.

Artamus cinereus (Black-faced Wood-Swallow).—Mission Station.

Climacteris melanota (Black Tree-creeper).—Mission Station.

Pardalotus melanocephalus (Black-headed Pardalote).—Mission Station.

Conopophila rufogularis (Red-throated Honey-eater).—Roper River.

Meliphaga virescens (Singing Honey-eater).—Mission Station.

Stomiopera unicolor (White-gaped Honey-eater).—Mission Station, Walmaja.

Poephila acuticauda (Long-tailed Finch).—Mission Station.

Chlamydera nuchalis (Great Bower Bird).—Mission Station.

Corvus ceciliae (Australian Crow).—Mission Station.

Grallina cyanaleuca (Magpie-Lark).—Mission Station.
