

Bird Notes from Maitland, Yorke Peninsula.

By T. G. Souter.

My observations from January, 1927, are as follows:—

- *Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—One bird was seen on 20/8/27 near the back of the house.
- *Prion (*Pachyptila* sp.).—On 20/7/27 I found the decapitated body of a Prion hanging on a barbed-wire fence; evidently a Hawk had eaten the head. The body was identified by Dr. Morgan as of this genus.
- Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*).—Thirty were seen about a dam on 24/12/27—a hot day.
- Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*).—A flock of 300 to 400 were seen in a bay between Port Victoria and Point Pearce on 14/5/27.
- Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—Of these, 234 were seen on the above bay on 14/5/27. This species is here through autumn and winter months.
- Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*).—About 200 were seen on the above bay on 14/5/27, and a flock of 100 on a samphire swamp on 15/8/27.
- Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*).—A rare visitor. A single bird was seen on three occasions—28/3/27, 26/11/27, and 28/11/27.
- *Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*).—On 30/3/28 one was seen after Sparrows in swamp oaks at the rear of a house just at dusk.
- *Lorikeets (*Glossopsitta* sp.).—On 2/5/27 a flock of a dozen flew over the house, but were too high and too fast to be identified. Rare visitors.
- *Budgerygah (*Melopsittacus undulatus*).—One bird was seen on 27/9/27.
- *Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).—The species was first noted on 11/2/28, when three birds were seen.
- Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*).—One bird was seen on 15/8/27.
- *White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*).—I saw, on 10/1/27, one bird of this species with a flock of about 300 Welcome-Swallows (*Hirundo neoxena*). On 7/5/27 a flock of White-backed were flying around the house, and the species were seen again on 28/11/27.
- Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*).—This species was first noted on 13/3/27, and again on 7/5/27, 17/5/27, 19/7/27, 20/7/27, 21/7/27, and lastly on 29/7/27.

- Flame Robin (*Petroica phoenicea*).—A bird was first seen on 21/5/27, a pair on 27/5/27, and noted lastly on 9/7/27.
- Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*).—A female was seen on 20/7/27.
- White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*).—A flock of about 50 was observed on 30/5/27.
- Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza uropygialis*).—Noted on 9/6/27.
- Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*).—Four Wrens were seen on 9/3/28 and 11/3/28 and definitely identified as this species.
- Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*).—This species was seen for the first time on 16/11/27 and again on 28/11/27. It is only with us during summer.
- Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*).—On 19/7/27 30 birds of this species were clustering out of the wind under a limb of a sheoak.
- Yellow-tailed Pardalote (*Pardalotus xanthopygus*).—Noted on 20/5/27, but they usually remain with us all the year.
- *Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*).—First noted on 23/5/27, when I had a good view of a bird which was preening itself after a shower of rain.
- Grey-backed Silveryeye (*Zosterops halmaturina*).—This species was seen for the first time on 27/5/27.
- *Tawny-crowned Honeyeater (*Gliciphila melanops*).—First seen here on 14/7/27, when a bird was in the garden.
- *White-fronted Honeyeater (*Gliciphila albifrons*).—First seen here on 19/5/27, when three or four birds were noted. They remained about until 27/5/27.
- Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga ornata*).—This species disappears during winter, but is with us for the rest of the year.
- *Yellow-winged Honeyeater (*Meliornis novae-hollandiae*).—31/3/28. Noted gathering nectar from tuart gum blossom in the streets of Maitland.
- Crow (*Corvus ceciliae*).—A flock of 42 and another of 27 birds were seen on 29/12/27.
- White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—On 24/12/27, a hot day, I saw 60 odd of this species in a large sheoak.

Nesting Notes.

- First nest found on 4/7/27, a Crow's, containing four eggs. On the same date White-backed Magpies were busily building a nest in a tree at the back of the house, and on 10/8/27 there were three eggs with the female sitting.

On 19 and 29/7/27 a female Mulga-Parrot (*Psephotus varius*) was cleaning out a hollow in a sheoak; after that date the position was usurped by a Starling.

*Plain Wanderer (*Pedionomus torquatus*) 24/7/27.—See "S.A. Ornithologist," Vol. IX, p. 150.

Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—On 30/7/27 nest with four eggs.

Banded Plover.—On 11/8/27 a nest containing young just hatched out. On 24/8/27 nest with four eggs. On 27/2/28 four eggs, bird sitting, and still sitting on 11/3/28; first egg chipping on afternoon of 20/3/28; on morning of 21st two more young were hatched out; on morning of 22nd the fourth young one was just out of the shell, and the other three, on my approach, scattered around the nest for several feet.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—On 1/8/27 a nest with two young, which were just showing feathers. On 15/8/27 a nest with two eggs. On 21/8/27 nest with two young which were just showing feathers. On 4/12/27 a nest with young, more than one, just hatched out.

White-backed Magpie.—On 3/8/27 nest with one egg. On 5/8/27 a nest was noticed which was built amongst the telegraph wires three miles from Two Wells. On 15/8/27 a nest with two eggs, and a third on the grass beneath the nest.

White-fronted Chat.—On 5/8/27 nest with three eggs, the male bird flushed off nest. On 2/9/27 nest with three eggs, the male bird flushed off nest.

Eastern Whiteface (*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).—On 30/7/27 a pair were building in a hollow fence-post; three eggs were there on 11/8/27.

Brush Bronzewing (*Phaps elegans*).—On 21/8/27 nest with two eggs. On 25/9/27 nest with two eggs, a bird flushed off nest.

Common Bronzewing (*P. chalcoptera*).—On 28/9/27 two nests containing two eggs each, and in both cases a bird flushed off nest.

Brown Thornbill (*Acanthiza pusilla*).—On 21/8/27 nest with three eggs.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*).—On 19/9/27 a nest ready for eggs. On 21/9/27 a nest with two eggs, and another nest with four eggs. On 26/9/27 a nest with two eggs and a young one.

- Welcome-Swallow.—On 14/9/27 nest with four eggs. On 16/9/27 nest with one egg. On 24/9/27 nest with one egg. On 12/1/28 nest with one egg.
- Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—On 16/9/27 nest with three eggs, female on nest.
- Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*).—On 18/9/27 nest, on an old nest, with one egg.
- Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*).—On 19/9/27 I saw a bird of this species sitting on a nest, in a sheoak, used by a Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*) in 1925, and by a Nankeen Kestrel in 1926. On 26/9/27 I climbed up to the nest and found one egg—a Crow's—flushing the Crow from the tree! On 28/9/27 nest with two young about a week old.
- Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*).—On 20/9/27 nest with two eggs, a bird flushed off nest. On 21/9/27 nest with two young just showing feathers. On 25/9/27 nest with three eggs, a bird flushed off nest. On 28/11/27 nest with two eggs which were light brown in colour, a bird flushed off nest.
- Willie-Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—On 20/9/27 nest with three eggs. On 21/11/27 a nest just started, but it was never finished. On 28/11/27 nest with three eggs.
- Pipit (*Anthus australis*).—Nest with two eggs.
- Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascinans*).—On 28/11/27 a nest just started.
- Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*).—On 25/9/27 nest with four eggs, a bird flushed off nest. On 27/9/27 nest with three eggs, and on same date a nest with two eggs. On 18/11/27 nest with three eggs. On 21/11/27 nest with three eggs. On 28/11/27 nest with three eggs. On 14/12/27 nest with two eggs. On 24/12/27 nest with two eggs.
- Red Wattle-Bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*).—On 27/9/27 nest with two young.
- (Later Maitland Notes to 31st May, 1928.)
- Wedge-tailed Eagle.—One picked up dead by a neighbour on 16/4/28. The bird had evidently eaten a poisoned bait. Span of wings, seven feet.
- Banded Plover.—Thirty to forty counted on 20/4/28.
- Boobook owl.—On 31/5/28 this bird was still about the house trees, and not a Sparrow has been seen for some time!
- *Striped Honeyeater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*).—A bird was seen for the first time on 7/5/28.

Nesting.

Pipit nest with three eggs found on 12/4/28, and on 20th it contained three nestlings, which looked a day or two old.

Welcome-Swallows.—On 12/4/28 were noticed relining an old nest.

N.B.—All species marked with asterisk are additions to my previous lists, and were definitely identified after careful observation.
