

Birds Seen Between Penong (West Coast) and Adelaide,
via Koonibba, Wirrulla, Yardea, and Port Augusta.

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In August, 1928, under the auspices of the Board for Anthropological Research of the University of Adelaide, a visit was paid to the Koonibba Aboriginal Mission Station, near Ceduna, for the purpose of studying the natives there. In connection with this work, short visits were paid by motor to Davenport Creek on the adjacent coast and to a blacks' camp near Penong, and the return journey to Adelaide was also made by motor-car, passing through Ceduna, Wirrulla, Yardea, Nonning, Iron Knob, Port Augusta, Wilmington, Clare, etc. During these motor journeys, observations were made on the birds seen by the way, and at Koonibba and near Penong, in the intervals of the other work, further notes on the birds were made. A note has already been made ("The South Australian

Ornithologist," Vol. X, Part 2, April, 1929, p. 73) of an injured female specimen of the Scarlet-chested Parrot (*Neophema splendida*) being brought into Koonibba Mission Station by a native boy during our stay there, and of a male bird, also injured, being found near Koonibba by Pastor Hoff in December. The following birds were also noted at Koonibba:—Banded Plover, Port Lincoln Parrot, Welcome Swallow, Restless Fly-catcher (heard), Dusky Wood-Swallow, *Pardalotus ornatus*, *Meliphaga ornata*, *Anthus australis*, Crow, *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, and White-backed Magpie.

On 20th August a motor trip was made to Davenport Creek, 28 miles south, a saltwater inlet connected with the Great Australian Bight. The following species were noted on the journey there:—White-faced Herons, 9; Port Lincoln Parrots, 3; Welcome Swallows, 7; Willie Wagtails, 2; *Pomatostomus superciliosus*, 6; *Smicrornis* (?), 3; *Sericornis maculatus*, 2; *Malurus* (?), 1; Dusky Wood-Swallow, 1; *Meliphaga ornata*, 6; Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, 2; Pipits, 3; Crows, 20; *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, 3; White-backed Magpies, 5; unidentified, 10. Total, 15 species and 83 individuals. At Davenport Creek itself and on the adjacent shore the following additional species were seen:—*Phaps* sp.; 16 Oyster-catchers; Silver Gulls; Pacific Gulls; White-breasted Sea-Eagle; *Epthianura albifrons*; Singing Honeyeater; and *Strepera intermedia*. In the samphire a specimen of *Sericornis maculatus* was obtained—♀, iris white with a slight yellow tinge; bill brown, pallid below; pharynx fleshy white; legs light brown; total length, 4¾ in.; span of wings, 6½ in.

Whilst examining the blacks seven miles north-west of Penong, the following species were noted:—Wedge-tailed Eagle; *Microeca fascinans*; *Colluricincla rufiventris*; *Climacteris rufa* (moving about on the ground, then ascending trees, high-pitched piping whistle); *Meliphaga ornata*—sex (?); iris dark brown; bill black; pharynx yellowish-orange; legs brown; total length, 6½ in.; span of wings, 9½ in.; no entozoa; and *Myzantha flavigula*. Specimens of both sexes of *C. rufa* were obtained—iris dark brown; bill black; pharynx flesh-coloured; legs blackish; total length, 7 in.; spans of wings, ♂, 11¼ in., ♀, 11 in.; numerous mites on wings; no entozoa.

On the return journey to Adelaide a *Malurus* and *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* were seen at Yardea, but not identified, and an *Acanthiza* near Nonning. Two *Ocyrhaps lobhotes* were seen south of Laura.

As on previous occasions, the motor journeys have been divided into stages, so as to indicate more clearly the distribution of the birds seen. The weather was fine, clear, and sunny almost throughout, with the exception of some slight showers on the return from Penong. The West Coast was unfortunately passing through a drought. The journeys were as follows:—

- (1) Koonibba to Penong and seven miles beyond (distance, 35 miles), August 21.
- (2) Seven miles north of Penong to Koonibba by a different route (distance, 30 miles), 22nd August.
- (3) Koonibba to Wirrulla via Ceduna (distance, 90 miles), afternoon of 23rd August.
- (4) Wirrulla to Yardea (distance, 72 miles), morning of 24th August.
- (5) Yardea towards Nonning (distance, 28 miles, before darkness) (Yardea to Nonning, 50 miles), afternoon of 24th August.
- (6) Nonning to Iron Knob (distance, 46 miles), morning of 25th August.
- (7) Iron Knob to Port Augusta (distance, 46 miles), afternoon of 25th August.
- (8) Port Augusta to Melrose (distance, 40 miles), late afternoon of 25th August.
- (9) Laura to Adelaide (distance, 140 miles), morning of 26th August.

In the following list of birds seen, the number of the "journey" on which they were observed is indicated in parentheses, or if these are omitted the figures refer to consecutive "journeys." The total mileage covered by the journeys was 549. Fifty-one native species, out of 369 recorded for the State, were seen, comprising 1,340 individuals. Three introduced species were noted, with 200 individuals, and, as well, 15 kangaroos. Only 11 Hawks were seen altogether. Cockatoos numbered 98, and Parrots 113, excluding three flocks of Lorikeets.

As illustrating the *general distribution* of native birds throughout the area traversed, the following list has been compiled:—

Crows, 167 individuals, were seen on all the journeys.

Anthus, 65, on all.

Magpies, 375, on all but one.

Willie Wagtails, 23, on seven out of the nine.

Dusky Wood-Swallows, 60, on seven out of the nine.

Welcome Swallows, 49, on six out of the nine.

White-fronted Chats, 15, on six out of the nine.

The highest counts in individuals are in descending order as follows:—Magpies, 375; Crows, 167; Sparrows, 142; Silver Gulls, 83; Port Lincoln Parrots, 77; Choughs, 72; Pipits, 65; Dusky Wood-Swallows, 60; Welcome Swallows, 49; White-faces, 49; Bare-eyed Cockatoos, 44; Goldfinches, 43; Galahs, 34; Yellow-plumed Honeyeaters, 31; Willie Wagtails, 23; Babblers, 22; Red-backed Parrots, 22. None of the other species numbered 20.

| | Total. |
|---|--------|
| Bronzewing Pigeon, (9) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Larus novae-hollandiae</i> (Silver Gull), (3) 8, (7) 35, (9) 40 | 83 |
| <i>Zonifer tricolor</i> (Banded Plover), (3) 14, (4) 1, (8) 3 | 18 |
| <i>Notophox novae-hollandiae</i> (White-faced Heron), (9) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Uroaetus audax</i> (Wedge-tailed Eagle), (2) 2, (4) 2, (7) 2 | 6 |
| <i>Falco cenchroides</i> (Nankeen Kestrel), (9) 2 | 2 |
| Hawks, (5) 1, (6) 2 | 3 |
| Lorikeets (flocks), (2) 1, (9) 2; total, 3 flocks. | |
| <i>Kakatoe leadbeateri</i> (Major Mitchell Cockatoo), (3) 3, (4) 6, (5) 11 | 20 |
| <i>Kakatoe sanguinea</i> (Bare-eyed Cockatoo), (8) 44 | 44 |
| <i>Kakatoe roseicapilla</i> (Galah), (8) 34 | 34 |
| <i>Platycercus adelaidae</i> (Adelaide Rosella), (9) 2 | 2 |
| <i>Barnardius zonarius</i> (Port Lincoln Parrot), 8, 15, 11, 35, 8 | 77 |
| <i>Psephotus haematonotus</i> (Red-backed Parrot), (1) 2, (3) 3, (8) 14, (9) 3 | 22 |
| Parrots, (3) 7, (4) 3, (6) 2 | 12 |
| <i>Dacelo gigas</i> (Kookaburra), (9) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Cuculus pallidus</i> (Pallid Cuckoo), (3) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Hirundo neoxena</i> (Welcome Swallow), 20, 0, 9, 4, 0, 2, 0, 3, 11 | 49 |
| <i>Cheramaeoa leucosterna</i> (White-backed Swallow), (8) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Hylchelidon</i> (Martins), (8) 6 | 6 |
| <i>Rhipidura leucophrys</i> (Willie Wagtail), 3, 1, 4, 2, 3, 0, 0, 2, 8 | 23 |
| <i>Seisura inquieta</i> (Restless Flycatcher), (9) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Microeca fascians</i> (Jacky Winter), 0, 2, 1, 1 | 4 |
| <i>Petroica goodenovi</i> (Red-capped Robin), (2) heard. | |
| <i>Melanodryas cucullata</i> (Hooded Robin) (?), (5) 2, (6) 1 | 3 |
| <i>Colluricincla rufiventris</i> (Western Shrike-Thrush), (1) 1, (2) 1 | 2 |

| | Total. |
|---|--------|
| <i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i> (Magpie-Lark), (4) 1, (9) 3 .. | 4 |
| <i>Oreoica gutturalis</i> (Crested Bellbird) (?), (5) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Coracina novae-hollandiae</i> (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike), (5) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Pomatostomus superciliosus</i> (White-browed Babbler), 6, 2, 2, 8, 3, 1 .. | 22 |
| <i>Epthianura aurifrons</i> (Orange Chat), (1) 9 .. | 9 |
| <i>Smacromis brevirostris</i> (Brown Weebill), (1) 1 (?), (3) 2 (?) .. | 3 |
| <i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i> (Eastern Whiteface), (1) 1, (2) 4 (?), (3) 3, (4) 29, (5) 12 .. | 49 |
| <i>Acanthiza</i> (Thornbill), (3) 2 (?) .. | 2 |
| <i>Acanthiza</i> (Geobasileus), (1) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Cinclorhamphus cruralis</i> (Brown Songlark), (9) 4 .. | 4 |
| <i>Artamus melanops</i> (Black-faced Wood-Swallow), (7) 3, (8) 3 .. | 6 |
| <i>A. cyanopterus</i> (Dusky Wood-Swallow), 7, 7, 7, 15, 18, 5, 1, 0, 0 .. | 60 |
| <i>Artamus</i> sp., (1) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Climacteris rufa</i> (Rufous Tree-creeper), (1) 2 .. | 2 |
| <i>Climacteris</i> sp., (3) 1, (4) 2 .. | 3 |
| <i>Zosterops halmaturina</i> (Grey-backed Silver-eye), (9) 1 | 1 |
| <i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i> (Brown-headed Honeyeater), (4) 5, (9) 2 .. | 7 |
| <i>Meliphaga ornata</i> (Yellow-plumed Honeyeater), 15, 8, 3, 5 .. | 31 |
| <i>M. penicillata</i> (White-plumed Honeyeater), (8) 12, (9) 2 .. | 14 |
| <i>Meliphaga</i> sp., (5) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Myzantha melanocephala</i> (Noisy Miner), (9) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Myzantha flavigula</i> (Yellow-throated Miner), (7) 1 .. | 1 |
| <i>Anthochaera carunculata</i> (Red Wattle-Bird), (1) 2, (2) 1 .. | 3 |
| <i>Anthochaera</i> sp., (4) 3 (?) .. | 3 |
| <i>Anthus australis</i> (Pipit), 12, 11, 3, 10, 8, 3, 5, 4, 9 .. | 65 |
| Crows, 18, 7, 40, 20, 32, 38, 3, 2, 7 .. | 167 |
| <i>Corcorax melanorhamphus</i> (White-winged Chough), (1) 9, (2) 11, (3) 43, (4) 9 .. | 72 |
| <i>Strepera intermedia</i> (Brown Currawong), (1) 3, (2) 4, (3) 4 .. | 11 |
| <i>Cracticus torquatus</i> (Grey Butcher-Bird) (1) 1, (3) 3 .. | 4 |
| <i>Gymnorhina hypoleuca</i> (White-backed Magpie), 15, 8, 31, 32, 13, 6, 0, 41, 229 .. | 375 |
| Sparrows, (1) 9, (3) 3, (8) 6, (9) 124 .. | 142 |

| | Total. |
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| Starlings, (3) 5, (5) 8, (6) 2 | 15 |
| Goldfinches, (9) 43 | 43 |
| Unidentified, 10, 9, 11, 35, 14, 14, 5, 11, 11 | 120 |
| Kangaroos, (2) 2, (3) 3, (5) 8, (6) 2 | 15 |

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