

Notes on Birds seen North-West of Port Augusta,
between Lake Torrens and Tarcoola.

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At the end of October and beginning of November, 1929, I had the opportunity of accompanying Mr. E. Julius, the Conservator of Forests, and Mr. C. H. Goode, Pastoral Inspector, on a visit to the sandalwood country lying north-west of Port Augusta. Though the main object of this journey was to gain information about commercial sandalwood (*Eucarya spicata*, formerly *Pusanus spicatus*), observations were made on the general botanical features, and notes were taken on the birds seen. The trip was made by motor-car from Adelaide to Port Augusta, then north to Bookaloo, and thence north-westwards, following more or less closely the East-West Railway line, south of Pernatty Lagoon, near Lake Windabout, over gibber plains to south of Lake Hanson, on to East Well, Coondambo, Kingoonya, and Wilgena, to Tarcoola. We then left the railway-line, travelling north and somewhat west for about 80 miles, then north-east till about 100 miles north of Tarcoola at Bore 10, which is in the unoccupied lands. We then proceeded south-eastwards to MacDouall Peak Station, The Twins, Mount Eba,

Mount Vivian, Parakeelya Station, and Chance's Swamp, to Andamooka, on the edge of gibber tablelands, just west of Lake Torrens. The course then lay more southwards to Arcoona, Yeltacowie, and Bookaloo, where we joined up with the outward journey. From here we retraced our steps to Port Augusta and Adelaide. The country was at the end of a several years' drought, which broke up in part just after our visit. Conditions, therefore, were very dry, and vegetation was suffering correspondingly. The country between Adelaide and Port Augusta, mostly agricultural, with only occasional belts of timber, needs no description, being so well known. In the trip north-west of Port Augusta, the country consists of two main types, mulga and myall, with varying amounts of bluebush and occasional native plants on the one hand, and the open stony gibber tablelands with saltbush and, after summer rains, Mitchell grass on the other. These table-lands are most extensive near Lake Torrens.

JOURNEYS.

These have been divided into two groups, viz., the stages between Adelaide and Port Augusta and those between Port Augusta, Tarcoola, west of Lake Torrens, and back to Port Augusta. The nature of the country and the bird fauna differs much in these two groups.

Adelaide to Port Augusta.

- (1) Adelaide to Watervale, October 27, 75 miles.
- (2) Near Watervale to Melrose, October 27, 94 miles.
- (3) Mount Remarkable to Port Augusta, October 28, 36 miles.
- (4) Return from Port Augusta to near Wirrabara, November 5, 54 miles.
- (5) Near Wirrabara to Leasingham, November 5, 89 miles.
- (6) Leasingham to South Para River, November 5, 50 miles.
- Total, 398 miles.

North and North-West of Port Augusta.

- (7) Port Augusta North to near Bookaloo, October 28, 56 miles.
- (8) Near Bookaloo to near Lake Hanson, via Lake Windabout, October 28, 77 miles.
- (9) Lake Hanson to Coondambo, October 29, 26 miles.
- (10) Coondambo to Kingoonya, October 29, 42 miles.
- (11) Kingoonya to Wilgena, October 30, 41 miles.
- (12) Wilgena to north-west of Tarcoola, October 30, 41 miles.

- (13) North-west of Tarcoola, October 30, 52 miles.
 (14) Bore 10 (80 miles north of Tarcoola) to MacDouall Peak Station, October 31, 38 miles.
 (15) MacDouall Peak Station to Mount Vivian, October 31, 69 miles.
 (16) Mount Vivian to Parakeelya Station, November 1, 39 miles.
 (17) Parakeelya Station to Chance's Swamp, November 1, 60 miles.
 (18) Chance's Swamp to Andamooka, November 2, 34 miles.
 (19) Andamooka Station to New Well, November 3, 12 miles.
 (20) Andamooka Station to near Bookaloo, November 4, 105 miles.
 (21) Eight miles south of Bookaloo to Port Augusta, November 5, 44 miles.
 Total, 736 miles.

In the following list of the numbers of each species of bird seen on the various journeys the numbers in parentheses refer to the journeys. If no numbers in parentheses occur, then the numbers for the birds refer to consecutive journeys. The journeys have been arranged so that those between Adelaide and Port Augusta are kept distinct from those north and north-west of Port Augusta. Opposite each species, the first line refers to the former, the second line to the latter.

List of the Number of Each Species of Bird Seen on the Various Journeys.

- Geopelia placida* (Peaceful Dove)—(5) 3. Total, 3.
 North of Port Augusta—None.
Phaps chalcoptera (Common Bronzewing)—(1) 1, (6) 4.
 Total, 5.
 North of Port Augusta—None.
Ocyphaps lophotes (Crested Pigeon)—(2) 2. Total, 2.
 North of Port Augusta—None.
Larus novae-hollandiae (Silver Gull)—(3) 11 (Port Augusta). Total, 11.
 (7) 15 (Port Augusta). Total, 15.
Zonifer tricolor (Banded Plover)—None.
 (13) 1 (dead). Total, 1.

Uroaetus audax (Wedge-tailed Eagle) — (3) 1, (4) 1.
Total, 2.

(8) 2. Total, 2.

Falco berigora (Brown Hawk)—None.

(10) 1, (11) 1, (13) 1. Total, 3.

F. cenchroides (Nankeen Kestrel)—(1) 4, (2) 1, (3) 5, (6) 1.
Total, 11.

(11) 1, (12) 1, (15) 1. Total, 3.

Hawks (unidentified)—None.

(10) 2, (11) 1. Total, 3.

Lorikeets—(5) flock, (6) 10. Total, 10 plus

None.

Kakatoe galerita (White Cockatoo)—(3) 69. Total, 69.

None.

K. leadbeateri (Major Mitchell)—None.

(11) 2. Total, 2.

K. sanguinea (Bare-eyed Cockatoo)—(5) 50. Total, 50.

None.

K. roseicapilla (Galah)—(2) 2, (4) 20. Total, 22.

(7) 14, (8) 46, (10) 8, (12) 9, (14) 16, (18) 20, (20)
115, (21) 4. Total, 232.

Barnardius barnardi (Mallee Parrot)—(5) 4. Total, 4.

None.

B. zonarius (Port Lincoln Parrot)—None.

(8) 2, (9) 2, (10) 2, (11) 4, (13) 2, (21) 2. Total, 14.

Psephotus haematognotus (Red-backed Parrot)—(1) 1, (2)
14, (4) 17, (6) 5. Total, 37.

None.

Ps. varius (Mulga Parrot)—None.

(10) 4, (11) 7, (13) 2, (21) 5. Total, 18.

Ps. haematogaster (Blue Bonnet)—None.

(9) 6, (11) 2. Total, 8.

Parrots (unidentified)—(2) 1, (5) 1. Total, 2.

(13) 2, (15) 4, (17) 4, (18) 3, (19) 3, (20) 12.
Total, 28.

Hirundo neoxena (Welcome Swallow)—2, 8, 1, 0, 0, 2.
Total, 13.

2, 6, 0, 5, 3, 7, 0, 0, 3, 1, 2, 3, 0, 3, 0. Total, 35.

Cheramoeca leucosterna (White-backed Swallow)—None.

(19) 1. Total, 1.

Hylochelidon sp.—9, 8, 7, 10, 0, 3. Total, 37.
None.

Swallows (unidentified)—(7) 1, (11) 1. Total, 2.

Rhipidura leucophrys (Willie Wagtail)—1, 3, 0, 0, 2, 0.
Total, 6.

(8) 2, (15) 1, (18) 1. Total, 4.

Microeca fascinans (Jacky Winter)—(3) 1, (5) 2, (6) 1.
Total, 4.

None.

Petroica goodenovii (Red-capped Robin)—None.
(9) 1, (11) 1, (13) 1. Total, 3.

Melanodryas cucullata (Hooded Robin)—None.
(9) 1, (11) 2, (17) 1. Total, 4.

Grallina cyanoleuca (Magpie-Lark)—(1) 1, (2) 6, (4) 1.
Total, 8.

None.

Oreoica gutturalis (Crested Bellbird)—None.
(8) 1, (9) 1, (20) 1. Total, 3.

Coracina novae-hollandiae (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike)—
None.

(21) 1. Total, 1.

Lalage tricolor (Caterpillar-eater)—(3) 3. Total, 3.
(10) 2, (19) 1. Total, 3.

Cinclosoma sp. (Quail Thrush)—None.
(12) 2, (14) 1. Total, 3.

Pomatostomus, probably all *P. superciliosus* (White-browed
Babbler)—(3) 3. Total, 3.

(7) 1, (14) 1, (15) 7, (17) 3, (19) 5, (21) 5. Total, 22.

Epthianura albifrons (White-fronted Chat)—4, 17, 4, 0, 2, 0.
Total, 27.

(16) 1. Total, 1.

Epthianura tricolor (Crimson Chat)—None.
(7) 2, (10) 1, (19) 4. Total, 7.

Aphelocephala leucopsis (Eastern Whiteface)—None.
(10) 2, (11) 5, (12) 2, (13) 2, (14) 6, (15) 2, (16) 1,
(17) 4, (18) 3, (19) 3, (20) 3, (21) 2. Total, 35.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa (Yellow-tailed Thornbill)—(1) 2,
(2) 1, (5) 1. Total, 4.

A. sp. (unidentified)—(10) 3. Total, 3.

Cinciorhamphus cruralis (Brown Songlark)—(1) 6, (5) 2,
(6) 1. Total, 9.

(10) 1. Total, 1.

Malurus cyanotus (White-winged Wren)—None.

(8) 1. Total, 1.

M. sp. (unidentified)—(3) 1. Total, 1.

(19) 2. Total, 2.

Artamus personatus (Masked Wood-Swallow) — (1) 30.
Total, 30.

(7) 2, (13) 4, (17) 12, (21) 50. Total, 68.

A. superciliosus (White-browed Wood-Swallow) probably—
(2) 3. Total, 3.

(8) 2, (10) 4, (20) 6. Total, 12.

A. melanops (Black-faced Wood-Swallow) probably—None.

(7) 2. Total, 2.

A. sp. (unidentified) (probably many *A. melanops*)—None.

(8) 18, (9) 2, (10) 4, (11) 3, (12) 2, (14) 2, (15) 6,
(16) 2, (17) 5, (19) 2, (20) 5, (21) 6. Total, 57.

Meliphaga penicillata (White-plumed Honeyeater)—(2) 1.
Total, 1.

Myzantha melanocephala (Noisy Miner)—(1) 2, (2) 2,
(5) 1, (6) 2. Total, 7.

None.

M. flavigula (Yellow-throated Miner)—None.

(15) 1, (18) 1. Total, 2.

Anthochaera sp. (Wattle-Bird)—(1) 1, (2) 2, (3) 1, (5) 1.
Total, 5.

Acanthagenys rufogularis (Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater)
probably—None.

(7) 1, (8) 1, (9) 1, (10) 1. Total, 4.

Anthus australis (Groundlark)—2, 11, 14, 5, 5, 4. Total,
41.

0, 9, 2, 5, 3, 5, 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 0, 1, 10, 0. Total, 38.

Mirafra javanica (Horsfield Bushlark)—(6) 1. Total, 1.

None.

Zonaeginthus guttatus (Diamond Firetail)—(4) 1. Total, 1.

None.

Crows—0, 4, 10, 17, 2, 0. Total, 33.

18, 18, 12, 13, 31, 59, 11, 3, 27, 5, 12, 9, 8, 9, 5. Total,
240.

Cracticus torquatus (Grey Butcher-Bird)—None.

(11) 1. Total, 1.

Gymnorhina, probably all *G. hypoleuca* (White-backed Magpie)—92, 121, 35, 34, 18, 52. Total, 352.

(7) 4, (10) 1, (16) 2, (20) 3. Total, 10.

Sparrows—120, 27, 5, 15, 79, 70. Total, 316.

(8) 4, (9) 7, (20) 2 (Arcoona). Total, 13.

Starlings—98, 151, 22, 91, 64, 37. Total, 463.

None.

Goldfinches—13, 8, 0, 0, 3, 9. Total, 33.

None.

Not identified—(2) 3, (4) 9. Total, 12.

7, 14, 7, 8, 10, 4, 4, 5, 3, 7, 10, 5, 1, 19, 6. Total, 110.

Kangaroos—None.

(8) 6, (20) 3, (21) 2. Total, 11.

Fox—(14) 1. Total, 1.

Wombat-holes (? deserted)—At (14).

At Mount Remarkable—*Geopelia placida*, *Microeca fascinans*, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*, *Artamus personatus*, *Meliphaga penicillata*.

Near Lake Hanson—*Melanodryas cucullata*, *Aphelocephala leucopsis*, *Artamus superciliosus*.

At Wilgena—*Myzantha flavigula*.

At Chance's Swamp (Roxby Downs)—*Meliphaga virescens*.

