
BOEHM—Birds of Annadale and Sandleton.

Birds of the Annadale and Sandleton Districts, S.A.

By E. F. Boehm.

On the 27th and 28th October, 1933, Mr. Worsley C. Johnston and the writer paid a visit to the Annadale and Sandleton districts for the purpose of making an ornithological survey. The first stop was made at some scrub about three miles north-east of Halfway House, Annadale. Later we proceeded to "Portee" station, about two miles east of Sandleton, and camped on the road about 15 chains south of the "Portee" gate. The scrub about here consists of Sheep Bush (*Geijera lineari-*

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folia), *Acacia colletioides*, Black Tea-tree (*Melaleuca pubescens*), some patches of tall *Eucalyptus* spp., and Pine (*Callitris*). On the way home the old closed hotel, Halfway House, on the Truro-Blanchetown road, was passed. Near this place the only South Australian specimen of the Fuscous Honey-eater (*Meliphaga fusca dingi*) was taken by Dr. J. B. Cleland on 30th May, 1911. Very few Honeyeaters were noted on the trip, and certainly nothing resembling the Fuscous Honeyeater. The most important finds were the Ground Cuckoo Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*) and the Black-backed Blue Wren (*Malurus melanotus*). The following species were noted during the trip:—

Phaps chalcoptera, Common Bronzewing.—Common. Several old nests were seen.

Ocyphaps lophotes, Crested Pigeon.—A few were observed at intervals.

Falco berigora, Brown Hawk.—Three or four noted flying very high.

Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel.—Not common.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala, Purple-crowned Lorikeets.—Small flocks of three or four birds were seen flying over in the morning.

Kakatoe roseicapilla, Galah.—A few were observed.

Barnardius barnardi, Ringneck Parrot.—Common, especially in Sheep Bush scrub. It was the most frequently noted species of Parrot.

Psephotus haematonotus, Red-backed Parrot.—Rather rare.

Psephotus varius, Mulga-Parrot.—Numerous compared with the Red-backed.

Psephotus haematogaster, Blue Bonnet.—A few noted.

Neophema sp.—One was seen, but the species could not be determined.

Melopsittacus undulatus, Budgerygah.—Small flocks were seen on a few occasions. This species is rare in the Murray flats this season.

Chalcites basalís, Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo.—One bird was near some Chestnut-tailed Thornbills.

Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.—Met with in all scrub worked, and when passing farm homesteads.

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Microeca fascinans, Jacky Winter.—Common in all scrub.

Petroica goodenovii, Red-capped Robin.—Numerous, particularly in Sheep Bush scrub.

Melanodryas cucullata, Hooded Robin.—Not uncommon.

Pachycephala inornata, Gilbert Whistler.—Common among Sheep Bush. I have never seen such numbers before. Two males were collected.

Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike Thrush.—In tall *Eucalyptus*.

Oreocica gutturalis, Crested Bellbird.—Among *Myoporum platycarpum* and Sheep Bush.

Pteropodocys maxima, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike.—Seven were seen about 20 chains south of the Brownlow Centre School on the way back to Sutherlands. ♀, juv.; iris, light yellow; total length, 334 mm.; span of wings, 555 mm.; wing, 245 mm.; tail, 152 mm.; tarsus, 35 mm.

Cinclosoma castanotum, Chestnut Quail-Thrush.—Widely distributed.

Drymodes brunneopygia, Southern Scrub-Robin.—Among Sheep-Bush and Acacia.

Pomatostomus superciliosus, White-browed Babbler.

Pomatostomus ruficeps, Chestnut-crowned Babbler.—Widely distributed.

Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat.—Several birds noted.

Smicronis brevirostris, Brown Weebill.—Very numerous in some places.

Apheloccephala leucopsis, Eastern Whiteface.—The most common bird of the trip.

Acanthiza hamiltoni, Red-tailed Thornbill.—Several were noted, and one was taken near the "Portee" camp.

Acanthiza uropygialis, Chestnut-tailed Thornbill.—Exceedingly numerous.

Acanthiza chrysorrhoa, Yellow-tailed Thornbill.—Rather uncommon.

Hylacola cauta, Shy Ground-Wren.—In fair numbers amongst Sheep Bush.

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Malurus melanotus, Black-backed Blue Wren.—The common *Malurus* at the "Portee" camp. At least a dozen families were met with. Specimens were taken. I believe this to be the farthest western record for this part of the State, and the first record of the species west of the River Murray. A nest was found by Mr. Johnston. It contained three eggs, and was situated in an *Acacia colletioides*, 132 cm. from the ground, built of *Stipa elegantissima* stems and awns, lined with rabbit fur; height of nest, 17 cm.; width, 3 cm.; entrance, 3.7 x 1.7 cm. Never before had I found a *Malurus* nesting so far from the ground.

Malurus assimilis, Purple-backed Wren.—Rare. A male was obtained.

Artamus cyanopterus, Dusky Wood-Swallow.—Not numerous.

Climacteris picumnus, Brown Tree-creeper.—Common in tall mallee. A search was made for the White-browed Tree-creeper (*C. affinis*), but none was seen.

Pardalotus ornatus, Red-tipped Pardalote.—Common in tall timber.

Zosterops halimaturina, Grey-backed Silvereye.—Several noted and heard calling at "Portee" camp.

Meliphaga virescens, Singing Honeyeater.—Rarely observed.

Meliphaga leucotis, White-eared Honeyeater.—Several noted.

Meliphaga ornata, Yellow-plumed Honeyeater.—A few were seen. Specimen taken.

Myzantha flavigula, Yellow-throated Miner.—Occasionally observed flying across the road when we were travelling in the motor car.

Anthochaera carunculata, Red Wattle Bird.—Heard calling, and one was seen by Mr. Johnston.

Acanthagenys rufogularis, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater.—Numerous among Sheep Bush.

Anthus australis, Pipit.—Widely distributed, in paddocks and on roads.

Corvus coronoides, Raven.—Uncommon.

Corcorax melanorhamphus, White-winged Chough.—Several companions noted.

Cracticus torquatus, Grey Butcher-Bird.—Observed at the "Portee" camp.

Gymnorhina tibicen, Black-backed Magpie.—One bird near Annadale.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie.—Widely distributed.
