
COLLINS—Birds of Nullarbor Plain.

Some Notes on the Birds of the Nullarbor Plain.

By H. Collins, Edenhope, V. Letter of 8/1/1934.

I will do by best to give you a list of the birds I have met on the Nullarbor Plain, but before I start I would like you to understand that my knowledge of the South Australian side is very small. I have stayed a few days at Ooidea, but that is not the Plain, or at least the part I was in was not. The place mentioned below as "Windmill" is on the Trans-Australian railway line between Rawlinna and Naretha, and the "Limekilns" are fourteen miles west of Naretha. The country changes from Rawlinna, and anything west of that is not what I would call the "Plain proper." All the species marked with an asterisk I think

COLLINS—Birds of Nullarbor Plain.

will be found right across the Plain. I would like to know more about the eastern side, but would not expect to add much to this list. I feel pretty sure that I have seen the Bourke Parrot (*Neophema bourkii*) out from Ooldea, but I am not certain, as I have mislaid my notes on that section. I feel sure that the Whitlock Thornbill does not extend very far out on the Plain. I have not been able to decide a lot of little points about the species that I would have liked to, and if I ever went there again I would stay for a little while at some place near the centre of the Plain. There are some birds, such as Chats, the Brown Songlark and the Banded Plover that spread across the Plain in good seasons, such as 1931. Those species that I found breeding are marked with a †.

*Little Quail, *Turnix velox*.—Seen at Naretha.

†*Banded Plover, *Zonifer tricolor*.—Plentiful in 1931.

*Australian Dotterel, *Peltohyas australis*.—A few pairs seen as far out as Rawlinna.

†*Bustard, *Eupodotis australis*.—Plentiful right across the Plain in 1931; a few seen in 1932.

†*Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Uroaetus audax*.—A few pairs seen in all parts visited.

†Little Falcon, *Falco longipennis*.—Seen at Naretha, August, 1932.

†Brown Hawk, *Falco berigora*.—Found right out on the Plain, one nest being placed in an old one of a rat, September, 1931.

†Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*.—Found right out on the Plain. Breeds in caves.

†*Cave (Masked) Owl, *Tyto novae-hollandiae*.—Found in any suitable cave.

†Mulga Parrot, *Psephotus varius*.—Plentiful round Naretha. Seen out as far as Haig.

†Little Blue Bonnet, *Psephotus narethae*.—Found in all the Oak (*Casuarina*) country that skirts the western edge of the Plain.

Scarlet-breasted Parrot, *Neophema splendida*.—Seen at a patch of Mallee, 35 miles north-west from the Limekilns. One pair seen right at Naretha, October, 1932.

†Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides*.—Seen in the Oak country.

COLLINS—Birds of Nullarbor Plain.

Red-backed Kingfisher, *Halcyon pyrrhopygius*.—Seen at Naretha, October, 1932.

Spotted Nightjar, *Eurostopodus guttatus*.—Seen near the Limekilns, September, 1932.

† Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus pallidus*.—Seen at Naretha.

Black-eared Cuckoo, *Owenavis osculans*.—Seen out as far as Haig, September, 1932.

† Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo, *Chalcites basalis*.—Seen at Naretha and Rawlinna.

† Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*.—Seen at railway sidings right out on the Plain.

† White-backed Swallow, *Cheramoëca leucosterna*.—Seen at Naretha, September, 1932.

† Willie Wagtail, *Rhipidura leucophrys*.—Common at Naretha.

† Red-capped Robin, *Petroica goodenovii*.—Plentiful at Naretha.

† Hooded Robin, *Melanodryas cucullata*.—Found out as far as Rawlinna.

Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*.—Seen at Naretha.

† Gilbert Whistler, *Pachycephala inornata*.—Plentiful at Naretha.

† Western Shrike-Thrush, *Colluricincla rufiventris*.—Plentiful at Naretha.

† Crested Bellbird, *Oreoica gutturalis*.—Found out as far as Rawlinna.

* Wedgebill, *Sphenostoma cristatum*.—Seen at Rawlinna and Haig.

† Ground Cuckoo-Shrike, *Pteropodocys maxima*.—Found at Naretha and the Limekilns.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike, *Coracina novae-hollandiae*.—Found at Naretha and the Limekilns.

† *Nullarbor Quail-Thrush, *Cinclosoma alisteri*.—Seen everywhere on the Plain proper, a few pairs as far west as the Limekilns.

† White-browed Babbler, *Pomatostomus superciliosus*.—Seen out as far as Haig.

COLLINS—Birds of Nullarbor Plain.

†*White-fronted Chat, *Epthianura albifrons*.— } Found right out
 *Crimson Chat, *E. tricolor*.— }
 *Orange Chat, *E. aurifrons*.— } to Haig.

†Western Whiteface, *Aphelocephala castaneiventris*.—Common at Naretha. Found right out to Haig.

Whitlock Thornbill, *Acanthiza whitlocki*.—Found out as far as Rawlinna.

†*Slender Thornbill, *A. morgani*.—This species can be found anywhere on the Plain proper, a few pairs as far west as Naretha.

†Chestnut-tailed Thornbill, *A. uropygialis*.—Found at Naretha.

†Redthroat, *Pyrholaemus brunneus*.—Found round Naretha and the Limekilns.

†*Rufous Field-Wren, *Calamanthus campestris*.—Common at Haig and Rawlinna. None seen further west.

†*Brown Songlark, *Cinctorhamphus cruralis*.—Common right across the Plain in 1931.

Rufous-crowned Emu-Wren, *Stipiturus ruficeps*.—Found one pair near Naretha.

*Blue-and-White Wren, *Malurus cyaneus*.—A few round all places visited.

Black-faced Wood-Swallow, *Artamus melanops*.—Found out as far east as Haig.

†White-browed Treecreeper, *Climacteris affinis*.—At Naretha.

White-fronted Honeyeater, *Gliciphila albifrons*.—Flocks of these birds seen passing over Naretha flying west.

Pied Honeyeater, *Certhionyx variegatus*.—Seen at Naretha.

†Singing Honeyeater, *Meliphaga virescens*.—Found out as far as Haig.

Yellow-fronted Honeyeater, *Meliphaga plumula*.—Seen at Naretha.

†Dusky Miner, *Myzantha obscura*.—At Naretha.

†*Pipit, *Anthus australis*.—At all places visited.

†Little Crow, *Corvus bennetti*.—Seen as far east as Haig.

†Grey Butcher-Bird, *Cracticus torquatus*.—At Naretha.