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Birds Noted in the Eastern Portion of Kangaroo Island.

By Allen F. C. Lashmar. 8/5/1936.

The following species of birds have been noted since my previous article (Vol. XIII, 5, 1935). The asterisk indicates that the species is known to breed here.

Porzana pusilla, Marsh Crake.—One bird was observed walking on the ends of branches of a teatree growing in water about three feet deep, undisturbed by my presence, and continued feeding quietly. Often seen on mud banks near reeds on the Lagoon.

Podiceps ruficollis, Little Grebe.—Very plentiful on the Lagoon and swamps. These birds seem to have a very weak flight unless flying into a strong wind.

Phalacrocorax carbo, Black Cormorant.—Very plentiful on Chapman's River in 1935.

Phalacrocorax ater, Little Black Cormorant.—Several birds were in the company of the Black Cormorant on Chapman's River in 1935.

Microcarbo melanoleucus, Little Pied Cormorant.—Occasionally noted on the Lagoon.

Sula serrator, Australian Gannet.—Several birds noted in Antechamber Bay on 21/4/1935 were diving into the sea, presumably fishing, and sometimes reappearing several feet from where they entered the water.

Cladorhynchus leucocephalus, Banded Stilt.—Never visited us at all in 1935, but are on the Lagoon in a fair flock now. Three times this year we have found dead or injured birds beneath the telephone wires (5), which are about 100 yards from the Lagoon. Yesterday the flock of birds was flying swiftly about over a paddock with the telephone lines between them and the Lagoon, and on returning to the Lagoon several birds struck the wires. About seven hours later (7.30 p.m.), with the aid of the moon and an electric torch, I took a walk and found five dead birds and one bird with a cut above the bill in the front of the head. One eye was practically scarlet, as though badly bruised. The bird was apparently unhurt otherwise, and allowed itself to be handled. It was given a drink and locked up for the night. To-day it was let loose in the garden, and refused to fly, except when chased, and then would fly only a few feet. At 5 p.m. to-day it was taken back to the Lagoon, and it flew for some three chains round the edge of the water, alighted, and then started to walk towards the rest of the flock. Had I known how to feed it I would have kept it longer, in order to watch how its injuries fared. (Four of the dead birds were sent to the S.A. Museum—(a) ♂, total length, 40.0 cm.; wing spread, 68.1; wing from carpal joint, 20.3; tail, 8.6; bill, 7.1; tibia, 9.5; tarsus, 9.1; middle toe and claw, 3.5; weight, 238 grammes. (b) ♂, total length, 40.2 cm.; wing spread, 67.2; wing from carpal joint, 19.6; tail, 8.3; bill, 7.3; tibia, 9.7; tarsus, 8.9; middle toe and claw, 3.8; weight, 259 grammes. (c) ♂, total length, 39.1 cm.; wing spread, 66.1; wing from carpal joint, 19.9; tail, 8.3; bill, 6.8; tibia, 9.9; tarsus, 9.1; middle toe and claw, 3.4; weight, 218 grammes.

(d) Total length, 37.8 cm.; wing spread, 65.1; weight, 205 grammes—both legs of this bird were completely broken below the joint of the tibia and tarsus, and they were hanging by the tendons. The stomach contents were only taken for (a) and (b). In each case they were identified by Mr. B. C. Cotton as some *Coxiella filosa* (a minute Gasteropod (e.g. Snails), which lives in either fresh or salt water, and is peculiar to South Australia); some *Ostracoda*, low forms of bivalve crustaceans; and some sand.

The foot of the Banded Stilt has three toes, which are slightly more than half-webbed.—J. S.) .

Erolia testacea, Curlew Sandpiper.—One bird noted feeding on the edge of a dam on 24/8/1935.

**Burhinus magnirostris*, Southern Stone-Curlew.—Often heard but seldom seen.

Cereopsis novae-hollandiae, Cape Barren Goose.—There has been one on the Lagoon since the beginning of the year. The species is occasionally seen.

Trichoglossus moluccanus, Rainbow Lorikeet. — These birds were about in exceptionally large numbers for about two months from 4/8/1935.

Calyptorhynchus funereus, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo.—Occasionally noted feeding on "waikerries," white grubs from the hearts of trees.

Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.—A bird was taken on 26th May last—length, 3 feet 4 inches; wing spread, 6 feet 9 inches; weight, 10½ lb. The species continually preys upon the turkeys and lambs here.

Micropus pacificus, Fork-tailed Swift. — Noted from 25/2/1935 to 27/2/1935 flying west to east, and from 8/3/1935 to 9/3/1935 flying south-west to north-east.

**Cacomantis flabelliformis*, Fan-tailed Cuckoo. — Definitely identified and several noted.

**Chalcites basalis*, Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo. — Definitely identified, and was about in large numbers in August, 1935.

**Colluricincla harmonica*, Grey Shrike-Thrush. — A nest was seen containing two normal eggs and one about half-size, the shell and markings as usual, 11/8/1935.

**Oreocincla lunulata*, Australian Ground-Thrush.—Occasionally seen.

**Sericornis maculatus*, Spotted Scrub-Wren.—A nest containing young was seen on 28/7/1935. These birds are often noted.

**Gliciphila melanops*, Tawny-crowned Honeyeater. Plentiful at times.

Anas superciliosa, Black Duck; *Zosterops halmaturina*, Grey-backed Silvereye; and *Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera*, Crescent Honeyeater, have also been noted breeding here.
