

Notes on Birds seen between Alice Springs and the Granites in August, 1936.

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In August, 1936, under the auspices of the Board for Anthropological Research of the University of Adelaide and the South Australian Museum, an Anthropological Expedition left Adelaide for the Granites, situated about 390 miles north-west of Alice Springs, near the Western Australian border. During the journey a record was made of any birds seen as the motor-bus made its way along. This cannot be considered as a full record of the birds along the route travelled, but it does at least give some idea of their prevalence and kinds.

The first day's journey was about 80 miles to Aileron Hotel, on the Darwin Track, at first over the MacDonnell Ranges and then over the Burt Plain, covered well in mulga. Next day we proceeded more or less west through Pine Hill Station, Coniston Station on the Warburton, Brooks' Soak, and Cockatoo Creek, to camp about 230 miles from Alice Springs, the last 30 miles or so being after dark. The third day found us on spinifex (*Triodia*) plains of sandy loam, with quite a number of scattered shrubs and even small trees and many interesting plants in bloom.

In the following list, the number seen of each species of bird is given for each "journey," the actual "journeys" being as follows:—

- (1) Alice Springs to Aileron Hotel, about 80 miles.
- (2) Aileron to Cockatoo Creek, about 120 miles.
- (3) Thirty miles beyond Cockatoo Creek to Granites, about 150 miles.

Return journeys:—

- (4) Granites to Thomson's Rockhole, about 30 miles.
- (5) Thomson's Rockhole to Cockatoo Creek, about 150 miles.
- (6) Coniston Station to beyond Aileron Hotel, about 80 miles.

The blanks in mileages represent parts traversed by night.

Dromaius novae-hollandiae, Emu.—(2) 1. Total, 1.

Quail.—(3) 1, (5) 1. Total, 2.

Geopelia cuneata, Diamond Dove.—(1) 1, (2) 8, (6) 3. Total, 12.

- Ocyphaps lophotes*, Crested Pigeon.—(1) 2, (2) 2. Total, 4.
Uroaetus audax, Wedge-tailed Eagle.—(2) 1, (4) 1. Total, 2.
Haliastur sphenurus, Whistling Eagle.—(2) 1. Total, 1.
Falco berigora, Brown Hawk.—(5) 1. Total, 1.
 Large Hawk, black tips to wings.—(1) 1. Total, 1.
 Grey-backed Hawk, black tips to wings, rest of underside fawn.—(2) 1. Total, 1.
 Other Hawks, unidentified.—(2) 5, (5) 2. Total, 7.
Tyto alba, Barn-Owl.—(3) 1. Total, 1.
Kakatoe leadbeateri, Major Mitchell Cockatoo.—(2) 2, (5) 1. Total, 3.
Kakatoe roseicapilla, Galah.—(2) 1. Total, 1.
Leptolophus hollandicus, Cockatoo-Parrot.—(2) 58. Total, 58.
Polytelis alexandrae, Princess Parrot (?).—(3) 2. Total, 2.
Barnardius zonarius, Port Lincoln Parrot.—(2) 7. Total, 7.
Melopsittacus undulatus, Budgerygah.—(2) 82, (3) 18, (5) 4. Total, 104.
Cuculus pallidus, Pallid Cuckoo.—(1) 1, (2) 1. Total, 2.
 Bronze Cuckoo (?).—(6) 1. Total, 1.
Halcyon sp., Kingfisher.—(2) 2. Total, 2.
Rhipidura leucophrys, Willie Wagtail.—(2) 4, (3) 2, (5) 2. Total, 8.
Petroica goodenovii, Red-capped Robin.—(2) 2. Total, 2.
Oreoica gutturalis, Crested Bellbird.—(3) 3, (5) 2. Total, 5.
Pteropodocys maxima, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike (?).—(2) 3. Total, 3.
Coracina novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—(2) 2, (6) 1. Total, 3.
Lalage tricolor, White-winged Triller.—(2) 4, (5) 2, (6) 2. Total, 8.
Pomatostomus (probably *rubeculus*), Red-breasted Babbler.—(2) 7, (3) 1. Total, 8.
Aphelocephala sp., Whiteface.—(4) 4, (5) 3. Total, 7.
Amytornis (probably), Grass-Wren.—(2) 1, (3) 9 (5 perhaps *Malurus*), (4) 1, (5) 1. Total, 12.
Malurus, unidentified.—(3) 3, (4) 2, (5) 8. Total, 13.
Malurus assimilis, Purple-backed Wren.—(3) 3. Total, 3.

Artamus melanops, Black-faced Wood-Swallow.—(1) 2, (2) 14, (3) 182, (4) 2, (5) 68, (6) 2. Total, 270.

Meliphaga virescens, Singing Honeyeater.—(2) 1, (5) 11. Total, 12.

Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis, White-plumed Honeyeater.—(6) 1. Total, 1.

Meliphaga, unidentified.—(2) 7, (3) 24, (4) 5, (5) 12, (6) 1. Total, 49.

Myzantha flavigula, Yellow-throated Miner.—(2) 8; (6) 1. Total, 9.

Honeyeaters, unidentified.—(2) 2. Total, 2.

Anthus australis, Pipit.—(2) 3, (6) 1. Total, 4.

Taeniopygia castanotis, Zebra Finch.—(2) 54, (3) 42, (6) 20. Total, 116.

Corvus, sp.—(1) 4, (2) 9. Total, 13.

Cracticus nigrogularis, Pied Butcher-Bird.—(2) 1. Total, 1.

Gymnorhina, mostly, if not all, *G. hypoleuca*, White-backed Magpie.—(2) 11. Total, 11.

Bird suggesting *Coracina* (Cuckoo Shrike).—(3) 1. Total, 1.

Bird like *Acanthiza* (Thornbill) with brown back.—(3) 1. Total, 1.

Unidentified Birds.—(1) 10, (2) 66, (3) 46, (4) 5, (5) 24, (6) 6. Total, 157.

Kangaroos.—(5) 3. Total, 3.

A Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*) was heard at Coniston on the Warburton; Major Mitchell Cockatoos were seen at Thomson's Rockhole; a Blue-and-White Wren (*Malurus cyanotus*) and a Banded Whiteface (*Aphelocephala nigricincta*) at the Granites; *Amytornis*, Scrub-Wrens (presumably), from time to time were disturbed from the "spinfex" (*Triodia*) as the vehicles made their way from Cockatoo Creek to the Granites or *vice versa*, and, after running low down along the wheel track for a few yards, would disappear to one side.