

## SOME BIRDS IN SOUTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA (Concluded)

By L. S. FRANCIS.

Near Bullsbrook on October 15 two Rainbow birds (*Merops ornatus*) were seen on telegraph wires and then in flight, and later two more were seen near Bibra Lakes on October 21.

Only one Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*) was seen, this one being near Bullsbrook on a telegraph wire on October 15, although four more were heard in other localities.

From Mallalyup southward to Pemberton the country for mile after mile was densely covered with wildflowers of various colours. These included purple Sarsaparilla or Native Wistaria (*Hardenbergia comptoniana*), Scarlet Coral Vine (*Kennedya coccinea*), the White Clematis (*Clematis* sp.); also Diamond bush (*Bossiaea Laidlawiana*), and Acacias occurred in many places on both sides of the road. The Scarlet Robin (*Petroica multicolor*), and Splendid Blue Wren (*Malurus splendens*) were numerous in this type of country.

Twenty-five Scarlet-breasted Robins (*Petroica multicolor*) were recorded, mostly in the Bridgetown-Pemberton-Nannup districts, the sexes being about equal in number. Many others were seen but were not entered in the notes.

Six Western Yellow Robins (*Eopsaltria griseogularis*) were seen in scrub consisting of *Banksia*, Wooden Pear (*Xylomelum occidentale*), etc., between Mallalyup and Balinup on October 5. The yellow abdomen, bright yellow rump, and grey breast were clearly visible.

At Pemberton, in the early morning of October 7, two Western Shrike-thrushes (*Colluricincla rufiventris*) were heard and seen in the underscrub.

Another western form seen was the Western Warbler (*Gerygone fusca*). Two were watched for some time among the teatree along the river at Williams. At first they appeared somewhat like Jacky Winter (*Micrœca fascians*), but smaller, their sweet warble ending with a call like "joey-joey-joey."

Several Western Thornbills (*Acanthiza inornata*) were observed at King's Park on October 10, and on the 17th others were

heard and seen in some trees at South Perth Zoo.

The Broad-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*) was seen in the scrub of Diamond Bush, etc., at Pemberton on October 6 and 7, and others at Lesmurdie Falls on October 22. The white breast, streaked with black, was noted. While having lunch at a creek near Jarrahdale on October 3, two Splendid or Banded Blue Wrens (*Malurus splendens*) were seen among the bushes lining the creek. Subsequently sixteen more were seen—thirteen males and three females, several being observed on fences, principally in the Bridgetown and Nannup districts on October 5 and 7, in type of country previously referred to.

About 5 miles from Pemberton on the Northcliffe road two Rufous Tree-creepers (*Climacteris rufa*) were seen ascending a rough-barked *Casuarina* on October 6.

Several Western Silvereyes (*Zosterops australasiae*) were seen around Perth, and one was found nesting in a jasmine creeper at Victoria Park on October 13.

In a patch of scrub consisting of Smoke-bush (*Conospermum triplinervium*), Snake-bush (*Hemiantha pungens*), etc., near the Crystal Cave at Yanchep Park on October 14, several birds were heard, these attracting attention. It was some time before these were recognised as the little Brown Honey-eater (*Gliciphila indistincta*). From memory their call was somewhat like "pretty, pretty, pretty," and at a distance their appearance like a small spinebill honeyeater (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris*).

Birds which caused much speculation were the Raven and the Crow (*Corvus* spp.). Twenty-four of these species were recorded for W.A., extending from Northam (North-West of Perth) to White Lake (on Rockingham-Mandurah Road). Several were seen distinctly to have white eyes, but this is no guide in distinguishing these two species. From records of skins examined, it appears that the Raven is the common species around Perth (vide "Emu," October 1929, page 102, etc.). Several others of these species were seen between Rawlinna (W.A.) and Hesso (S.A.).

A few only of the Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*) were seen, these having been recorded on October 7 in the Pemberton-Nannup and Balingup-Bulading districts.

Another puzzling bird was the Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*). The male bird was seen to be very similar to *G. hypoleuca*, while the mottled appearance on the backs of many female birds was very noticeable. It was surprising to see a group in the Perth Museum marked "Birds common near Perth" included birds labelled "White-backed Magpies (*G. hypoleuca*)," although this bird does not occur there.

#### LIST OF SPECIES SEEN DURING TRIP.

Emu (*Dromaius novae-hollandiae*), 12 in S.A.; Bronzewing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera* [?]); Western Swamphen (*Porphyrio bellus*); Coot (*Fulica atra*); Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* sp.); Pied Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax* spp.); Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*); Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*); Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*); Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*); White-faced Heron (*Notophox novae-hollandiae*); Nankeen Night Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*); Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*); Chestnut-crested Shelduck (Mountain Duck) (*Casarca tadornoides*); Black (Grey) Duck (*Anas superciliosa*); Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*); Whistling Eagle (?) (*Haliastur sphenurus*); Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*); Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*); White-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus baudini*), 48; Western Rosella (*Platycercus icterotis*); Red-capped (King) Parrot (*Purpureicephalus spurius*, 4; Twenty-eight Parrot (*Barnardius semitorquatus*); Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*); Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*), 15; Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*); Rainbow Bird (*Merops ornatus*); Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*), 1 seen, 4 heard; Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*); Tree (?) Martin (*Hylochelidon* sp.); Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*); Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*); Scarlet-breasted Robin (*Petroica multicolor*); Western Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria griseogularis*); Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*); Rufous Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*); Western Shrike-thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*); Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*); Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina novae-*

*hollandiae*); Western Warbler (*Gerygone jusca*); Western Thornbill (*Acanthiza inornata*); Broad-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza apicalis*); Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*); Australian Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*); Splendid or Banded Blue Wren (*Malurus splendens*), 18; Black-faced Wood-swallow (*Artamus melanops*); Dusky Wood-swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*); Black-capped Sittella (*Neositta pileata*); Rufous Tree-creeper (*Climacteris rufa*); Red-tipped (?) Pardalote (*Pardalotus* sp.); Western Silver-eye (*Zosterops australasiae*); Brown Honeyeater (*Gliciphila indistincta*); Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*); Red Wattle-bird (*Acanthochaera carunculata*); Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*); Zebra (Chestnut-eared Finch) (*Taeniopygia castanotis*); Raven, Crow (*Corvus* sp.); Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*); Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*); Western Magpie (*Gymnorhina dorsalis*); White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).

#### INTRODUCED BIRDS.

Indian Dove (*Streptopelia suratensis*); Senegal Dove (*Streptopelia senegalensis*); Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*).