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### NESTING ACTIVITIES AND NOTES FROM THE EASTERN PORTION OF KANGAROO ISLAND FOR THE YEAR 1939

By ALLEN F. C. LASHMAR.

*Eudyptula minor* (Little Penguin).—Many nests containing the usual clutch of two eggs or young noted at Point Coutts on August 8.

*Coturnix pectoralis* (Stubble Quail).—January 31, nest and seven eggs in centre of broom-bush shoot; March 16, seven eggs under cluster of green weeds; November 25, four eggs under small brown creeper.

*Phaps chalcoptera* (Common Bronzewing).—March 8, 1940, bird flushed from two eggs 4 ft. up in "prickly acacia."

*Gallinula tenebrosa* (Dusky Moorhen).—October 8, eight eggs in nest of teatree bark 2 ft. up over water in teatree on "Lashmar's Lagoon."

*Diomedea melanophrys* (Black-browed Albatross).—September 18, one bird followed the s.s. "Cheopis" for about 10 minutes, between Penneshaw and Cape Jervis.

*Chlidonias leucoptera* (White-winged Black Tern)?—October 28, three Terns were noted sitting on posts in the water on "Lashmar's Lagoon." While perched they appeared to have a dull smoky under-surface, and this showed up plainly when they flew. Their bills appeared shorter and thicker than other terns that I have met with—Fairy, Crested, and Caspian.

*Larus novae-hollandiae* (Silver Gull).—On July 7, I ran over a bird with the cultivator; wingspread 2 ft. 11½ in., length 1 ft. 3¼ in., weight 11½ ozs. It is a wonder that more of these birds are not run over with farm implements at this time of the year, as the birds

become very fearless while after worms turned out by the plough, etc.

*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae* (Australian Spur-winged Plover).—June 25, three eggs; July 15, four eggs; July 20, four eggs; August 23, four eggs.

*Zonifer tricolor* (Banded Plover).—July 12, four eggs; July 21, four eggs; July 22, four eggs; August 5, five eggs, one of which had commenced to hatch. On the following day (6th) two more of the eggs were chipping.

*Charadrius cucullatus* (Hooded Dotterel). Nesting on the beach at Antechamber Bay, November 12, two scrapes with an egg each; November 19, three eggs; November 25, three eggs and two eggs; December 17, three scrapes, with two eggs, one egg, and one egg.

*Charadrius ruficapillus* (Red-capped Dotterel).—October 30, one egg on edge of metal (limestone) road across swamp; November 19, two eggs on beach; December 2, two eggs on metal road; December 3, two eggs on metal road.

*Charadrius melanops* (Black-fronted Dotterel).—A pair of these birds were noted on October 27 on swampy land near the Lagoon. Very infrequent visitors.

*Himantopus leucocephalus* (White-headed Stilt).—A flock of about 100 birds appeared on the Lagoon on February 28, 1940, taking the place of Banded Stilts, which have not visited us lately.

*Notophyx novae-hollandiae* (White-faced

Heron).—November 5, bird noted sitting on nest about 50 ft. up a gum-tree, near Chapman's River; November 12, one pair of feathered young noted standing on edge of nest about 35 ft. up gum-tree, Chapman's River.

*Demigretta sacra* (Reef Heron).—A single bird noted on the rocks near Point Coutts about the middle of February. Only record so far.

*Chenopsis atrata* (Black Swan).—All on Lashmar's Lagoon. July 12, 3 eggs in tea-tree swamp; July 16, 5 eggs in swamp; August 13, 8 eggs in reeds; August 20, 19 nests contained 75 eggs and four newly hatched cygnets; October 8, 4 nests on islands containing 6, 4, 4, 3 eggs respectively; October 28, 4 nests on islands with 5, 4, 3, 2 eggs respectively, and one in reeds with 5 eggs; November 26, nest in reeds with 5 eggs.

*Querquedula castanea* (Chestnut Teal).—Two newly hatched young on the Lagoon on October 8 would probably be this, the most common Teal we have this year.

*Spatula rhynchotis* (Blue-winged Shoveler).—Bird flushed from nest under stook of hay on December 27—nine eggs.

*Biziura lobata* (Musk-Duck).—October 8, two eggs on island on the Lagoon; November 26, five eggs in reed nest in reeds.

*Falco cenchroides* (Nankeen Kestrel).—Four eggs in break in rotten gum-tree, about 25 ft. up, on October 15; October 30, bird flushed from old Raven's nest about 35 ft. up in "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

*Trichoglossus moluccanus* (Rainbow Lorikeet).—May 24, first birds of the season. This species is migratory in this district.

*Kakatoe roseicapilla* (Galah).—July 22, one egg in hollow limb of dead gum—nest about 25 ft. up, egg about 4 ft. down; September 17, two small young in hollow in limb of dead gum—entrance about 45 ft. up, nest about 2½ ft. down; October 30, young feathered bird noted in entrance to hollow 15 ft. up dead gum; November 25, four eggs, some hatching, in same nest as September 17.

*Platycercus elegans* (Crimson Rosella).—October 15, one egg in hollow in dead gum, entrance about 25 ft. up, nest about 2 ft. down; November 2, six eggs on ledge in hollow of main trunk of dead gum, entrance about 30 ft. up, nest about 2 ft. down. A deeper hollow went down past the nesting ledge.

*Micropus pacificus* (Fork-tailed Swift).—January 10, short flight of this species at

about 11 a.m., general direction from north-west to south-east. February 14, 1940, about all day from 9.30 a.m., flying generally west to east, wind north. 1.30 p.m., flying more south to north, wind west. 5.30 p.m., with south-west wind the birds seemed to be making back to the westward. March 13, 1940, visible almost all day from 8.50 a.m.; wind north and birds flying generally south-west to north-east.

*Hirundo neoxena* (Welcome Swallow).—October 8, five nests: (a) 4 eggs, 9 ft. up; (b) 4 eggs, 9 ft. up; (c) 3 eggs, 10 ft. up; (d) 5 eggs, 18 ft. up; (e) 1 egg, 18 ft. up. (a), (b), and (c) in open sheds; (d) and (e) under louvres of the homestead. October 15, nest (e) of October 8 now with 4 eggs.

*Rhipidura flabellifera* (Grey Fantail).—November 26, three eggs in nest minus the "tail piece," 9 ft. up teatree, 3 prong fork.

*Rhipidura leucophrys* (Willie Wagtail).—March 17 and 18, 1940, a single specimen has been noted in this district (about the homestead) for the first time for several years.

*Seisura inquieta* (Restless Flycatcher).—November 5, three eggs in nest, about 35 ft. up on leaning gum-tree forks. December 3, saw bird sitting on nest about 30 ft. up on thin leaning gum-tree fork.

*Petroica multicolor* (Scarlet Robin).—September 3, nest containing two fairly young birds, about 12 ft. up on gum-tree limb, well hidden by leafy offshoots. November 12, three eggs in nest in teatree forks, about 10 ft. up. November 29, three eggs in well-concealed nest in small tea-tree, about 10 ft. up in group of ragged forks.

*Grallina cyanoleuca* (Magpie Lark).—April 26, one solitary bird noted near the homestead—a second bird appeared on April 28. Migratory in this district (1939, April 12; 1938, April 12)—and the latest date I have noted them in this district is June 16, in 1939.

*Coracina novae-hollandiae* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike).—October 28, about 30 ft. up on horizontal fork of "narrow-leaf" eucalypt, nest and three small young. October 30, about 20 ft. up in "narrow-leaf," nest with two eggs and one freshly hatched young. November 5, nest being built about 15 ft. up in teatree. Nest with three pinfeather-covered young, about 30 ft. up in green gum-tree. December 1, nest and three eggs about 18 ft. up in horizontal "narrow-leaf" forks.

December 24, nest and one egg, about 35 ft. up big "black mallee."

*Oreocincla lunulata* (Australian Ground-Thrush).—July 23, nest and three eggs, about 3 ft. up in "prickly acacia"—a beautiful bird was called up to within 10 ft.

*Epthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat).—July 21, nest with two newly-hatched young about 9 inches from ground in broom-bush shoots. September 3, one nest and three eggs about 9 inches from ground in growth of fine rush. September 9, nest and three eggs about 6 inches from ground in stunted "narrow-leaf" shoots. October 9, nest and three eggs about 6 inches from ground in dead and fallen "Scotch thistle." November 26, nest and three eggs, about 1 ft. up "prickly acacia."

*Acanthiza lineata* (Striated Thornbill).—August 8, three eggs in nest about 6 ft. up Black Thorn. Nest and three eggs about 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." August 11, nest and three eggs about 5 ft. up creeper-covered gum sapling. October 1, nest with four eggs about 3 ft. up in creeper-covered bottlebrush. October 15, nest with three eggs 5 ft. up a "prickly acacia."

*Acanthiza pusilla* (Brown Thornbill).—October 8, nest containing small young, about 5 ft. up "prickly acacia." October 15, nest, three eggs, about 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." November 26, nest under construction about 6 ft. up in the ends of teatree branch.

*Sericornis maculatus* (Spotted Scrub-Wren).—July 9, nest and three eggs about 1 ft. up in dead bough. July 11, nest ready for eggs about 2 ft. up "prickly acacia." July 21, nest of 11th now with three eggs. July 30, nest and three eggs about 3 ft. up "prickly acacia." August 6, nest with two eggs about 4 ft. up dead bough. Nest with two eggs about 3 ft. up "black thorn." August 7, nest with two eggs, about 1 ft. up dead and fallen "prickly acacia." August 9, nest and two eggs about 2 ft. up dead bough. Nest and two large young about 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." August 20, nest and two eggs in dead teatree branch over water in swamp. Nest and three eggs 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." September 3, nest and three eggs about 4 ft. up in leaves of yacca. September 5, nest and three eggs about 1 ft. up in dead bough.

*Pyrrholaemus brunneus* (Redthroat).—July 22, nest and three eggs about 1 ft. up in dead and fallen mallee bough. Identified only by eggs—actual bird not seen.

*Hylacola cauta* (Shy Ground-Wren).—July 2, nest with three eggs just above ground in dead bough. August 24, nest and large young on ground under dead bough.

*Megalurus gramineus* (Little Grassbird).—November 26, new nest ready for eggs about 1 ft. above water in reeds. December 2, nest and four eggs about 18 inches above water in reeds. December 17, nest and four eggs about 1 ft. above water in ends of teatree branch. All on Lashmar's Lagoon.

*Malurus cyaneus* (Superb Blue Wren).—October 8, nest, two eggs, about 3 ft. up "prickly acacia." Nest, three eggs, 4 ft. up small bushy bullock. Nest, one egg, 5 ft. up "prickly acacia." November 5, nest with three eggs, 5 ft. up sapling teatree; four eggs, 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." December 3, nest, with four eggs, 4 ft. up same "prickly acacia" as the nest of November 5.

*Artamus cyanopterus* (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—November 5, nest with three eggs 18 ft. up in break of dead gumtree. November 12, nest with three eggs about 45 ft. up in leafy offshoots of green gumtree.

*Zosterops halmaturina* (Grey-backed Silver-eye).—November 12, nest with three eggs 9 ft. up dead teatree branch. Nest with two eggs 4 ft. up creeper-covered "prickly acacia." November 16, nest with two eggs 6 ft. up creeper-covered "narrow-leaf" sapling. Nest with three eggs 7 ft. up teatree sapling.

*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera* (Crescent Honey-eater).—August 5, nest with two eggs 4 ft. up "prickly acacia." August 7, two nests each with two eggs, each about 5 ft. up young "narrow-leaf" growth. August 24, nest with two eggs 3 ft. up "prickly acacia."

*Meliornis novae-hollandiae* (Yellow-winged Honeyeater).—September 3, nest with two large young 5 ft. up "prickly acacia."

*Anthochaera carunculata* (Red Wattle-Bird).—November 26, nest with two eggs 18 ft. up teatree.

*Anthus australis* (Australian Pipit, Ground-lark).—September 3, nest with two eggs in patch of Cape Weed. Bird flushed.

*Zonaeginthus bellus* (Beautiful Firetail).—September 3, one bird moving quietly about near the ground among small shrubs and bushes on a hillside. First record.

*Aegintha temporalis* (Red-browed Finch, Waxbill).—November 26, nest and young about 7 ft. up teatree branch. December 24,

nest with five eggs about 7 ft. up teatree saplings.

*Corvus coronoides* (Australian Raven).—July 12, nest with four eggs, 18 ft. up "narrow-leaf" eucalypt. August 1, nest with four eggs 24 ft. up "narrow-leaf." September 3, nest with three eggs 30 ft. up "narrow-leaf." October 8, nest with two small young and addled egg 15 ft. up teatree on island in Lagoon. Bird flushed from nest about 28 ft. up gumtree—not climbed to.

*Strepera melanoptera* (Black-winged Curra-

wong).—September 14, nest with two eggs 20 ft. up thin "narrow-leaf" eucalypt.

*Gymnorhina hypoleuca* (White-backed Magpie).—August 1, nest with four eggs about 25 ft. up gumtree. August 6, flushed two birds from their nests about 40 ft. up gumtrees, which were not climbed. August 7, nest with four eggs about 20 ft. up "narrow-leaf."

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No nest has been counted or mentioned twice except where distinctly mentioned.