

## Birds seen within the Vicinity of the River Murray between Murray Bridge and Blanchetown

By L. S. FRANCIS

The following is a list of the birds seen during a car trip on March 25 and 26, 1943, from Murray Bridge to Blanchetown on the east side of the river, returning on the west side, and also during a boat trip on "M.V. Merle" from April 5 to 10, 1943:—

Peaceful Dove (*Geopelia placida*).—Three seen at Murray Bridge on telephone wire on 26/3/43.

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*).—Three at Murray Bridge, four along river near Mannum and Caloote.

Black-tailed Native-Hen (Water-Hen) (*Tribonyx ventralis*).—A few only, with their bantam-like tails, seen on the east bank of river near Devon Downs.

Dusky Moorhen (*Gallinula tenebrosa*).—Fairly common.

Bald Coot (Eastern Swamphen) (*Porphyrio melanotus*).—Common along the river on banks, among willows, and on swamps. Has the habit of jerking the tail when walking.

Coot (*Fulico atra*).—A few seen at Mannum sanctuary, and some near Pompoota. Silvery appearance on bill and face. Jerks head when swimming.

Great Crested Grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*).—One only, above Murray Bridge.

Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*).—Mannum Sanctuary.

Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*).—A few only, flying over the river.

Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax ater*).—Several at Blanchetown Lock and along the river.

Australian Darter (*Anhinga novae-hollandiae*).—One only seen, with head and neck above water (snake-like), near cliffs below Nildottie.

Australian Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*).—Numerous at Mannum Sanctuary, and in backwaters. One "taxied" along river in front of the "Merle."

Whiskered (Marsh) Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*)?—A small flock settled at the Mannum Sanctuary. The captain of the "Merle" had not previously seen this species along the river.

Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*).—Seen at Mannum and several places along the river.

Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*).—Three seen at Sturt Reserve on 13/8/43.  
Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*).—Mannum Sanctuary and at Cockatoo Cliffs.

Black-fronted Dotterel (*Charadrius melanops*).—One feeding along edge of swamp near Sturt Reserve on 26/3/43.

White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*).—In Mannum Sanctuary, 25/3/43.

Australian White Ibis (*Threskiornis molucca*).—Several places along the river.

Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*).—Above Walker's Flat flying and perched on dead gums. Also other places along the river.

White Egret (*Egretta alba*).—Single birds usually seen. Near Nildottie and other places.

White-faced Heron (Blue Crane) (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*).—Fairly common along river.

White-necked Heron (Pacific Heron) (*Notophoxyx pacifica*).—Several seen along the river at Cockatoo Cliffs, Punyelroo, etc. Also near Sturt Reserve on 13/9/43.

Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caldonicus*).—Several seen perched on Weeping Willows and flying around these trees, above Walker's Flat.

Brown Bittern (*Botaurus poeciloptilus*).—One only, seen flying low over reeds and settling with beak pointed upwards.

Maned Goose (Wood-Duck) (*Chenonetta jubata*).—Usually seen in flight.

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).—A number seen on backwaters.

Chestnut-breasted Shelduck (Mountain Duck) (*Casarca tadornoides*).—Flock at Mannum Sanctuary.

Grey (Black) Duck (*Anas superciliosa*).—Numerous on the river.

Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*).—Occasionally seen.

Pink-eared Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*).—Pointed out as "Zebra Duck" by "Merle" captain. Between Morgan and Glenforslan. Wrongly called Widgeon.

Hardhead (Australian White-eyed Duck) (*Nyroca australis*).—These are probably the birds pointed out as "Widgeon" by the "Merle" captain. Distinct white across the

wings in flight. Generally known along the Murray as the "Widgeon."

Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*).—Seen in front of the boat, submerging. Rings seen on the water were caused by this duck breathing when below the surface.

Wedge-tailed Eagle (*Uroaetus audax*).—One seen near Blanchetown; six near Mannum.

Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*).—Six seen in one tree near Blanchetown, and many near the cliffs. Heard whistling.

Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*)?—Two only, seen flying along the river near Caloote.

Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*).—Seen near Swan Reach on 24/3/43.

Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*).—One heard at Swan Reach in the evening on 25/3/43.

White Sulphur-crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*).—Several seen flying near and perched on Cockatoo Cliffs, where they nest.

Galah (Rose-breasted Cockatoo) (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*).—Several seen.

Ringneck (Mallee) Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*).—A few seen on the car trip on 25/3/43. A resident along the river explained that these parrots have a habit of flying in front of a car for a considerable distance.

Red-backed Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*).—Several at Swan Reach, 6/4/43.

Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*).—Several seen along the river.

Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).—One only, in Weeping Willows at Swan Reach, being worried by a Wagtail.

Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*).—Several along the river. One nested under the hood of the "Merle" for three seasons.

Fairy Martin (*Hylochelidon ariel*).—Several seen along the river.

Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*).—One bird in pines in the Reserve at Murray Bridge on 26/3/43.

Willie Wagtail (Black-and-white Fantail) (*Rhipidura leucophrys*).—Several along the river and railway.

Restless Flycatcher (Grinder) (*Seisura inquieta*).—One at Purnong, and one at Sturt Reserve on 25/3/43 and 26/3/43.

Magpie-Lark (*Gallinula cyanoleuca*).—Several along railway and river.

Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina*

*novae-hollandiae*).—One near Blanchetown.

White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).—Some in Cassia scrub overlooking Mannum on 9/4/43, and near Murray Bridge.

Thornbill (*Acanthiza* sp.).—Several among prickly Acacia back from the cliffs at Mannum.

Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*).—Several at Swan Reach and at Murray Bridge.

Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus australis*).—The captain of the "Merle" stated that these always appeared at the first sign of green on the Weeping Willows.

Wrens (*Malurus* spp.).—Several at Purnong Punt on 25/3/43 and opposite Pom-poota on 9/4/43.

Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*).—Several in scrub near Caloote on a previous trip.

Brown Tree-Creeper (*Climacteris picumnus*).—One seen on Box trees (*Eucalyptus bicolor*) near Swan Reach.

White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata*).—Among reeds opposite Pom-poota, and at Blanchetown.

Noisy Miner (Soldier-bird) (*Myzantha melanocephala*).—Several near the river at Swan Reach.

Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*).—Swan Reach, etc.

Australian Pipit (Ground Lark) (*Anthus australis*).—Blanchetown and Swan Reach.

Australian Raven or Crow (*Corvus* sp.).—Callington and near Caloote, etc.

White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*).—Near Blanchetown on 26/3/43.

Grey Butcher-Bird (*Cracticus torquatus*).—Near Cowirra and Murray Bridge.

White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*).—Fairly common along the railway and the river.

Sparrow and Starling (introduced).