

A FIELD DAY AT PORT GAWLER

By C. OLIVER FULLER

On January 31, 1949, this Association held its first post-war "field day." With Mr. E. A. Brooks' kind permission, the day was spent in the swamp and artificial lake at Buckland Park, near Port Gawler. The property surrounds the lower reaches of the Gawler River and is about 27 miles from Adelaide. A good attendance of members helped make the day a great success, and we were fortunate to have with us Mr. Jack Jones, of Melbourne, whose extensive knowledge of Waders was a great help to many members. The "lake" still contained a good volume of water, and bird life was prolific.

The following is the complete list of birds seen during the day.

(1) Overway Bridge (Port Wakefield Road.)

Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*)—1 bird; Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*)—6; Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*)—6.

(2) Birds seen about the homestead

Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)—5; Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*)—2; Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*)—numerous; Galah (*Kakatoe roseicapilla*)—flock of 100; Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*)—8; Kookaburra (*Dacelo gigas*)—1; Welcome Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*)—20; Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*)—10; Black and White Fantail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*)—2; White-fronted Chat (*Epthicnura albifrons*)—4; Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*)—1; Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*)—3; Australian Raven (*Corvus coronoides*)—numerous; White-

backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*)—numerous.

(3) Birds about the "lake"

Stubble Quail (*Coturnix pectoralis*)—3; Common Bronzewing (*Phaps chalcoptera*)—2; Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*)—7; Lewin Water Rail (*Rallus pectoralis*)—2; Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*)—5; Black-tailed Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*)—numerous; Bald Coot (*Porphyrio melanotus*)—?; Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*); Little Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax sulcirostris*); Pied Cormorant (*P. varius*); Little Pied Cormorant (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*); Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*); Marsh Tern (*Chlidonias leucopareia*); Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*); Red-kneed Dotterel (*Erythrogonys cinctus*); Spur-winged Plover (*Lobibyx novae-hollandiae*); Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*); Banded Stilt (*Cladorhynchus leucocephalus*); Red-necked Avocet (*Recurvirostra novae-hollandiae*); Green-shank (*Tringa nebularia*); Little Stint (*Erolia ruficollis*); Sharp-tailed Stint (*E. acuminata*); Straw-necked Ibis (*Threskiornis spinicollis*); Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*); Yellow Spoonbill (*P. flavipes*); Egret (*Egretta alba*); White-faced Heron (*Notopteryx novae-hollandiae*);

Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*); Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*); Black Duck (*Anas superciliosa*); Chestnut Teal (*Querquedula castanea*); Grey Teal (*Q. gibber-*

frons); Blue-billed Duck (*Oxyura australis*); Musk Duck (*Bizuria lobata*); Whistling Eagle (*Haliastur sphenurus*); Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*); Red-rumped Parrot (*Psephotus haematonotus*); Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans*); Fairy Martin (*H. ariel*); Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*); Black and White Fantail (*R. leucophrys*); Golden Whistler (*Pachycephala pectoralis*); Harmonious Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*); Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*); White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*); Dark Thornbill (*Acanthiza hedleyi*); Spotted Scrub Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*); Brown Song Lark (*Cinclorhamphus cruralis*); Little Grass-Bird (*Megaturus gramineus*); Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus*)—nest and 3 young; Grey-backed Silvereye (*Zosterops lateralis*); Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*); Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*); Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*).

(4) Birds near the mangroves and sea-shore

Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*); Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*); Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*); Rock Parrot (*Neophema petrophila*); Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza chrysorrhoa*).

(5) Birds near the Gawler River and in the big gum-trees

Maned Goose (*Chenonetta jubata*); Swamp Harrier (*Circus approximans*); Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo (*Kakatoe galerita*); Bare-eyed Cockatoo (*K. sanguinea*); Adelaide Rosella (*Platycercus adelaidae*); White-plumed Honeyeater (*Meliphaga pencillata*).

(6) Introduced birds

Goldfinch (*Carduelis carduelis*); Domestic Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*); Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*); Indian Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*).

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