

## NEW AND INTERESTING DISTRIBUTION RECORDS OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN BIRDS

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This paper is an attempt to bring together recent distribution records of Central Australian birds which appear interesting in the light of Storr's *List of Northern Territory Birds*, 1967. In the past few years a wealth of information, mostly unpublished, has accumulated on bird distribution in the Centre. The bird collection housed in the Northern Territory Museum (Biology Section, Animal Industry and Agriculture Branch), Alice Springs, started by Mr. Warren Hitchcock in 1954-55, has been added to by other A.I.B. Wildlife Officers since that date, and includes specimens taken during faunal surveys of the Jervis and Sandover Stock Routes, Tanami Sanctuary, Palm Valley Sanctuary, the Petermann Ranges and other seldom-visited areas. In August, 1960, Mr. Ken Buller of the Western Australian Museum (WAM) formed a small collection of birds from several localities in the Territory. In April and May, 1962, a party from the South Australian Museum (SAM) collected birds at various points from the Alice Springs district north to Darwin and the upper South Alligator River. In April, 1965, a joint team from the Australian Museum and A.I.B., Alice Springs, collected birds from Hermannsburg and Alice Springs, east to Numery and north to Yuendumu and Tanami Sanctuary; these specimens, including two skins of *Acanthiza apicalis tanami* Mathews (Condon, Disney and Slater, 1966) are now at the Australian Museum (AM). The Northern Territory Bustard Expedition of 1966, with Mr. Allan McEvey of the National Museum of Victoria (NMV) as ornithologist, formed from 14th February to 3rd March a small bird collection and made many interesting observations in the vicinity of Attack Creek, Brunchilly Station (McEvey, 1967). In March and April, 1967, the British Joint Services Expedition carried out a faunal survey of the

south-western corner of the Territory, from Curtin Springs west to the Petermann Ranges, then north to the Kintore and Ehrenburg Ranges. Most of their specimens are now at the British Museum (Natural History), London, though their series of *Amytornis* and several other specimens were kindly presented to the Northern Territory Museum (NTM). In August and September, 1967, Mr. Dean Fisher of Michigan University formed a small collection of birds in the Banka Banka—Tennant Creek area. (Reports on these last two collections are in preparation).

The sources of reliable sight records from which I have drawn are even more numerous, and include the notes of Mr. B. L. Bolton (BLB) and Mr. David Howe (DH) of the Biology Section, A.I.B., Alice Springs; Mr. David Stewart (DS) and Mr. Lindsay Clack (LC), patrol officers in the Department of Welfare; Mr. Andrew Shipway, Mr. Peter Hanisch and Mr. Harry Wakefield of the C.S.I.R.O. Dingo Section (CSIRODS); Mr. Anthony Nicholls (AN), Botanist, A.I.B., to whom with his colleague Mr. John Maconochie I am indebted for the identification of plant material; Mr. Desmond Nelson (DN), Botany Section, A.I.B.; Mr. Tom Hare (TH) of the Northern Territory Reserves Board; Mr. John Elliott (JE), Department of Transport; Max and Mary Borella (M & MB), two local ornithologists of considerable experience; Mr. R. K. (Sam) Carruthers (RKC), Mount Isa; Mrs. Billie Gill (BG), Innisfail; the published observations of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Watson (Watson 1966, 1967a, 1967b), and the many ornithological references amongst the files of the Biology Section, A.I.B. I thank also Dr. Glen M. Storr for his valuable comments on the draft of this paper. Lastly there are my own observations (SP), made from April to December, 1967, over 8,500 bird-watching miles throughout the Territory.

The northern boundary of Central Australia as here treated runs from the Tanami eastwards to Banka Banka then south-east

The nomenclature used in this paper is that of G. M. Storr's, *List of Northern Territory Birds*. *Spec. Publ. W. Aust. Mus.* 4 : 1-90 (1967).

along the southern flank of the Barkly Tableland, though where the range of a bird of mainly central distribution has been extended north of this line (e.g. *Eremiornis carteri*, *Barnardius zonarius*), then the more northerly localities are given.

The evaluation of these fresh data would have been a laborious task without the excellent compilation of Storr's, mentioned above. Species are listed in Storr's 1967 order; as this is not a taxonomic paper, binomials only are used, except in such cases as the Tanami Tit and the White-backed Magpie, where trinomials are given.

#### HOARY-HEADED GREBE (*Podiceps poliocephalus*).

Storr (1967 : 11) lists three localities: the Lander (22° 2' 1" S.), Brunette Downs and Banka Banka. Additional records indicate that this species is not uncommon on shallow waters (dams, swamps, claypans): Curtin Springs, one bird, end-October, 1960, brought in to A.I.B., Alice Springs but died *en route*; claypan at 20° 9'S., 130° 15' E., Tanami Sanctuary, 5th April, 1965 (2 specimens in AM); Brunchilly, nine birds on a bore waterhole (McEvey, 1967 : 19); Alice Springs sewage beds, three birds during February, 1967 (M & MB), and others in late July (DS) and late September (SP) of same year; dam near Temple Bar Creek, south-west of Alice Springs, 25th June, 1967 (NTM 3667); commonly sighted on dams on Alcoota, Yamba and Hamilton Downs stations during first half of 1967 (CSIRODS); dam 12 miles north of Mt. Riddock Hstd., three birds in July, 1967 (DS); swamp near Warrabri Settlement, south-east of Wauchope, one bird, October, 1967 (DS).

In contradistinction to the shallow-water preference of *Podiceps poliocephalus*, that of the Little Grebe, *P. novaehollandiae*, seems, in Central Australia, to be the deeper, more permanent water of rockholes and waterholes along the larger rivercourses.

#### GLOSSY IBIS (*Plegadis falcinellus*).

A northern species. A pair was present at Alice Springs sewage beds from 9th February to mid-April, 1967 (M & MB, SP, BLB, DH); a few miles south of Mt. Allan, one bird observed in some shallow water, June, 1962 (BG); south of Mount Conner, a small group on residual water,

late April-early May, 1967 (Austin, 1968 : 2).

#### BLACK SWAN (*Cygnus atratus*).

The only previous record seems to be from Whitlock (1924 : 256) who noted one bird at Finke Gap. Three pairs nested on a dam at Mt. Ebenezer during August and September 1966; in 1967, following the good rains of 1966-67, other birds were noted: two adults and four cygnets on large swamp one mile west of Old Andado Hstd., 31st May (AN); on swamp 120 miles south of Alice Springs, on Finke road, two nests, one with 4 eggs, one with 5 eggs (one of which had just hatched), 21st July (LC); pair nesting on large lagoon near Palmer Valley Hstd., March, 1967 (C. Lovegrove); 6 birds on waterhole near Deep Well Hstd., early December, 1967 (anon.); one bird on Libby Hole, Shakespeare Creek, Avon Downs (no date, RKC).

#### FRECKLED DUCK (*Stictonetta naevosa*).

The only previous record is of a specimen collected on the South Alligator River on 10th October, 1902 by J. Tunney (Hartert, 1905 : 206). A great number of ducks was present along Brunette Creek and Corella Creek, Brunette Downs, during October, 1966; of two hundred and eighty shot, one hundred and sixty were Freckled Ducks. This species is present during most winters on waterholes on Brunette Downs, though usually in much smaller numbers; in March, 1960, a few were also recorded from Austral Downs (RKC). [One record from Alice Springs, 1958 (Frith, 1967 : 117.)]

#### WOOD DUCK (*Chenonetta jubata*).

Listed as uncommon by Storr (1967 : 16), along the Finke and its major tributaries. Recent records are: one bird on Alice Springs sewage beds in late-October/early November, 1966 (Watson, 1967a : 3) and another in late July, 1967 (DS, SP); dams on Hamilton Downs, Yamba and Numery, common (parties up to 12) during February-May, 1967 (CSIRODS); Old Andado Swamp, 12 birds, 1st May, 1967 (SP); dam on Tempe Downs, 3 birds, 10th June, 1967 (SP); Mt. Undoolya dam, 40-50 birds, September, 1967 (M & MB); Papunya, present during December, 1967 (LC); Brunette Downs and the Georgina River system, N.T., very common most years (RKC).

### MOUNTAIN DUCK (*Tadorna tadornoides*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 16) as a rare vagrant along the Palmer and the Finke. A northern record is from Avon Downs, one bird shot, June, 1961 (RKG).

### PINK-EARED DUCK (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 17) as locally common after heavy rains but not often observed. This species was fairly numerous in 1966-67: Attack Creek, Brunchilly, two birds (McEvey 1967 : 19); Alice Springs sewage beds, a pair (Watson, 1967a : 3); frequently seen on dams on Alcoota (November, 1966) and Bond Springs and Yamba (February, 1967) (CSIRODS); small numbers on swamps near Old Andado Hstd., 1st May, 1967 (NTM 3515, 3519, SP); large flock at Old Andado Hstd., and few birds on Indinda Well, 31st May, 1967 (AN); dam on Mt. Riddock Station, ten birds in late September, 1967 (CSIRODS); Alice Springs sewage beds, 3 birds, mid-December, 1967 (SP, DH).

### BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE

(*Elanus notatus*).

Storr (1967 : 15) suggests that the four far southern records of this species may be referable to *E. scriptus*, the Letter-winged Kite. On the contrary, I suggest that the two 1894-5 records of *E. scriptus* from Mc-Minn's Creek are probably referable to *E. notatus*. In 1967 the Black-shouldered Kite was common, especially so amongst the ranges around Alice Springs. Recent records are: 1966: one bird on Stuart Highway 40 miles north of Alice Springs (Watson, 1967a : 4); 1967: 6 miles south of Alice Springs, 20th April, one bird quartering *Hakea*/ironwood flats (NTM 3495; this bird had been present in the area for about five months); three birds seen along Hale River on Numery Station, 7th May (CSIRODS); Acacia Bore, on Arltunga road, 27th May, one bird (SP); 3 miles north of Arltunga, two birds, one of which was immature, quartering open hummocky plain, 27th May (SP); Temple Bar Creek, nesting pair, June (JE, M & MB); Jessie Gap, east of Alice Springs, nesting pair, June (M & MB); Todd River, southern edge of Alice Springs, nesting pair July-August (SP, DS); pairs, probably nesting, seen also at Honeymoon Gap and 4-5 miles west of Honeymoon Gap,

west of Alice Springs, June-July (M & MB); one bird observed 74 miles north of Alice Springs on Stuart Highway, 10th July (BLB); near Connellan's airstrip, Alice Springs, nesting pair, September (M & MB). 1967 was a good year for most of the hawks, following a build-up of prey populations after the heavy rains of 1966-67.

[Storr, *in litt.*, 23rd April, 1968: "This species [*notatus*] seems to be going through a cycle of abundance just now. In a trip last year [1967] through the Western Australian wheatbelt I saw more of these kites than Nankeen Kestrels. As for *E. scriptus*, I am inclined now to accept only the Barkly Tableland records"].

### LETTER-WINGED KITE

(*Elanus scriptus*).

No southern records since those of 1894-5 (but see under preceding species). A northern record is from Attack Creek, Brunchilly, two birds seen and collected (McEvey, 1967 : 20, 31; specimens in NMV). This species was common on the Barkly Tableland during August and September, 1967.

### BLACK-BREASTED BUZZARD

(*Hamirostra melanosternon*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 18) as uncommon. Recent records are from Attack Creek, Brunchilly, where light and dark phase birds were regularly seen over savannah woodland, shrub woodland and grassland (McEvey 1967 : 20); Alcoota, 14th July, 1967, sub-adult picked up dead (NTM 3849); frequently sighted sailing over the wattle/*Hakea*/*Plectrachne* savannah and scrubby bloodwood woodland between Barrow Creek and Tennant Creek during July, August and September, 1967 (SP, BLB, AN); 35 miles east of Frewena, Barkly Highway, 13th August, 1967, one bird over bloodwood/wattle savannah (SP); 33 and 53 miles west of Frewena, single birds, 22nd August, 1967 (BG); Mt. Riddock, late September, 1967, one bird (CSIRODS).

### SPOTTED HARRIER (*Circus assimilis*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 19) as scarce elsewhere than on the Barkly Tableland. Recent records are from Alice Springs, 24th February, 1965 (NTM 2705); Alice Springs airport, one bird for several months up to November, 1967, and sewage beds, one bird during November, 1967 (M & MB); near

Ooraminna Rockhole, south of Alice Springs, one bird quartering flat open areas with few trees and rocky piles, 26th June, 1967 (SP, BLB); single birds at Spinifex Bore, MacDonald Downs, 1st June, 1967, 70 miles west of Tarlton Downs, 15th June, 1967, and Harts Range, 27th June, 1967 (DS); Standley Chasm turnoff, a pair, 30th August, 1967 (BG). Sightings along the North-West Stock Route: Hamilton Downs, one bird, 23rd June, 1967 (DS); single birds 48 and 76 miles south-east of Napperby Creek, 27th August, 1967 (BG); Central Mt. Wedge turnoff, 3 birds, 25th August, 1967 (BG); Renahan's Bore, one bird, 18th December, 1967 (DH). Stuart Highway: 35 miles north of Alice Springs, one bird hawking over grassland (Watson 1967a : 4); seven sightings over shrub savannah (bloodwood, *Hakea*, *Acacia*, *Plectrachne*, etc.) between Tea-tree Well and Wauchope, July to September, 1967 (SP, BLB, AN, BG). Frequent along Barkly Highway: Frewena, a pair, and one bird a few miles further west, 22nd August, 1967 (BG); 18 miles east of Frewena, one bird over bloodwood/*Grevillea/Melaleuca* savannah, 13th August, 1967 (SP); Soudan, one bird, and 63 miles west of Camooweal, a pair, over grassland, 21st August, 1967 (BG). Also recorded from Attack Creek, Brunchilly, over shrub savannah and grassland, not common (McEvey, 1967 : 19).

#### SWAMP HARRIER (*Circus approximans*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 19) as occurring south to Brunette Downs. Additional records are from Alice Springs, 3rd March, 1965 (NTM 2708-9); one bird over flooded *Micropteranthus* woodland, Newcastle Waters Creek, 11th July, 1967 (SP, BLB); single birds over Alice Springs sewage beds, 4th June, (DS) and 30th September, 1967 (SP); one over large dam at Mt. Undoolya, September, 1967 (M & MB).

#### BLACK FALCON (*Falco subniger*).

Storr (1967 : 19) has five records for the N.T. Additional records are from near Simpson's Gap, west of Alice Springs, one bird preying on Budgerigahs at a dam (Watson, 1967a : 4); Heavitree Gap, Alice Springs, 9th April, 1967, one bird being mobbed by Fork-tailed Kites (SP); seen twice at Harts Range during June, 1967 (DS); Mt. Undoolya, pair flying low over dam, September, 1967 (M & MB); Tennant

Creek, town dam, one preying on drinking Budgerigahs, 19th October, 1967 (DS); 4 miles south of Alice Springs, in wattle/ironwood/*Hakea* woodland, one bird picked up dead from roadside with Galah feathers in its claws, 14th November, 1967 (NTM 3935); Oorobra Rockhole, Jinka, one bird, 20th November, 1967, and 16-mile dam, Hamilton Downs, a pair preying on Budgerigahs, 26th November, 1967 (CSIRODS); Connor's Well, 55 miles north of Alice Springs, one bird on 5th September, 1967 (BG).

#### PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*).

Storr (1967 : 20) has ten records. Additional records are from the Arena, Tanami Sanctuary, one bird, 19th October, 1965 (DH); observed several times in the ranges near Alice Springs, especially at gaps with rock-pools (Watson 1967a : 4); Brunchilly Station, one or two birds (McEvey 1967 : 20); Glen Helen Gorge, pair nesting, September, 1967 (BG); Simpson's Gap and Mt. Undoolya, single birds, September, 1967 (SP, M & MB); Mt. Gillen, a pair, September, 1967, and Alice Springs airport, one bird, 26th November, 1967 (CSIRODS).

#### GREY FALCON (*Falco hypoleucos*).

Storr (1967 : 20) has six records, four of which are from the south. Recent records are from the 8-mile Waterhole, Georgina River, Austral Downs, September, 1966 (RKC); North-West Stock Route: Sandy's Bore, Napperby Creek, 17th December, 1967 (NTM 4006), one mile west of Queen's Visit Bore, a pair, indulging in fast and swift 'play flights,' 27th August, 1967 (BG), Mt. Doreen Station, a pair hunting at a bore, November, 1966 (M & MB), Chilla Well, one bird hunting Budgerigahs and Zebra Finches at bore, 20th June, 1967 (SP, DH), and Sangster's Bore, a pair hunting, October, 1965 (DH); Mt. Nancy, Alice Springs, a pair flying extremely low over observer, in scrubby flats between low rocky piles, June, 1967 (SP); Alice Springs trucking yards, one bird in play-flight amongst a flock of Galahs, not attempting to catch any, 2nd September, 1967 (BG); waterhole on Tempe Downs, one hunting, 10th June, 1967 (SP); King's Canyon, one hunting between canyon walls, 11th June, 1967 (SP); Sandscreen Bore, Hamilton Downs, one bird, 24th October, 1967 (CSIRODS).

**BROWN HAWK** (*Falco berigora*).

It is interesting to note that the eight specimens in the NTM collected in 1964-65 (*i.e.* before the drought broke) (South Barkly Stock Route, 1; near Tennant Creek, 2; Lander River floodout, 1; Alice Springs, 4) are all pale-phase birds, whereas all birds seen by me in the Centre in 1967 have been dark-phase.

[Storr, *in litt.*, 23rd April, 1968: "This change in phase frequency . . . could be due to an influx of birds from other regions, or due to much local breeding (I believe immature birds of 'centralia' are inclined to be dark)"].

**STUBBLE QUAIL** (*Coturnix pectoralis*).

Not listed by Storr. McEvey (1967 : 19, 30) has the first published record of this species for the Territory: he reported it as fairly common, more frequently heard than seen, at Attack Creek, Brunchilly during late February and early March, 1966, in black-soil tree savannah and blacksoil grassland. A female, NMV. W7078, was obtained on 1st March. Other records are from Alice Springs, 5th March, 1955 (NTM 3956), and Harry Creek, 30 miles north of Alice Springs, 29th April, 1962 (specimen in SAM).

**BROWN QUAIL** (*Coturnix ypsilophora*).

McEvey (1967 : 19, 30) has the most southerly authenticated record for the N.T. of this species, having collected a breeding female on 24th February (NMV. W7102) in damp savannah at Attack Creek.

**BANDED LANDRAIL**

(*Rallus philippensis*).

Storr (1967 : 22) has four records, south to Katherine and the McArthur. There are three records from Alice Springs: 17th January, 1956, one found dead on garden lawn (A.I.B. files); 12th February, (NTM 2706), and 9th March, 1965, (NTM 2751).

**SPOTTED CRAKE** (*Porzana fluminea*).

The first N.T. record of this species was of a bird (NTM 3617) collected at Alice Springs sewage beds on 3rd June, 1967. A second bird was present at the sewage beds during July and August, 1967 (DS, JE) and on 21st September six birds were observed, one pair of which was probably nesting (M & MB). The birds were rather secretive, keeping mainly to the dense water-side vegetation.

**MASKED PLOVER** (*Vanellus miles*).

Storr (1967 : 24) gives the range as south to Wauchope and Avon Downs. Several birds were present at Alice Springs sewage beds during October, 1965 (M & MB); same place, 6-8 birds always present (Watson 1967a : 3). In April and May, 1967, one Masked Plover and one Spurwing (*V. novae-hollandiae*) were seen regularly together at the sewage beds (SP, DS, BLB, DH) and by June and July there were three Spurwings and two Masked Plovers, forming a small party. On 30th September, through to December, 1967, only Masked Plovers were present (SP).

**SPURWINGED PLOVER**

(*Vanellus novaehollandiae*).

Not recorded by Storr. See under preceding species.

**BANDED PLOVER** (*Vanellus tricolor*).

Storr (1967 : 24) gives the status of this species as uncommon and nomadic, and the range as north to the James Range, Alice Springs and MacDonalld Downs. Recent records are from Jervois, 8th May, 1955 (NTM 3972); 5 miles south of Ilbumric bore, heard calling at night, 16th May, 1954, and Argadargada, nest with four eggs, 16th July, 1959 (DN); Harry Creek, 30 miles north of Alice Springs, 30th April, 1962 (specimen in SAM); heard calling at night over Alice Springs (Watson, 1967a : 3); north-western edge of the Simpson Desert, around Old and New Andado, 1st May, 1967, very common, many pairs with downy young around claypans and swamps (SP); 5 miles west of the Palmer crossing, towards Wallara, one bird in chenopod flats near ranges, 10th June, 1967 (SP); 62 miles south of Bonney Well, Stuart Highway, 3 birds by roadside in bloodwood/*Hakea* savannah, 10th July, 1967 (SP, BLB); Traeger Park, Alice Springs, 11 birds present during November, 1967 (M & MB). Northernmost breeding record is from 29 miles northwest of Willowra, two downy chicks, (photograph in A.I.B. files), 30th July, 1958.

**RED-CAPPED DOTTEREL**

(*Charadrius ruficapillus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 24) as a bird of the north and east coasts. There is a specimen in the AM collected on a claypan at 20°9'S., 130°15'E., Tanami Sanctuary, on 4th April, 1965.

## AUSTRALIAN DOTTEREL

(*Peltohyas australis*).

Recorded by Storr (1967 : 24) north to the Macdonnell Ranges. McEvey (1967 : 19) records a few birds seen, one with young, in blacksoil grassland at Attack Creek, Brunchilly. Other records from Hamilton Downs, 7 birds on 21st June, 1962, and Central Mt. Wedge airstrip, one bird on 26th August, 1967 (BG).

## LITTLE WHIMBREL

(*Numenius minutus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 25) as a visitor from September to February, east to the King River and south to the Katherine. There is a specimen in the AM, taken on a claypan at 20°9'S., 130°15'E., Tanami Sanctuary, on 5th April, 1965. McEvey (1967 : 28) records that M. C. Downes and H. Wright found this species in thousands in grassland at Attack Creek, Brunchilly, during April, 1966.

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 26) as an uncommon visitor to the far north. A southern record is from Alice Springs, up to eleven birds at the sewage beds (Watson 1967a : 3).

## CURLEW SANDPIPER

(*Calidris ferruginea*).

Storr (1967 : 27) lists four far northern records. At Alice Springs sewage beds, up to 5 birds were present during late October-early November, 1966 (Watson 1967a : 3).

## (WHITE-HEADED) STILT

(*Himantopus himantopus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 27) as a rare vagrant in the south. Several pairs nested at Alice Springs sewage beds in September-October, 1966 and September, 1967 (M & MB, DS, DH, BLB), and in November-December, 1967, up to 30 birds were present on the beds.

## RED-NECKED AVOCET

(*Recurvirostra novaehollandiae*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 28) as scarce; no breeding records. Recent records: Alice Springs sewage beds, 35-40 birds, including two young ones, (Watson, 1967a : 3); same place, few birds in February, 1967 (M & MB) and about a dozen during November-December, 1967 (SP, DH); on shallow swamp between sand-dunes a few miles north

of Old Andado Hstd., north-western edge of the Simpson Desert, a pair of birds almost certainly breeding, 1st May, 1967 (SP); Indinda Well, Andado, up to 10 birds on large shallow swamp, 31st May, 1967 (AN).

## AUSTRALIAN PRATINCOLE

(*Stiltia isabella*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 28) as ranging south to Banka Banka, Soudan and Avon Downs; rare vagrant to the Finke. Additional records are from Lake Nash, 11th May, 1955 (NTM 3973-4); Alice Springs airport, several flocks of c.50 birds each, during December-January, 1965-66 and December-January, 1966-67, inactive during the heat of the day, and feeding at night on insects attracted by airport lights (M & MB); 30 miles north of Alice Springs, a pair probably nesting, and several others seen in same open treeless area (Watson 1967a : 3); between Alcoota and Mt. Riddock, a small party, June, 1967 (DS); 6 miles south of Alice Springs, several birds in a lucerne patch, late November-December, 1967 (NTM 4002, SP).

## ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE

(*Glareola maldivarum*).

Storr (1967 : 28) lists the only N.T. record as specimens from Alexandria. At Alice Springs airport, during late December-early January, 1965-66, one bird was present for about a fortnight, moving around with the parties of *Stiltia isabella* (M & MB).

SILVER GULL (*Larus novaehollandiae*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 28) as a rare vagrant to the interior (MacDonald Downs and Charlotte Waters). At Alice Springs sewage beds, single bird present during April, 1967 (SP, BLB, DH); on large shallow swamps at Old Andado Hstd., at least 20 birds, feeding on the crustacean *Triops*, which was abundant in the warm muddy water, 1st May, 1967 (SP); same number still present at Old Andado, 31st May, 1967 (AN).

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 28) as ranging south to Banka Banka, Brunette Creek and Alexandria. Additional records are from the Tanami Sanctuary, five specimens in AM, collected on claypan at 20°9'S., 130°15'E., 4-6 April, 1965; Alice Springs sewage beds, three adults (Watson 1966 : 4); same place,

one immature in early September, 1967 (JE, DS) and four adults in mid-December, 1967 (SP, DH).

#### GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 29) as moderately common around north-west coast from the Victoria to the King; Groote Eylandt; one record from the interior (Charlotte Waters). Additional records are from the Alice Springs sewage beds, a party of 12 (Watson 1967 : 2) and 5 birds, 2nd September, 1967 (BG); Attack Creek, Brunchilly, a small flock (one secured, NMV. W7079) (McEvey 1967 : 19, 31); single bird seen over large shallow swamp at Old Andado Hstd., 1st May, 1967 (SP); single bird over flooded woodland, Newcastle Waters Creek, 11th July, 1967 (SP).

#### COMMON BRONZEWING (*Phaps chalcoptera*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 31) as uncommon in the southern part of the Territory. In 1967 it was extremely common in some areas: near Arltunga, one bird, 27th May (SP); small parties regularly seen at bores on Garden, Yamba and Hamilton Downs Stations, May (CSIRODS); 22 miles from Wallara towards Kings Canyon, one bird in dense mulga, 10th June (SP); Jervois Mine, a pair, 14th June (DS); Kunoth Well, Hamilton Downs, about 50 birds, 25th September (M & MB); abundant around Maryvale, Hugh River Stock Route, early October (LC); flock of 50-60 birds coming in at dusk to Ooraminna Rockhole, from rocky mulga country, 28th November (SP, DH).

#### FLOCK PIGEON (*Histriophaps histrionica*).

Storr (1967 : 32) mentions only two records since 1934. Although it is widely-held belief that this species is staging a remarkable come-back after years of near-extinction, information gathered in 1967 from stock inspectors and station-workers was to the effect that the Flock Pigeon has been present in thousands for many years on the Barkly Tableland. Frequent flocks of several hundred birds were seen over black soil grassland north of Gallipoli in August and September, 1967 (BLB, DH, SP) and a flock of 3-4,000 birds over grassland a few miles east of Burketown, north-west Queensland, in May, 1964 (SP). Presumably in

good years this pigeon spills off the Barkly Tableland to occur in small numbers over most of the Territory, as is indicated by the following records: 1955: Sandover River, near Utopia, 13th May (NTM 3951); 1961: Alexandria (N.T.), Glenormiston, Monkira, Coorabulka, Marion Downs (western Queensland, near N.T. border) (D. M. Fraser, *in litt.*); 1962: Ammaroo, Sandover Stock Route, one bird, 3rd April, Argadargada, Sandover Stock Route, 6 birds, 4th April (TH); Bonney Well, 2nd May (3 specimens in SAM); Andado, unspecified number seen in early June (G. Hampton); 6 miles south of Alice Springs, small party feeding in lucerne patch, 5th October (NTM 431, 473); 1965: Monkaderry Waterhole, Banka Banka, 12th September (NTM 3074, 3479); Merrina Waterhole, Winnecke Creek, 15th October (NTM 3477); the Arena, Tanami Sanctuary, 19th October (NTM 3476); 1966: Attack Creek, Brunchilly, small numbers during late February-early March, flocks of up to 1,500 seen during April (McEvey, 1967 : 19, 28); Yuendumu road, from Stuart Highway for 70-80 miles towards Yuendumu, small parties frequently seen, end-November (M & MB); 1967: north-western edge of Simpson Desert, north of Old Andado, 1st May, 2 birds, then 3, circling small pool amongst sand dunes (SP); 12 miles south of Mt. Skinner Hstd., 4 birds, 26th June (DS); Warrabri Settlement, south-east of Wauchope, one bird, and 11 miles south of Aileron, one bird, 2nd July (DS); Tennant Creek town dam, flock of about 20, 19th October (DS).

#### LITTLE CORELLA (*Cacatua tenuirostris sanguinea*)

Storr (1967 : 33) gives the range of this species as south to Tennant Creek and MacDonald Downs. Eastern records are from Tarlton Downs and Lucy Creek, mid-June, 1967 (DS) and Tobermorey (R. Bryan, A.I.B.).

#### PRINCESS PARROT (*Polytelis alexandrae*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 33) as highly nomadic and evidently scarce. Recent records are from 5 miles east of Atlee Creek, 21°49'S., 131°29'E., 27th October, 1965 (NTM 3332); Mount Doreen, five birds, 30 miles west of Haast's Bluff, six birds, and Napperby, two birds, August-September, 1967 (LC).

## PORT LINCOLN PARROT

(*Barnardius zonarius*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 34) as occurring north to the Petermanns, Mt. Olga and Ayers Rock, Haast's Bluff, Coniston, Willowra and Banka Banka, and east to Macdonald Downs and the lower Finke. Northernmost recent record is of a pair, probably stragglers, at Newcastle Waters Creek, 19th June, 1966 (A. Shipway); eastern and north-eastern records are from 44 miles east of Ammaroo, Sandover River, 12th May, 1955 (NTM 3952-3); Elkedra, abundant amongst the cultivated sorghum (DN); Dulcie Ranges, Jinka, October, 1967 (CSIRODS); Arthur Creek crossing, few miles west of Tarlton Downs, 15th June, 1967 (DS). A pair of this species (probably of the north-west Australian race *B.z. occidentalis*) was observed on 27th July, 1961, on the W.A./N.T. border east of Nicholson, W.A. (M & MB).

BOURKE PARROT (*Neophema bourkii*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 34) as ranging north to Alice Springs and east to Finke. Ford (1961) gives an excellent account of the recent increase of this species in the mulga zone of mid-western Australia, and suggests that this may be due to the decline in pastoral activity in this area since about 1936. At present the Bourke Parrot is in a similar state of comparative abundance in southern N.T.; this may also be due to the decrease in the number of livestock in the Centre, which is of a more recent date (i.e. within the last ten years) than the one Ford gives for Western Australia. It is also interesting to consider that the year this parrot was first recorded in the Northern Territory, 1932 (Finlayson, 1933 : 47) is four years earlier than the tentative date given by Ford as the beginning of the decline of sheep farming in Western Australia.

Recent records from the Northern Territory are: Warren Creek Bore, 52 miles west of Papunya, 15th March, 1964, many birds (DS); a little west of Barry Caves Motel, Barkly Highway, a pair in grass by roadside, 13th February, 1966 (A. McEvey *in litt*; the furthest north-east record); Piltardi Rockhole, Petermann Ranges, a pair, 3rd April, 1966 (NTM 3545); Palm Valley, flock of at least 50 birds feeding on ground amongst seeding grasses, October, 1966 (DH); 1967: Bond Springs Hstd., one bird, 20th April (CSIRODS); north-western edge of Simpson

desert, north of Old Andado, a pair near small pool amongst sand dunes, 1st May (SP); Bond Springs, dead bird by roadside, 31st May (CSIRODS); Jay Creek, party of about 12, 11th June (DS); 5 miles east of Wallara, one bird in mulga/*Eucalyptus gamophylla* woodland, 12th June (SP); 15 miles south of Aileron, 3 birds, 13th June (NTM 3649); Blackhill Dam, Hamilton Downs, 20th June, 8 birds (CSIRODS); Refrigerator Bore, North-West Stock Route, 20th June, 6 + birds amongst *Cassia* bushes, with undergrowth of chenopods and *Ptilotus*, areas of bare red soil between plants (SP); The Granites, North-West Stock Route, 21st June, a pair in dense yellow-flowering turpentine, *Acacia lysiphloia*, much bare red soil between bushes (SP); 10-mile bore, north of Alice Springs, 4th July, pair in mulga, undergrowth of seeding grasses, numerous areas of bare red soil (SP); Devil's Marbles, Stuart Highway, July (Lendon, 1968 : 15); near Ooraminna Rockhole, 3rd August, pair in open mulga woodland, with seeding grasses and bare red soil amongst trees (SP, BLB); near Aileron, early August, pair in mulga woodland (JE); fairly common on Alcoota and Yamba, August (CSIRODS); Kunoth Well, Hamilton Downs, 25th September, 50-60 birds drinking (M & MB); near Ooraminna Rockhole, 27th September, 5 birds in open mulga (SP); near Orange Creek Hstd., Hugh River Stock Route, early November, several parties seen over 40-mile stretch; Temple Bar Creek, south-west of Alice Springs, early November, one bird; Tempe Downs, 4 birds, and Gosse Bluff, 9 birds, early November (CSIRODS).

## SCARLET-CHESTED PARROT

(*Neophema splendida*).

Storr (1967 : 70) lists in his appendix Liddle's 1932 sight record of this species at Angas Downs (13 miles east of north of the eastern end of the Basedow Range, precisely). At Undoolya Hstd., east of Alice Springs, on 28th March, 1961, a young bird (NTM 437) just out of the nest, flew into the tennis court wire and was captured. Later that year it won first prize in the Alice Springs Show. A pair was observed at close quarters in mulga at Hamilton Downs in August, 1962 (R. Darkin). One bird seen near N.T. border south of Ayers Rock, late April-early May, 1967 (Austin, 1968 : 3).



MASKED OWL (*Tyto novaehollandiae*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 36) as occurring south to the Daly, Brocks Creek and the McArthur. See McEvey (1967: 20, 21) on the possible presence of this owl at Attack Creek, Brunchilly.

SACRED KINGFISHER (*Halcyon australasia* — *H. sancta auctorum*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 39) as ranging south to Attack Creek and Alexandria. The Watsons (1967b : 4) recorded a few birds around Alice Springs in late October-early November, 1966; no local ornithologist has ever reported any kingfisher but *H. pyrrhopygia*, the Red-backed, in the Centre.

WHITE-BACKED SWALLOW (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 40) as occurring generally north to Coniston and Macdonald Downs, thence patchily northward to Morphett Creek. Northern boundary at present recorded as Willowra (LG); Morphett Creek; Macdonald Downs; Jervois Range and Tarlton Downs, mid-June, 1967 (DS). This beautiful little swallow also occurs around the fringes of the Simpson Desert: Rodinga Range (near Steele Gap), and first sand dunes south of Steele Gap, 29-30th April, 1967 (SP); Birdsville (anon.).

CINNAMON QUAIL THRUSH (*Cinlosoma cinnamomium*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 42) as ranging north to Cockroach Waterhole (i.e., 19 miles east of Cockroach WH, Jervois Stock Route, 9th May, 1955, NTM 3999), and west to Illamurta and Erldunda, moderately common on lower Finke but seldom reported from elsewhere. In 1967, this species was exceedingly common on open stony chenopod plains around Henbury and along the Hugh River Stock Route (Orange Creek — Maryvale): 8 birds in 5 miles, 10th June (NTM 3653, from Meteorite Craters, Henbury, SP); c.50 birds in 40 miles, 2-3rd October (LG); 'many birds' in 40 miles, early November (CSIRODS). In the AM there is a specimen taken 'east of Alice Springs' (i.e. along the Arltunga road) on 23rd April, 1965.

CHESTNUT QUAIL THRUSH (*Cinlosoma cinnamomeum*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 42) as occurring north to the western Macdonnells and east to Hermannsburg and Victory Downs. This

mulga-loving species has recently been recorded further afield, from Bushy Park Hstd., 27th September, 1967, in thick mulga (NTM 3847). [Storr, *in litt.*, 23rd April, 1968: "The Victory Downs record of *castanotum* is my own observation, and I no longer accept it; all I can say is that it was not *cinnamomeum*"].

WHITE-BROWED BABBLER (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 43) as occurring north to Hermannsburg and east to Charlotte Waters. Present northern limits appear to be Harry Creek, 30 miles north of Alice Springs (Watson 1967b : 5); Delmore Downs, 14th July, 1967 (NTM 3685); Arthur Creek crossing, west of Tarlton Downs, 15th June, 1967, party of 3 (DS). Boyland and Ogilvie (1966 : 19) record White-browed Babblers in the Queensland sector of the Simpson Desert, but this record is almost certainly referable to *P. ruficeps*.

LITTLE GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus gramineus*).

The only previous N.T. record is from the Finke Gorge in the James Range (Whitlock, 1924 : 268). During August and September, 1967, several birds were present in thick herbage at Alice Springs sewage beds (heard more than seen), and a nest was located containing at least two eggs (M & MB, SP, BG).

WESTERN WARBLER (*Gerygone fusca*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 45) as ranging north and east to Alice Springs. Recent records of this seldom-noted warbler include: 6 miles south of Alice Springs, in *Hakea*/ironwood flats, 1st July, 1965 (NTM 3013); along Stuart Highway, from Alice Springs to 45 miles north (Watson, 1967b : 5); 15 miles along Yuendumu road from Stuart Highway, 23rd September, 1967 (M & MB). The last two records are from mulga areas.

BANDED WHITEFACE (*Aphelocephala nigricincta*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 46) as occurring north to Tanami, Barrow Creek and the Simpson Desert. Recent north-eastern records are from the Jervois Stock Route: 5 miles east of Whistleduck, 7th May, 1955 (NTM 456, 3992); 7 miles east of Cockroach Waterhole, 9th May (NTM 453); Tarlton Downs, 15th June, 1967 (DS).

(WESTERN) WHITEFACE  
(*Aphelocephala leucopsis*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 45) as occurring north to the Tropic and east to Charlotte Waters. In mid-June, 1967, during a patrol to Tarlton Downs, DS observed this species infrequently from Alice Springs as far east as the Jervois Range, but not further east.

TANAMI TIT (*Acanthiza apicalis tanami*  
— *Acanthiza pusilla tanami auctorum*).

Apart from the holotype in the American Museum of Natural History, and the two specimens in the AM recently collected at Camp Noll, Tanami Sanctuary (Condon, Disney and Slater, *loc. cit.*), there is another specimen, NTM 2233, from the Refuge Basin, Tanami Sanctuary, 11th September, 1964.

CHESTNUT-TAILED THORNBILL  
(*Acanthiza uropygialis*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 46) as occurring north to Coniston (Cockatoo Creek), and east to Charlotte Waters. Present recorded distribution limits are Warren Creek Bore, 52 miles west of Papunya, 18th April, 1964, one mistnetted (DS); Coniston; Mt. Riddock, 6th May, 1955 (NTM 455); Paradise Bore, Jervois Range, 15th June, 1967 (DS); Ringwood, 23rd April, 1965 (specimen in AM); Charlotte Waters.

RÉDTHROAT (*Pyrrholaemus brunneus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 46) as occurring from the Macdonnell Ranges east to Alice Springs and south to the upper Palmer and Alice Well. A northern record is from a few miles south of the Granites, North-West Stock Route, November, 1966 (M & MB).

SPINIFEX BIRD (*Eremiornis carteri*).

Recorded by Whitlock (1924 : 268-9) from the Krichauff and James Ranges (Glen of Palms, Coporyllia Spring, and between Gilbert Springs and Gosse Ranges). Recent records are from 14 miles south-west of Arltunga, 27th May, 1967 (NTM 3604-5); Wave Hill, 14th August, 1960 (specimens in WAM); between Ooraminna Rockhole and Deep Well road, 27th September, 1967 (SP, BLB); 15 and 17 miles south down Deep Well road (Watson, 1967b : 6, and *in litt.*); Corroboree Rock, east of Alice Springs (SP, M & MB); Honeymoon Gap and Serpentine Gorge, west of Alice Springs, September, 1967 (M & MB). Where habitat notes accompany these observations, they indicate

that this species' preference is for tall spinifex (3' — 8') especially that growing along creek beds.

DUSKY GRASSWREN  
(*Amytornis textilis*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 47) as occurring from the Macdonnell Ranges south to Petermann Creek and the James Range. Recent records include: Mannanana Range, Petermann Ranges, 29th March, 1966 (NTM 3464-5); Gosse Bluff, 5th February, 1955 (NTM 443-5); Areyonga, 24th August, 1960 (specimens in WAM); Kings Canyon, 11th June, 1967 (SP); Mt. Zeil (BLB); Central Mt. Stuart (A. Newsome); one mile north of Tennant Creek, May, 1962 (3 specimens in SAM). In view of these additional data, the records from Barrow Creek and Coniston, not wholly accepted by Storr, may be considered validated. The Coniston locality is actually Arragoona WH, Lander River, 22°2'1"S. (Hill 1913 : 246, Campbell & Kershaw 1913 : 245). See also *Podiceps poliocephalus*.

WEDGEBILL (*Sphenostoma cristatum*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 53) as occurring in the Finke Valley from Hermannsburg south-east to Charlotte Waters, with records from north-west of Tennant Creek (19°S) and Tanami. Recent records of this local bird are from the Derwent River, 23°11'S., 132°9'E., 7th February, 1955 (NTM 448); 19 miles east of Cockroach Waterhole, Jervois Stock Route, 9th May, 1955 (NTM 3997).

GOLDEN-BACKED HONEYEATER  
(*Melithreptus laetior*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 55) as occurring from Katherine and Borroloola south to the Macdonnell Ranges and the upper Finke. Recent central records of this uncommon honeyeater are from Honeymoon Gap, 2nd June, 1965 (NTM 2951-2); Attack Creek, Brunchilly (McEvey, 1967 : 22); between Arthur Creek and Tarlton Downs, 15th June, 1967 (DS); 33 miles west of Frewena, two juveniles, 22nd August, 1967 (BG).

BLACK HONEYEATER  
(*Myzomela nigra*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 55) as occurring north to Tanami, Powell Creek, (and the Nowranie, Qld.). Recent records of this highly nomadic bird are from Connor's Well, 55 miles north of Alice Springs,

August, 1963 (M & MB); area around Alice Springs (Watson, 1967b : 6); 9 miles north of Barrow Creek, a pair, June, 1962; 91 miles east of Frewena, a pair, June, 1962, and 33 miles west of Frewena, 22nd August, 1967 (BG).

#### WHITE-FRONTED HONEYEATER

(*Phylidonyris albifrons*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 56) as occurring from Wycliffe Creek south to Angas Downs. Recent records of this nomadic honeyeater are from Harry Creek, 30 miles north of Alice Springs, 28th April, 1962, and Wauchope, 1st May, 1962 (4 specimens in SAM); Connor's Well, 55 miles north of Alice Springs, August, 1963, common and nesting (M & MB); Connellan's Creek, Alice Springs, 19th March, 1967 (NTM 3428-9); south of Mt. Gillen, 14th May, 1967 (NTM 3588); Valley of Eagles, 27th May, 1967, one bird (SP); Hamilton Downs, 31st July, 1966 (NTM 3347); McLaren Creek, 7th June, 1962, many amongst blossom, other sightings from little north of Alice Springs to little north of Tennant Creek, early July, 1962 (BG); Warren Creek Bore, 52 miles west of Papunya, eight adults mistnetted on 15th March, 1964 (DS).

#### GREY HONEYEATER (*Gonopophila whitei* — *Lacustroica whitei auctorum*).

Collected by Whitlock (1924 : 276-7) from Boggy Pool, upper Finke, and five miles east of Hermannsburg Mission, in mulga. Recent records are from 15 miles up the Yuendumu road from Stuart Highway, in dense mulga, 28-29th August, 1967 (BG); about 10 miles east of Hamilton Downs, 27th August, 1967, a pair in mulga (BG); Wave Hill, 3rd January, 1963, one netted, banded, photographed and released (DS); Tanami Range, 13th May, 1952, (specimen in AM).

#### PIED HONEYEATER

(*Certhionyx variegatus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 56) as ranging north to Tanami and north-west of Tennant Creek (19'S), and east in the Simpson Desert nearly to the Hay. Recent records of this highly nomadic species are from Harry Creek, 29th April, 1962 (4 specimens in SAM); same place, nest with three young (Watson, 1967b : 7); Connor's Well, August, 1963 (M & MB); Honeymoon Gap, west of Alice Springs, 1st October, 1965 (M & MB); Connellan's Creek, Alice

Springs, 19th March, 1967 (NTM 3427); common around Alice Springs from July, 1966 to March, 1967 (3 breeding records), when they departed (DS); 92 miles south of Tennant Creek, a pair, 17th October, 1967 (DS); common between Nicholson, W.A., and Inverway, N.T., early December, 1967 (DS); many birds in small area of flowering shrubs 33 miles west of Frewena, 22nd August, 1967 (BG); Papunya, one immature mistnetted on 9th May, 1964 (DS).

#### YELLOW-FRONTED HONEYEATER

(*Meliphaga plumula*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 57) as ranging north to Banka Banka and Alexandria. North-western records are from Wave Hill and Hooker Creek, commonly mistnetted between November, 1962 and January, 1963 (DS).

#### PAINTED FINCH (*Emblema picta*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 59) as occurring north to Tanami, Banka Banka, and Alexandria, with the comment that although it was formerly common in the Central Australian cattle belt it is now generally scarce. The abundance of recent records does not support this view. 1961: Wave Hill, August, large flock at waterhole (M & MB); 1965: Smoke Hills, Tanami area, 24th October (NTM 3490); Camp Noll, Tanami Sanctuary, 8th April (specimen in AM); 1966: Attack Creek, Brunchilly, indefinite sightings (McEvey, 1967 : 22); the Granites, North-West Stock Route, November, small flock (M & MB); 1967: Valley of Eagles, east of Alice Springs, 27th May, several birds (SP); Mt. Gillen, frequently during May, June and July (SP); Central Mt. Wedge, 27th May, party of up to 6 on steep rocky slope with *Triodia*, *Eriachne*, and bushes of *Acacia* and *Ptilotus* (AN); Ormiston Gorge, 27th May, small numbers (DS); John Hayes Rockhole, Standley Chasm, Ellery Creek, Serpentine Gorge, frequent, August-September (TH); Desert Block (Napperby), common between May and November (B. Ganley and D. Wark, A.I.B.); Simpson's Gap, September (M & MB); China Wall, north bank of upper Nicholson River, and Springvale (between upper Nicholson and Gallipoli), early September, several birds (SP); Boggy Waterhole Bore, Hugh River, west of Jay Creek, one bird at bore on *Hakea*/ironwood flats amongst ranges, 1st October (SP).

### APOSTLE-BIRD (*Struthidea cinerea*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 61) as occurring between Dunmarra and Elliott. Additional records are from halfway between Dunmarra and Top Springs, Murranji Stock Route, in lancewood, 40-50 birds, August, 1961 (M & MB); Red Lily Lagoon, Elosey, upper Roper River, 20th May, 1962 (3 specimens in SAM). In the NMV there are six specimens from Borrooloola and two from Munda, 55 miles ENE of Newcastle Waters, taken in 1902 by Spencer and Gillen (A. McEvey, *in litt.*).

### WHITE-BROWED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus superciliosus*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 62) from Darwin, the McArthur, Alexandria and Alice Springs. At 42 miles east of the Stuart Highway — Barkly Highway junction, on 30th June, 1967, at least two of this species were observed with about 30 Masked Woodswallows, *Artamus personatus*, feeding amongst blossoms of *Eucalyptus terminalis* in *Eucalyptus/Acacia*-dominated woodland (AN). Common, with *A. personatus*, in shrub savannah between Tennant Creek and Elliott, July, 1967 (SP), north to Katherine and east to Borrooloola, same period (RKC).

### WHITE-BACKED MAGPIE

(*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leuconota*).

Storr (1967 : 63, and *in litt.*) points out that old males of *Gymnorhina tibicen*, the Black-backed Magpie, may have the back white, as in the males of *G. hypoleuca leuconota*, the White-backed Magpie. In such cases they would be indistinguishable in the field from males of the latter, and acceptance of the presence of *G. hypoleuca leuconota* in the Centre must rest on specimens NTM 2964 (Alice Springs, 11th June, 1965) and NTM 3006 (Alice Springs, 29th June, 1965), both grey-backed females, typical of females of the White-backed Magpie. A sight record referable to the White-backed is from five miles south down the Deep Well road, 13th December, 1967, one white-backed and one grey-backed bird, a pair (SP, DH).

Whether these two forms actually breed sympatrically in the Centre, and if so, whether they interbreed, is a matter for further investigation.

### WESTERN BOWERBIRD

(*Chlamydera maculata*).

Listed by Storr (1967 : 64) as ranging as

far east as Macdonald Downs (*i.e.* Dulcie Range). Recently recorded further east at Paradise Bore, Jervois Range, one bird, 15th June, 1967 (DS).

### AUSTRALIAN CROW (*Corvus orru*).

Although listed by Storr (1967 : 64) as occurring throughout the Territory, this species is apparently absent from the hemisphere of country bounded by the Petermann Ranges, George Gill Range and the western tip of the Macdonnells, Barrow Creek, Attack Creek and the Victoria River depot, as well as from the Simpson Desert.

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### APPENDIX

Gazetteer of Northern Territory localities mentioned in text other than those found in Storr (1967).

Acacia Bore, 23°35'S., 134°22'E.

Ammaroo, cattle station, 21°45'S., 135°17'E.

Arena, The, Tanami Sanctuary, 20°14'S., 131°11'E.

Areyonga, native settlement, 24°5'S., 132°16'E.

Argadargada, cattle station, 21°42'S., 136°40'E.

- Arthur Creek, crosses Jervois Stock Route at 22°41'S., 136°41'E.
- Austral Downs, cattle station, 20°30'S., 137°46'E.
- Barry Caves Motel, Barkly Highway 27 miles west of Soudan Station.
- Blackhill Dam, Hamilton Downs, approx. 23°33'S., 133°24'E.
- Boggy Waterhole Bore, on the Hugh River at about 23°45'S., 133°22'E.
- Bond Springs, cattle station, 23°33'S., 133°56'E.
- Bushy Park, cattle station, 22°54'S., 133°56'E.
- Camp Noll, Tanami Sanctuary, 20°26'S., 130°42'E.
- Chilla Well, North-West Stock Route, 21°30'S., 130°53'E.
- China Wall, on north bank of upper Nicholson R., 17°46'S., 137°13'E.
- Corella Creek, Brunette Downs, 18°27'S., 135°48'E.
- Corroboree Rock, approx. 23°40'S., 134°14'E.
- Deep Well, 24°22'S., 134°3'E.
- Deep Well, cattle station, 24°18'S., 134°9'E.
- Deep Well Road, between a point 7 miles south of Alice Springs and Deep Well.
- Delmore Downs, cattle station, 22°28'S., 134°51'E.
- Desert Block, section of Napperby Station, 23°4'S., 133°1'E.
- Elkedra, cattle station, 21°10'S., 135°28'E.
- Garden, cattle station, 23°17'S., 134°25'E.
- Gibson Creek, crosses Stuart Highway at 19°12'S., 134°10'E.
- Gosse Bluff, Gosse Range, 23°51'S., 132°18'E.
- Hamilton Downs, cattle station, 23°32'S., 133°16'E.
- Honeymoon Gap, 23°44'S., 133°44'E.
- Hugh River Stock Route, from Deep Well westward to the Palmer.
- Ilbumric bore, 21°27'S., 135°14'E.
- Indinda Well, near Old Andado Homestead, 25°23'S., 135°23'E.
- Inverway, cattle station, 17°51'S., 129°38'E.
- Jervois Range (hills and mine), approx. 22°39'S., 136°16'E.
- Jinka, cattle station, 22°43'S., 135°45'E.
- John Hayes Rockhole, 23°32'S., 134°21'E.
- Kunoth Well and Bore, North-West Stock Route, 23°31'S., 133°34'E.
- Lake Nash, cattle station on the Georgina, 20°58'S., 137°55'E.
- Lander River floodout, approx. 20°S., 131°35'E.
- Libby Hole, Shakespeare Creek, 20°14'S., 137°42'E.
- Lucy Creek, cattle station, 22°26'S., 136°17'E.
- Mannanana (Mannagana) Range, 24°58'S., 129°17'E.
- Maryville road-train depot, spelt Maryvale in Storr (*q.v.*).
- McLaren Creek, crosses Stuart Highway at 20°20'S., 134°14'E.
- Merrina Waterhole, Winnecke Creek, approx. 18°44'S., 131°15'E.
- Meteorite Craters, Henbury Station, 24°35'S., 133°8'E.
- Monkaderry Waterhole, Banka Banka station, 18°35'S., 134°33'E.
- Mount Doreen, cattle station, 22°3'S., 131°19'E.
- Mount Riddock (or Riddoch), cattle station, 23°2'S., 134°40'E.
- Mount Skinner, (= Harper Springs), cattle station, 22°12'S., 134°5'E.
- Mount Solitary, 22°11'S., 133°39'E.
- Napperby Creek, crosses North-West Stock Route at 22°49'S., 132°35'E.
- New Andado, cattle station, 25°26'S., 135°17'E.
- North-West Stock Route, begins 16 miles north of Alice Springs on the Stuart Highway, continuing north-west to Tanami and Western Australia.
- Numery, cattle station on the Hale, 23°53'S., 135°27'E.
- Old Andado, 25°23'S., 135°26'E.
- Ooraminna Rockhole = Ooraminna Waterhole, Storr (*q.v.*).
- Oorobra Rockhole, Jinka station, 22°42'S., 135°44'E.
- Orange Creek, (= Renner's Rock), cattle station, 24°22'S., 133°25'E.
- Ormiston Gorge, 23°39'S., 132°44'E.
- Palmer Crossing, 24°37'30"S., 132°48'E.
- Palmer Valley, cattle station, 24°46'S., 133°14'E.
- Papunya, native settlement, 23°17'S., 131°47'E.
- Paradise Bore, Jervois Range, 22°36'S., 136°25'E.
- Piltardi Rockhole, Petermann Ranges, 25°7'S., 129°55'E.
- Queen's Visit Bore, North-West Stock Route, 23°2'S., 132°41'E.
- Refrigerator Bore, North-West Stock Route, 21°3'S., 130°45'E.
- Refuge Basin, Tanami Sanctuary, 20°32'S., 130°56'30"E.
- Renahan's Bore, North-West Stock Route, 27 miles NW of Chilla Well.
- Ringwood, cattle station, 23°50'S., 134°56'E.
- Rodinga Range, approx. 24°30'S., 134°20'—135°20'E.
- Sandscreen Bore, Hamilton Downs, approx. 23°25'S., 133°23'E.
- Serpentine Gorge, 23°43'S., 132°51'E.
- Shaw Creek, Petermann Ranges, 25°12'S., 129°46'E.
- Sixteen-mile dam, Hamilton Downs, approx. 23°21'S., 133°29'E.
- Smoke Hills, Tanami area, 20°5'S., 130°8'E.
- South Barkly Stock Route, from Attack Creek (Stuart Highway), roughly eastwards through Brunchilly, Rockhampton Downs, and Alroy Downs to Ranken.
- Spinifex Bore, Macdonald Downs, approx. 22°22'S., 135°6'E.
- Springvale, 18°30'S., 137°32'E.
- Steele Gap, eastern Rodinga Range, 24°24'S., 135°5'E.
- Tarlton Downs, cattle station, 22°39'S., 136°54'E.
- Temple Bar Creek, 23°45'S., 133°45'E.
- Tobermorey, cattle station, 22°17'S., 137°56'E.
- Top Springs, Victoria River Downs, 16°8'S., 131°50'E.
- Utopia, cattle station, 22°14'S., 134°33'E.
- Valley of Eagles, Macdonnell Ranges, 23°21'S., 135°33'E.
- Vaughan Springs, cattle station, 22°18'S., 130°52'E.
- Wallara, ranch, 24°38'S., 132°17'E.
- Warrabri, native settlement, 21°S., 134°24'E.
- Warren Creek bore, 23°20'S., 131°13'E.
- Wave Hill, cattle station, 17°29'S., 130°57'E.
- Whistleduck (mine), Jervois Stock Route, approx. 22°50'S., 135°32'E.
- Yamba, cattle station, 23°8'S., 133°50'E.
- Yuendumu, native settlement, 22°15'S., 131°48'E.
- Yuendumu road: the south-east section of the North-West Stock Route, from its beginning at the Stuart Highway 16 miles north of Alice Springs, north-west to Yuendumu.