

Birds noted during a Holiday Trip in Victoria.

By Alan Lendon.

The trip extended from January 3rd to 25th, 1919.

Sherbrooke is a small village about 30 miles distant from Melbourne, and situated in the Dandenong Ranges. Marysville is a small township about 61 miles from Melbourne, and about 22 miles from Healesville, and is situated on the other side of the Dividing Range. The names of the birds seen are taken from Mathews' 1913 List. Birds identified were:—

1. Bronzewing Pigeon (*Phaps chalcoptera chalcoptera*).—One specimen of this bird was seen in a clearing near Sherbrooke.

2. Straw-necked Ibis (*Carphibis spinicollis*).—A small flock of seven or eight birds was seen in a paddock near the Stevenson River at Marysville. Several odd pairs were also seen along the same river.

3. White-fronted Heron (*Notophya novae-hollandiae*).—A few birds were noticed in company with Straw-necked Ibis at Marysville. Also several were seen flying near Narbethong in the same district.

4. Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo novae-hollandiae*).—Seen on two or three occasions flying over the mountain streams at Marysville presumably after the introduced trout, the only fish found in the rivers.

5. Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigora berigora*).—noticed several times near Healesville. Apparently not common.

6. Nankeen Kestrel (*Cerchmeis cenchroides cenchroides*).—Common throughout the Marysville district, but not seen near Sherbrooke.

7. Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon galeatum*).—These birds were frequently seen in the thickly timbered parts near Marysville, and were always in pairs. They were mostly noticed in the evening from about 5 o'clock to 7.30, and did not appear to be shy.

8. Crimson Parrot (*Platycercus elegans elegans*).—This bird was fairly common in the forests at both Sherbrooke and Marysville. At Marysville an old bird in colour and a young one were several times seen feeding in the grass in front of the house.

9. Rosella Parrot (*Platycercus eximius eximius*).—Fairly plentiful in the Sherbrooke district, but only one pair seen in the Marysville district.

10. Brown Kingfisher (*Dacelo gigas gigas*).—Common both near Marysville and Sherbrooke.

11. Spine-tailed Swift (*Chaetura caudacuta*).—A small flock of about a dozen birds was seen circling about one evening at Sherbrooke.

12. Pallid Cuckoo (*Heteroscenes pallidus*).—A pair flew in front of the motor on the road from Healesville to Marysville. No others seen.

13. Fantailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis rubricatus rubricatus*).—A single bird was seen in a fern gully near Marysville.

14. Lyre-bird (*Menura novaehollandiae victoriae*).—These birds were only to be found in a certain thickly timbered gully near Sherbrooke, where there was a fair number of them. Their striking notes were to be heard in this gully at almost any time of the day, but more particularly in the early morning and late evening, and on several occasions the birds were seen. They were, however, very difficult to approach, as on the slightest sound they would stop calling and disappear into the scrub. Their mimicry was marvellous, and the note of the Coachwhip Bird especially was wonderfully reproduced. A dancing mound was formed. It consisted of a circular platform of earth about four or five inches high. The earth was kept well scratched over, and around the edge of the mound the ferns were trodden down. The feet of these birds must be exceedingly strong as in many places decayed tree trunks were seen scratched completely to pieces by the birds in search of their food. Strange to say no females were seen.

15. Tree Martin (*Hylochelidon nigricans calayi*).—Common about Marysville.

16. Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascinans fascinans*).—Numbers were seen about the house at Marysville, but they were not noticed at all in the Sherbrooke district.

17. Flame-breasted Robin (*Littlera chrysoptera phoenicea*).—This bird was quite common about Sherbrooke, and was very tame. Only one specimen, a young male, was observed at Marysville.

18. Rose-breasted Robin (*Belchera rosea*).—This bird was apparently rare. Two males and a few females or young birds were seen in a thick fern gully near Sherbrooke.

19. Golden-breasted Thickhead (*Pachycephala pectoralis youngi*).—Fairly plentiful in the Sherbrooke district. A single bird, a male, was seen near Marysville.

20. Rufous-breasted Thickhead (*Lewinornis rufiventris rufiventris*).—One bird only, a male, seen near Marysville.

21. Yellow-breasted Shrike-Robin (*Eopsaltria australis vividior*).—Common everywhere in the thick forests where its piping note was often heard. One old nest found at Sherbrooke.

22. White-shafted Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera victoriae*).—Probably the commonest bird seen during the trip. It was always very tame and one occasion a bird flew on to a stick I was carrying. Two nests were seen, one just completed at Sherbrooke and another with eggs at Marysville.

23. Rufous Fantail (*Howeavis rufifrons inexpectata*).—Seen fairly often in the thick scrubby country in both districts visited. The birds were usually rather shy, and would not remain in full view long.

24. Black and White Fantail (*Leucocirca tricolor tricolor*).—A single bird was seen at the Healesville Railway Station.

25. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae melanops*).—Seen on a few occasions near Marysville, but not at all common.

26. Coach-whip bird (*Psophodes crepitans scrymgeouri*).—The sharp notes of this bird were often heard in the dense gullies at Sherbrooke, but the bird itself was difficult to see. On one occasion two pairs were seen in some thick bracken, and another time an old male was seen fighting with a young male that was just moulting into full plumage. The females were noticed to be duller and smaller than the males.

27. Mountain Thrush (*Oreocincla lunulata dendyi*).—These birds were common in the dense gullies at both Marysville and Sherbrooke and were usually seen near the streams.

28. Brown Tit (*Acanthiza pusilla macularia*).—Noticed occasionally at Sherbrooke.

29. Striated Tit (*Acanthiza lineata chandleri*).—A great many of these birds were seen about Sherbrooke, but they were not so plentiful at Marysville.

30. Yellow-tailed Tit (*Geobasileus chrysorrhous sandlandi*).—Not common, but seen a few times in both districts visited.

31. Blue Wren (*Malurus cyaneus henriettae*).—These birds were in great numbers everywhere, and at Sherbrooke three young just out of the nest were seen.

32. Wood Swallow (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*).—A single bird was seen near Sherbrooke, and several near the Stevenson River at Marysville.

33. Magpie Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*).—Many were seen at Sherbrooke, also a few about the township of Healesville.

34. Grey Shrike Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica victoricae*).—Fairly common at both Sherbrooke and Marysville.

35. White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca leucota*).—Very common throughout the trip.

36. Tree Creeper.—Several of these birds were seen probably of species *Neoclima picumna*, but they were not identified with certainty.

37. White-eye (*Zosterops lateralis westernensis*).—Common at Sherbrooke, and at Marysville. Usually seen in the fruit trees.

38. Spine Bill (*Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris victoricae*).—Not common in the Sherbrooke district, two birds only being seen. Plentiful about Marysville.

39. Yellow-eared Honeyeater (*Meliphaga lewinii nea*).—A single bird which was quite tame was seen in a thick gully at Sherbrooke.

40. Yellow-faced Honeyeater (*Paraptilotis chrysops beaconsfieldi*).—Several were seen at Marysville feeding in the garden quite close to the house.

41. Crescent Honeyeater (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera indistincta*).—Single specimen seen in a gully near Sherbrooke.

42. Wattle-bird (*Acanthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*).—Several seen in a gum tree at Sassafra, a small village near Sherbrooke.

43. Pipit (*Anthus australis australis*).—Noticed once or twice in some paddocks near Healesville.

44. Red-browed Finch (*Aegintha temporalis tregellasi*).—Common throughout the trip. A nest with three fresh eggs was found at Sherbrooke.

45. Crow (*Corvus coronoides perplexus*).—A large flock of many hundreds of birds was seen flying nearly every morning over the township of Marysville.

46. Pied Bell Magpie (*Strepera graculina graculina*).—One was seen on the road from Healesville to Marysville, and a few others were seen close to the latter place.

47. Grey Bell Magpie (*Neo-strepera versicolor vieilloti*).—This bird was more plentiful than the last species in the Marysville district, and on one occasion two young birds were seen.
