

Birds noted on a Trip to Cowell and the Hundred of Mangalo.

By W. W. Weidenbach.

In the beginning of February, 1923, the writer, accompanied by Mr. F. E. Parsons, was on a surveying trip to Cowell and part of the country lying about 10 miles north and 25 to 30 miles northwest of Cowell.

The trip was a busy one, and too hurried for extensive ornithological observations. However, 42 species were noted, besides which five more were seen on the homeward journey at Port Lincoln.

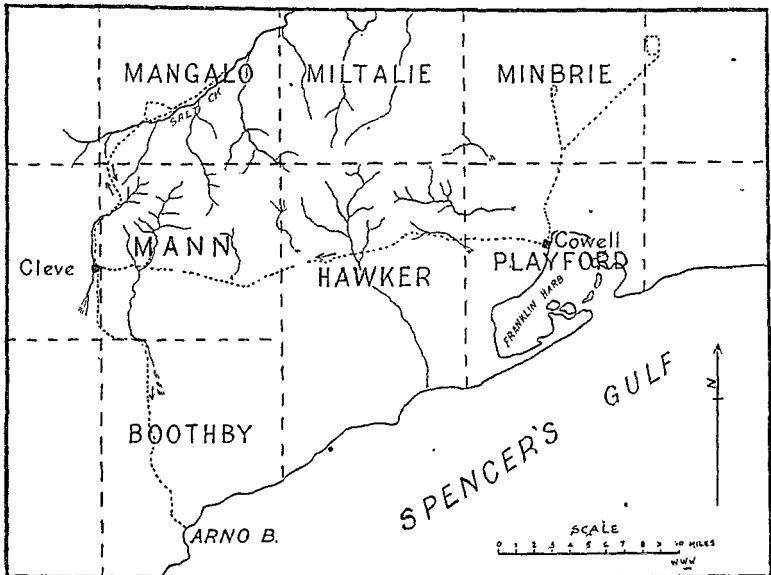
The town of Cowell is situated on the northern end of Franklin Harbour, a large salt-water basin, roughly kidney-shaped, about ten miles by four miles in extent, and with a comparatively narrow outlet to Spencer's Gulf. Mangroves grow in places in the shallow water and many species of sea and shore birds were present in fair numbers, including wild ducks. No special note was made of these birds, but the Sea Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*) was plentiful, as many as half a dozen being seen on the wing at times.

The country in the vicinity of Cowell is a plain of reddish sandy loam covered with Mallee, Saltbush, and other scrub typical of the drier agricultural districts of South Australia. About five miles west the Minbrie Ranges commence and rise to a maximum height of about 1,000 feet, and in from these ranges gum creeks, generally dry, trend in a general south-easterly direction, except to the north, where Salt Creek takes the northern drainage.

The following is a list of the birds noted around Cowell, from Cowell to Cleve, and thence to the south end of the Hundred of Mangalo. From Mangalo the return journey was made to Arno Bay, where the steamer was joined. On arrival

at Port Lincoln an hour was spent in the scrub south of the town and a few more species were noted.

- (1) Bronzewing (sp. ?). One bird seen.
- (2) *Numenius cyanopus*, Sca Curlew. Plentiful at Cowell.
- (3) *Uroaetus audax*, Wedge-tailed Eagle. One bird was seen in the Ranges.
- (4) *Ieracidea berigora*, Brown Hawk. One bird was seen.
- (5) *Cerchneis cenchroides*, Nankeen-Kestrel. Two or three birds were seen.
- (6) *Barnardius zonarius*, Port Lincoln Parrot. Several were seen in the Ranges.
- (7) *Psephotus varius*, Varied Parrot. Fairly numerous near Cowell.
- (8) *Halcyon sanctus*, Sacred Kingfisher. One bird was seen in the mangroves at Cowell.
- (9) *Merops ornatus*, Bee-eater. A few birds were seen at one place.
- (10) *Hirundo neoxena*, Welcome Swallow. Plentiful at Cowell.
- (11) *Cheramoeca leucosternum*, White-backed Swallow. Several birds were seen.



- (12) *Petroica goodenovii*, Red-capped Robin. Several birds seen in the Ranges.
- (13) *Rhipidura leucophrys*, Willie-Wagtail. Comparatively rare.
- (14) *Seisura inquieta*, Restless Flycatcher. Quite numerous.
- (15) *Oreoica gutturalis*, Crested Bell-Bird. Several noted.
- (16) *Colluricincla rufiventris*, Western Shrike-Thrush. Several noted.
- (17) *Graucalus novae-hollandiae*, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike. Two birds were seen.
- (18) *Drymodes brunneopygia*, Southern Scrub-Robin. One bird was noted.
- (19) *Hylacola cauta*, Shy Ground-Wren. Several birds were seen.
- (20) *Pomatostomus superciliosus*, White-browed Babbler. Seen at Cowell.
- (21) *Epthianura albifrons*, White-fronted Chat. Plentiful.
- (22) *Acanthiza pusilla*, Brown Thornbill. Flocking with the Yellow-tailed Thornbills.
- (23) *Geobasileus chrysorrhous*, Yellow-tailed Thornbill. One flock of about a dozen birds was seen.
- (24) *Smicronis brevirostris*, Southern Weebill. Plentiful in low mallee close to Cowell.
- (25) *Malurus leuconotus*, White-winged Wren. One bird only was seen—at Cowell.
- (26) *Malurus assimilis*, Purple-backed Wren. Several were seen in Mangalo.
- (27) *Artamus cyanopterus*, Dusky Wood-Swallow. A few only were seen.
- (28) *Neositta pileata*, Black-capped Sittella. One flock was seen.
- (29) *Pardalotus ornatus*, Red-tipped Pardalote. Scarce
- (30) *Pardalotus xanthopygius*, Yellow-tailed Pardalote.
- (31) *Meliphaga virescens*, Singing Honey-eater. Few in numbers.
- (32) *Meliphaga cratitia*, Purple-gaped Honey-eater. Fairly numerous.
- (33) *Meliphaga ornata*, Yellow-plumed Honey-eater. In Mangalo, near a dam.
- (34) *Meliphaga penicillata*, White-plumed Honey-eater. Frequently seen.
- (35) *Anthochaera carunculata*, Red Wattle-Bird. In Mangalo—rare.

- (36) *Acanthagenys rufogularis*, Spiny-checked Honey-eater. Occasional ones were seen.
 (37) *Anthus australis*, Australian Pipit. Several were seen.
 (38) *Zonaeginthus guttatus*, Diamond Firetail. One bird was seen in a creek north of Cleve.
 (39) *Corvus bennetti*, Short-billed Crow. Plentiful.
 (40) *Corcorax melanorhamphus*, White-winged Chough. Several large flocks were seen near Cowell.
 (41) *Strepera versicolor*, Grey Bell-Magpie. Birds were seen at Cowell and in Mangalo.
 (42) *Cracticus torquatus*, Grey Butcher-Bird. One bird only was seen—near Cowell.
 (43) *Gymnorhina hypoleuca*, White-backed Magpie. Only occasionally seen, and these were exceptionally wild.

At Port Lincoln the following species were seen:—

Coturnix pectoralis, Stubble Quail.

Neophema (sp. ?).

Eopsaltria griseogularis, Western Yellow Robin.

Acanthiza pusilla, Brown Thornbill.

Smicronis brevirostris, Southern Weebill.

Malurus cyaneus, Blue-Wren.

Meliphaga cratitia, Purple-gaped Honey-eater.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae, New Holland Honey-eater.

Anthus australis, Australian Pipit.
