

## Notes on the Birds of Eyre Peninsula.

By J. B. Cleland.

During a week's visit to Eyre Peninsula towards the end of August, 1925, notes were made on the species and numbers of birds seen. These are embodied in the following paper. Port Lincoln was reached on 19th August and Elliston reached by mail motor that evening. Next morning we arrived at Talia to breakfast. Staying there a day and a half and after driving in a sulky to the coast, a return was made to Elliston on 21st August. On 22nd August, Dr. Todd, of Elliston, motored me to Mt. Wedge and Polda, 35 miles to the north-west. A return was made to Port Lincoln on 25th August. Next day I went through to Tumby Bay by motor, catching the steamer there for Wallaroo.

The numbers of individual birds seen whilst travelling were recorded. The numbers after each species in the accompanying list show how many individuals of the species were seen, the "journeys" being arranged in the following order:—(1) Port Lincoln to Wangary, 28 miles, fresh and cool; (2) Wangary to Elliston, 78 miles, afternoon fresh and cool; (3) Talia to Elliston, 25 miles, fresh and showery; (4) Elliston to Polda, 35 miles, fresh and showery; (5) Polda to Mt. Wedge, 18 miles, returning; (6) Elliston to Wangary, 78 miles, sunny and cool; (7) Port Lincoln to Tumby Bay, 30 miles. Thus if it is desired to know the number of Willie-Wagtails one may expect to see between Polda and Mt. Wedge, one would consult (220) and read the fifth figure in the list, viz., 2. If we want to know the number of any particular species of bird likely to be seen in traversing 292 miles of road on this part of Eyre Peninsula, the total at the end gives us the figure.

- (1) *Dromaius novae-hollandiae* (Emu).—The mounted constable at Elliston told me that during the previous few days 40 Emus had been seen at Mt. Wedge (20 miles north). They were stated to be eating the caterpillars which threatened to be a pest, coming in from the back parts annually at this time to eat the quandongs and caterpillars. The pastoralists protect them.
- (13) *Phaps chalcoptera* (Bronzewing).—0, 2, . . . . Total, 2.
- (23) *Tribonyx ventralis* (Black-tailed Native-Hen).—8 in the swamps near Lake Hamilton, 3 on the return journey.
- (55) *Sterna bergi* (Crested Tern).—0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2. Total, 3.
- (57) *Larus novae-hollandiae* (Silver Gull).—2, 3, 0, 2, 0, 11, 267. Total, 285.

- (58) *Gabianus pacificus* (Pacific Gull).—Elliston.
- (63) *Haematopus unicolor* (Black Oyster-catcher).—Elliston.
- (65) *Lobibyx novae-hollandiae* (Spur-winged Plover).—0, 4, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2. Total, 10.
- (66) *Zonifer tricolor* (Black-breasted Plover).—0, 1, 1, 0, 1, 1, 1. Total, 5.
- (71) *Charadrius ruficapillus* (Red-capped Dottrell).—Elliston. 0, 3, . . . Total, 3.
- (101) *Notophoxa novae-hollandiae* (White-necked Heron).—0, 3, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0. Total, 5.
- (106) *Chenopsis atrata* (Black Swan).—3, 2, 0, 0, 0, 14, 0. Total, 19.
- (112) *Tadorna tadornoides* (Mountain Duck).—0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 5, 0. Total, 7.
- (113) *Anas superciliosus* (Black Duck).—34 near Lake Hamilton.  
Duck (unidentified).—10, 0, 0, 0, 0, 30, 0. Total, 40.
- (122) *Phalacrocorax carbo* (Cormorant).—Elliston.
- (126) *Microcarbo melanoleucus*.—23 near Port Lincoln.  
Shags (unidentified).—0, 1, . . . Total, 1.
- (132) *Circus approximans* (Swamp Hawk).—1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 2, 0. Total, 4.  
Large Hawks (unidentified).—0, 6, 0, 1, 0, 2, 1. Total, 10.
- (136) *Uroaetus audax* (Wedge-tailed Eagle).—2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 2, 0. Total, 6.
- (150) *Cerchneis cenchroides* (Nankeen Kestrel).—Elliston.
- (156) *Trichoglossus moluccanus* (Blue Mountain Lorikeet).—0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0. Total, 2.  
Lorikeets (unidentified).—0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 8, several flocks. Total, 10 +
- (177) *Barnardius zonarius* (Port Lincoln Parrot).—0, 1, 0, 8, 0, 0, 0. Total, 9. Mt. Wedge, ♂, iris very dark brown, bill pallid horn, legs dark grey, total length 14 in., span of wings 20 $\frac{3}{4}$  in.  
*Psephotus*.—0, 4, . . . Total, 4.  
Parrot (unidentified).—0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0. Total, 1.
- (196) *Dacelo gigas* (Kookaburra).—0, 2, . . . Total, 2.  
Large Cuckoos.—0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0. Total, 2.
- (209) *Hirundo neoxena* (Welcome Swallow).—2, 66, 13, 16, 8, 35, 7. Total, 147.
- (216) *Petroica goodenovii* (Red-capped Robins).—0, 0, 0, 2, 1, 0, 0. Total, 3. Also at Talia.
- (218) *Melanodryas cucullata* (Hooded Robin).—0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 3, 0. Total, 4.

- (220) *Rhipidura leucophrys* (Willie-Wagtail).—1, 8, 0, 1, 2, 7, 0.  
Total, 19.
- (221) *Seisura inquieta* (Restless Fly-catcher).—0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0.  
Total, 1.
- (226) *Oreocia gutturalis* (Crested Bell-Bird).—0, 0, 0, 1, . . .  
Total, 1.
- (228) *Pachycephala rufiventris* (Rufous-breasted Whistler).—  
Elliston.
- *Pachycephala*.—0, 0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0. Total, 2.
- (234) *Graucalus novae-hollandiae* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Skrike).  
—0, 2, 0, 0, 6, 1, 0. Total, 9.
- (244) *Pomatostomus superciliosus* (White-browed Babbler).—  
0, 6, 0, 1, 2, 0, 0. Total, 9.
- (248) *Cincloramphus cruralis* (Brown Song-Lark).—1 between  
Port Lincoln and Tumby Bay.
- (251) *Epthianura albifrons* (White-fronted Chat).—4, 47, 1; 2,  
6, 56, 8. Total, 124.
- (263) *Acanthiza hamiltoni* (Red-tailed Thornbill).—0, 0, 0, 0, 0,  
1, 0. Total, 1: Mt. Wedge, ♂, iris dark tanny  
brown, paler peripherally, bill, pharynx and legs black,  
total length  $4\frac{3}{4}$  in., span of outspread wings  $6\frac{3}{8}$  in., mites  
on the wing, no entozoa. Talia, sex?, iris reddish brown  
round pupil, whitish at the periphery, bill, pharynx and  
legs black, total length  $3\frac{3}{4}$  in., span of outspread wings  
 $6\frac{1}{2}$  in.; miles on wing.
- (269) *Geobasileus chrysorrhous* (Yellow-tailed Thornbill).—  
2, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0. Total, 4. Also Elliston.
- (275) *Sericornis maculata* (Spotted Scrub-Wren).—Elliston.
- (280) *Malurus assimilis* (Purple-backed Wren) or *M.*  
*pulcherrimus*.—Elliston. Chestnut-winged Wrens were  
seen in the sandhills. The species may have been the  
rare *M. pulcherrimus* which has been found on Eyre  
Peninsula.
- Mulurus* (unidentified).—0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1. Total, 2.
- (291) *Artamus cyanopterus* (Dusky Wood-Swallow).—5, 13, 1, 6,  
6, 16, 1. Total, 48.
- (292) *Grallina cyanoleuca* (Magpie Lark).—1, 5, 0, 0, 0, 1 (Lake  
Wangary), 0. Total 7.
- (293) *Aphelocephala leucopsis* (Whiteface).—0, 7, 2, 3, 0, 10, 0.  
Total, 22. Also at Talia.
- (303) *Zosterops lateralis* (Grey-backed Silver-eye).—Elliston,  
♂, testes large, iris light brown, pharynx flesh-coloured,  
bill brown, pallid at base, legs pale yellowish brown,  
total length  $4\frac{3}{8}$  in., span of wings 7 in., no entozoa, no  
ectoza. The specimen obtained resembled in coloura-

- tion Adelaide specimens. It lacks the yellow throat of Pearson Islands bird and of a Flinders Island one in the S.A. Museum. On the other hand, another Flinders Island specimen is deficient in this yellow colouration. Flinders Island can be seen from Elliston and the Pearson Islands are seawards twice as far.
- (316) *Glyciphila melanops* (Tawny-crowned Honey-eater).—1, 1, . . . . . Total, 2.
- (320) *Meliphaga virescens* (Singing Honey-eater).—0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0. Total, 1. Also at Elliston and Talia.  
The following were probably mostly this species:—4, 4, 4, 17, 7, 7, 3. Total, 40.
- (325) *Meliphaga ornata* (Yellow-plumed Honey-eater).—Mt. Wedge, ♂, testes large, iris dark brown, bill black, pharynx orange, legs greyish brown, total length  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in., span of wings  $10\frac{3}{8}$  in.
- (329) *Meliornis novae-hollandiae* (New Holland Honey-eater).—3, 16, 0, 4, 0, 13, 0. Total, 36. At Elliston.
- (333) *Anthochaera carunculata* (Red Wattle-Bird). Some probably Brush Wattle-Birds and Spiny-cheeked Honey-eaters.—0, 10, 0, 23, 4, 8, 0. Total, 45.
- (335) *Acanthagenys ruficularis* (Spiny-cheeked Honey-eater).—See above. 0, 4, . . . . 0. Total, 4. At Elliston.
- (338) *Anthus australis* (Ground-Lark).—2, 3, 4, 2, 2, 1, 0. Total, 14.
- (339) *Mirafra horsfieldi* (Bush-Lark).—0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 2. Total, 2.
- (340) *Zonaeginthus guttatus* (Spotted-sided Finch).—0, 3, 3, 0, 1, 3, (Mt. Hope), 0. Total, 10.  
Crows.—1, 15, 7, 20, 26, 10, 11. Total, 90.
- (350) *Corcorax melanorhamphus* (White-winged Chough).—2, 3, 4, 6, 15, 0, 0. Total, 30. Nest with 4 eggs at Talia.  
*Strepera intermedia*.—1, . . . . . Total, 1.
- (354) *Cracticus torquatus* (Grey Butcher-Bird).—2, 0, 0, 4, 3, 1, . . . 0. Total, 10.
- (356) *Gymnorhina hypoleuca* (White-backed Magpie).—7, 12, 2, 20, 21, 28, 36. Total, 126.  
Sparrows.—1, 9, 12, 0, 1, 13, 4. Total, 40.  
Starlings.—10, 38, 5, 10, 0, 62, 110. Total, 236.  
Unidentified Birds.—21, 67, 10, 25, 3, 31, 8. Total, 165.

Total species of native birds seen, 28; of introduced species, 2.

Total number of native birds seen, 1,491; of introduced species, 276.

Distances in miles, 292.

The most abundant native birds were Silver Gulls (285), Welcome-Swallows (147), Magpies (126), White-fronted Chats (124), Crows (90), Ducks (74), Dusky Wood-Swallows (48), Yellow-plumed Honey-eaters (46), Wattle-Birds and other large Honey-eaters (45), Choughs (40), New Holland Honey-eaters (36), Shags (24), Whitefaces (22), Hawks and Eagles (20), and Willie-Wagtails (19).

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