

A Trip to Kangaroo Island.

· By J. Sutton.

The South Australian Museum sent two of its officers—Mr. H. N. Hale (Zoologist) and Mr. N. B. Tindale (Assistant Entomologist)—to collect on the island, and I accompanied them by invitation. I was on the island from 14th January to 5th February, 1926; and the others stayed three days longer by visiting the new caves at Kelly's Hill. We left Port Adelaide on the S.S. "Karatta" at 8.18 a.m. on 14th January, and, after calling at Glenelg, Normanville, Second Valley, and Hog Bay, arrived at Kingscote at 7.45 p.m. (In a direct line Kingscote is 74 miles south-west of Adelaide.) We stayed at an hotel for the night, and on the following day, after inspection of the eastern and western shores, decided to fix our camp at Reeve Point, about a mile west of the present township. At this point the original settlement on the island was made, and our camp was close to the shore-line and about 100 yards away from the "Mulberry-tree," which is said to be over 100 years old. To the south-west of our camp, and about 70 yards off, was a slaughter-yard, but as the wind was from the south-east continuously during our stay there of 10 days no unpleasant smell was noticed, but a small mob of pigs raided, or attempted to raid, our camp from 4 to 4.30 every morning, so, to protect our food, etc., we fixed up a "zareeba" of boxthorn branches, which was very effective. There was water at the

slaughter-yard, but as the pigs had access to it we obtained water by carrying it from a tank at "Hope" House, about one-quarter of a mile up on the hill.

During our stay there we worked the shores, went inland and about the town. About the township the land birds were very few, and, only for the Purple-crowned Lorikeets in the flowering mallees, there was very little calling. In the bush further back the situation was worse still, and scarcely any birds were noted, although the conditions seemed favourable for bird life. On the other hand, the sea birds and wading birds were in numbers on and about the shores of the main island and on Kingscote Spit Sanctuary. This sanctuary is about three miles in length when the tide is out, and the sandspit is then practically continuous from Busby Islet, on the west end, to Beatrice Spit, on the east end, but when the tide is in the area is split up into 14 islets. Busby Islet is covered in vegetation, chiefly samphire (*Pachycornia tenuis* (?) and *Arthrocnemum* (?)), coast saltbush (*Atriplex cinereum*), nitre-bush (*Nitraria schoberi*), boobyalla (*Myoporum insulare*), and *Chenopodium microphyllum*. The highest shrub is about five feet. One day a boatman rowed us over to Busby Islet, but we had only an hour there. We saw a small flock of Rock-Parrots in the low samphire, a few birds dodging about on the ground amongst the shrubs, and which could not be identified satisfactorily, but were thought to be Little Grass-Birds. Two days later we went to the islet by motor-launch, and were there from 10.15 a.m. to 1.20 p.m. I stayed about the islet and its shores, but my companions walked along the sanctuary almost to the eastern end of Beatrice Spit. The Little Grass-Birds were seen in numbers on the islet.

Another trip we took was by motor-lorry as far as the Cygnet River, followed that river down to its mouth, and then along the seashore to Kingscote and to our camp. On 24th January we left Kingscote by motor-lorry with our baggage, and food for a fortnight, for Vivonne Bay, 40 miles south-west of Kingscote. For nine miles out of Kingscote the road was good, but after that it was rough, and in many places we got severely jolted. At nine miles we crossed the Cygnet River near a fine orchard, and at 19½ miles crossed Little Timber Creek, then at a half-mile further on Big Timber Creek. There was no water in either of those creeks. Further on we stopped at an untenanted house and filled up 10 petrol-tins with water from a tank. That supply was to last us for drinking purposes for the fortnight we were at Vivonne Bay. On our arrival at the Harriet River, Vivonne Bay, we did not erect our tent, but camped on the

floor of a thatched hut—used as the dining-room of the only house there. This place was about a quarter of a mile from the seashore. The water in the river was brackish, and the mouth was silted up for a distance of 70 yards. The bay itself has a splendid sandy beach, and there is a fine jetty about 400 yards long in its south-west corner, and this is protected from the south-west wind by Point Ellen, a spot at one time used by whalers. The temperature at Vivonne Bay was warm to hot in the scrub in day-time and extremely cold at night, with occasional fogs on the river and the sea in the morning. We were out every day, either in the scrub or along the seashore or up the river. A boat was anchored in the river, without oars, and Mr. Tindale improvised paddles, which were used by Mr. Hale and himself, and, with the aid of a blanket for a sail, the boat went along well. We were able to go about three miles up the river, but at places trees had fallen across the stream and stopped our progress. On one occasion we walked a further two miles along the bank of the river, and where we turned back there was a fair stream of water still showing. We also walked to the nearest habitation, Mr. Cameron's, three and a half miles away on the Eleanor River. On 28th January we went along the seashore to the mouth of the Eleanor, but passed it in error, as we thought it was a creek, and went on a further two miles without finding a break in the sand hummocks. The mouth of the Eleanor is silted up for a quarter of a mile, and it is not such a wide stream as the Harriet River. That mistake turned out fortunate, as when we reached the river mouth in the first instance Mr. Tindale went into the sandhills to try for butterflies and insects, whilst Mr. Hale and I kept along the seashore. Whilst Mr. Tindale was amongst the sandhills and at a spot about one mile east of the Eleanor and about a quarter of a mile from the seashore, he found 12 bones of the extinct Kangaroo Island Emu. They were lying on the exposed bottom rock (upper tertiary limestone) of a sandblow, and were scattered over an area of nine yards in length by two yards in width, in the direction of the prevailing wind—south-east to north-west.

One day I walked to Cape Kersaint, five and a half miles in a direct line south-west from Vivonne Bay. That was a very rough walk over stones and very low scrub, which in places was so thick, although but five feet high, that it was impossible to get through without tearing one's clothes. All along the south-western shores beyond Vivonne Bay there is a fringe, between the cliffs and the sea, covered with immense bare rocks (quartzite) in all shapes and sizes, upon which the storms have

lashed the waves for countless years. At Cape Kersaint this fringe is an immense mass of granite, from which a piece of some hundreds of tons has broken away, and in the break there was a colony of Crested Terns. The covering of all the basic rock inland from the cliffs is limestone, clothed with very little soil and the low scrub.

The parts of the island we saw on the way to Vivonne Bay are covered with a low mallee scrub and with great numbers of grasstrees (*Xanthorrhoea*), from which latter the "yacca" gum is obtained and seems to be one of the main exports of the island. Where there are rivers or creeks there are high gumtrees along their banks.

Whilst I observed the birds Mr. Hale was collecting crustacea. He got many about the rocks at Kingscote, but Vivonne Bay turned out to be poor. Mr. Tindale was out day and night after butterflies and insects, but without much success.

Wallaby were in numbers, and so were Goannas. Six of the latter were shot almost in our camp. The longest was 44 inches. One female contained 14 eggs. The tracks of Wallabies and Goannas were numerous in the sand on the tracks. We cooked a Goanna as cutlets in a curry, but most of the meat dissolved from the bones, so I can't express an opinion on what it tastes like. I have been told since that we should have roasted it, blackfellow-fashion, in its skin. One snake was seen and shot. It was a tiger snake—jet-black back, bluish-grey belly marbled with black. It was four feet one inch long.

On my return journey on 5th February the steamer Karatta left Kingscote at 9.15 a.m., stopped for one hour 40 minutes at Hog Bay and 23 minutes at Glenelg, and reached Port Adelaide at 8.20 p.m.!

I have to thank Mr. A. M. Lea, F.E.S., of the S.A. Museum, for the particulars as to the contents of the birds' stomachs; Sir Joseph Verco, M.D., F.R.C.S., for the names of the shells; and Mr. J. M. Black for the names of the seeds and plants mentioned.

During our stay on the island we noted 76 species of birds with 4,422 individuals, and a Bronzewing (*Phaps*) and a Parrot (*Neophema*) were not identified. A list of the native species, with particulars, is given herewith. The figures in parentheses after the name indicate the number of birds noted. *Eudyptula minor*, Little Penguin (9).

Four of these were seen in burrows on the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit and towards the south-eastern end, where Messrs. Hale and Tindale saw 12 burrows in all, in one of which were two birds. Two were seen, and three others were heard calling amongst the rocks near the jetty at Vivonne Bay. On several nights we walked round to that jetty to hear the peculiar calling of these birds, which is not unlike the grunting and squealing of pigs. We took a petrol-vapour lamp, which gives a great light, and generally found the birds in the rocks to be quite close to the entrance to the burrow. In one instance we waited for the parent bird to come in from the sea, but as it did not appear after waiting some time we left the light at the spot and walked back about 50 yards and watched. Whilst we were at the latter spot the bird got in without our seeing it, as we found its tracks in the wet sand on our going for the lamp after a lapse of 20 minutes. The calling commenced each night at about 8.30, and continued on for a considerable time (the latest noted was 9.50 p.m.). An occasional bark would be heard far out in the sea before 8.30 p.m. At first I thought there was a great number of young Penguins amongst the rocks, on account of the incessant calling, but after listening on five nights I came to the conclusion that all the noise came from three birds. It seemed to me that the rough, snarling or growling noise was made with the expiration and the sharp jerky sounds with the inspiration of the breath. One young bird I saw on Kingscote Spit was very fat and with down only on the sides. Beside our camp at Reeve Point, Kingscote, were the moulting-places of two Penguins. They were situated in a thick clump of juniper and boxthorn shrubs. One spot was a hole excavated in the surface of the earth under a thick prostrate juniper-shrub and a boxthorn, which was lying on the ground, and one rather large limb was over the hole and close to its mouth. This hole was two and a half feet long, one foot wide, and nine inches deep, and there were plenty of small feathers in and about the hole. The other moulting-spot was on the surface, but under a thick mass of limbs of a juniper-shrub which rested on the ground. A quantity of small feathers were there also.

Coturnix pectoralis. Stubble Quail (1).

This bird was flushed near the Eleanor River in some grassy land near a flat, in which were some low shrubs.

Phaps, sp., Bronzewing (7).

One was seen in Little Timber Creek, five near the Harriet and Eleanor Rivers, and one was flushed in the low scrub near

the cliffs on the way to Cape Kersaint. We could not get near enough to these birds on any occasion in order to determine the species, and in every case the birds were flying forward away from us. (*Phaps elegans* is the species already duly recorded.) *Phalacrocorax carbo*, Black Cormorant (4).

These were seen about the Harriet River and generally flying high, but on one occasion I noted one bird with a whitish mark on the throat.

Phalacrocorax ater, Little Black Cormorant (2).

These were seen about the Harriet River and the jetty at Vivonne Bay.

Phalacrocorax varius, Pied Cormorant (223).

Two hundred and twelve were seen near Kingscote, one on the Cygnet River, and 10 at Vivonne Bay. Five of these last used to roost at night in a teatree on the river-bank, not far from our camp.

Microcarbo melanoleucus, Little Pied Cormorant (226).

Two were seen at Hog Bay, 122 near Kingscote, and two at Vivonne Bay.

A specimen (♀) was taken on the Harriet River—Iris brown; legs and feet black; bill, upper black, lower yellow; inside mouth blue. Stomach contents; crammed with bits of larval dragon-flies, bits of five large stink beetles and of two smaller ones (*Adelium*), and a nematode worm (probably a stomach parasite).

Pelecanus conspicillatus, Australian Pelican (8).

These birds were noted about the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit.

Hydroprogne caspia, Caspian Tern (2).

These birds were seen about Kingscote.

Sterna bergii, Crested Tern (68).

One was seen at Hog Bay, four about Kingscote, 24 were noted at Cape Kersaint. At the south-western base of that cape there is an enormous exposed portion of granite, from which a large piece, some hundreds of tons in weight, has fallen seawards. Into this break Crested Terns, young and old, were flying. I threw stones down along the granite, and they would disturb about a dozen birds each time. The birds would fly out to sea a little distance, and then return into the break. Evidently there is a ternery there, and the spot is unapproachable. On my way back from that cape I came on a flock of 39 Crested

Terns on the seashore close to the water and opposite the mouth of the Harriet River. Two of those birds were walking into the wavelets and having a bath. Many of those birds were young ones, and on being disturbed the whole flock flew away in the direction of Cape Kersaint.

Sterna nereis, Fairy Tern (40).

These birds were seen near the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit.

Larus novae-hollandiae, Silver Gull (580).

Seventeen were seen at Hog Bay, 492 about Kingscote, and 71 at Vivonne Bay.

Gabianus pacificus, Pacific Gull (33).

Nine were seen about Kingscote (five of them immature), 17 on Kingscote Spit (two of them immature), and seven at Vivonne Bay (two immature). The usual call of the adult birds was syllabized as "Nhow Nhow." One pair seemed to call "How How" and sometimes "How-how" (quickly repeated).

Stercorarius parasiticus, Arctic Skua (5).

One was seen near Hog Bay and four between that place and Kingscote. Twenty-three were seen between the Outer Harbour and Hog Bay. On our way to Kingscote on 14th January three Skuas flew over the steamer as it cleared the revetments at the Outer Harbour. After that, six Skuas were seen up to Normanville. They were chiefly occupied in chasing Silver Gulls who had obtained food. On one occasion, four Skuas chased one Silver Gull with food in its beak, until finally the Silver Gull dropped the food. On that happening, the nearest Skua dropped into the water and secured the morsel. On my way back on 4th February, the first Skua appeared opposite Point Marsden, Kangaroo Island, and 14 birds in all were met with up to Seacliff. I noticed that when a Skua dropped into the water after food it kept its wings flapping entirely out of the water and almost straight up in the air. When one occasionally settled on the water it folded its wings into the body without wetting them. Eight of the Skuas were the light phase; the others were the dark phase. Off Cape Jervis three Skuas persistently attacked a Crested Tern, and the latter bird put up a good fight with one Skua before it relinquished its catch. Opposite Port Noarlunga a Skua met a Caspian Tern crossing its track. I heard the Caspian Tern utter its harsh cry, and then saw the two birds have two or three strikes at one another before proceeding on their courses.

Arenaria interpres, Turnstone (3).

These birds were seen on the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit. One day at Kingscote on the shore near our camp I saw a strange bird, which I took to be a Turnstone, but the bird flew away to the sanctuary when I attempted to get near to it. On our second trip to the sanctuary the three birds were seen. The first of these birds was disturbed by my companions, who called out, "Here's a new bird," and it flew towards me and passed at a distance of about 40 feet, so that I had a good view of the bird, and identified it.

Haematopus ostralegus, Pied Oyster-catcher (72).

Twenty of these were noted on the shores and sandspits near our camp at Kingscote when the tide had ebbed, and 52 on the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit. They were usually in pairs, but in the case of a small flock there was a little distance between each pair. Their call, generally given as a warning or on taking flight, and sometimes on the wing, sounded to me like "Peep-peep." It has also been described as "Keep-keep."

Haematopus unicolor, Sooty Oyster-catcher (90).

This species was rare on the shore of the island itself, and only three were seen on the shores near our camp at Kingscote; but on the shores about the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit 87 were noted in scattered flocks, with a little distance between each pair. They were very wary, and would not allow a close approach. I did not hear them call at any time.

Lobibyx novae-hollandiae, Australian Spur-winged Plover (25).

Nineteen were noted near Kingscote, and six at Vivonne Bay. Two of the latter were young birds.

Charadrius cucullatus, Hooded Dotterel (21).

One of these was seen on the shore south of Kingscote in company with a Red-capped Dotterel; another bird was seen on the same shore near to the mouth of the Cygnet River; 19 were seen at Vivonne Bay along the water's edge at the seashore (nine, in three pairs, and one lot of three, were met with towards the mouth of the Eleanor River). On the shoreline towards the jetty at Vivonne Bay they were usually found in small flocks. Nine were the most I saw in one flock—three adults and six young birds. One of their calls sounded like "Fow." A young bird, ♀, was picked up dead near the mouth of the Harriet River—iris brown; legs and feet pale flesh; toenails blackish; bill, base reddish (more colour on the lower mandible), tip black; inside mouth, fleshy white; white collar

around neck; top of head, around eye, and on side of the neck at the top light brownish; back pale brown; upper tail feathers brownish, turning to blackish at tip; wings and secondaries light brown, primaries darker; a band of white goes right across the wing, appearing on the secondaries as a white edging, but on the primaries the edging is tipped with brownish to blackish; underneath all white.

A specimen (♂, adult) was taken at Vivonne Bay—Iris brown; legs and feet flesh colour; toenails black; bill fleshy pink, tipped black; eyelids vermilion; inside mouth rose.

Charadrius ruficapillus, Red-capped Dotterel (124).

Six were seen about the seashores near Kingscote, 54 on the sandy shores on the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit, and 64 in three flocks on the seashore of Vivonne Bay, east of the mouth of the Eleanor River.

Numenius cyanopus, Eastern Curlew (35).

Seven were seen on the shores near our camp at Kingscote, 27 about the shores of the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit, and one was heard calling on the Harriet River at Vivonne Bay. This species was the wariest we met, and it was impossible to get near to them, as they were always out in the open. As soon as the sea had receded about 50 yards from high-water mark on the shore near our camp at Kingscote one or two of this species would be feeding on the muddy land near the water's edge. The birds were never working close together, but generally from 300 to 400 yards apart. The usual call was "Courlee, curlee," and at times "Courlee" only was given, but I also heard slight variants, such as "Kurra-wee," "Cow-ree," or "Tow-ree." On rare occasions a bird would utter a little song, very difficult to syllabize; but which seemed to me to be "Courlee" repeated very quickly for two or three seconds. This call was ventriloquial.

Tringa nebularia, Greenshank (9).

Two were seen on the shores near our camp at Kingscote, one on the banks of the Cygnet River, another on the seashore near the mouth of the Cygnet River, four on the shores about the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit, and one was heard calling on the Harriet River at Vivonne Bay. They were very wary, and the nearest I got to a bird was about 75 yards. When they took flight they would go for about half a mile before alighting. Their call is generally "Tew-tew-tew," but I heard "Tew" repeated twice, and in one instance a bird called "Tew" four times quickly.

Erolia testacea, Curlew-Sandpiper (6).

Five of these were seen on the shore not far from our camp at Kingscote and one on the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit. On all occasions they were in the company of Little and Sharp-tailed Stints. Its long, slightly-arched beak of one and a half inches easily distinguished it from the other species, and one could get fairly close to the birds.

Erolia ruficollis, Red-necked (Little) Stint (298).

Two hundred and sixty-six of these birds were seen about the seashores near Reeve Point, Kingscote, and near the mouth of the Cygnet River, and 32 on the shores of the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit. Generally they were in the company of the next species. They make little runs for a distance of a few feet when feeding. Frequently I noticed a Sharp-tailed Stint peck at a Little Stint as it passed.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote, ♀, iris dark brown; legs and feet dark slate; inside mouth slaty grey. Stomach contents: 12 minute shells, *Lissotesta contabulata* (*Cyclostrema*), and some sand.

Erolia acuminata, Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (Stint) (436).

Two hundred and forty-two were seen about the seashores near Reeve Point, Kingscote, and near the mouth of the Cygnet River, 191 were noted on the shores of the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit, and three were seen on the banks of the Harriet River at Vivonne Bay. They were usually in company with the Little Stints, but at times in flocks by themselves. They were the tamest of the wading birds, and would allow one to get within 50 or 60 feet of them and to watch them for some time. The two species of Stints would be feeding on the shores near our camp at Kingscote even when the tide was in. The only call I heard from this species was a sharp "Wick."

Two specimens were taken at Kingscote:—♀—Stomach contents: many small shells, *Pronucula micans* and *Salinator fragilis*, and much sand grit. ♂—Stomach contents: small shells, *Salinator fragilis*, and much sand grit. Another specimen, a ♂, was taken on the Harriet River. The descriptions were— Iris dark brown, legs and feet olive, bill olive black, lower mandible lighter at base, inside mouth whitish.

Notophox novae-hollandiae, White-faced Heron (82).

Forty-two were seen on the shores near Kingscote, 30 on the shores of the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit, six on the Cygnet River near Kingscote, three on the Harriet River, and one on the Eleanor River at Vivonne Bay.

Chenopsis atrata, Black Swan (187).

Ninety-seven were seen on the shores at Reeve Point and to the east of Kingscote; 63 were about the shores of the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit, 14 on the Cygnet River near Kingscote, eight on the Harriet River, and five on the Eleanor River at Vivonne Bay. About 10 of those seen east of Kingscote were Cygnets, and on the Harriet River one morning in a boat we flushed three Swans from the river, and when we reached the spot they rose from, a Cygnet splashed out from the cover of an overhanging tree. It was very fat, and could not fly, yet it could get along fast in the water with the aid of its feet and wings. Swans were heard calling during the night on one or two occasions at the Harriet River.

Anas superciliosa, Grey (Black) Duck (54).

Three were seen on the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit, four were noted on the Eleanor River, and 47 on the Harriet River at Vivonne Bay.

Querquedula gibberifrons, Grey Teal (12).

These were seen in one flock on the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit.

Spatula rhynchotis, Blue-winged Shoveller (2).

These birds were seen on the Harriet River. At a distance of about three miles from its mouth the river is obstructed by trees having fallen in and across the stream. I was walking along the bank, and from amongst the limbs of a fallen tree this pair flushed from the stream, not 50 feet in front of me, and the blue wings could easily be seen. I flushed them later on a second time further down the river towards its mouth.

Circus approximans, Swamp Harrier (3).

One was seen on the sanctuary at Kingscote Spit, one at the Cygnet River near Kingscote, and one at Vivonne Bay. In each case the bird was flying very low (about 30 feet up), just over the trees, and the white base of the tail was most noticeable.

Astur fasciatus, Australian Goshawk (4).

Three were seen near Kingscote. Two of them were at the back of the town; and they were chasing one another and calling out during the chase. One was seen at Vivonne Bay.

Haliaeetus leucogaster, White-breasted Sea-Eagle (1).

On my way back from Cape Kersaint, near Vivonne Bay, this bird flew past me as it went westwards. I had a good view

as it was about 70 feet up. As it got near to me four Crows attacked it, but the Sea-Eagle flew on without appearing to take notice of the Crows, and the latter gave up the chase after going a short distance.

Falco berigora, Brown-Hawk (1).

This bird was seen by Messrs. Hale and Tindale near Stunsail Boom River.

Falco cenchroides, Nankeen Kestrel (12).

Four were seen near Kingscote, two near the Cygnet River, two on our way to Vivonne Bay, and four at Vivonne Bay— one of these last we disturbed on the cliffs along Vivonne Bay at 8.30 p.m., whilst we were going, with the lighted lamp, towards the jetty to listen to the Penguins.

Pandion haliaetus, Osprey (Fish Hawk) (1).

This bird was seen on the southern coast to the west of Vivonne Bay. The bird was flying westwards, and seemed surprised to see a human being, for it turned and circled around me four or five times, twice flying directly over my head at a height of about 50 feet.

Trichoglossus novae-hollandiae, Rainbow (Blue Mountain) Lorikeet (24).

These birds were seen about the big gumtrees along the courses of the Harriet and Eleanor Rivers at Vivonne Bay.

Glossopsitta porphyrocephala, Purple-crowned Lorikeet (139).

One hundred were noted in the flowering mallee-trees in the township of Kingscote, 24 were seen flying overhead at the Harriet River, and 15 at the Eleanor River.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote—♀, iris light yellow, legs and feet olive, bill black.

Calyptrorhynchus funereus, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoo (1).

This bird was seen at Little Timber Creek (dry) on our way to Vivonne Bay. There were many gumtrees in the bed of that creek, with much scrub. The smaller gumtrees were about 12 feet to 15 feet high, whilst the higher trees were mostly dead. On doing the "kissing stunt" this bird flew up from the scrub on to a dead tree and called out a number of times "Are-wee-larr" or "Er-wee-larr." After a little while it flew down the creek, calling out all the time.

Platyercus elegans, Crimson Rosella (17).

Seven of these were noted in the big gums along the Harriet River, and 10 along the Eleanor River.

A specimen was taken at the Harriet River—♂, iris dark brown; legs and feet grey black; bill, upper light horn, lower grey; inside mouth white.

Neophema petrophila, Rock Parrot (57).

One was seen on the shore near Reeve Point in some low samphire; 42 in the samphire on Busby Islet, part of the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit; and 14 on my walk to Cape Kersaint, and they flew out of juniper-bushes growing on the face of the cliffs.

Neophema sp. (1).

This bird was seen on the Eleanor River on 28th January on our first walk there. My companions were about 50 yards ahead of me, and the bird flew back from them past me. From the coloration I thought it was *N. elegans*, but was not sure. I made three other trips to this spot, but did not flush a bird of this species again.

Caçomantis flabelliformis, Fantailed Cuckoo (1).

On the morning of 31st January I was out before 7 a.m. in the scrub about 100 yards behind our camp and heard a one-note call that was unfamiliar to me. I did the "kissing stunt," and was surprised to see this Cuckoo fly to a tree near me. It seemed to me to be a lighter colour than the usual mainland species. At 5.22 a.m. on 3rd February a Fantailed Cuckoo called, and four times after that time.

Hirunda neoxena, Welcome-Swallow (97).

Fourteen were seen near Kingscote, two on Busby Islet, three on the Cygnet River near Kingscote, 18 on our way from Kingscote to Vivonne Bay, and 60 at Vivonne Bay—25 of these last, some of which were young birds, were flying about and sitting on the jetty. The first night that Messrs. Hale and Tindale went after crustaceans near the jetty, a number of birds flew out from a small cave in the seacliff, and one bird was killed with a hit from the lamp. It turned out to be a Welcome-Swallow. The next night I was with them, and a number of birds flew out from the cave as we passed and were thought to be Welcome-Swallows, but on a later night, when we walked past the cave at dusk, a number of birds flew out, and they were mostly Starlings!

Specimen, ♀, iris brown; legs and feet black; inside mouth yellowish.

Hylochelidon ariel, Fairy Martin (12).

These birds were seen about the bridge on the Eleanor River every time we passed there.

Rhipidura flabellifera, Grey Fantail (15).

Eleven were seen near Kingscote and four at Vivonne Bay. They seemed to me to be much quieter than the mainland birds.

Seisura inquieta, Restless Flycatcher (8).

Two were seen near Kingscote, one on the way to Vivonne Bay, and five at Vivonne Bay. This is the species called by the islanders the "Willie-Wagtail." The real Willie-Wagtail (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) I did not see, although I searched for it everywhere we went. This latter species, however, has been seen on the island by Messrs. J. W. Mellor, J. Neil McGilp, and F. E. Parsons.

Petroica multicolor, Scarlet Robin (22).

Sixteen were noted near Kingscote, five about Cygnet River near Kingscote, and one at Little Timber Creek. It was neither seen nor heard at or about Vivonne Bay. Two of the birds which were seen near Kingscote were in a faded plumage, as if in moult.

Pachycephala pectoralis, Golden Whistler (5).

One was seen at Little Timber Creek, and four were noted at Vivonne Bay.

A specimen was taken at Vivonne Bay—♂, iris chocolate-brown; legs and feet slaty; bill dark slaty; inside mouth white. There was a rufous wash on the occiput and nape of neck; rufous on the edges of the secondaries and a narrow ring of yellow around the vent. Stomach contents: a caterpillar, bits of longicorn beetles (*Bethelium ruidum*, *Syllitus* (?), and two of *Arceta*).

Colluricincla harmonica, Grey Shrike-Thrush (3).

These were noted at Vivonne Bay. They were very shy, and some of the calls were different from the mainland birds. One bird had a rather large white spot on the lores.

Coracina novae-hollandiae, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (13).

One was seen near our camp at Reeve Point, Kingscote, five on our way to Vivonne Bay, and seven about Vivonne Bay.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote—♂, iris very dark brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth white. Stomach contents: bits of large cockchafer beetle (*Anoplognathus*), and many minute fragments of insects.

Epthianura albifrons, White-fronted Chat (43).

Thirteen were seen about Kingscote, five on Busby Islet (Kingscote Spit), six near the Cygnet River near Kingscote, and 19 about Vivonne Bay.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote—♂, iris rose-red, legs, feet, and bill dark grey; inside mouth light grey.

Acanthiza lineata, Striated Thornbill (6).

These birds were seen in trees on the bank of the Eleanor River, Vivonne Bay.

Two specimens were taken—♀, iris hazel; legs and feet dark slaty grey; bill, upper dark slaty grey, lower slaty, paler at base; inside mouth dark fleshy. Stomach contents: 12 small caterpillars of leaf-eating beetle (*Edusa*), falcus of spider, many minute fragments of insects. ♂, same descriptions, but iris dark grey. Stomach contents: bits of minute ground-beetle (*Carabidae*), of small weevil (*Erirhinides*), of chalcid wasps of two species; many minute fragments of insects, small grit.

Acanthiza pusilla, Brown Thornbill (28).

One was seen at Kingscote and 27 about the Harriet and Eleanor Rivers at Vivonne Bay.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote—♀, iris orange; legs, feet, and bill greyish black; inside mouth dark grey. Stomach contents: crammed with fragments of small ants and of other insects too small for identification; bits of minute weevils (*Laemosaccus*). Another specimen, a ♂, was taken at the Eleanor River.

Sericornis maculatus, Spotted Scrub-Wren (24).

Seven of these were seen in shrubs growing on the shores near our camp at Reeve Point, Kingscote; four about the Cygnet River near Kingscote; and 13 about Vivonne Bay. At Reeve Point the birds were tame (quite the opposite to the mainland birds I have come across), and were about our camp every day. At that camp I had another experience of the danger in registering a bird by the call. Lying in bed about 7 a.m., I heard the call of a Budgerygar. The call was given a second time, so I went out to investigate with the field-glasses. I found the bird that was calling, watched it until it gave the Budgerygar call again, and it was a *Sericornis*! Only on that one morning did I hear that particular call from the *Sericornis*.

A specimen was taken at Kingscote—♂, iris white; legs and feet brownish black; bill black; inside mouth fleshy purple. Stomach contents: legs of homopterous bugs, bits of small weevils, spiders of several kinds, or bits of them, two kinds of black

seeds, one of which was *Rhagodia baccata*. Another ♂ was taken at Kingscote—Iris greenish white; legs, feet, and bill dark grey; inside mouth white. Stomach contents: four kinds of seeds, including *Threlkeldia diffusa*; a few minute fragments of insects; fine grit.

Hylacola cauta, Shy Ground-Wren (11).

These birds were all noted around Vivonne Bay in the scrub. They were heard singing early in the morning not 75 yards from our camp, and three times in the evening birds were singing there. On one occasion in the dusk three birds were singing beautifully—it seemed to be in emulation—in the scrub and quite close to the road we were walking along.

Megalurus gramineus, Little Grass-Bird (49):

These birds were all noted on Busby Islet in the sanctuary of Kingscote Spit. On our first trip there we had only a little time, and five birds were seen skulking on the ground amongst the higher samphire. I thought that they were *Megaluri*, but they uttered calls that were unknown to me. Our second trip to the islet was mainly to try to identify those birds. I walked right round the islet, going into the samphire every 50 yards or so, and giving the "kissing stunt," and also imitating the melancholy three-note call "Pee-pee-pee" of the *Megalurus*. The birds responded to the calls, but, strange to say, they did not give that melancholy call in answer, although twice there was something like it. In all my previous experiences with this species the birds gave that call in reply to my whistling. In this instance I could not syllabize the call given, but it was much stronger than the three-note call. The birds flew up on to the tops of the samphire and shrubs, remained on view for many seconds, and in cases flew towards me. I never previously had such views of this species. Usually they appear for about a second or two and then dart down into the reeds, etc. There must have been many more of the birds on that islet than I noted.

Stipiturus malachurus, Emu-Wren (2).

These birds were seen at Vivonne Bay. One very hot day I went through the low scrub in taking a short cut to the upper reaches of the Harriet River, where trees had fallen across it. I had walked for 20 minutes in the scrub without seeing or hearing a bird, but on coming to a rise about half a mile from the river I heard a faint call, which I thought was that of a Blue-Wren. To make sure, I gave the "kissing stunt," and immediately a bird flew up into a low mallee, about five feet

high, about 30 feet from me, and turned towards me, and as I saw its blue throat and brownish body I recognized it as a male Emu-Wren. By continuing the "kissing," I had the bird up in the tree for about 10 minutes, and most of the time he was calling also. I saw the female on the ground, but she seemed very shy, and would not fly up into the trees.

Malurus cyaneus, Superb Blue-Wren (83).

Twenty-nine were seen about Kingscote, two at Little Timber Creek, and 52 about Vivonne Bay. At Vivonne Bay a pair of Blue-Wrens with a young one used to feed each day right up to our camp.

A specimen, a ♂, was taken at Kingscote—Iris brown; legs and feet dark slaty grey; bill black; inside mouth pinkish. Stomach contents: bits of blowfly (*Calliphora*), heads, etc., of workers and soldiers of small ants (*Pheidole*); crammed with minute fragments of insects, mostly of minute flies and ants; one flat reddish seed.

Artamus cyanopterus, Dusky Wood-Swallow (44).

Eleven were seen about Kingscote, 31 between Kingscote and Vivonne Bay, and two at Big Timber Creek.

A specimen, a ♀, was taken at Kingscote—Iris reddish; legs and feet black; bill slaty-blue base, black tip; inside mouth grey. Stomach contents: bits of jewel beetle (*Curis*), bits of two species of small cockchafer beetles (*Heteronyx*), bits of carrion beetle (*Dermestes*), blue carrion beetle (*Saprinus*); heads, etc., of small bees; black ground bug (*Geobia australis*); bits of plant bug (*Pentatoma*); crammed with minute fragments mostly of small beetles and bugs.

Pardalotus xanthopygus, Yellow-tailed Pardalote (17).

Seven were noted about Kingscote, one on our way to Vivonne Bay, and nine at Vivonne Bay.

A specimen, a ♀, was taken at Kingscote—Iris grey; legs and feet light brown, claws only darker; bill black. Stomach contents: bits of many lerp scales (*Psyllidae*); two heads of small bees, bits of leaf-eating beetle (*Tomomyris*), head of small chinch bug, many other minute fragments of insects, some fibrous vegetable matter.

Pardalotus ornatus, Red-tipped Pardalote (31).

Seven were noted about Kingscote, three at Little Timber Creek, two at Big Timber Creek, and 19 about Vivonne Bay.

Zosterops halmaturina, Grey-backed Silver-eye (475).

This species was easily the most numerous land bird on the island. They were generally found in the juniper-bushes, on which the fruit was at that time ripe. One hundred and thirty-five were seen about Kingscote, one at the Cygnet River near Kingscote, three on our way to Vivonne Bay, and 336 about Vivonne Bay—some of the last were seen in the juniper-bushes near Cape Kersaint.

Three specimens were taken at Kingscote—A ♂, iris brown; legs and feet grey; bill grey; inside mouth flesh colour. Stomach contents: black seeds (*Rhagodia baccata*) and bits of berries, a few minute fragments of insects. A ♀, similar particulars but inside mouth yellowish. Stomach contents: nine scale insects (*Lecanium oleae*); pulp of a berry, one black seed. A ♂, similar particulars and inside mouth yellowish. Stomach contents: a small amount of vegetable pulp.

A specimen, a ♂, was taken at Vivonne Bay—Iris, legs, feet, and bill similar to the first one above, but inside mouth whitish.

Melithreptus brevirostris, Brown-headed Honey-eater (19).

Three were seen near Kingscote, five at Big Timber Creek, and 11 about Vivonne Bay.

Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris, Eastern Spinebill (13).

These birds were all noted about the Harriet or Eleanor Rivers at Vivonne Bay.

Gliciphila melanops, Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (3).

One was seen at Kingscote and two near the Harriet River, Vivonne Bay.

Zanthoniza phrygia, Regent Honey-eater (1).

This bird was feeding in the flowers of a tall mallee, in the company of Purple-crowned Lorikeets, in the township of Kingscote. A ♂, iris red; legs and feet dark grey; bill, upper black, lower horn colour; inside mouth yellow.

Meliphaga leucotis, White-eared Honey-eater (2).

One was seen near Kingscote and one at Vivonne Bay.

Meliphaga cratitia, Purple-gaped Honey-eater (34).

Eight were seen about Kingscote, one on the way to Vivonne Bay, and 25 at Vivonne Bay. In all the four specimens taken the wattle was orange; not purple. In a specimen taken by Captain White he mentions ("Emu," Vol. 12, 1913, p. 270) that the wattle was nearly white. The wattle in specimens of

the mainland species which I have seen is distinctly purple-coloured.

Four specimens were taken at Kingscote—A ♂, iris grey; legs and feet slaty grey; bill black; inside mouth yellow; gape and wattle orange. Stomach contents: two heads and other bits of small bees, minute fragments of other insects. A ♂ juv., iris dark grey; inside mouth golden. A ♀, similar particulars to first. Stomach contents: bits of small bees and of greenhead ant (*Ectatomma metallicum*), bits of small cockchafer beetle (*Scarabaeidae*), many other minute fragments of insects. A ♂, similar particulars to first.

Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera, Crescent Honey-eater (50).

These were all noted about the Harriet and Eleanor Rivers. It took me two or three days to be certain of the species. Their calls are many and varied, and the birds are so shy that it is difficult to get a clear view, as they hide, or remain, in the densest part of the trees. The birds called "Egypt" very poorly, but one particular call, which is often given, I made out as "Lovely duck."

A specimen was taken at the Harriet River, Vivonne Bay, a ♂; iris rich chestnut; legs black; feet slaty black; bill black; inside mouth pale yellow.

Meliornis novae-hollandiae, Yellow-winged Honey-eater (226).

This was the most numerous species of Honey-eater met with. None was seen about Kingscote. Two were noted on the way to Little Timber Creek, four at that Creek, seven at Big Timber Creek, and 226 about Vivonne Bay. As usual, they chased out every other Honey-eater that ventured into a tree in which they were feeding or sitting.

Anthochaera carunculata, Red Wattle-Bird (24).

Three were noted near Kingscote, one at Little Timber Creek, and 20 about Vivonne Bay.

Anthus australis, Australian Pipit (43).

Eighteen were seen about Kingscote, two near the Cygnet River, five on the way to Vivonne Bay; and 18 on the open spaces about Vivonne Bay.

Two females were taken at Vivonne Bay—Iris hazel; legs yellowish brown; feet brown; bill, upper slaty black, lower pinkish, tip blackish; inside mouth, one bird yellowish pink, the other whitish.

Zonæginthus bellus, Beautiful Firetail (6).

One was seen at Little Timber Creek, and five near the Eleanor River, Vivonne Bay.

Specimens, ♀ and ♂, immature, were taken near the Eleanor River—Iris dark grey; ring around eye light blue; bill red tinged, with grey at base and tip; legs and feet pale brown; inside mouth yellow. Stomach contents: ♀, crammed with seeds of grass (?), one round seed (*Stipa*); ♂, crammed with similar grass-like seeds as in ♀, and with white vegetable matter ((?) remains of seeds).

Aegintha temporalis, Red-browed Finch (7).

These birds were seen about the Eleanor River, Vivonne Bay. *Corvus coronoides*, Australian Raven (117).

One was noted near Hog Bay, 50 about Kingscote, three on Busby Islet, one at Cygnet River, 10 on the way to Vivonne Bay, two at Big Timber Creek, and 50 about Vivonne Bay. On many occasions about Vivonne Bay and the southern coastline the Crows used to fly at no more than 25 feet above the ground.

Specimens—♀, taken at Kingscote—Iris dark brown; legs and feet black; bill slaty black; inside mouth whitish. Stomach contents: some animal matter, maggot of fly, bits of large longicorn beetle (*Cnemoplites blackburni*), some minute fragments of other insects, much fibrous vegetable matter, some sand. ♀, taken at Kingscote—Iris dark hazel brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth whitish. Stomach contents: some tough animal matter, jaw of cricket, a few other fragments of insects, numerous grains of wheat and oats, bits of fruit (?), much fibrous vegetable matter, some small shells (*Diala lauta*, *Salinator fragilis*, *Bittium lawleyanum*, and *B. granarium*; Sir Joseph Verco thinks they were old dead shells when picked up by the bird), much fine grit. ♀, taken at Vivonne Bay—Iris very dark brown; legs, feet, and bill black; inside mouth pink. Dr. Morgan pointed out that the three birds had brownish eyes and brown bases to the feathers, and the second bird described above had hackles, but the other two were without them.

Strepera melanoptera, Black-winged Currawong (Bell-Magpie; (6).

Two were seen near the Eleanor River, two near the Harriet River, Vivonne Bay, and two near the Stunsail Boom River. The birds seemed to be similar to the mainland species, and the high-pitched call, "Chur-yer" is exactly like that given by this species at Kinchina, near Murray Bridge.

Gymnorhina hypoleuca, White-backed Magpie (57).

Twenty-six were seen about Kingscote, two near the Cygnet River, 15 on the way to Vivonne Bay, and 14 about the Harriet and Eleanor Rivers, Vivonne Bay.