

## Bird Notes from the West Coast.

By C. Sullivan, M.B., B.S.

During a walk along Ceduna beach on the morning of 9th September, five or six White-backed Swallows (*Cheramoeca leucosterna*) were seen. They had been previously observed at the same spot on the 21st of April. Apparently the site was favourable for nesting, low (12-ft.) cliffs fronting the beach, but no nests were found. The same morning I identified, with the aid of field-glasses, the White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*) and the Pied Cormorant (*P. varius*). These species appeared to be equally numerous. (A few weeks later I found a dead specimen of each on the Denial Bay beach.)

On the 9th of September I observed a flock of Red-necked Stints (*Erolia ruficollis*). The actual species was not decided on till a week later, when it could be compared with *E. acuminata*.

On the 11th I managed to get within ten paces of a solitary Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*E. acuminata*), and the rufous crown and olive legs were easily seen. The Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*) and the Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*) were also observed; in the latter bird the wing-tips and the sub-terminal tail band were black, but otherwise the under-surface was white, with no chest-markings at all.

On the morning of the 14th the return of the Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*) was observed. Numerous flocks, totalling some hundreds, appeared to be coming from a westerly or north-westerly direction. They did not stay, and no more were seen in the next three weeks, before I left the West Coast.

On the 15th the Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) was first seen, though not identified until a fortnight later.

On the 18th I approached the beach at high tide, and saw quite a variety of bird life, but most of the species were

extremely wary. On and about a small sandbank I saw six Greenshanks, 18 Eastern Curlews (on the 12th of August, when first seen, there were only six of this species), 50 to 60 Red-necked Stints, the same number of Sharp-tailed Sandpipers, about 50 Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*), 24 Red-capped Dotterels (*Charadrius ruficapillus*), about 30 Oyster-catchers (*Haematopus ostralegus* and *H. unicolor*) (the two species equally represented), six Silver Gulls (*Larus novae-hollandiae*), two Pacific Gulls (*Gabianus pacificus*) (adult phase), and a pair of Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*). A little further out the old landing-stage was covered with Cormorants, estimated at about 150 in number.

On the 25th September a pair of Curlew-Sandpipers (*Erolia testacea*) were seen, and a Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*).

The pair of Red-tipped Pardalotes (*P. ornatus*) which had been observed on the 14th of August building a nest in the limestone wall of the hospital were still busily engaged in feeding their young on the 7th of October. The same day the Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*) was seen on her nest, but on examination it was found that the young had hatched some days previously, and were past the pure-white downy phase. I also observed at the Denial Bay post-office some 20 Martins, which I think were *Hylochelidon nigricans*. On this day, 7th October, I observed the Bee-eater (*Merops ornatus*) for the first time this season.

A list of birds seen at Denial Bay from April to October, 1927, is subjoined. Many fairly common species were not seen, but their occurrence is known from two sources, the white man and the aboriginal. In the latter case the birds were identified from the illustrations, coloured and plain, in Dr. Leach's Australian Birdbook. With some species, such as the *Amytornis* and the Hawks, one may be doubtful as to the coupling of the native name with the bird in question; with others, e.g., the Pink Cockatoo or Little Penguin, there would be no doubt. I give the native names for what they are worth, without vouching for the accuracy of my transcription or the correctness of identification on the part of the native. I may here mention that the present natives at Denial Bay belong to the Kukata tribe, the old coastal tribe, the Weerung, being almost extinct. The natives claim, however, that they speak the coast language; it may be nearer to the truth to say that they speak a dialect comprising portion of the vocabulary of both. Only in a few cases did I ascertain which language the names belonged to.

## Birds Identified.

K. = Kukata.

W. = Weerung.

\* = Name most commonly used.

1. Black-tailed Native Hen (*Tribonyx ventralis*). Seen at Yalata, 80 miles west of Ceduna.
2. White-breasted Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*); native name, Pungala.
3. Pied Cormorant (*P. varius*); native name, Pungala.
4. Caspian Tern (*Hydroprogne caspia*).
5. Crested Tern (*Sterna bergii*).
6. Silver Gull (*Larus novae-hollandiae*); native name, Peeroo.
7. Pacific Gull (*Gabianus pacificus*); native name, Yow.
8. Pied Oyster-catcher (*Haematopus ostralegus*); native name, Piddadee.
9. Sooty Oyster-catcher (*H. unicolor*); native name, Beeter-bootta.
10. Banded Plover (*Zonifer tricolor*); native name, Kullijeejee.
11. Red-capped Dotterel (*Charadrius ruficapillus*).
12. Eastern Curlew (*Numenius cyanopus*); native name, Wunnoo. (Cf. No. 17.)
13. Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*).
14. Curlew-Sandpiper (*Erolia testacea*).
15. Red-necked Stint (*E. ruficollis*).
16. Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*E. acuminata*).
17. White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae*); native names, Wunnoo, Wonnoo. (Cf. No. 12.)
18. Black-Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*); native names, Kootee, \*Koorigal.
19. Grey (Black) Duck (*Anas superciliosa*); native names, Marrungurra (K.), \*Murrara murrara (W.). Generic names.
20. Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*) (v. No. 19).
21. White-breasted Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*); native name, Yakana.
22. Nankeen Kestrel (*Falco cenchroides*); native name, Wonya-winyee.
23. Port Lincoln Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*); native names, Pattel-puttel (K.), \*Boorri-boorri, \*Poollee, \*Bulling-bulling (same name) (W). N.B.—Also, Parrot (generic) = Bullee-bullee.
24. Mulga Parrot (*Psephotus varius*).
25. Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*); native names, Ngoongee, Chooleri (v. Nos. 85 and 92. "L" and "r" are often mixed up by the natives).

26. Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*); native name, Roo-el.
27. Rainbow-Bird (*Merops ornatus*); native names, Deero-deero (K.), \*Peerun-peerun (W.).
28. Pallid Cuckoo (*Cuculus pallidus*).
29. Welcome-Swallow (*Hirundo neoxena*); native names, Koolgeelga (K.), \*Worraga (generic name).
30. White-backed Swallow (*Cheramoeca leucosterna* (v. No. 29)).
31. Grey Fantail (*Rhipidura flabellifera*); native name, Khinter-khinter.
32. Willie-Wagtail (*R. leucophrys*); native name, Khinter-khinter.
33. Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*); native name, Khinter-khinter.  
(The natives group 31, 32, and 33 under the one name.)
34. Jacky-Winter (*Microeca fascians*).
35. Red-capped Robin (*Petroica goodenovii*); native names, Nyoongan (K.), \*Kummeracheeta (W.) (literally, "Uncle-bird").
36. Western Yellow-Robin (*Eopsaltria griseogularis*).
37. Western Shrike-Thrush (*Colluricincla rufiventris*).
38. Magpie-Lark (*Grallina cyanoleuca*).
39. Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike (*Coracina novae-hollandiae*); native name, Nan (ni) geer.
40. Chestnut Quail-Thrush (*Cinclosoma castanotum*); native names, Koolberra (K.), Meelga (?) (K. and W.) (may be names of two different birds).
41. Southern Scrub-Robin (*Drymodes brunneopygia*); native name, Chittering.
42. White-browed Babbler (*Pomatostomus superciliosus*); native names, Tyoon-tyoon (K.), \*Weebin (W.).
43. White-fronted Chat (*Epthianura albifrons*); native name, Nyee-nyee (v. No. 97).
44. Red-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza hamiltoni*).
45. Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*A. chrysorrhoa*); native name, Minning-minny ( ? ) generic.
46. Spotted Scrub-Wren (*Sericornis maculatus*).
47. Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*); native name, Worraga (generic). (Cf. No. 29.)
48. Dusky Wood-Swallow (*A. cyanopterus*) (v. No. 47).
49. Red-tipped Pardalote (*Pardalotus ornatus*); native name, Kongwa-cheeta (v. No. 102).
50. Grey-backed Silver-eye (*Zosterops halmaturina*).
51. Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*); native name, Deer-deer.
52. White-eared Honeyeater (*M. leucotis*).

53. Yellow-plumed Honeyeater (*M. ornata*).
54. Red Wattle-bird (*Anthochaera carunculata*); native name, Noggal.
55. Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*); deer-deer (?) (Cf. No. 51.)
56. Australian Pipit (*Anthus australis*); native name, Wirree.
57. White-winged Chough (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*); native name, \* Jibbool, Jeebin.
58. Brown Currawong (*Strepera intermedia*); native name, Peelool.
59. Grey Butcher-bird (*Cracticus torquatus*); native name, Kooladdee.
60. White-backed Magpie (*Gymnorhina hypoleuca*); native name, Kwoora.

## BIRDS SEEN, BUT NOT DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED.

61. Quail (sp.); native names, Mulbroo, Pundaree (a smaller species).
62. Tern (sp. *Fairy* ?) (? *Sterna nereis*).
63. Hawk (? Brown) (? *Falco berigora*); native name, Keerkin.
64. Lorikeet sp. (? *Glossopsitta porphyrocephala*); native name, Kilyilga.
65. Parrot sp. (*Neophema*).
66. Martin sp. (? *Hylochelidon nigricans*); native name, Worraga. (Cf. No. 29.)
67. Whiteface (? *Aphelocephala leucopsis*).
68. Song-Lark (*Cinctorhamphus*).
69. Honeyeater (? *Melithreptus brevirostris*).
70. Miner sp. (? *Myzantha flavigula*).
71. Corvus sp. (*Corvus*); native name, Karn-ga. All those seen with field-glasses appeared to be white-eyed.

## BIRDS NAMED BY ABORIGINALS, BUT NOT OBSERVED.

(Among these, it must be remembered, may be birds not found on the coast, but found perhaps further inland or in the Gawler Ranges.)

72. Emu; native names, \* Kulliya, Kalar (a as in hair) (K.); Ee-mee-awk (W.). Not found here now. Saw a pair of native "murder boots" felted with Emu feathers.
73. Little Penguin; native name, Choolia. Found on the islands off the coast.
74. Mallee-Fowl; native names, Unnamurra (K.), \* Kulwing, Koolbing (W.). A string of eggs was seen at Denial Bay.

75. Pigeon; native names, Munbilla, Koolperoo. Separate species.
76. Eastern Swamp-hen; native names, Anacheeta, Batan-bata (a as in arm).
77. Southern Stone-Curlew; native name, Weerloo.
78. Australian Bustard; native names, Gibarra (K.), \*Woddering (W.). Not so common of late years.
79. Cape Barren Goose. On the islands (St. Peter Island and St. Francis Island).
80. ? Grey Goshawk; native name, Boo(l) dilla.
81. ? Collared Sparrowhawk; native name, Wolbring.
82. Wedge-tailed Eagle; native name, Wolya. Common inland.
83. ? Australian Little Eagle; native name, Kulginjee.
84. ? Peregrine Falcon; native name, Monga. "Catch duck flying; very fast."
85. Boobook Owl; native names, Koolgooling, Kookalee, Choor-choor (K.) (but v. Nos. 25 and 92).
86. Barn Owl; native name, Wurrungurra (K.).
87. Pink Cockatoo; native names, Kukkalulla (K.), Yangwina W.). Seen in captivity.
88. Galah; native name, Beera-beera.
89. Cockatoo-Parrot; native name, Kooyilgurra.
90. Blue-Bonnet; native name, Mundil.
91. Budgerygah; native names, Yattaturra, ? Kilyilga. (See No. 64.)
92. Owllet Nightjar; native name, Choor-choor (K.) (v. No. 85), Pingery.
93. Laughing Kookaburra. Not very common, I am told.
94. Nightjar; native name, Koongra.
95. Bronze Cuckoo; native name, Googering.
96. Crested Bell-Bird; native names, \*Pan-pan-boolala, Boggoo-boggoo. The blacks said it was common; it may have been so further inland.
97. Crimson Chat; Nyee-nyee (v. No. 43).
98. *Amytornis* sp.; native name, Igadigadee.
99. Emu-Wren; native name, Cheerl-cheerl.
100. Blue-and-White Wren; native name, Moodring.
101. *Malurus* (another species); native name, Chilgeding.
102. Treecreeper; native name, Purradin.
103. Pardalote (*P. xanthopygus?*); native name, Kongwacheeta (v. No. 49).