

SAOA Historical Series No 47

Dr William Thomas Angove, 1854-1912. Part 2

Dr Angove's "Egg Book" is a small, slim and black-covered notebook which was brought out to Australia with him in 1886, as in the back of the book are water sample analyses from 1883-85 from around his home in England at the time – the Mildenhall district. The first two pages at the front of the book give climatic records for April (no year), presumably for England, as the temperatures appear too low to be for Tea Tree Gully in April. Then on the third page, we have the announcement: "Commenced collecting Sept. 1887". There are just 20 double pages noting the collection of 367 clutches from September 1st 1887 till September 1st 1905, with the majority being from 1887 and 1888. For each clutch of eggs, the usual columns are: English name, number of eggs in the clutch, F or S (i.e. first or second clutch), date of collection, locality of collection, scientific name and remarks.

The writing is sometimes hard to decipher and, for some clutches, not all columns are filled in. Also the bird names, whether scientific or English, have changed in some cases, so some detective work has been done to work out exactly which species are meant. CSIRO (1969) was useful in checking old names for Australian birds. The second column in Table I lists the bird species for which clutches were collected in the Tea Tree Gully district (including Inglewood, Houghton and Golden Grove) from the egg book data. A few species were only collected at Modbury and these have been denoted with an (M) and dates of collection are given for all species in this column. I have not included the 'Black Magpie' as I am not sure whether Angove is referring to the Grey Currawong by this name and no scientific name is ever given.

There are a few species in the notebook collected in other parts of South Australia and even Australia. Some of these clutches were received from others, sometimes by exchange and include Brown Falcon and Banded Lapwing ('taken by McEwen from north'). A few clutches came from O. Smith's collection – the species represented are Bush Stone-curlew, White-fronted Chat, Swamp Harrier, Laughing Kookaburra, Red-rumped Parrot and Zebra Finch. A small group of clutches was collected by Angove from the St Kilda/Port Gawler region and include White-winged Fairywren, White-browed Scrubwren and a cormorant (possibly Little Black Cormorant).

A clutch of two Spotted Quail-thrush eggs was noted from September 1904 as being from Von Der Borch, with no other details. However Angove's Natural History Notebook gives more information; on 3rd October 1904 he notes a clutch of this Species being received from Von Der Borch, taken at Chain of Ponds. Angove notes that these eggs were much larger than the other pair of eggs he has which were taken at Brightlands (Tea Tree Gully). Leopold Friedrich Carl Gotthard Herman von der Borch (1846-1919), a Baron, came to Australia in the 1870s and eventually became the engineer in charge of the reservoir at Chain of Ponds. He had 13 children with Sarah Moon May (<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/5651103>, accessed 22 January 2014).

On comparing the data from the egg book with a list of Angove's clutches in the SA Museum (SAM), it is apparent that the two are vastly different. Angove collected multiple clutches of common birds in the spring of 1887 and 1888 and often only one of these clutches made its way into the Museum. The likely explanation for this is the decision by Mrs Angove to keep the duplicate clutches for her sons when her father-in-law's collection was donated to the SAOA in 1921 (Paton 2013). Moreover the egg book has meticulous entries for the years 1887, 1888 and to a lesser extent, 1889, but scant records after that. Dr Angove continued to collect eggs at least until 1909, the date of the last clutch collected by him in the SAM collection.

The other major difference between the two lists is the number of collectors involved. There are 291 clutches in the Museum

References

- Attwood, R. 1977. Birds, in *Report of the Tea Tree Gully Flora & Fauna Study Group*. Tea Tree Gully City Council.
Attwood, R. undated. *A list of the birds of Tea Tree Gully*. Prepared for the National Trust of South Australia (Tea Tree Gully Branch).
CSIRO. 1969. *An index of Australian bird names*. Div of Wildlife Research Technical Paper No. 20.
Paton, P. 2013. *SAOA Historical Series No. 46 Dr William Thomas Angove (1854-1912)*. SAOA Newsletter 228.

attributed to the WT Angove Collection and, of these, 70 were collected by WT Angove, 54 by Edward Angove and 4 jointly by the father and son. So over half the clutches were collected by others, some presumably by gift and others by exchange or purchase. Most other collectors are represented by one or several clutches, but F.A. Claridge (Tas), Buckley (SA) and C.E. May (NT) collected at least 10 clutches each. Angove added considerably to his collection by seeking egg clutches from interstate to expand the species represented. Very few clutches were exchanged with the notable South Australian collectors of the day, with one or two from E. Ashby, J W Mellor, A Morgan and the Zietz father and son. About 50 clutches do not have the collector acknowledged.

The third column in Table I rounds out the list of species for which eggs were collected from the Tea Tree Gully district from the Angove collection in the SAM. While the list from the egg book and SAM combined is a good one and includes species that are now extinct in the district, there are some surprising omissions. The Species that are conspicuous by their absence from the list include *Common Bronzewing, Australian Owllet-Nightjar, all the common parrots, lorikeets and cockatoos of the Mt Lofty Ranges, *Fan-tailed Cuckoo, *Southern Boobook, White-throated Treecreeper, Brown Thornbill, Striated Pardalote, *Brown-headed Honeyeater, Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, Grey Currawong, Restless Flycatcher and Tree Martin. In addition there are no introduced birds in the collections. Those species marked by an asterisk are included as sight records from Tea Tree Gully in Angove's Natural History Notebook. Moreover from this notebook we know that at Salisbury he saw the Owllet Nightjar, Striated Pardalote and Purple-crowned Lorikeet, while he recorded the White-throated Treecreeper at Cudlee Creek.

Rodney Attwood has independently researched early bird records from the Tea Tree Gully district and come up with an extended bird list (Attwood 1977). As well there are a few additional species from Tea Tree Gully and Golden Grove derived from specimens in the SAM from the F T Hall collection and some collected by A W Smith. Mr Smith was a resident of Golden Grove and the F T Hall collection was purchased from Hall's grandson Peter Hall at the end of the 1970s (P. Horton pers. comm.). I have incorporated these extra Species from 1880-1918 in the fourth column of Table I. This picks up some of the birds that I was surprised that Angove does not mention. Moreover Rodney accessed a copy of Gould's Birds of Australia owned by W T Angove, in which he made annotations about birds he observed and some of these "missing" Species are mentioned here. The area covered appears to be larger than the Tea Tree Gully district that I have focused on and the additional Species are in column five of Table I.

The only species that I thought should have been about then that are missing from Table I are the Tree Martin and the Grey Currawong. The almost total lack of introduced birds may reflect their rarity at this time in the Tea Tree Gully district. The Eurasian Blackbird, European Goldfinch, House Sparrow and Common Starling were introduced in the Adelaide region in the 1860s and the Common Greenfinch in about 1880 (Attwood undated), so possibly these species had not arrived or were uncommon in the Tea Tree Gully district during Angove's period. The earliest record I can find for House Sparrow in this district is a clutch of eggs from December 1891 collected by A W Smith from Golden Grove.

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Penny Paton

Table 1 — Bird Species recorded from the greater Tea Tree Gully district, 1887-1918

Bird Species	Date of collection from Egg Book	W T Angove Egg Collection (SAM data)	Spp recorded 1880-1918 (Attwood 1977 & SAM Collection)	Extra spp Angove's annotation in Gould
Stubble Quail	10-12/88, 10/89			Common during summer months but not as numerous as formerly
Grey Teal				Occasionally seen
Pacific Black Duck				Occasionally seen
Common Bronzewing			Species present	A few about nearly always; very shy
Peaceful Dove		F Hall 1904 TTG		
Tawny Frogmouth	9/88			Not very common, more numerous in hills
Spotted Nightjar				Tregrehan, 1/6/1901 on ground in honeysuckles
Australian owl-Nightjar			Species present	Fairly common, eggs 1898
(?Fork-tailed) Swift				Occasional summer visitant; seen 3-4 times in 12 years
Cormorant Species (<i>Phalacrocorax novaehollandiae</i>)				Occasionally seen, more especially along the Torrens
White-faced Heron	9/87			Frequently seen
Whistling Kite			Skin, Golden Grove 4/1899 A W Smith	
Swamp Harrier				Annual visitant, have eggs from Beefacres Paddock
Spotted Harrier			Eggs and skin from Golden Grove (1903 & 1911 resp.)	Fairly common; eggs from Golden Grove, F Hall
Wedge-tailed Eagle				Seen occasionally; nest at Golden Grove
Nankeen Kestrel	10/88			Very common; nests very common
Brown Falcon			Clutch of eggs TTG 10/08 FT Hall EC	
Spotted Crake			Skin from TTG 5/18 FT Hall Coll	
Buff-banded Rail	11/88			Always a few about
Black-tailed Native-hen				An occasional visitant, sometimes in considerable numbers
Australian Bustard				One or two seen nearly every year
Bush Stone-curlew	9/87			Common
Painted Buttonquail		WT Angove 9/05 TTG		
Little Buttonquail		E Angove 12/89 TTG		
Yellow-tailed Black-Cockatoo				A good many seen every year; nests about the Torrens; feeds about honeysuckle
Sulphur-crested Cockatoo				Very occasionally seen but very numerous along the Torrens in the hills
Cockatiel				Nested in Hancocks scrub 2/11/1898; first heard of in 1896 when apples very plentiful about (illegible) ?Cudlee Creek; eggs
Musk Lorikeet				Very common; at times coming in great flocks
Purple-crowned Lorikeet			Species present	Very common; at times coming in great flocks
Crimson Rosella			Eggs from TTGully 10/02 FT Hall Coll	
Red-rumped Parrot				(Illegible) dam
Budgerigar				Fairly numerous
Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo	9/87			
Shining Bronze-Cuckoo			Species present	
Pallid Cuckoo (in White-plumed and Tawny-crowned	11/88			Very common

Honeyeater nests)				
Fan-tailed Cuckoo			Species present	
Southern Boobook			Species present	Fairly common, but not seen for some time
Eastern Barn Owl	9/04 (M)			Occasional but not very common
Azure Kingfisher			Species present; eggs from Snake Valley 11/1906 F Hall	Occasionally seen along the Torrens from the Gorge up
Laughing Kookaburra				Common, nests freely
Red-backed Kingfisher			Species present	
Sacred Kingfisher	9/87			Fairly common; builds in holes in creek banks
Rainbow Bee-eater	9/87, 11/88			Fairly numerous; nests in the sand all about district
White-throated Treecreeper			Eggs from TTG 10/97 FT Hall Coll	Fairly common but more numerous in the hills
Brown Treecreeper	11/88			Common but more numerous in the hills
Superb Fairywren	9/88			Very common
White-browed Scrubwren			Species present	
Chestnut-rumped Heathwren			Eggs from TTG 9/09 FT Hall Coll	
Weebill	10/04 (M)			Common
Striated Thornbill		E Angove 9/05 TTG		
Yellow Thornbill			Species present	
Yellow-rumped Thornbill	9/87, 8.9/88			Very common
Buff-rumped Thornbill	10/88			Very common; more so in hills
Southern Whiteface			Eggs from TTG 9/04 & 10/10 FT Hall Coll	
Spotted Pardalote	10/88			Spotted: Fairly common in foothills; more common in hills; Yellow-rumped Pardalote: common; birds from Hancocks scrub with egg in hole in ground
Striated Pardalote				Very common in foothills and further up
Eastern Spinebill	8-12/88			Very common; also in hills
Yellow-faced Honeyeater	10/88			Fairly common; more numerous about Breakneck in hills
Singing Honeyeater	9/88			A few about Golden Grove, building in ravine running down to Salisbury Plain
White-plumed Honeyeater	8-10/88			Very common
Noisy Miner	9/88			Common but much more numerous at Golden Grove, Modbury & the hills
Little Wattlebird	9/88			Common at Golden Grove, occasionally here
Regent Honeyeater	Sep 1888		Eggs from Golden Grove 806 & 9/06 FT Hall Coll	Very rare; about 1887/1888 obtained a specimen and eggs from hills above TT Gully but not seen lately
Red Wattlebird	9,10/88			Very common, also in hills
Crimson Chat				6-8 first seen 1898 on back road to Tregrehan; nested Hancocks paddock
White-fronted Chat	9/87, 10/88			Common but more so on plains toward Adelaide & Salisbury
Black Honeyeater	9-11/88			Occasional summer visitant; numerous 1898, but more so 5 years ago
Tawny-crowned Honeyeater	1/88, 8/88			Very common in scrub all about
Crescent Honeyeater		E Angove 9/06 TTG		
New Holland Honeyeater	8/87, 8-10/88			Very common; nests early
Black-chinned Honeyeater		E Ashby Oct 1906 TT Gully		Fairly common
White-naped Honeyeater	8.10/88, 9/04			Common but more so in hills
Spotted Quail-thrush	8/87, 9/05	(probably TTG)		
White-browed Babbler	87, 7-9/88			Very common
Varied Sitella	9/87			Rather rare but nearly always a few about

White-winged Triller	9/87, 10/88			Annual visitant in considerable numbers, nesting mostly in honeysuckle
Crested Shriketit	Sep 1888			Always a few about
Golden Whistler	Oct 1888			Not very common; always a few about
Rufous Whistler	Sep 1887			Not very common; always a few about
Grey Shrikethrush	9/87 9-11/88			Very common
Masked Woodswallow	11/88			Occasional summer visitant in considerable numbers every 3-5 years; plentiful 1898
White-browed Woodswallow	8-11/88			Occasional summer visitant; numerous 1898
Dusky Woodswallow	9/87, 10,11/88			Very common; nests freely in forks of saplings
Grey Butcherbird			Skin from TTG 6/02 F Hall	
Australian Magpie	9/87 8-11/88			
Grey Fantail	10/04			Fairly common but much more numerous in hills about Gumeracha
Willie Wagtail	9/87, 9- 11/88			Very common
Little Raven (assumed to be this species, corvid taxonomy confused at this time)	Sep 1887			Very common but does not nest in immediate vicinity
Restless Flycatcher				Not very common but always some about; more numerous in hills
Magpie lark		WT Angove TTG		An occasional visitant from the Murray; nests at Gumeracha, Golden Grove, Modbury nearly every year
White-winged Chough			Species present	Seldom seen in foothills; common at Breakneck & along the Para & Barossa scrub
Jacky Winter	9-11/88			Very common
Scarlet Robin	9/87 8-10/88			Very common
Red-capped Robin		WT Angove 9/04 Golden Grove		Fairly common; seldom seen in the hills; frequently at Golden Grove
Hooded Robin	Nov 1888			Not very common but always a few around
Singing Bushlark		Harris 11/05 Modbury		
Australian Reed-Warbler	9/87			Common along the Torrens; nests in reeds at Bonds
Rufous Songlark		WT Angove 9/87 TTG		
Little Grassbird			Species present	
Silvereye	9/87, 8- 11/88			Very common
White-backed Swallow				Not very common but occasionally a good many
Welcome Swallow	9/87, 9,10/88			Very common
Fairy Martin	Sep 1887			Very common; nest under bridges & culverts
Bassian Thrush			Species present	
Mistletoebird	Sep 1887			Common; builds in honeysuckle & gum saplings
Zebra Finch	9/88 (M)			Common at Golden Grove; nests in acacia hedges
Red-browed Finch	9/88			Very common in district but much more so in hills
Diamond Firetail	9/87, 10/88			Very common
House Sparrow			Eggs from Golden Grove 12/91 A W Smith	
Australian Pipit	9/87, 8,9/88			Very common