

The Most Extensive Ornithological Tour ever Accomplished in Australia

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An expedition to cross Australia and back by motor cars was promoted by the McCallum Brothers, of South Australia, and the writer of this paper was afforded the opportunity of joining the party. The members of the expedition, six in number, were the Hon. Thos. McCallum, M.L.C., Messrs. Donald McCallum, H. Crowder (of the S.A. Lands Department), cousin to the first-named gentleman, Murray Auger and Cecil Auger, expert motorists and mechanics, and the writer. Mr. Murray Auger had been over some of the country 14 years previously, when he, with Mr. H. H. Dutton, of South Australia, had made the attempt to reach Darwin in a car, which was overtaken by tropical rains. The party had to abandon the car and retreat over swollen water-courses on horseback. Returning the following year with another car, they took both through to Darwin.

On this expedition three "Dort" cars were used. Every inch of space and every ounce of weight was conserved. Hoods, wind-screens, mud-guards, lamps, doors, self-starters, in fact, everything that could be dispensed with without interfering with the efficiency of the cars was stripped off. As would be supposed, many spare parts and gear of many contrivances to meet contingencies over a rough and trackless country had to be carried with us. Twelve hundred (1200) feet of inch and $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Manilla rope was wound round two drums in No. 1 car, and many other things took up much space, cutting down our personal effects to a minimum, and this sorely handicaps a naturalist. The bodies of the cars had a neat chemical-duck covering.

We wore rubber coats, which were supplied by the Barnet Glass Rubber Co., and were a great comfort in cold and wet weather; still they did not prevent great discomfort when sitting all day long in water, as sometimes happened. Cold winds were dealt with by placing paper round the body inside our vests, and the rubber coats outside of all. A great deal of organisation was required; stores and petrol had to be sent on from Oodnadatta—the head of the line in the south—by camel convoys to be placed in depots along our route for the better part of a thousand miles. From the northern end the same had to be done, and petrol and stores came out for 200 miles from Darwin by rail, then by bullock and horse teams, to link up with the chain of depots from the south; this had to be done three or four months ahead; even then the line had not been linked up, and the last camel team was over a hundred miles short of its depot when we overtook it. Stores and petrol had to be sent

out from the railheads in Queensland, where all went to the east, and then all the way down through the back country of Queensland and New South Wales the railheads had to be touched for stores and fuel for our cars and ourselves.

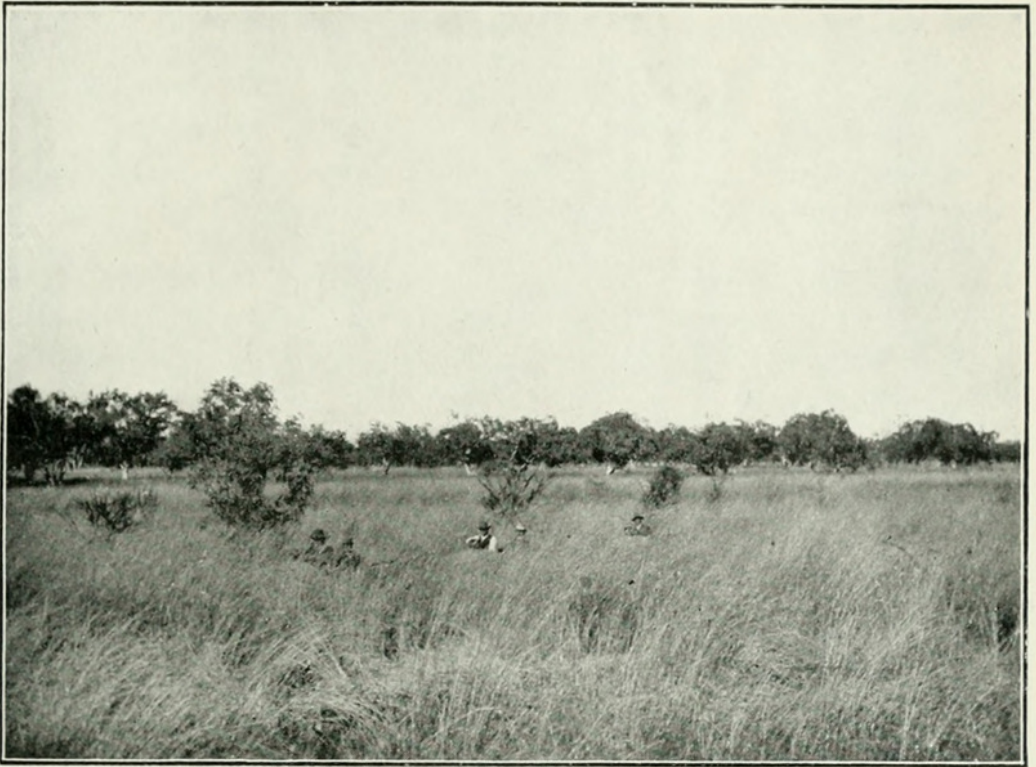
On the 9th of May, 1922, the three cars moved off from the Adelaide General Post Office at the stroke of ten a.m., and amidst the cheers of a great crowd we headed to the North—a course we followed for two thousand miles and more.

Stopping for a few minutes on the outskirts of the town to say good-bye to our friends, rubber coats and goggles were adjusted, and the cars settled down to their 25 to 30 miles per hour. The agricultural areas were nearly left behind by the time we pulled up in the driving rain after dark at Gladstone that night. All through the night rain continued to fall, and in the morning the country was drenched. We moved off at an early hour, and found the roads in a bad condition, but by the time we reached Quorn we were out of the wet area, and the mud guards were removed from the cars. We reached Oodnadatta after dark of Friday, 12th, and left again next morning at 9.15. From now on the trials of the big trip began. We passed out over a vast gibber plain, with its mass of broken stone, with here and there weird table-topped hills plainly showing the great erosion which has taken place over a great length of time. By 9.50 a.m. we had reached a creek known as "The Swallows," named from the locality being so frequented by the Fairy Martin, which build their retort-shaped mud nests under the rocky ledges of the bank. At 35 miles we reached the dreaded Alberga Creek—a broad shallow watercourse filled with very loose sand. We lunched, and then made the crossing, the first time a car has done this on its own power. The Stevenson River, another dry sandy watercourse, was crossed at 36 miles, and numbers of the Yellow-banded Parrot (*Barnardius zonarius*) were seen along the river in the Red Gums (*Eucalyptus rostrata*) which lined the banks. We had been ploughing through loose sand for miles, and by 4 p.m. at 46 miles we passed the ten-mile bore. Willow Well was passed by 4.30, at 52 miles, and I saw marks of my old camp of the previous year. We camped a mile east of Hamilton Bore. Reached Hamilton Bore next morning at an early hour. Boobook Owls (*Ninox boobook*) were calling loudly during the night, along the timber which lines the banks of the Stevenson, and out on the tablelands the Curlew, or Stone-Plover (*Burhinus magnirostris*) was calling. Picking up stores and petrol at the bore we were off again, keeping along the eastern bank of the Stevenson, so strongly marked by the timber (Red Gums) growing along either bank. We reached Blood's Creek at 11.45, when we had our lunch. All along the dry course of the Stevenson the Yellow-banded Parrot was met with, as well as the Yellow Weebill (Tree-tit) (*Smicrornis flavescens*), an occasional Pipit (*Anthus australis*), small flocks of Chestnut-eared Finches

(*Taniopygia castanotis*), as well as other common species. Leaving Blood's Creek at 1 p.m., we left the main track and went to the west, where we soon overtook a train of 66 camels on their way to Hermensburg Mission Station, situated on the upper waters of the Finke River in the MacDonnell Ranges. Many of the animals had huge sheets of black iron on either side, the iron being used in the construction of tanks; others had long sections of water troughing lashed up and down on their packs. We were now travelling over the open undulating tablelands or Gibber Plains. An occasional Australian Dotterel (*Peltohyas australis*) was met with, and two small parties of Gibber-Birds (*Ashbyia lovensis*) were seen. We crossed the boundary line into the Northern Territory at 4 p.m., and arrived at Charlotte Waters telegraph station soon afterwards. We were on the move again at 6.30 a.m. next day, and reached New Crown Point Station, 19 miles, at 8 a.m. Very heavy sandy track. We remained here only a few minutes to speak with the manager.

It was here that most of our party had their first sight of the Finke River. The cars were running well, and we were soon on the northern side of the deep sandy bed of the Goyder River, where the strange green flowering pea plant (*Crotalaria cunninghamii*) was found growing on the sandy country in profusion. There was a good deal of saltbush (*Atroplex*) here, as well as Mulga (*Acacia aneura*) and Broad-leaf Mulga (*A. kempeana*). We now had heavy sand and gravel ridge in between, till we reached the Finke again, and crossed at the wonderful Yellow Cliff, where the great ice-striated boulders are to be seen protruding from the river bank. Crossing the sandy river-bed again, we pulled up at Old Crown Point to have our lunch. Then we followed up the timber along the bank, when a flock of Red-Breasted Babblers (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*) were noted—the furthest south that I have observed this bird. Passing the wonderful mount—"Crown Point"—the cars charged the loose sandy bed of the Finke, and a high sandbank on the far side (up which we laid matting to give the wheels a grip. Proceeding up the bed of a watercourse strewn with water-worn boulders, we passed through Cunningham's Gap at 3.30 p.m. Soon Mt. Musgrave showed out to the west, and later on we passed right under Mt. Squire—the strange sister hills being to the west.

After traversing some loose sandy country we reached Horseshoe Bend, on the Finke, and remained at this weird place for the night. Making a start next morning, Tuesday, May 16th, the cars ploughed their way up the sandy bed of the Finke to come out up the bank in a mile and a half. Having gained the top of the cliffs, we plunged into the great Depot sandhills, continuous sand ridge for 28 miles, with very narrow flats in between. The drift sand is blown up in places to the height of 70 feet. We were over these dreaded sandhills by 4 p.m., the first time any car had ever been through on its own power. We



The three cars in the long "Mitchell Grass," said to be one of the best grasses in the world ; a haunt of the Pheasant Coucal (*Centropus phasianinus*).



Lunch in the haunt of the Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*).

now crossed the Hugh River (a tributary of the Finke) eight times in 13 miles. The crossings were very difficult owing to the loose nature of the sand; reached Alice Well at dark, and camped for the night. Next morning, I counted 49 Black-backed Magpies (*Gymnorhina tibicen*), a great many Magpie-Larks (*Grallina cyanoleuca*), and Yellow-throated Miners (*Myzantha flavigula*). Heavy sand again on our track. This country was covered with Porcupine Grass (*Triodia*) erroneously called "spinifex," Cassias, Broad-leaved Mulga (*Grevillea juncifolia*) (a plant producing much food for honey-eating birds, and whose flowers are frequented by millions of ants and other insects). The Desert Oak (*Casuarina decaisneana*) is the largest tree.

Bloodwoods (*Eucalyptus terminalis*) were now met with; they have great bunches of white to cream flowers laden with much honey. We arrived at Francis Well at 11.30, had lunch, and left at 1 p.m. The vegetation here was chiefly *Eremophila*, *Kochia*, *Bassia*, all shrubs of the stony country; there was good grass in patches. Sandy country came in again, with Desert Oaks and such vegetation. The white-barked Gums, which play such a big part in the landscape for thousands of miles, were seen here for the first time. Deep Well, 23 miles from Francis Well, was reached at 2.30 p.m.; stores and petrol were taken on here. We were now approaching the Ooraminna Range, and making our way through good mulga scrub, till we struck a sandy patch with Porcupine Grass, Desert Oak, and a strange Gum or Mallee with blue, rounded leaves (*Eucalyptus gamophylla*). We were now 57 miles from Alice Well, and the country was well grassed. At 74 miles the MacDonnell Ranges came into view, their ragged peaks standing out on the skyline.

We reached the narrow pass (Heavy-tree Gap) at dark. Great numbers of natives had assembled to give us a welcome, and their strange cries echoed amongst the great overhanging crags of the range. Passing over a salt-bush plain, the cars pulled up at Alice Springs, known as the township of "Sturt." Owing to a member of the party being unwell, we remained two days here, and the writer spent the time in investigating the bird life. Birds were not numerous: Black-backed Magpies, Magpie-Larks, Yellow-throated Miners, Cloncurry Honeyeater (*Meliphaga penicillata leilavalensis*), Red Throat (*Pyrrholæmus brunneus*), Bower-Bird (*Chlamydera guttata macdonnelli*). The last-named bird, like so many other members of the genus, is a great mimic; it gives other bird-calls so well that the writer has been deceived upon many occasions. Having had word that a most unusual occurrence had happened to the east of Newcastle Waters in the shape of a cloud-burst, and that water to the depth of 20 feet and 40 feet broad had swept across to the west, and that it would be impossible to think of crossing this for a month, we went on to investigate. Tyres which had left Oodnadatta over a month before us had not ar-

rived, and we had to go on without them. On Sunday, 21st of May, we left Alice Springs and called for a few minutes at the telegraph station, situated in the MacDonnell Ranges. Then we made our way through the ranges. Red Gums were seen in the creeks, Bloodwoods in valleys. Amongst the granite rocks Broad-leaved Mulga, Grevillea, Cassia, Eremophila, Kangaroo Grass, White-barked Gums, and *Solanums*, were found growing, and the banks of one creek were lined with Paper-bark Tea-tree (*Melaleuca*). In 12 miles, we were out of the range on to Burt's Plain, a vast plain extending for hundreds of miles E. and W. and about 60 to 70 across in the direction in which we were travelling. At 15 miles from Alice Springs we were in dense Mulga, and came out on the Grassy Plain again. The White-face (*Aphelocerypha leucopsis*) was met with in large numbers, but I was surprised not to see the Black-banded White-face (*A. nigricincta*).

Crested Bell-Birds (*Oreoica gutturalis*) were here numerous, and remarkably tame. At 68 miles we were still on the Burt Plain, with Mulga (a new species with a very long leaf), Grevillea (in blossom), Bloodwood (also in flower), Cassia, Kangaroo Grass, Cotton-bush, patches of Porcupine Grass, *Eremophila* and Bluegum. A large piece of country had been burnt, possibly by the natives. Termite mounds made their appearance as soon as we were out upon the plain. Hooded Robins (*Melanodryas cucullata*) were numerous. Several Pipits were seen during the day. The Yellow-tailed Thornbills (*Geobasileus chrysorrhoa*) were in small flocks. Black-faced Wood-Swallows (*Artamus cinereus*) were met with all through the country passed that day. Whistling Eagles (*Haliastur sphenurus*) were also seen. Many Chestnut-eared Finches (*Taeniopygia castanotis*) were met with. Red-capped Robins (*Petroica goodenovi*) were observed during the day.

At 80 miles broken ranges were seen on either side, and the flats were clothed in cotton bush and grass, with patches of Mulga, *Eremophila*, and native pines (*Callitris robusta*) were seen on the granite ranges. Red-capped Robins were seen here. Black and White Fantails (*Rhipidura leucophrys*) were plentiful. The Brown Song-Lark (*Cinchorhamphus cruralis*) was also seen. At 90 miles we passed through Prouse's Gap at 5.10 p.m. The vegetation changed here, many sub-tropical plants putting in an appearance. We went on four miles to more open country, and went into camp. Next morning, Monday, May 22nd, three of us left camp at 7.30 in one car, and went back to the Gap. I found the vegetation very interesting, and collected many species of plants. Numbers of Bustards (*Eupodotis australis*) rose from the long grass. Morgan Parrots were plentiful in the Red Gums. Black-faced Wood Swallows, Red-rumped Kingfishers (*Halcyon pyrrhopygius*), Black Fork-tailed Kites (*Milvus migrans*), Whistling Eagles, Chestnut-eared Finches, a very small form of the Singing Honey-Eater (*Meliphaga virescens*), Shell Parrots,

or Budgerygahs (*Melopsittacus undulatus*), Crimson Chats (*Epthianura tricolor*) were all seen at this interesting place. At noon that day we had reached Central Mount Stuart, where we halted to take some photographs. Birds were fairly numerous. Here we noted the Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigora*), the typical inland form (*I. b. berigora*), which takes on a ruddy coloration. Black-faced Wood-Swallow, Pipits, Red-backed Kingfishers, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters (*Acanthagenys rufogularis*), and numbers of Shell-Parrots were seen. A beautiful pink Hibiscus was seen during the day. The shrubs were several feet in height, and were covered in bright pink blossoms. At Central Mount Stuart, 133 miles from Alice Springs, a dwarf yellow Hibiscus put in an appearance. We had been travelling along the Woodforde Creek, and now we were on the Hanson Creek, crossing it at 148 miles at 4.15 p.m. At 5 p.m. we started over No. 1 Stirling Sandhill, and soon left No. 2 behind us. These sandhills were very high, and were composed of loose blown sand.

Birds were now numerous. There were Brown Hawks, Black-faced Wood Swallows, Bustards, Crows, Magpie-Larks, Pipits, Chestnut-eared Finches, Cloncurry Honeyeaters, and others. Next morning, May 23rd, we were away early, but in an hour got off our bearings, and found we were too far to the east of a rugged range. We altered our course, stood to the west, and found a gap through the range. The country was very good and beautiful. We had been following a creek down, with beautiful white-barked gums; the country was well grassed. Where we altered our course a very fine Bustard stood up and strode past us within a few feet, and a Black-breasted Buzzard soared over us for quite a time. Crested Pigeons (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) were plentiful. Yellow-throated miners (*Myzantha flavigula*), Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes (*Graucalus novæ-hollandiæ*), Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Little Quail (*Turnix velox*), and Shell Parrots were all numerous. The vegetation was also very interesting; a fine pink-flowering Grevillea lit up the landscape.

White-barked gums, and on the stony edges, a small-fruited Mallee. There were also tall Kangaroo Grass and bushes of Deadfinish (*Acacia rigens*). At 180 miles from Alice Springs we made Barrow Creek Telegraph Station, and received a warm welcome. This was a good bird locality, and amidst the broken ranges were many rock holes containing water. Southern Stone-Plover (*Burhinus magirostris*), were both seen and heard. Square-tailed Kite (*Lophoictinia isura*) was quite plentiful. Black-backed Magpie, Pied (Black-throated) Butcher Bird (*Cracticus nigrogularis*), Pipit, Ground Cuckoo-Shrike (*Pteropodocys maxima*) were all seen. Keartland Honeyeater (*Meliphaga keartlandi*) was quite numerous in the rocky gorges. The writer has now traced the bird from the Everard and Musgrave Ranges in the south to Barrow Creek in the north, and no doubt it has a big range to the west. Another Honeyeater with a wide-

range, and found in this locality, is the White-fronted Honeyeater (*Glyciphila albifrons*). The Cloncurry Honeyeater was very common along all the gum creeks. The Dusky Honeyeater (*Myzomela obscura*) was observed in the low scrub at the foot of the ranges. I take this to be Mr. Mathews' sub-species *M. o. griseus*. The Red-chested Quail (*Turnix pyrrhothorax*) was quite plentiful. Grass-Wrens (*Diaphorillas textilis*) were found amidst the boulders of the ranges. Crows (*Corvus ceciliae*) were fairly plentiful. Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes were seen; Chestnut-eared Finches and Budgerygahs were in hundreds. The time here was too short to complete work amongst the birds.

The night spent at Barrow Creek was a mild one (56 deg. F.). The country was covered in grass, which had reached the flowering stage, and threw a purple sheen over everything. We crossed Barrow Creek at 3½ miles from the station, and came in touch with large numbers of natives. Bustards were numerous amidst the high dry grass. A strange blue-leaved Mallee or Gum grew in clumps, with Mulga, Hakea and Eremophilas. We overtook a camel team with our stores, which should have been a hundred or more miles further on; took on twelve large cases of petrol, and stores, which meant much additional weight to the already over-loaded cars. Grass seeds became very bad in the long grass, and we had to abandon one car and push on for water, which we struck at 4 p.m., and then returned for the third car. Crows were numerous at this water. Next morning, the 26th, we were in trouble amidst the big sand-hills, which were covered with many bright flowering plants, one of the mosts conspicuous being a pink *Grevillea*. *Hakeas*, *Cassias* and *Eremophilas* were all in blossom. Amongst the birds frequenting the flowering shrubs were the small form of the Singing Honeyeater and the White-fronted Honeyeater. At 70 miles from Barrow Creek the Keartland or Grey-headed Honeyeater, Brown Hawk—the typical ruddy brown interior form—the small form of the Singing Honeyeater, were met with. Great numbers of Chestnut-eared Finches were breeding, and had many nests, with eggs. At 74 miles we crossed Sutherland's Creek, and reached the great granite boulders called the Devil's Marbles.

At 3.20 p.m. we came to McLaren's Creek, a deep water-course with steep banks. We had to hunt along its banks for miles to find a crossing. Crossing the Gilbert Creek at dark, we went into camp. Birds were not plentiful. The temperature at night was mild (56 deg. F.) Next morning, the 27th, we had the Murchison Range to the east, and soon got in amongst the outlying ridges; anthills or termite mounds gave us much trouble here. Black-faced Wood-Swallows and Budgerygahs were both numerous. Crimson Chats were seen. We now plunged into grass 12 feet in height, and flushed Bustards from this many times. At 120 miles from Barrow Creek we found water, and we were glad to get a good wash. We were in the

midst of a fairly thick Mallee belt, a variety with smooth dark green stems. Grey Ducks (*Anas superciliosa*) were seen in a waterhole; Red-backed Kingfishers, Magpie-Larks, and Chestnut-eared Finches, as well as Red-breasted Babblers, were seen. We were now at Tennant's Creek, 1,500 miles from Adelaide. Next day, May 28th, we were on our way again, and saw a good many natives, including a large hunting party out after game, which was abundant in that country. Many stony creeks were crossed. The Black-faced Wood Swallow was numerous, and Whistling Eagles were seen. Paperbark Tea-tree (*Melaleuca*) was taking a prominent part in the vegetation now. Hooded Robins were numerous. At 3 p.m. we witnessed a great fight for liberty by a Bat, which was chased by a Grey Falcon (*Falco hypoleucus*). It lasted fifteen minutes, and the Bat wore the Falcon out by allowing the bird to make great rushes with superior speed, but dodging every time, till the Falcon was tired.

We were in very picturesque wooded country. Reached the renowned Attack Creek at dusk, and went into camp near a fine waterhole. The birds round our camp or those identified while there was still light were: Shell-Parrots, Rose-breasted Cockatoos or Galahs (*Cacatua roseicapilla*), Mistletoe Bird (*Dicaeum hirundinaceum*), Black-faced Wood Swallow, White-faced Heron (*Notophoxyx novæ-hollandiæ*), Barn-Owl (*Tyto alba*), Boobook Owl (*Ninox boobook*), White-throated Nightjar (*Eurostopodus mystacalis*), Cloncurry Honeyeater, Magpie-Lark, Grey Duck, Grey Teal (*Virago gibberifrons*), Black and White Fantail, Chestnut-eared Finch and the Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*). During the 29th, we crossed many creeks, which gave us trouble, as also did the anthills, which were very numerous. There was much paper-bark tea-tree along the creeks. A very bright-flowering *Grevillea*, which formed a large shrub, was very conspicuous. Several species of *Eremophila* were noted, with pink Hibiscus and high porcupine bushes. Many Shell Parrots were in flocks.

At 58½ miles from Tennant's Creek we came out upon well grassed country at Banka Banka Station, owned by the Ambrose Brothers, who entertained us at lunch. Later we passed through the open grass country, entered a timber belt, and came out upon tablelands, with white-barked gums. Shell-Parrots were very numerous, also Chestnut-eared Finches. Red-browed Pardalotes (*Pardalotus rubricatus*) were heard calling in the trees. At 75 miles, we crossed the Tomkenson, and in a large waterhole a Royal Spoonbill (*Platalea regia*) was seen. Brown Song-Larks were flushed from the grass. At 88 miles, we reached Helen Springs at 5.25 p.m. We here noted both Square-tailed and Forked-tailed Kites. Went into camp at Renner Springs at 6.30 p.m. Next morning many birds came to this fine spring for water. There were Australian Goshawks (*Astur fasciatus*), Galahs, Quarriors, or Cockatoo-Parrots (*Leptolophus hollandicus*), Black and White Fantail, Black-faced Cuckoo

Shrike, Red-rumped Kingfisher, Restless Fantail (*Seisura inquieta*). A pair of Australian Cranes (*Antigone rubicunda*) settled close to us, and took little or no notice of our presence. Tuesday, May 30th, we left camp early, and were soon in trouble with the high grass; by 10.30 a.m. we had reached a very rocky ridge, and, climbing over it, descended into the valley, where Powell Creek Telegraph Station is situated 119 miles from Tennant's Creek and 1619 miles from Adelaide. This is a charming spot, and should be a great place for birds, the country being diversified—a fine well timbered range with plains on either side. I regretted much not having a chance to spend time here.

Many tropical trees and plants have been planted close to the station, and are doing well. We left at 1.30 p.m., and passed through low scrub, long grass, and anthills. The small pale form of the Rufous-breasted Whistler (*Pachycephala rufiventris*) was met with. At 13 miles from Powell Creek, Cuckoo Shrikes and Rufous-breasted Whistlers were seen. From a very rocky mountain ridge (along which we had to find our way), Lake Woods, a vast sheet of water) was sighted to the west. After descending to lower ground several fine reaches of water were found in the creeks and beautiful timber, with vast grassy plains to the west. Black-faced Wood Swallows were numerous. We camped on the edge of the great grassy plain. The night temperature was mild (57 deg. F.) Many water-birds were travelling during the darkness (for we were in close proximity to the great storm waters). Amongst them could be distinguished the Pied Geese (*Anseranas semipalmata*). Birds seen round the camp in the morning were: Chestnut-eared Finches, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Diamond Doves, Red-breasted Babbler (*Pomatostomus rubeculus*), Pied Butcher-Birds, Bustards, Fairy Martins (*Hylochelidon ariel*), Red-browed Pardalotes, and Galahs. Leaving camp we crossed a great plain of waving grass.

We were now approaching the flooded areas, and when we came in sight of the waters thousands of Pelicans, Cormorants, and other water-birds were seen. Bustards came quite close to the cars or allowed us to pass them by at a distance of a few feet. Birds were numerous, including Brown Hawks, Whistling Eagles, White Cockatoos, White-necked Heron (*Notophoxya pacifica*), Red-browed Pardalote, Rufous-breasted Whistler, Black-faced Wood-Swallow, Brown Song-Lark, Quarriors, or Cockatoo-Parrots, Red-kneed Dotterels (*Erythrogonyx cinctus*), and Black-fronted Dotterels (*Charadrius melanops*). In the afternoon we reached the edge of the fast-running flood waters at Newcastle Waters, and had to pull the cars through water 7 to 8 feet deep and 150 yards wide by means of a rope passed through a pulley-block on the opposite side and brought back and fastened on to one of the cars. No. 1, having a winding gear, pulled the other two over. It was dark by the time two cars were over, and we had to leave the one which did the pulling till



A white barked Gum (*Eucalyptus terminalis*) a feature of a large area of the Northern Territory and the nesting tree of hawks and eagles.



Crossing Newcastle Waters after a "Cloud burst." The car (almost submerged) is being hauled over by a second car.

next morning. Birds were flying up and down the stream in the morning, amongst them being White-faced Herons, White-necked Herons, Grey Ducks, Grey Teal, Black Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), Little Black Cormorant (*P. ater*), Pied Cormorant (*P. varius*), White-headed Stilt (*Himantopus leucocephalus*), Red-kneed Dotterel, Black-fronted Dotterel, Plumed Egret (*Egretta intermedia*), Royal Spoonbill, Kites, both Square-tailed and Forked-tailed. Yellow-throated Miners were seen in the timber. Pratincoles were very quiet, alighting on the ground within a few feet of us. We now went a long way west of our route to get round some very boggy country, and had to cross several bad creeks and plains of high grass, where Brown Song-Larks were numerous. When we entered low sub-tropical scrub, Crested Pigeons became plentiful, and Bustards and Quarrions were seen in numbers. Later we were moving through high grass out on a boundless and treeless plain. Here a large Bush-Lark (*Mirafra*) first appeared. When flushed they hovered over the high grass for a time and then dropped into it. Several Pipits were seen, and Black-faced Wood-Swallows were plentiful. A very rufous *Mirafra* was observed, but no specimen was taken. I take this to be *M. rufescens*. After crossing a treeless plain 17 miles across we entered sub-tropical open park-like country, with many young Quarrions and Shell-Parrots.

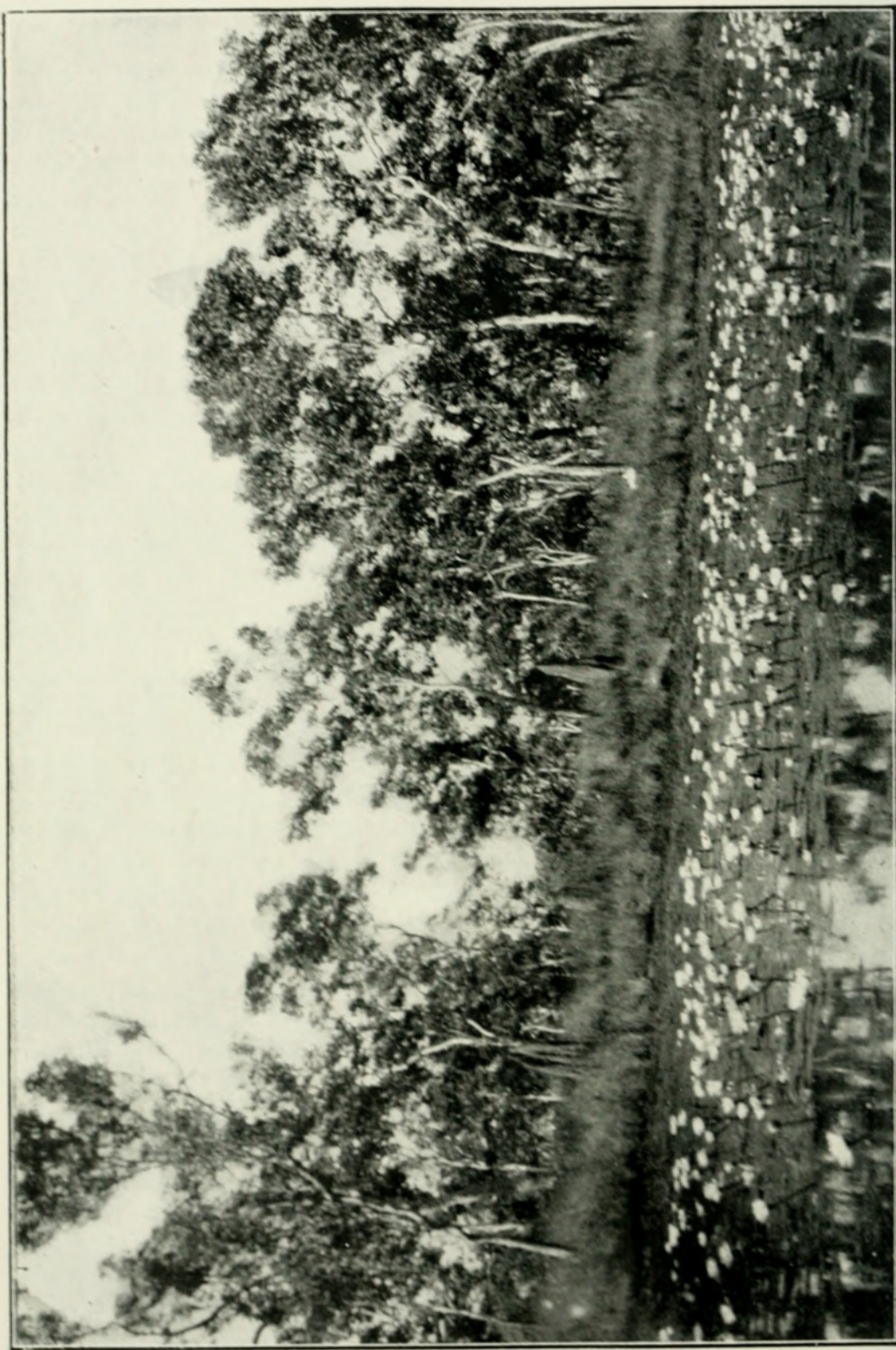
The country was very lovely with many wild flowers. We next reached Frew's Ironstone Rounds, a most wonderful formation—immense pot-holes in an ironstone formation. On the water were Pelicans and Grebes, and perched on the rocks were Royal Spoonbills, and close handy Australian Cranes, Galahs, and Cloncurry Honeyeaters. We now motored through a beautiful open forest or park-like country; it was a very beautiful and rich country. The vegetation was intensely interesting. In the high grass were many anthills. Black-faced Wood Swallows were still plentiful. The first specimen of the Black-tailed Tree-creeper (*Climacteris melanura*) here came under observation. Rufous-breasted Whistlers were plentiful as we were passing through thick scrub. Some of the *Eucalypts* were in blossom here, many trees being capped with masses of bloom.

It was very interesting to see numbers of Black-faced Wood-Swallows clustering on the gum blossom for the honey the flowers contained. We were now passing through a wonderful piece of country, well timbered and grassed, and the land was rich. Much of this country was park-like in appearance. We went into camp at 136 miles alongside a fine waterhole. Birds round this camp were very numerous. Species seen included the Long-tailed Finch (*Poephila acuticauda*), very plentiful in the bush country; Banded Finch (*Steganopleura bichenovii*), very numerous in the thick brush along the watercourses; Chestnut-eared Finch, Diamond Dove, Red-browed Pardalote, Quarrion. This bird was very numerous, and there were large flocks com-

posed mostly of young birds. They rose in parties of eight or ten to twenty, right in front of the cars. Budgerygahs were also in great numbers. Galahs, Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus banksi*), were seen in very large flocks. Brown Flycatcher (*Microeca fascians*) were numerous. Apostle-Bird (*Struthidea cinerea*) were seen in large parties. A large Brown Quail (*Synoicus*) was flushed in the high grass, but the species was not identified. There was also a species of Honeyeater (*Melithreptus*) which was not identified. The Red-backed Kingfisher was seen. Native Companions, Black Falcon (*Falco subniger*), Black and White Fantails, and the White-eyed Duck (*Nyroca australis*) were also observed.

Leaving camp early next morning, June 4th, we passed through beautiful, well-grassed, park-like country. There were a good many natives, mostly of small stature. Their dead were seen on platforms in the trees. Reached Daly Waters Telegraph Station during the morning, and received a great welcome from the officer in charge, Mr. Hultze, and his assistant, Mr. Woodroof. We had now travelled 1,650 miles. Weather was mild, the last night temperature being 54 deg. F. Gouldian Finches (*Peophila gouldiae*) were numerous here. Next morning a beautiful specimen of the White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus hypoleucus*) came and sat on a stump near the cars. Soon after leaving Daly Waters we were in high grass up to 8 feet high. Black-faced Wood-Swallows were numerous still, and at 23 miles we saw a very large flock of Masked Wood-Swallows (*Artamus personatus*). We had now some very rough country to get over. There was a beautiful wild flower, like a globe amaranth, which covered hundreds of acres, producing a bright pink coloration over the whole landscape. This with thousands of butterflies made an unforgettable scene. We camped on water at noon.

Gouldian Finches, mostly immature, were numerous. The Red Goshawk (*Erythrorhynchus radiatus*), the Red-winged Parrot (*Aprosmictus erythropterus*), Black-tailed Tree-creeper (*Climacteris melanura*), Pied Butcher-Bird, and Black and White Fantail, were noted here. We were running down a chain of waterholes along a creek. High grass was everywhere. We came to a grave marked "John Pearson, died May 29th, 1899." Tree marked on the side of waterhole —; another tree 70 yards west marked M. This was the waterhole where John Forrest, afterwards Lord Forrest, camped when he reached the overland telegraph on his great journey from Perth in 1874. Brown Hawks, the Little Wood-Swallow (*Artamus minor*) and the Red-breasted Babbler, were seen here. We camped on water that night, and it was cold, 35 deg. F. Monday, June 5th, we were travelling through high grass. Many Wrens (*Malurus*) were flushed, but not a single male bird in summer plumage did we see, so it was impossible to identify the species. Passing over a flooded area which was covered in grass 8 to 10 feet high, the Warlock Ponds



A Water-hole in the Northern Territory. Haunt of Egrets and Jabirus amongst the Water-lilies (*Nymphaeas*).

were reached. These waterholes had beautiful flowering water-lilies on their surface, and there were thousands of birds. Jabirus (*Xenorhynchus asiaticus*) stalked about in the water, and struck quaint attitudes. Coots (*Fulica atra*) were in hundreds. Plumed Egrets, White Ibis, Pelicans, Large Black Cormorants, and Pied Cormorants were in numbers. Still going north, we passed through a beautiful park-like country with bright flowering shrubs, and trees with leaves changing from green and yellow to gold, and from that to red and crimson.

The rich, ruddy-brown termite mounds amongst the golden grass made a wonderful landscape. Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Uroaetus audax*) were seen, and Brush Bronze-winged Pigeons (*Phaps elegans*) were numerous for the last few days. The Partridge-Pigeons (*Geophaps smithi*) now put in an appearance; they kept very close to the ground, creeping about with their heads down, and in some instances they even allowed the cars to pass over them. Waterholes in the timbered country were met with, and they were covered in very beautiful blue Water Lilies. With a Snow-white Egret or two perched on a snag or fallen tree these made a wonderful picture. A beautiful Yellow Hibiscus came into the landscape; also a tango or deep ruddy orange coloured flowering gum made its appearance. Quail (sp. ?) and Masked Wood-Swallows were numerous. We reached the outskirts of civilisation in the Territory at Marremboy that night, having travelled 1840 miles. The night was cool (42 deg. F.). We observed that the Brown Hawks have changed and have no ruddy coloration being of the *I. b. occidentalis* type. There were many bright flowering Grevilleas, which attracted many Honeyeaters.

Next morning, June 6th, we moved on at an early hour, and soon entered a very rough and hilly country. There were patches of a long-leaved Mulga, and there were some of the chrome or tango-coloured flowering gums, the great masses of bright blossoms having a very marked effect upon the landscape.

We descended a very deep gorge, through which a creek found its way. The scenery was very beautiful. We met with several big flocks of Partridge Pigeons, and the Leatherheads, or Noisy Friar Birds (*Philemon corniculatus*) were making a great noise amongst the strange tango-coloured gum blossoms. The whole of the country is here heavily timbered. The Black-faced Cuckoo Shrike was there, and several Red-winged Parrots passed over. We also met with large flocks of Quarriors and Galahs. At 11.50 we had reached the Katherine River. Having forded this deep watercourse, the cars came out up a steep bank over 100 feet high. We camped on the north side of the Katherine, and were on the move at a very early hour next morning to try to make Darwin that night. We passed through open scrub country till we reached Pine Creek.

Many watercourses were now winding in front of us, and at Brock's Creek we examined the pineapple plantations, the

fruit being of excellent flavour. Most of the creeks had the large variety of ornamental bamboo along their banks. The McKinly Creek was very beautiful. The country is a very beautiful and well watered one. The run into Darwin was fine.

Many Kangaroos of a small species crossed our path during the late afternoon and evening. We reached the hotel at 7 p.m. Next day was spent sending off telegraph messages to the south, calling on the Administrator, etc. On the 9th, after breakfast, we made out on to the Rapid Creek; the country was very heavily timbered, and there was much bird life there. Saw Drongos (*Chibia bracteata*), Olive-backed Orioles (*Oriolus sagittatus*), Yellow Oriole (*O. flavocinctus*), Green-winged Pigeon (*Chalcophaps chrysochlora*). These beautiful pigeons were numerous. Bar-shouldered Doves (*Geopelia humeralis*), very common; the White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike (*Graucalus hypoleucus*), White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater (*Campephaga tricolor*), and Varied Lorikeets (*Psitteuteles versicolor*), in great numbers amongst the flowering Eucalypts.

We had a trip down the coast for about 50 miles one day, but saw very few sea birds. A Tropic-Bird and a few Terns were all that came our way.

We made a start at an early hour on the return journey on Monday, June 12th. We had not gone far from Darwin when the Forest Kingfisher (*Halcyon macleayi*) was met with. There were some large flocks of Black Cockatoos (*Calyptorhynchus macrorhynchus*). White-breasted and Black-faced Cuckoo Shrikes, White Ibis, Black-headed Stork or Jabiru, White-faced Heron, Pied Butcher Birds, Diamond Birds (*Pardalotus uropygialis*), Partridge-Pigeons, very numerous; Long-tailed Finches, Kites, Whistling Eagles, Little Wood-Swallows (*Artamus minor*), Nankeen Night-Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*), Plumed Egrets, Magpie-Larks, Red-backed Wrens (*Malurus melanocephalus*), Nankeen Kestrels (*Cerchneis cenchroides*) were all seen, and Wedge-tailed Eagles (*Uroaetus audax*) were plentiful during the day. It was all timbered country, and the cycads, palms, bright flowering shrubs, and forest trees, as well as the magnetic termite mounds (all with long axis north and south), spiral mounds, and others again huge buttresses 25 feet high, all made a wonderful scene. We arrived at Pine Creek in the evening, and at 3.30 a.m. next day we drove out into the ranges to a rich valley, where the Chinamen are growing rice.

The party returned to the hotel for breakfast, after which we continued our way south. Crimson Finches (*Neochmia phaeton*) and Gouldian Finches were numerous, and Red-faced Finches (*Bathilda ruficauda*) were seen. We reached the Katherine River at midday, and Marrimboy by 5 p.m. We left there at 8 a.m. the following day, and halted on the edge of several lily ponds. The sight was very fine. By midday we had reached the head waters of the Roper River. The grass

was very long, and we had much trouble getting through, much of it being over 8 feet high. We came to the site of the old Elsey Station, saw Mr. Gunn's grave, crossed the Elsey River, and at 103 miles from the Katherine we came upon the remains of Birtles' car and camped near a hole in the Burdum Creek. For the next day we followed the Burdum Creek down for a long way. We reached Daly Waters Telegraph Station in the afternoon. Black-tailed Tree-creepers, Rufous-breasted Whistlers, Red-wing Parrots and Bronze-wing Pigeons were noted. The weather was very hot. Next morning we were away by 8.30, passing through a wonderful country, open forest land, till we reached Frew's Ironstone Ponds: Here we saw Pelicans, Little Grebe (*Podiceps ruficollis*), Coots, and around the ponds there were Native Companions or Australian Cranes, Budgerygahs, Chestnut-eared Finches, Crows, Diamond Doves, and Red-backed Kingfishers. The dry country birds were now putting in an appearance. The treeless Sturt Plain, with its ruddy-brown grass, was traversed; the only birds seen were Bush-Larks.

When we got back to Newcastle Waters there were many Pratincoles. The next day we got the cars over the water (or, more correctly, under the water). At 1 p.m. on the 17th of June, we left the scene of our great adventure with the troublesome water behind us, and with cars too heavily loaded by far struck out to the eastward, passing over a saddle in a low range. The vegetation was the Blue-leaved Gum, Bloodwood and Paperbark (*Melaleuca*). At 4 miles we changed our course to S.S.E., with a vast open plain under waving grass to the east. We were following the foot of the range, avoiding going out on to the plain till we were compelled, for it was very rough going. Black-faced Wood Swallows were plentiful. A hen Bustard came within a few feet of us. Black and White Fantails or Willie Wag-tails were plentiful. Jacky Winter (*Microeca fascians*), Crimson Chats and Brown Hawks were seen, the last-named having the dark coloration of *I. b. occidentalis*. The Rufous Song-Lark was seen, but was very silent, a well-known habit when the birds are not nesting. A Spotted Harrier (*Circus assimilis*) went skimming over the waving grass, and Galahs were seen travelling towards the ranges. At 34 miles from Newcastle Waters I saw a very rufous Bush-lark hovering over the grass; it was one of the *Mirafra*, without doubt; this may be *M. rufescens*, of Ingram.

We now took our course over the great plain, which was fearfully rough, and threatened to shake everything to pieces. We came to a depression with some box trees, called Tandiger Creek by the natives, 44 miles, when darkness came upon us, and we camped on a fine waterhole. The night was mild (50 deg. F.). When the day broke a lovely scene unfolded itself—a fine sheet of water with large box trees along its edge, and a great many White and Straw-necked Ibises in the trees. There were Blue

or White-faced Herons and Whistling Eagles, and a Weebill (*Smicrornis*, sp. ?). Leaving camp early we had difficulty in finding a crossing. At 50 miles we entered a well-grassed flat, with bean trees. We passed over a very rough piece of country, and at 74 miles made Monmoona Creek. Nankeen Kestrels were very numerous here. We followed the creek down for a long way, and then made out over the treeless plain. Several waterholes were seen in low depressions or "gilgies," and here Squatter-Pigeons (*Geophaps scripta*) were met with in great numbers.

They kept down in the long grass during the greater part of the day, but towards evening rose and congregated in great flocks of several hundreds, and flew round and round the waterholes. After drinking, they flew round for a while and dropped in pairs or ones into the grass almost in the darkness.

Although there were many hundreds of fully-fledged young, odd pairs were still breeding. Some of my companions saw a pair doing the broken-wing trick, and several specimens taken by me showed unmistakable signs of breeding. The writer saw one pair of Chestnut-quilled Rock-Pigeons (*Petrophassa rufipennis*) on a rocky ridge, the only time these birds were seen. Bustards were very plentiful on these vast prairies of rolling grass, and there were numbers of Quail. I secured specimens of a light form of Bush-Lark (*Mirafra*), with large bill, which I am not able yet to place. The night of the 18th was cold (44 deg. F.). We moved off next morning early, and during the day saw many Brown Song-Larks. I secured a very small Boobook Owl of very light coloration from the long grass, which appears to be a very distinct type. We were out on vast plains—not a shrub, let alone a tree, in sight; and the ground over which we were travelling was fearfully rough. Hunted for some time for a crossing over the lately flooded "Broad"—a deep and wide depression in the plain. Having reached the far side, we were out on to the bumpy plain again amongst the long grass.

We now struck rising ground, in places all the world like islands in a sea of grass. On these islands, or pieces of elevated ground (which are islands in reality in wet time, for the grass land would be soft and boggy all round), low scrub was growing, a stunted round Blue-leafed Gum, Bloodwood, a bright yellow flowering Cassia, and other shrubs. A Brown Hawk was seen, but he was of the dark variety. The Australian Pratincoles (*Stiltia isabella*) were very numerous, and were seen in dozens upon any bare piece of ground. We bumped through the grass over rough ground for many miles, and then reached higher ground and better going, soon to meet rough ground again.

On the evening of the 21st we went into camp on a "gilgie"; there was very little muddy water, and no wood. We boiled the billy with dry mallow stems. The night was cold (44 deg. F.), with a strong S.E. wind blowing. Next morning

there were great numbers of Squatter-Pigeons all round, taking their morning flight. There were many hundreds of birds in some of these flights. There were also many Native Companions, or Australian Cranes, and one dance consisted of a hundred performing birds—a most wonderful sight. Their strange calls were heard throughout almost every night, while we were on the great plains. At midday we were much relieved at the sight of Anthony's Lagoon at 180 miles. We had been making for this water across the trackless plain, and we were now rapidly approaching the Queensland Border, and getting within the pale of civilisation once again. We continued on from Anthony's Lagoon, and traversed country similar to that near Barrow Creek, the vegetation being the same, and the red termite mounds had re-appeared. Black-faced Wood Swallows had also come into evidence, and the everlasting "Porcupine Grass" (*Triodia*). White-headed Stilts were seen on Anthony's Lagoon, and there were thousands of Chestnut-eared Finches drinking there.

We now passed over open downs country covered in a great crop of Mitchell Grass, for all the world like a crop of wheat ready to harvest. We came to a creek thickly lined with Gidyea trees, and cattle were seen, so we knew we were approaching a cattle station. Brunett Downs was reached at 4.30, at 58 miles from Anthony's Lagoon. Next morning we went down to the large waterhole and found vast numbers of Pelicans, both the Large and Small Black Cormorants, and the Little Pied Cormorant, White-faced Herons, Black-fronted Dotterels, Caspian Terns (*Hydroprogne caspia*). Mr. Barnard did a good deal of work here some little time ago. We left at 9 a.m., and made rapid strides homeward, for we had a beaten track now.

Cloncurry Honeyeaters were very plentiful all through the country, and the White-barked Gums were often seen. Willie Wagtails were seen. Alexandra Station is one of the largest in the world (12,000 sq. miles, with 50,000 cattle). At 150 miles, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Bush Larks, Brown Hawks, Kestrels, Pratincoles, were very numerous. We came to the Rankin River at 163 miles, and passed through waving Mitchell and Flinders grasses. We camped on Lorne Creek. On June 22nd, a very cold morning, we made away through the Acacia shrubs, and were soon passing through "Mulga" (*Acacia anura*). Over the tableland country we saw many Kestrels. At 254 miles from Anthony's Lagoon we came to a gate, and passed through into Queensland. The country changed. It was very bare and poor, and at 263 miles we came into Camooweal. We left at 6.30 p.m.; went four miles, and camped in low scrub; very poor country, very dry, and no water. Our next stage to water is 50 miles. For 8 miles, stunted Blue-leaved Gums, and we crossed the Georgina at 27 miles; stopped the car, for I was sure the MacGillivray Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi macgillivrayi*).

passed overhead. They flew so rapidly that I lost sight of them. We now entered rough rocky ranges. Black-faced Wood Swallows were all along the track, and Rufous Whistlers were heard and seen. Pied Butcher-Birds and Hooded Robins were noted. At 99 miles from Camooweal we stopped for lunch in a deep gorge, on the bank of a creek lined with Redgums. As soon as I got out of the car I saw the Macgillivray Parrot, and secured a specimen. They were very silent, and kept up in the leafy tops of the Myrtle trees. The birds seen on this creek were the Barn-Owl, Red-breasted Babbler, Crested Pigeon, Pied Butcher-Bird, and Yellow-throated Miners. We were on the Leichardt Creek in the afternoon, but the birds did not differ.

Kestrels were often seen. Redgums, Mulga, Bloodwood, Gidyea, White-barked Gums, Cassias, Porcupine Grass, and other vegetation were seen during the day. The country was very rocky, dry and dusty; in fact, the dust was awful at times. At 147 miles, we camped at 6.30 near a beautiful bush of pink flowering Hibiscus. The night was mild, the glass falling only to 58 deg. F. At daylight we were on the move, and passed through some very rough but picturesque country. Great masses of rock covered in vegetation towered over us, as we passed through some of the gaps in the ranges. The same birds were seen. Galahs made their appearance again. At 262 miles we made the town of Cloncurry, and stayed there the night. Leaving at 10 a.m., June 25th, we passed out over a rocky ridge and into the ranges beyond. The country was very rough, but picturesque. In one place a great mass of granite boulders was simply alive with Wallaby, and we pulled up and watched them gambolling about. There was little change in the birds.

A little after leaving Cloncurry a small party of Macgillivray Parrots was seen. Emus were met with. We had not seen any of these birds in the Territory. Black-faced Wood Swallows were numerous. Shell-Parrots were met with, and Black-backed Magpies put in an appearance. Chestnut-eared Finches, Masked Wood-Swallows, Brown Hawks and Spotted Harrier were all seen. Yellow-throated Miners were there; also Red-breasted Babblers, Bower Birds, and Grey Jumpers were seen. The vegetation changed but little. We camped at 125 miles for the night. The night was mild (57 deg. F.). We were up early. The birds seen round the camp were:—Black-backed Magpies, Galahs, Pardalotes, Weebills (Tree-Tits), Cloncurry Honeyeaters, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Whistling Eagles, Chestnut-eared Finches. Birds seen during the day on our line of travel were Black and White Fantails, Square-tailed Kites, Restless Flycatcher, Red-backed Kingfisher, White Egrets, Australian Pipits, Spotted Harrier, Little Falcon, Wedge-tailed Eagle, Quarriors (Cockatoo Parrots), Pied Butcher Bird, Australian Bustards, and Emus. At 223 miles we made Winton—a large town. We had lunch and sent away wires, and we were off again.

At 76 miles from Winton we went into a dry camp after dark. The night was warm (60 deg. F.) Small Pied Butcher Birds, Crows, Crested Pigeons were round our camp. Quarriors and Australian Cranes were seen. On the 27th of June we covered a good piece of country, and reached Longreach, 121 miles from Winton. Observed few birds during the morning. After leaving the town saw Yellow-throated Miners, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Crested Pigeons, Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes, Fantails and Singing Honeyeaters; we travelled through high grass much of the time. On Balkaldena Station, at 73 miles from Longreach, Australian Cranes and Grey-crowned Babblers (*P. temporalis*) were seen. We camped that night on a very low piece of ground, but in a beautiful district. The weather was threatening for rain, and it set in during the night, developing into a down-pour; so we were fixed for a while, as we could not move.

The vegetation was very lovely. Next day Emus came right up to the camp. Australian Cranes were close by. Grey Ducks, Laughing Kookaburras (*Dacelo gigas*), Restless Flycatchers, Jacky Winters, Wrens (sp.?), Thornbills (sp.?), Frogmouth (*Podargus*, sp.?), Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Rufous Song-Lark (*Cinclorhamphus mathewsi*), the last-named singing very loudly; Galahs, Whistling Eagles, Crested Bell-Bird, Pied Butcher-Bird, Yellow-tailed Black Cockatoos, Red-wing Parrot, and Bower Bird were noted. We pushed on over a sandy piece of country, which was well timbered. We now got on to black soil, which was very wet, and we had a great job to make any headway. We went into camp after dark on low ground, and heavy rain set in. The morning of the 29th found us in a pretty mess, for we had to remain till the country dried up. Birds round the camp were Australian Cranes, Striped Honeyeaters (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*), Grey Thrush (*Colluricincla harmonica*), Crested Bell-Bird, Yellow-throated Miner, Bower Bird (the latter came on to the table for the crumbs), Narrow-billed Bronze Cuckoo (*Chalcites basalis*), Striated Thornbill (*Acanthiza lineata*), Yellow-tailed Thornbill (*Geobasileus chrysorrhous*), Butcher Bird, Hooded Robin, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeater, Cloncurry Honeyeater, Chestnut-eared Finch, Crimson Chat, Restless Fantail, Crows, and Black-backed Magpies.

It was a cold night (37 deg. F.). We got away at 9.30 a.m., through fairly open grass country. We saw Emus, Australian Cranes, Kestrels. At 204 miles, 7.30 p.m., we reached Tambo, and were glad to get there, for the day has been bitterly cold. A cold night (37 deg. F.). On July 2nd, we packed up, and got away at 7.50 a.m. Going was very heavy, just natural tracks; heavy black ground. We saw Emus, Black-faced Wood Swallows. We reached Charleville at 7.30 p.m., at 332 miles. We had a bitterly cold day in the mud. The mercury dropped to 33 deg. F. that night. We saw Red-capped Robin, Brown Tree-creeper (*Climacteris picumna*), Black-faced Wood-Swallow,

Emus, Brown Hawk, White Cockatoo (*Cacatua galerita*), and Wedge-tailed Eagle. We saw the first Rabbits to-day. We reached Cunnamulla at 7.35 (132 miles); a cold night (35 deg. F.).

We were away again at 9.45 a.m., across black soil country. Galahs were very numerous. Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Whistling Eagles, Brown Hawk, Bronzewing Pigeon, Pink Cockatoo (*Cacatua leadbeateri*). We arrived at Bourke at 296 miles at 6.30 p.m.; night cool (42 deg. F.). Away again by 10.30 a.m. on July 5th. We did not see many birds, as we came down the Darling River that day, and went into camp at 108 miles from Bourke. That evening we saw a good many Red-backed Parrots (*Psephotus haematonotus*) and Galahs. Rain fell in the night, and made it very bad for us, for we had no tents. In the morning we saw many Black Cormorants, Little Pied Cormorants, Galahs, Crested Bell-Bird, Greenies or Chickawees (*Meliphaga penicillata*), Laughing Kookaburra, Tree-Swallows (*Hylochelidon nigricans*). Winking Owls (*Tyto connivens*) were calling in the night. That day Pelicans, Black-faced Wood-Swallows, Brown Tree-creepers, Restless Flycatchers, and Galahs were seen. We reached Wilcannia at 5.30, at 211 miles; a very cold day. Leaving next day, we saw Black-faced Wood-Swallows, White Cockatoos, Grey Teal (*Virago gibberifrons*), Grey Ducks, and Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters. We reached Menindie at 4.10 p.m., 95½ miles, after crossing the Darling on the punt. Along the river were White-necked Herons, White and Straw-necked Ibises, Pelicans, Grey Duck, Grey Teal and Black and Pied Cormorants. At 7.30 we went into camp, at 122 miles from Wilcannia. Next day, the 8th, it rained, and although we pushed on as fast as the slippery soil allowed, we saw few birds.

Some Emus, Yellow-billed Spoonbill (*Platalea flavipes*), Egrets, Grey Duck, and Grey Teal, Wood Duck (*Chenonetta jubata*). We reached Mildura thick with mud, and left again next day in the rain. At Hattah camped for the night. Reached Birchip, 86 miles, next day through heavy mud; it was bitterly cold. Next day, the 11th, made Ararat at 10.25 p.m., 221 miles. The following day we turned west, and reached Mt. Gambier at 4.55 p.m., 373 miles. The going was wet and sticky. Leaving Mt. Gambier on the 13th, we reached Robe for the evening meal; then went on to Kingston for the night. The following day went along the Coorong to McGrath's Flat—the Messrs. McCallum Brothers' station and home. Leaving McGrath's Flat before daylight next morning, we arrived at the G.P.O., Adelaide, at 11.20 a.m. on July 15th, with a huge crowd awaiting to greet us.

So 5,560 miles was accomplished across Australia since May 9th—a record that will take a lot of beating, but unfortunately too fast a trip for the best ornithological work. The writer has marked down the country to be worked, and will do this as opportunities are presented. Many notes were taken which should be valuable to science in general.



White, Samuel Albert. 1923. "The Most Extensive Ornithological Tour ever Accomplished in Australia." *The Emu : official organ of the Australasian Ornithologists' Union* 22(3), 218–236. <https://doi.org/10.1071/mu922218>.

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