

## The Birds of Mallacoota.

BY CAPT. S. A. WHITE, M.B.O.U.

THIS list comprises the birds identified during the working excursion to Mallacoota Inlet and the surrounding district:—

**Dromaius novæ-hollandiæ** (*Dromiceius novæhollandiæ novæhollandiæ*).<sup>\*</sup> Emu.—Although these birds were not actually seen, their tracks were met with in many places.

**Eudyptula minor** (*E. minor undina*). Little Penguin.—These birds were seen in the water off the Inlet.

**Coturnix pectoralis** (*C. pectoralis pectoralis*). Stubble Quail.—Met with in the more open country near the coast.

**Synoicus australis** (*S. ypsilophorus australis*). Eastern Brown Quail.—Seen in open timbered country.

**Turnix varia** (*Ortygodes varius varius*). Eastern Painted Quail.—Flushed in the low bush country.

**Phaps chalcoptera** (*P. chalcoptera chalcoptera*). Bronze-winged Pigeon (?).

**Phaps elegans** (*Cosmopelia elegans neglecta*). Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon.—Fairly numerous, and were flushed in pairs through the big timber country. The stomachs contained large seeds of a shrub, as well as grass seeds.

**Leucosarcia picata** (*L. melanoleuca*). Wonga-Wonga Pigeon.—Numbers of these fine birds were heard calling in the heavily-timbered valleys, and were flushed from the ground on several occasions.

**Puffinus brevicaudus** (*Neonectris tenuirostris brevicaudus*). Short-tailed Petrel.—A number of these birds were seen flying over the ocean near the mouth of the Inlet.

**Ossifraga gigantea** (*Macronectes giganteus giganteus*). New Zealand Giant Petrel.—A bird was reported as having been seen just after leaving the Inlet on our return journey.

**Diomedea exulans** (*D. exulans rothschildi*). Australian Wandering Albatross.—These fine birds followed our vessel along the coast-line. Adults and dark-plumaged young were admired in their fine flights about the vessel.

**Diomedea chlororhynchus** (*Nealbatrus chlororhynchus bassi*). Yellow-nosed Mollymawk.—One or two of these birds flew round our vessel, and at the sight of refuse thrown overboard would alight upon the water and pick up the food.

**Diomedea cauta** (*Diomedella cauta*). White-capped Albatross.—Numbers followed us on our journey down to the Inlet and on our return.

**Sylochelidon caspia** (*Hydroprogne tschegrava strenua*). Australian Caspian Tern.—It was reported that a bird was seen flying over the waters of the Inlet.

**Sternula placens** (*S. albifrons placens*). Eastern White-shafted Ternlet.—Numbers of these graceful birds were nesting on a low sand-

<sup>\*</sup>The names in brackets are according to "A List of the Birds of Australia," 1913, by G. M. Mathews.



spit (Goodwin Sands). The slight depression in the sand contained from a single egg to the full clutch of three. It is almost impossible to separate this bird from *S. nereis* while on the wing—in fact, I took it for that bird until I handled a specimen. This is, I believe, a new record for Victoria, as it had not been previously recorded for that State.

**Larus novæ-hollandiæ** (*Bruchigavia novæhollandiæ novæhollandiæ*). Silver Gull.—Great numbers are met with both inside the Inlet and off the coast.

**Stercorarius crepidatus** (*Catharacta l. lonnbergi*). Richardson Skua.—Quite a number of these strange birds flew round our vessel. They were in many stages of plumage, from old birds in summer plumage (the elongated feathers in the tail being well pronounced) to the mottled immature plumage.

**Hæmatopus longirostris** (*H. ostralegus longirostris*). Pied Oyster-catcher.—One or two pairs were observed, and a nest containing three eggs was found and photographed.

**Hæmatopus fuliginosus** (*H. niger fuliginosus*). Eastern Black Oyster-catcher.—One or two pairs met with, but no nests were observed.

**Lobivanellus lobatus** (*Lobibyx novæhollandiæ*). Spur-winged Plover.—Quite a number were met with on the swampy country near the coast.

**Charadrius fulvus** (*Pluvialis dominicus fulvus*). Lesser Golden Plover.—Reported as having been seen near Naggi Lake and on the Goodwin Sands, an extensive area of sand in the lower harbour; most of it is covered at high tide.

**Ægialitis ruficapilla** (*Leucopoliis ruficapillus ruficapillus*). Red-capped Dottrel.—These birds were breeding on the sand-spit in the harbour and on the sand above high-water mark on the ocean beach. Nests containing three eggs were seen.

**Numenius cyanopus** (*N. cyanopus*). Australian Curlew.—One or two of these wary birds were seen on the sand-banks.

**Limosa uropygialis** (*Vetola lapponica baueri*). Eastern Barred-rumped Godwit.—A few of these birds were seen on the sand-banks, and specimens dissected were extremely fat. A layer of fat completely covered the body. This would lead one to think that some of these birds must remain in Australia at nesting time. It may be the first year's birds do not return to their nesting haunts in Siberia.

**Pisobia ruficollis** (*P. minuta ruficollis*). Eastern Little Stint.—Met with in flocks on sand-banks in the harbour.

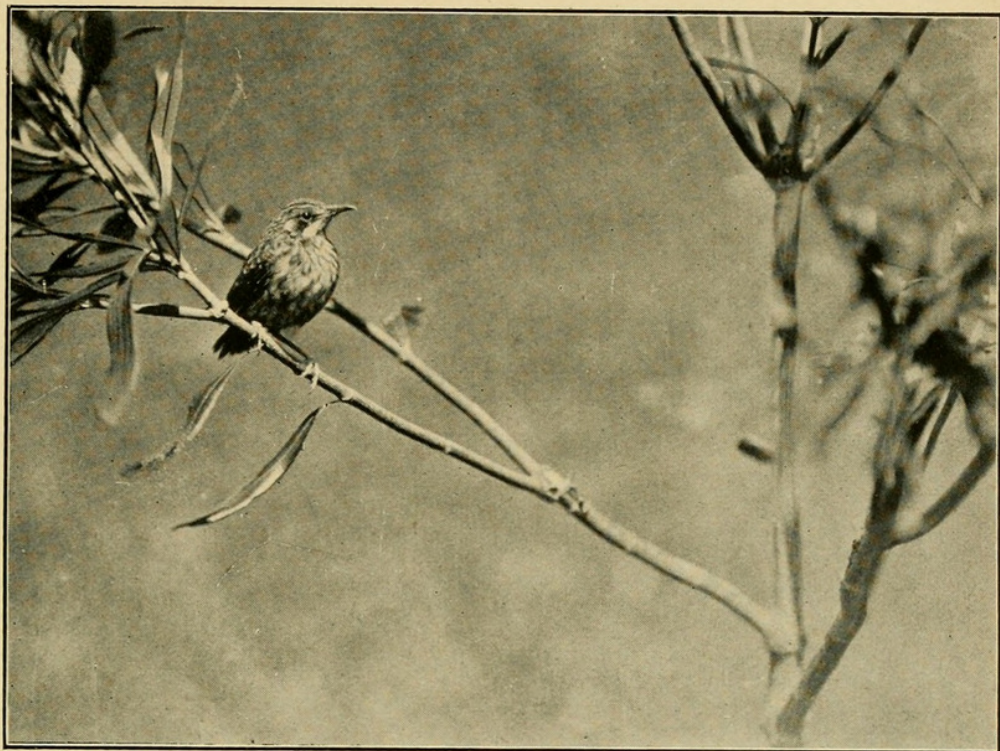
**Pisobia acuminata** (*Limnocinclus acuminatus*). Sharp-tailed Stint.—Numbers were seen on the sand-banks.

**Ancylochilus subarquatus** (*Erolia ferruginea chinensis*). Curlew Sandpiper.—Found in small flocks on the sand-banks.

**Gallinago australis** (*Ditelmatis hardwickii*). Australian Snipe.—A few birds were flushed from the bracken in the gullies and on the slopes.

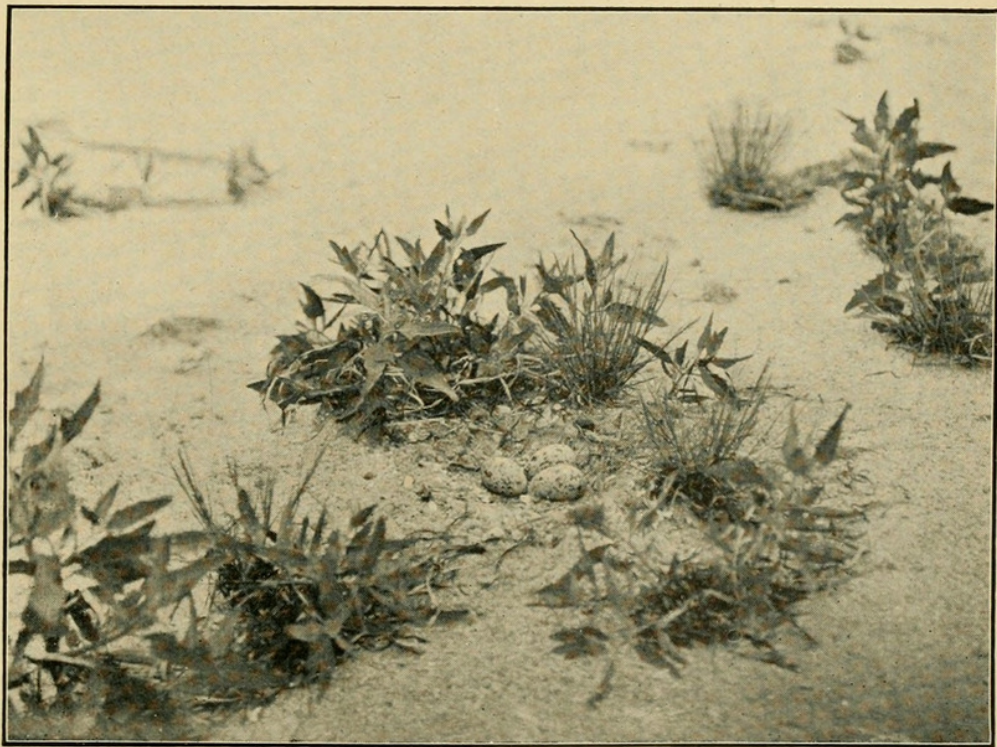
**Notophoxyx novæ-hollandiæ** (*N. novæhollandiæ*). White-fronted Heron.—A few were often observed wading in the shallow water at low tide, or perched on dead gums near the water.





Tawny-crowned Honey-eater.

FROM A PHOTO. BY A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.



Nest and Eggs of Pied Oyster-catcher.

FROM A PHOTO. BY J. T. HAMILTON,







**Nycticorax caledonicus** (*N. caledonicus australasiæ*). Australian Night-Heron.—Only one or two birds were observed.

**Chenopsis atrata** (*C. atrata*). Black Swan.—Great numbers were met with in the harbour and up the arms. There were many first year's birds with their parents. Great numbers of the old birds were moulting to such an extent they were unable to fly.

**Anas superciliosa** (*A. superciliosa rogersi*). Black Duck.—A few were seen on the rivers.

**Nettion castaneum** (*Virago castanea castanea*). Chestnut-breasted Teal.—One pair only was observed.

**Nettion gibberifrons**.\* Grey Teal.—Not numerous.

**Nyroca australis** (*N. australis*). White-eyed Duck.—A pair with this year's young, fully fledged, was seen on the harbour.

**Biziura lobata** (*B. lobata*). Musk-Duck.—A few birds were seen upon the waters of the Inlet.

**Phalacrocorax carbo** (*P. c. novæhollandiæ*). Black Cormorant.—Fairly numerous.

**Phalacrocorax sulcirostris** (*Mesocarbo ater*). Little Black Cormorant.—Quite a number were met with in the bays and rivers.

**Phalacrocorax hypoleucus** (*Hypoleucus varius hypoleucus*). Eastern Pied Cormorant.—These birds were not numerous; only an odd one or two were seen.

**Phalacrocorax melanoleucus** (*Microcarbo melanoleucus*). Little Pied Cormorant.—Quite a number were seen in the bays and inlets.

**Sula australis** (*Morus serrator dyotti*). Australian Gannet.—A few were seen around our vessel going to and coming from the Inlet.

**Pelecanus conspicillatus** (*Catoptropelicanus conspicillatus conspicillatus*). Eastern Pelican.—One bird was seen upon the waters of the harbour.

**Circus gouldi** (*C. approximans gouldi*). Swamp-Hawk.—It was reported that one bird was seen in the marshy country.

**Astur approximans** (*Urospiza fasciata fasciata*). Australian Goshawk.—One of these birds was seen to swoop down upon a tea-tree and carry off a Finch's nest in its claws. On alighting upon the ground, it deliberately pulled out the young Finches (*Ægitha temporalis*) and began its meal. When disturbed it flew off.

**Accipiter torquatus** (*A. cirrocephalus cirrocephalus*). Collared Sparrow-Hawk.—One bird was seen several times in the same locality.

**Uroaëtus audax** (*U. audax*). Wedge-tailed Eagle.—Not many of these fine birds came under observation. A few old nests were seen in the big dead gums near the water.

**Halietus leucogaster** (*Cuncuma leucogaster*). White-bellied Sea-Eagle.—A pair of these noble birds patrolled the Inlet morning and evening in search of food.

**Haliastur sphenurus** (*H. sphenurus*). Whistling-Eagle.—This bird was seen and heard, but was not plentiful.

\* This species is not recognized in Mathews's 1913 "List."



**Hieracidea berigora** (*Hieracidea berigora berigora*). Brown Hawk.—Not numerous.

**Cerchneis cenchroides** (*C. cenchroides cenchroides*). Nankeen Kestrel.—Not plentiful; one or two birds seen.

**Ninox boobook** (*Spiloglaux boobook*). Boobook Owl.—It is remarkable that so few night-birds seem to frequent this locality. A Boobook Owl was heard calling at night, but if it be the Boobook or the sub-species, the Marbled Owl, it is hard to say.

**Trichoglossus swainsoni** (*T. novæhollandiæ novæhollandiæ*). Bluebellied Lorikeet.—Large flocks of these birds passed over each day on their way to feeding grounds. The specimens handled varied much in colouration.

**Glossopsitta concinna** (*G. concinna*). Musk Lorikeet.—Numbers of these birds were found feeding on the young shoots and buds of the *Angophora* trees. Many of the specimens handled had a deep, bright blue frontal band; no doubt this is due to age.

**Glossopsitta porphyrocephala** (*G. porphyrocephala porphyrocephala*). Purple-crowned Lorikeet.—Not numerous; a few birds observed.

**Glossopsitta pusilla** (*G. pusilla*). Little Lorikeet.—These birds were found feeding upon the honey in the flower-spikes of the grass-tree (*Xanthorrhæa*).

**Calyptrorhynchus banksi** (*C. banksii banksii*). Banksian Cockatoo.—Specimens secured were an adult male and female as well as a one-year-old bird, which proved to be a female. This bird, strange to say, had almost the plumage of the adult male, with the exception of a light sprinkling of yellow specks on the greater and lesser wing coverts; the band across the tail, instead of being vermilion, as in the adult male, had the external margin of the feathers light red, with irregular bars of black, half of the inner margins light red and the other half yellow, also crossed by irregular black bars, with a narrow margin of yellow on each side; under tail coverts glossy black; two centre tail feathers and the tips of all the other feathers glossy black. The principal contents of the stomach were the seeds of casuarinas and banksias, with a few insect larvæ.

**Calyptrorhynchus funereus** (*C. funereus funereus*). Black Cockatoo.—A good many of these birds were met with near the sand-dunes along the coast. Three specimens came under the notice of the writer—an adult female and two immature males. They seem to agree with the Queensland and New South Wales birds both in size and colouration. The immature males, which would be between one and two years old, resemble the female in colouration. The yellow of the tail of the older bird of the two is speckled over with dark specks; the other is heavily blotched. Their bills, like that of the female, are nearly white. The stomachs contained banksia, casuarina, and grass seeds, the latter principally the seeds of a flat-leaved plant growing on the sand-dunes.

**Callocephalon galeatum** (*C. galeatum*). Gang-Gang Cockatoo.—Quite a number of these little Cockatoos were met with amongst the heavily-timbered country; most were immature birds in their first year's plumage. They visited the deep, damp gullies where the acacias grew; the seeds of these trees seem to be the principal food of the Gang-Gang at this time of the year. When passing through



the timber country late in the afternoon, the low, growling notes of these birds when feeding were often heard. The immature males in the first year's plumage have but a short crest, much mottled with grey; wings, breast, and abdomen are barred and mottled with light yellow; many of the feathers of the abdomen are barred with pink. When dissected the stomachs were found to be packed with the green acacia seeds, and the birds smelt very strongly of this plant.

**Aprosdictus scapulatus** (*Alisterus cyanopygius neglectus*). Victorian King Parrot.—This bird was not numerous; there were a few old birds, accompanied by immature young in the first year's plumage. The low and plaintive note of this bird is in strong contrast to the typical calls of the Parrot family.

**Platycercus pennanti** (*Platycercus elegans elegans*). Crimson Parrot.—It was reported that this bird had been seen.

**Pezoporus formosus** (*P. terrestris terrestris*). Ground-Parrot.—This lovely Parrot is becoming very rare, and it will not be long before it will be, like the Night-Parrot, almost extinct. Two birds were flushed in the heath country, one being secured; but, despite all efforts, the second bird could not be flushed again.

**Alecyone azurea** (*A. azurea victoriæ*). Victorian Blue Kingfisher.—Not plentiful; one or two specimens seen on the wing passing along the rivers.

**Dacelo gigas** (*D. gigas gigas*). Brown Kingfisher.—One would expect to meet with these birds in great numbers amongst the fine forest country, but they were not at all numerous. A few pairs were found nesting.

**Halcyon sanctus** (*Sauropatis sancta sancta*). Sacred Kingfisher.—Only one or two examples of this species came under observation.

**Chætura caudacuta** (*C. caudacuta*). Spine-tailed Swift.—Numbers were seen flying round during a close, thundery day.

**Cuculus pallidus** (*Heteroscenes pallidus pallidus*). Pallid Cuckoo.—Numerous, calling loudly. Females dissected present the distinct phase of plumage already described by me in *Emu*, vol. xiii., p. 24; *South Australian Ornithologist*, vol. i., part 5.

**Cacomantis flabelliformis** (*C. rubricatus rubricatus*). Fan-tailed Cuckoo.—The long-drawn, weird call of this bird was often heard in the open forest country.

**Chalcococcyx basalis** (*Neochalcites basalis mellori*). Narrow-billed Bronze-Cuckoo.—This bird was reported as having been seen.

**Chalcococcyx plagosus** (*Lamprococcyx plagosus plagosus*). Bronze-Cuckoo.—Only met with on one or two occasions.

**Menura victoriæ** (*M. novæhollandiæ victoriæ*). Victoria Lyre-Bird.—I have placed this bird under the Victorian species, which is, no doubt, its right place; still, not having handled a specimen, one cannot be sure. In all the deep, fern-clad gullies the presence of this bird was indicated on all sides by the scratchings in search of food. A pair was seen on one occasion, and their calls were often heard. From local information it was ascertained that these birds were once very plentiful in this district, but of late years they have become rare. This is put down to the increase of the imported fox.

**Hirundo neoxena** (*H. neoxena neoxena*). Welcome Swallow.—



Observed near the homesteads. A pair had built under the foredeck of a motor-boat which we were out in almost every day. The birds followed the boat all day, although we took many long trips.

**Petrochelidon nigricans** (*Hylochelidon nigricans caleyi*). Tree-Swallow.—These birds were in numbers, and no doubt were looking out their nesting-sites amongst the dead timber.

**Petrochelidon ariel** (*Lagenoplastes ariel ariel*). Fairy Martin.—This bird was reported as having been seen.

**Microœca fascians** (*M. fascians fascians*). Australian Brown Flycatcher.—Was not nearly as plentiful as one would expect in such a likely country. No sign of nesting was seen.

**Petroica leggii** (*P. multicolor frontalis*). Southern Scarlet-breasted Robin.—Many pairs would be met with in a day amongst the timber. They were only building their nests in some instances, while in others fully-fledged young were about with the parent birds.

**Petroica phœnicea** (*Littlera chrysoptera phœnicea*). Flame-breasted Robin.—Not at all plentiful. On comparing specimens it was found that they were most like the New South Wales birds, being very light in colour alongside our South Australian species.

**Gerygone**, sp. (?)—There was certainly a species of this genus in the district, but all efforts to identify it failed.

**Pachycephala gutturalis** (*P. pectoralis youngi*). Victorian Thick-head.—Numerous; their beautiful notes resounded through the forest. In many instances we found them at the time of nidification.

**Pachycephala rufiventris** (*Lewinornis rufiventris rufiventris*). Rufous-breasted Thickhead.—Fairly numerous, and was heard singing each day amidst the thick scrub where it was nesting.

**Eopsaltria australis** (*Eopsaltria A. viridior*). Green-rumped Shrike-Rbin.—Plentiful, and they were nesting at the time. They seem to prefer the open forest country to the thick scrub.

**Rhipidura albiscapa** (*R. flabellifera victoriae*). Victorian Fantail.—Very numerous. Many nests containing both eggs and young were seen:

**Rhipidura rufifrons** (*Howeavis rufifrons inexpectata*). Victorian Rufous Fantail.—Only met with amidst the thick jungle of the fern-tree gullies. The call and habits are very similar to those of the preceding species.

**Rhipidura motacilloides** (*Leucocirca tricolor tricolor*). Black-and-White Fantail.—Met with in the open country and round the homesteads.

**Monarcha carinata** (*M. melanopsis melanopsis*). Black-faced Flycatcher.—A rare bird. Those seen showed a preference for the deep fern-tree gullies and the thickest jungle.

**Graucalus melanops** (*Coracina novæhollandiæ melanops*). Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike.—A common bird, met with in almost every locality.

**Graucalus mentalis** (*Coracina robusta robusta*). Little Cuckoo-Shrike.—Only one example of this species came under my notice, and I have nowhere found it a common bird. The specimen showed faint barring across the abdomen.



**Edoliisoma jardi** (*Metagraucalus tenuirostris tenuirostris*). Great Caterpillar-eater.—This bird was reported as having been seen.

**Campephaga humeralis** (*Lalage tricolor tricolor*). White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater.—Very numerous. A number of nests, mostly containing young, were seen.

**Cinclosoma punctatum** (*C. punctatum neglectum*). Victorian Spotted Ground-Bird.—Not plentiful; shy. A young bird fully fledged was taken.

**Pycnoptilus floccosus** (*P. floccosus sandlandi*). Victorian Pilot-Bird.—Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley reported having seen this bird amidst the jungle in a deep gully.

**Psophodes crepitans** (*P. olivaceus scrymgeouri*). Victorian Coach-whip-Bird.—A very common bird, and its cracking call was heard in every gully where the undergrowth was thick.

**Calamanthus albiloris** (*C. fuliginosus albiloris*). White-lored Field-Wren.—Not common; met with amongst the heath country near the coast, where a nest and three eggs were taken.

**Cinclorhamphus rufescens** (*Ptenædus mathewsi vigorsi*). Eastern Rufous Song-Lark.—One specimen only came under observation.

**Ephthianura albifrons** (*E. albifrons albifrons*). White-fronted Chat.—Quite a number were seen in the open country near the coast. Many were nesting, and large young and eggs were seen.

**Megalurus gramineus** (*Poodytes gramineus wilsoni*). Victorian Grass-Bird.—A specimen of this bird was secured, I believe. Not having access to the specimen, I have placed it under the Victorian sub-species.

**Acanthiza pusilla** (*A. pusilla macularia*). Victorian Brown Tit.—These little birds were very plentiful, hopping over and under the fallen timber in the scrub land in search of insects.

**Acanthiza lineata** (*A. lineata chandleri*). Victorian Striated Tit.—Numbers of these birds were met with in the timber country. They were incessantly moving and uttering their sharp little clicking note. On comparing specimens it was found that the Mallacoota birds, being very dark on the back, most resembled the Kangaroo Island specimens.

**Acanthiza chrysorrhous** (*Geobasileus chrysorrhous sandlandi*). Victorian Yellow-rumped Tit.—Not plentiful; met with in the more open country.

**Acanthiza reguloides** (*Geobasileus reguloides connectens*). Victorian Buff-rumped Tit.—The specimens secured show a great deal more yellow with the buff in comparison with South Australian birds. They were found amongst the high bracken ferns.

**Sericornis frontalis** (*S. longirostris longirostris*). Victorian Scrub-Wren.—Very common in nearly all the damp gullies. They keep to the thick undergrowth during the middle of the day, but in the morning and evening they were seen hopping about on the short grass in search of insects. At the least sound they would dart into cover.

**Malurus cyaneus** (*M. cyaneus henriettae*). Victorian Blue Wren.—Very plentiful. The blue on head and mantle of these birds is very



pale, and approaches the colour of *M. c. cyanochlamys*. Many of these birds were nesting.

**Stipiturus malachurus** (*S. malachurus tregellasi*). Victorian Emu-Wren.—Plentiful amidst the cutting-grass near the coast. Numbers were found nesting. The young males take the blue colouration with the first feathers in the nest.

**Sphenura brachyptera** (*S. brachyptera*). Bristle-Bird.—Rare, frequenting the low, stunted tea-tree growing on marshy country near the coast.

**Artamus sordidus** (*Pseudartamus cyanopterus*). Wood-Swallow.—A common bird. Nesting.

**Artamus superciliosus** (*Campbellornis superciliosus superciliosus*).—One company of birds was seen and one nest, containing eggs, was observed.

**Colluricincla harmonica** (*C. harmonica victoriæ*). Victorian Grey Shrike-Thrush.—Met with in nearly every locality.

**Grallina picata** (*G. cyanoleuca cyanoleuca*). Magpie-Lark.—One or two birds came under notice, and a nest was seen.

**Gymnorhina leuconota** (*G. hypoleuca leuconota*). White-backed Magpie.—Not a plentiful bird.

**Cracticus destructor** (*Bulestes torquatus torquatus*). Collared Butcher-Bird.—Only one or two birds were seen.

**Neositta chrysoptera** (*N. chrysoptera lathamii*). Victorian Tree-runner.—A small party of five or six, comprising parent and immature birds, were moving about very silently high up in the gums.

**Climacteris leucophæa** (*C. leucophæa leucophæa*). White-throated Tree-creeper.—Very plentiful, especially amongst the *Angophora* trees near the coast. They were nesting at the time of our visit, and nests containing young were observed. Many of the immature birds, in their first year's plumage, accompanied the mature birds. The females of the former were adorned with deep rufous upper tail coverts, which colouration appears on the young in the nest, and which they retain for the first year. Strange to say, two singular features are connected with the females of this species. One is having a small orange-coloured spot just below the ear coverts—this distinguishes the female at once from the male; the other is that it seems almost certain that the immature of this sex alone develop the bright rufous colouration on the rump and upper tail coverts. John Gould, like others, described the immature female of this species as a distinct species (*C. pyrrhonota*), but afterwards found his mistake. On comparing adult specimens with those from South Australia, it is found that the latter birds are larger and lighter on the back, while those from Queensland are much darker above and below. The nest is in a hollow branch, deep down, neatly constructed of grass; it usually contained three eggs. One nest observed contained two young and an egg; both young birds showed the red colouration appearing with the first feathers on the rump.

**Zosterops dorsalis** (*Z. lateralis westernensis*). Southern White-eye.—Very plentiful. They were breeding in many localities. Several nests containing eggs were seen, and the eggs appeared to be a little larger than the average of those of the South Australian bird. On comparing the birds I find that the specimens from Mallacoota





Emu-Wren's Nest and Three Fledgelings.

FROM A PHOTO. BY A. H. E. MATTINGLEY.







approach much more closely the Kangaroo Island bird (*Z. halmaturina*) than the mainland birds, the grey of the back and the yellow of throat and head being much more pronounced than it is in either the South Australian or Bass Strait island birds.

**Pardalotus punctatus** (*P. punctatus interjectus*). Victorian Spotted Pardalote.—This was the only species that came under our notice, and even this one was not common, which seems strange, considering what a fine timbered country it is.

**Melithreptus lunulatus** (*M. lunatus lunatus*). White-naped Honey-eater.—Fairly numerous amongst the timber. When moving about in the tops of the very high trees they look more like bees than birds. This is a more robust bird in comparison to the South Australian sub-species.

**Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris** (*A. tenuirostris victoriæ*). Victorian Spinebill.—There were quite a number of these dainty little birds. They seemed to frequent the open timber and bush-land alike.

**Glyciphila fulvifrons** (*G. melanops chandleri*). Victorian Tawny-crowned Honey-eater.—Were met with on the heath country near the coast, where they were breeding. Specimens handled showed a very light forehead, in some cases almost white.

**Ptilotis chrysops** (*Paraptilotis chrysops beaconsfieldi*). Southern Yellow-faced Honey-eater.—Numerous; they seemed to take the place of *P. penicillata*, which they resemble much in habits. They were nesting in the tea-tree. Their short but melodious note was heard on every side in the early morning and evening.

**Ptilotis chrysotis** (*Meliphaga lewinii nea*?). Yellow-eared Honey-eater.—Only two birds came under notice. They were very silent. One bird was feeding on the native cherries, which were ripe at the time of our visit. Not having sufficient material for comparison, it is difficult to say if this is the New South Wales or Victorian form.

**Lichmera australasiana** (*Phylidonyris pyrrhoptera indistincta*). Crescent Honey-eater.—Not plentiful; more often heard than seen.

**Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ** (*M. novæhollandiæ assimilis*). White-bearded Honey-eater.—A fair number of these birds made their presence known by their sharp squeaking call and by the erratic way they fly out from cover, and on alarm dive back into the undergrowth. With its thick and long bill, this bird is unlike the Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australian specimens, and has a closer affinity to those found on the islands of Bass Strait.

**Manorhina melanophrys** (*M. melanophrys yarra*). Bell Miner.—Not plentiful; restricted to a very small area, where they kept up their clear, bell-like note incessantly. Very pugnacious, chasing all birds, both large and small, that come in their way, drooping their wings and fluffing out their feathers as signs of combat. They are very like the *Myzantha* in habits.

**Anthochaera carunculata** (*Coleia carunculata tregellasi*). Red Wattle-Bird.—This bird was reported as having been seen. I notice Mr. Mathews calls this the Yellow Wattle-Bird; the Tasmanian bird is the one always known to Australian ornithologists as the Yellow Wattle-Bird.

**Anellobia mellivora** (*Anthochaera chrysoptera intermedia*). Brush Wattle-Bird.—This was a very plentiful bird all through the district.



**Tropidorhynchus corniculatus** (*T. corniculatus corniculatus*). Friar-Bird.—I was informed that a specimen of this species was taken by a member.

**Anthus australis** (*A. australis australis*). Australian Pipit.—Met with on the heath country near the coast, and in the clearings. There is no doubt this bird fits in with the description given by Gould.

**Stagonopleura guttata** (*S. guttata philordi*). Spotted-sided Finch.—Not numerous; observed on one or two occasions in the clearings.

**Ægitha temporalis** (*Æ. temporalis tregellasi*). Red-browed Finch.—Numerous in all the clearings. Not having handled a specimen, it is impossible to say to which sub-species it belongs.

**Ptilonorhynchus holosericeus** (*P. violaceus violaceus*). Satin Bower-Bird.—A few of these birds were met with on the Dowell River amidst the thick sub-tropical jungle. They are wary birds when once alarmed, and the males in full plumage are very difficult to approach. The fruit of the wild cherry seemed to be attracting them.

**Corvus coronoides** (*C. coronoides perplexus*). Australian Raven.—Although a specimen was not secured, there is little doubt the above naming will be correct.

**Strepera graculina** (*S. graculina graculina*). Pied Crow-Shrike.—I feel sure there were two species in the district. This was the only one I was able to identify positively.

## Australian Cuckoos.

By H. L. WHITE, R.A.O.U. (SCONE, N.S.W.)

### INTRODUCTION.

FOR more than 30 years Cuckoos' eggs have had a great attraction for me, and upon every possible occasion I have tried to add to my collection, which I now look upon as fairly complete, though there will always be what I call chance combinations to be added. It is evident to anyone who has given the matter a close study that the various species of Cuckoos have their favourite foster-parents, and that these are not very numerous; outside of these favourites are what I term "chance," or, perhaps more properly, "occasional," foster-parents, which are used now and then.

There is no doubt in my mind that Australian Cuckoos which lay in open nests usually select as foster-parents those birds whose eggs nearly approach their own in colouration. A casual glance at my collection gives the impression that my theory is incorrect, as one's gaze is met by many colours that do not harmonize, however uniform the general appearance may be. A visitor often exclaims, "Oh! look here! and here! and here! these differ altogether." "Quite so," I admit, "but please to remember that those you point out are 'occasional' combinations only. Examine these dozen combinations of 'favourites,' forming perhaps 90 per cent. of the foster-parents used by this particular Cuckoo. Do not they harmonize?" The answer is invariably, "Yes, of course they do!"





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