

Birds of Yackandandah Creek Valley, between Yackandandah and Kiewa, Victoria.

BY H. W. FORD, F.G.S.

1908.

August.—*Strepera graculina* and *S. cuneicaudata* (Pied and Grey Crow-Shrikes), *Grallina picata* (Magpie-Lark), *Collyriocincla harmonica* (Grey Shrike-Thrush), *Cracticus destructor* (Butcher-Bird), *Platycercus elegans* (Crimson Parrakeet), *Platycercus eximius* (Rosella), *Climacteris scandens* (Brown Tree-creeper), *Psephotus haematonotus* (Red-backed Parrakeet), *Pomatorhinus superciliosus* (White-browed Babbler), *Callocephalon galeatum* (Gang-Gang Cockatoo), *Corvus coronoides* (Crow), *Podargus strigoides* (Frogmouth), *Cacatua galerita* (White Cockatoo), *Pachycephala gutturalis* (White-throated Thickhead), *Acanthiza chrysorrhoa* (Yellow-rumped Tit), *Lobivanellus lobatus* (Spur-winged Plover), *Malurus cyaneus* (Blue Wren), *Coturnix pectoralis* (Stubble-Quail), *Notophoxyx novae-hollandiae* (White-fronted Heron), *Steganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch), *Gymnorhina tibicen* and *G. leuconota* (Black-backed and White-backed Magpies), *Phalacrocorax gouldi* and *P. sulcirostris* (White-breasted and Little Black Cormorants), *Anas superciliosa* (Black Duck), *Nettion castaneum* (Teal), *Chenonetta jubata* (Wood-Duck), *Rhipidura tricolor* (Black-and-White Fantail), *Dacelo gigas* (Brown Kingfisher), *Myzantha garrula* (Miner), *Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel), *Haliastur sphenurus* (Whistling Eagle), *Burhinus grallarius* (Stone-Plover), *Corcorax melanorhamphus* (White-winged Chough).

All these birds were to be seen or heard in August.

September.—*Cuculus pallidus* and *Chalcococcyx plagosus* (Pallid and Bronze Cuckoos), *Graucalus melanops* (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike), *Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallow), *Pardalotus assimilis* (Orange-tipped Pardalote), *Philemon corniculatus* (Friar-Bird).

October 3 to 5.—*Rhipidura albiscapa* (White-shafted Fantails) seen.

October 6.—*Eurystomus australis* (Dollar-Bird or Roller).—Three of these birds appeared in trees on creek flat—the first seen by writer in Victoria. Last seen in tropical Queensland in 1877. *Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows) observed at 2 p.m., going north.

October 7.—Masked Wood-Swallows, high up, going north, 5 to 6 p.m.

October 11.—*Hypotaenidia philippinensis* (Pectoral Rail) seen.

October 12 to 14.—Two pairs of *Lalage tricolor* (White-shouldered Caterpillar-eater) seen. They remained and nested, leaving about 31st January, 1909.

October 14.—Small flock of *Calopsittacus novae-hollandiae* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) seen, going north.

October 16.—*Acrocephalus australis* (Reed-Warblers) about swamp; also *Circus gouldi* (Harrier).

October 2 to 30.—*Petræca bicolor* (Hooded Robins) about.

October 11.—*Circus gouldi* (Harrier) nesting in swamp. *Halcyon sanctus* (Sacred Kingfisher) seen. Numbers of these birds about later.

October 20.—A flock of *Petrochelidon ariel* (Fairy Martins) about. *Oriolus viridis* (Orioles) seen.

- October 20, 24, 25.—Flocks of *Carphibis spinicollis* (Straw-necked Ibis) feeding on flats.
- × October 24.—Two flocks of *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parakeets) observed, going south.
- × October 25.—A pair of *Haliastur sphenurus* (Whistling Eagles) seen.
- October 25 to 30.—*Nycticorax caledonicus* (Night-Heron) in willows on creek flat.
- × October 26.—*Pardalotus assimilis* (Orange-tipped Pardalotes) nest-building—stripping bark off trees and carrying it away.
- October 27.—*Eurystomus australis* (Dollar-Birds) numerous. They remained on creek till 30th January, 1909, nesting in tree-hollows. Seemed all to go away about end of January. *Merops ornatus* (Bee-eaters) seen. × Cockatoo-Parakeets going south. × Masked Wood-Swallows, high up, travelling in same direction. Nest of *Climacteris scandens* (Brown Tree-creeper) found, containing two young about a week old.
- October 28.—At 10.30 a.m. × *Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows) seen, high up, going south. *Ægitha temporalis* (Red-browed Finches) about.
- October 30.—*Eurystomus australis* (Dollar-Birds) and *Merops ornatus* (Bee-eaters) seen in numbers.
- November 1 to 30.—*Oriolus viridis* (Orioles), × *Philemon corniculatus* (Friar-Birds), *Pardalotus assimilis* (Orange-tipped Pardalotes), × and *Eurystomus australis* (Dollar-Birds) nesting.
- November 3 and 4.—A pair of *Nisaetus morphnoides* (Little Eagles) seen.
- × November 10.—Little Eagles (a pair) about.
- × November 11.—*Artamus personatus* (Masked Wood-Swallows), going south.
- × November 12.—Masked Wood-Swallows, at 6 to 7 p.m., going south.
- November 13 to 22.—*Artamus superciliosus* (White-browed Wood-Swallows) about camp till 22nd November, when they left, after heavy thunder and rain.
- November 14 to 16.—*Cinchorhamphus cruralis* (Brown Song-Lark) heard and seen.
- November 23.—Nest of Spotted Crake (*Porzana fluminea*) found, with seven eggs; bird sitting; eggs $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, 1 inch broad; cream-pink, with brown and blue spots.*
- November 27 and 28.—Eggs in above nest chipping on 27th; on morning of 28th four young out. Old bird fluttered off, and got the four young away, and did not return while we were looking on. Two more young came out unaided, and one made its way to us, 15 yards away, and was put back in the nest. On the 29th all the young were gone, and one infertile egg in nest. The young were very lively, and quite black.
- × December 6 to 8.—*Artamus superciliosus* (White-browed Wood-Swallows) about camp. All left on 24/12/08.
- × December 19.—Young *Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallow) seen, well fledged.
- December 24.—Three young of *Rhipidura tricolor* (Black-and-White Fantail) just leaving nest. *Geopelia tranquilla* (Peaceful Doves) seen. × *Cerchneis cenchroides* (Kestrel) observed chasing × Brown Tree-creeper. Tree-creeper got away into hollow stump. × Hundreds of *Carphibis spinicollis* (Straw-necked Ibis) noticed feeding at 7 a.m.

* This description is not referable to the eggs of *Porzana fluminea*.—EDS.

December 26.—*Sisura inquieta* (Restless Flycatcher) seen. *Platalea regia* (Black-billed Spoonbill) going north at 7 p.m.

× December 30. — Found nest of *Artamus sordidus* (Wood-Swallow) containing young.

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× January 8.—*Steganopleura guttata* (Spotted-sided Finch) building.

January 11.—*Platalea regia* (Black-billed Spoonbill) on creek.

January 15.—*Ibis molucca* (White Ibis) observed with flock of Straw-necked species. At first two only were seen, but after a week or so there were seven white birds.

January 16.—Pair of *Petræca goodenovi* (Red-capped Robins) seen.

January 18.—Young of *Calopsittacus novæ-hollandiæ* (Cockatoo-Parrakeets) just leaving nest.

January 26.—*Chætura caudacuta* (Spine-tailed Swifts).—Twelve of these birds appeared, 7.45 to 7.55 p.m., in creek valley, hawking, and appearing to work south, though the last three, when lost sight of through getting below range of hills, were going north. They were hawking insects.

January 28.—At 7.45 p.m. a flock of *Hirundo neoxena* (Swallows)—about 40—appeared suddenly about trees, evidently amongst a swarm of insects. At 7.50 p.m. they suddenly disappeared.

January 29.—Another flock of Swallows (about 40) appeared at 7.15 to 7.30 p.m. They were hawking flying-ants. There were several Bee-eaters and Wood-Swallows (*Artamus sordidus*) in company with the Swallows.

× February 1 and 6.—Spotted-sided Finches building.

February 2.—A large flock of Swallows (about 200) appeared in creek valley at 7.30 p.m. They came in low down, and went round about the trees, rising above them till fairly high, when they went away to the south.

× February 21.—A Dollar-Bird seen, making north.

February 28th.—At 6.30 p.m. a flock of *Chætura caudacuta* (Swifts) came into Yackandandah Creek valley, and kept low down, below the tops of trees, hawking, till 6.45 p.m., when they disappeared without the direction of their flight being seen.

× January and February.—Hundreds of *Merops ornatus* (Bee-eaters) about creek valley.

Description of a New Pseudogerygone from South-East Queensland.*

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PSEUDOGERYGONE CANTATOR, sp. nov.

Adult.—General colour above, olive-brown, tinged with fawn on the rump; lesser and median wing coverts like the back; greater coverts dark brown, narrowly margined with olive-brown. Primaries and secondaries edged with pale brown, which becomes indistinct towards the outermost feather. Tail crossed

* The author has kindly furnished the editors of *The Emu* with a reprint of this "Description," but no reference is given to the magazine in which it originally appeared.