

Anthus australis. Pipit.—Common in the open country.

Corone australis. Raven.—This scavenger was always with us, and we often disturbed them from a repast of dead rabbit. Several nests, some containing eggs, were observed.

Strepera melanoptera. Black-winged Crow-Shrike.—This splendid bird was not often encountered, and its timidity rendered it exceedingly difficult to approach. A nest in course of construction was found near the bore by Mr. H. Scarce, but was not ready for eggs before we left camp.

Corcorax melanorhamphus. White-winged Chough.—A common bird through the Mallee, where it is usually known as the Black Magpie.

Kangaroo Island Reserve.

By J. W. MELLOR, R.A.O.U., ADELAIDE.

KANGAROO Island, in South Australia, is an ideal place on which to form a national reserve, but the State Government appears to be unwilling to set aside a large area at the extreme western end of the island, at Cape Borda, where the native fauna and flora could be protected. A small reserve has been made, but the larger area is necessary.

The South Australian Ornithological Association procured several pairs of Mallee-Fowl (*Lipoa ocellata*), which were liberated by me at Cape Borda on 23rd February, 1912. While engaged in this work I was enabled to make interesting observations on the avifauna of the country immediately surrounding the Cape Borda lighthouse. The locality is wild and rugged; precipitous cliffs stretch for miles along the coast, and the summits support trees and plants whose appearance illustrates the force of the gales which at times beat upon the shore. Further inland there are sheltered spots where the timber is larger. But, on the whole, the area is rocky and rugged, and unfit for agricultural purposes.

The first bird I saw after landing from a boat belonging to the *Governor Musgrave*, the departmental steamer which conveyed me to the island, was the Kangaroo Island form of the Crescent Honey-eater, designated by Mr. A. G. Campbell as *Meliornis halmaturina*. Its loud, clear note rang through the early morning air from some thick scrub in a sheltered ravine to the east of Harvey's Return, which is the landing-place for Cape Borda. On the open land above I made the acquaintance of the Red-rumped Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*), which was threading its way through the low, stunted bushes. Ever and anon, half hopping, half flying, it crossed an intervening piece of bare ground.

On arrival at the lighthouse quarters, some 3 or 4 miles distant, my attention was directed to a number of imported Sparrows which were falling, almost helplessly, into a thick bush. I soon discovered the cause. A Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter cirrhocephalus*) had flown on to the high pole of a bush fence, and in a flash it swooped down into the bush and carried off a Sparrow.

Through the kindness of Mr. W. O. Wood, the head light-keeper, and his wife, I was accommodated at their cottage for

the night. Next morning I explored the country. Near a small water catchment and trough I observed a number of species of small birds; they were principally of the honey-eating family. A conspicuous form was the White-bearded Honey-eater (*Meliornis novæ-hollandiæ*), commonly known as the "Yellow-wing." A bird of quick flight and sprightly motion was the Kangaroo Island form of the Spine-bill Honey-eater (*Acanthorhynchus halmaturina*). Like a dart from an air-gun it would come upon the scene, dip into the water and out again, then perch upon some convenient twig for a few seconds to plume its feathers before flying again into the scrub. The Crescent Honey-eater was also there, having its bath, with several of the local form of the White-eye (*Zosterops halmaturina*). In some trees close by I noted the Wattle-cheeked Honey-eater (*Ptilotis cratitia*), which came from its cover now and again, but was not so tame and confiding as the other species. A eucalypt was in flower, and in this a number of Honey-eaters had congregated, but upon the approach of two Wattle-Birds (*Acanthochæra carunculata*), which were in a quarrelsome mood, the smaller birds flew off.

From a neighbouring scrub came the loud, ringing call—"Cling-cling-cling"—of the Black-winged Crow-Shrike (*Strepera melanoptera*). I was able to get a good view of them, one coming close to me and perching on a dry limb of a tree, where it called to its mate in the scrub a few hundred yards away. On the "black-boy" country—and there was plenty of this arid-looking land in the reserve—I came across the Tawny-crowned Honey-eater (*Glycyphila melanops*). This solitary bird delighted to perch on the top of a grass-tree flower (*Xanthorrhæa*) or some dry twig. In some low bushes the twitter of a Wren (*Malurus*) caught my ear, and soon several sombre-coloured females came hopping along. Their identity was not clear until the bright blue and black uniform of the male bird was seen a few minutes later. The species was *Malurus cyaneus* of the mainland, whose useful and confiding habits are so well known in the rural districts. Other birds were present, but, the time being short, only a hurried inspection was possible, and I was reluctantly compelled to return to the lighthouse quarters, where my kind host and his wife again attended to my needs. I was driven to Harvey's Return, where I caught the *Governor Musgrave* on her homeward voyage to Port Adelaide.

While on the reserve I was impressed by the fact that the coast-line appeared to be ideal for sea-birds. Gulls of several species, Penguins, Terns, and Skuas were seen in numbers; also other familiar species. I was highly pleased at having had the opportunity of inspecting the reserve, if only for a brief time, and my thanks are due to the President of the Marine Board, Mr. Arthur Searcy, for courteously granting a passage and assisting me in every possible way.