

Dairy Creek above the Silverband Falls. Trees, ferns, and other vegetation were very dense here and these birds kept well under cover. Although the Crescents were not seen anywhere else, there were several similar dells on other creeks that I was unable to visit. Several Singing Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga versicolor*), inhabited this dell, but they were also seen elsewhere. White-eared Honeyeaters (*Meliphaga leucotis*), preferred the highest places. One pair was seen on Boronia Peak, another on Mackey's Peak, the next near Signal Rock, and the last pair on Mount Rosea.

There was one small flock of Red-browed Finches (*Aegintha temporalis*), and one of White-winged Choughs (*Corcorax melanorhamphus*). Australian Crows (*Corvus cecilæ*), were very numerous, and Grey Currawongs (*Strepera versicolor*), even more so. Unfortunately, residents were shooting the latter because of the small amount of damage they did to vegetable gardens.

Australian Birds Occurring in New Guinea.

By W. B. ALEXANDER, M.A., C.F.A.O.U., Croydon, England.

IN a recent paper by Messrs. Outram Bangs and James L. Peters on "A Collection of Birds from South-western New Guinea (Merauke Coast and Inland)," published in the *Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College*, Vol. LXVII (July, 1926) the authors state: "This collection, a recent gift to the M.C.Z. by Dr. Thomas Barbour, was made by Thomas Jackson in 1920-1924, in the general region of Merauke, Dutch New Guinea. This region, opposite Cape York, is an interesting part of Papua, as it has a strong Australian element in its bird-fauna. Several of the forms have apparently not been taken previously in New Guinea and others have been recorded from Merauke only by Van Oort (Nova Guinea, 1909). Unfortunately Jackson's collection contains very few small birds, and gives an impression that bird collecting was far from being a primary consideration with him."

In Ogilvie-Grant's report on the Birds of Dutch New Guinea (*Ibis Jubilee Supplement*, No. 2, 1915), which contains a complete list of the birds of that region, 383 species are included, of which 106 are on the Australian list. In Jackson's collection 95 species of birds are included, of which no less than 48, or just over half, are species found in Australia.

Nine of these are not listed in the R.A.O.U. Checklist (Second Edition), 1926, as occurring in New Guinea, though at least five of them have previously been obtained there and New Guinea should have been included in their range as shown in that list. In these figures I have not included the New Guinea Crow (*Corvus orru*), which the authors regard as a subspecies of the Australian *C. coronoides*. The Checklist Committee accepted the occurrence of three distinct species of Crow in Australia, but several recent authorities have regarded these and the New Guinea Crow merely as races of one species.

The following are the nine species now known to occur in New Guinea, but not recorded from that country in the recent Checklist:

Aprosmictus erythropterus.—The Red-winged Parrot was recorded from the south coast of New Guinea by Wallace in 1861 and by Von Rosenberg in 1864, but Salvadori considered the records erroneous and did not include the species in his *Birds of New Guinea* (1880). It was recorded from Merauke by Van Oort in 1910 and there are specimens in Jackson's collection from Princess Marianne Straits and the Wendoe Mer River. On the label of one skin he noted it as "very common." The specimens have been compared by Dr. Hartert with birds from the Northern Territory and Cape York and he states that they differ in no wise from the northern Australian race, *A. e. coccineopterus* (Gould), of which he considers *A. e. yorki*, Mathews, is a synonym.

Pachycephala melanura.—The Black-tailed Whistler is represented in Jackson's collection by the skin of a female without data. The authors regard this bird as a race of the Golden Whistler (*P. pectoralis*), and not as a distinct species as shown in the Checklist.

Colluricincla harmonica.—The Grey Shrike-Thrush is represented in Jackson's collection by a male "shot on the coast." Dr. Hartert has compared the skin with specimens of *C. h. tachycrypta*, Rothschild and Hartert, from Milne Bay, British New Guinea, and finds that it belongs to this race.

Pomatostomus temporalis.—The Grey-crowned Babbler is represented in Jackson's collection by a male from the Wendoe Mer River and a pair from Princess Marianne Straits. Dr. Hartert finds they are identical with specimens from North Queensland and assigns them to the race *P. t. cornwalli*, Mathews.

Artamus melanops.—A female Black-faced Wood-Swallow was collected by Jackson at Princess Marianne Straits. It does not agree exactly with any described form, but comes nearest to *A. venustus*, Sharpe, from the Northern Territory,

though in some respects agreeing more nearly with *A. cinereus*, Vieillot, from Timor. The Checklist Committee decided to regard the Timor bird as a distinct species from the Australian one and used the name *melanops* for the Australian species. But this intermediate New Guinea bird seems to show that this conclusion was incorrect and that all should be regarded as races of one species, for which *A. cinereus* is the earliest name. This is the name used by Messrs. Bangs and Peters and Dr. Hartert.

Entomyzon cyanotis.—A new race of the Blue-faced Honey-eater was described by Van Oort in 1909 from Merauke with the name *E. c. griseagularis*. One obtained by Jackson on the Wendoe Mer River has been compared by Dr. Hartert with four skins from Cooktown, including the type of *E. c. harterti*, Robinson and Laverock, and he finds them identical, so that *E. c. griseagularis* becomes a synonym of *E. c. harterti*.

Mirafra javanica.—The Horsfield Bush-Lark was originally described from Java and occurs in many of the Malay Islands, yet the Checklist gives its range as "A. except S.W.A." A single skin in Jackson's collection is referred to the race *M. h. parva*, Swinhoe, of the Lesser Sunda Islands, but may represent a distinct Papuan form.

Oriolus flavocinctus.—The Yellow Oriole was collected in Princess Marianne Straits by Müller and described by Bonaparte in 1850 as *Mimeta mülleri*. Four specimens from Merauke have been recorded by Van Oort and Jackson obtained a male in the type locality. The New Guinea race, which occurs also in the Aru Islands, is called *O. f. mülleri* (Bonaparte).

Gymnorhina tibicen.—A female Black-backed Magpie was obtained by Jackson at Princess Marianne Straits. It differs from any race previously described and is named *G. t. papuana*. It seems surprising that such a striking and conspicuous bird should not have been discovered previously, even in New Guinea, so much of which is still unexplored.

The discovery of two such characteristic Australian birds as the Grey-crowned Babbler and the Black-backed Magpie in New Guinea is surely quite as remarkable an event ornithologically as the discovery of two striking New Guinea Parrots in North Queensland a few years ago. It seems very probable that when the low-lying country between Frederik Hendrik Island and the mouth of the Fly River is adequately explored other Australian birds will be found there. This part of New Guinea, though the nearest to Australia, is still almost the least known.