

was the complete absence of Sparrows (*Passer*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*). It is the first bird list compiled by the writer from which the Starling has been absent.

The total absence of all species of Finches, even at the drinking trough where one would expect to see these seed-eaters, was a surprise. No Finch was recorded during our stay at Wyperfield. The nomadic habits of our various species of Finches makes the possibility of meeting them in the bush uncertain. However, the fact remains that none came in to drink in spite of the apparent absence of other water. Wallabies (*Macropus*) were seen now and then, and one night two Dingoes (*Canis dingo*) came to the trough and howled dismally.

Forty-four species of birds were listed with certainty; four species were doubtful—a Bronzewing (*Phaps*), Brown Hawk (*Falco berigora*), Collared Sparrowhawk (*Accipiter cirrocephalus*) and a Pardalote (*Pardalotus*). A small bird on the sand hills, much striated, was the only one which we failed to list, identification not being possible on account of the hasty glimpses obtained.

Wyperfield Park is a most interesting place in which to spend a holiday. The scenery, while not grand or awe-inspiring, is certainly attractive, and if the chain of lakes should again fill with water nowhere better could be desired by a bird observer for a holiday.

The Black-headed Pardalote or Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus melanocephalus*).—During a holiday to Port Macquarie on the north coast of New South Wales last October I met with this northern species of Diamond Bird. I previously had no idea that its range extended so far southwards. At the last R.A.O.U. camp-out in Queensland it was found in fair numbers about Rockhampton. It could easily be mistaken in the field for the Red-tipped Diamond Bird (*Pardalotus ornatus*), which it resembles in many respects. The notes of both birds have a general resemblance. It has the same bright red wing spots and bright yellow throat, and the general colouration is very similar. Like the Red-tipped species it has a white eyebrow, but lacks the striations on the head of that bird. The Red-tipped Pardalote is also slightly larger. A pair were nesting in the bank of a vacant allotment near the middle of the town and were not at all perturbed by the noise of passing motor cars and other vehicles. They exhibited the usual trustfulness of the two common species of Diamond Birds and faced the camera quite readily.—N. CHAFFER, R.A.O.U., Roseville, N.S.W.



Black-headed Pardalote.

Photo. by N. Chaffer, R.A.O.U.