

Mountains, and intermediate forests. There are actually no barriers between the coast and the Blue Mountains which would compel migrants to adhere to either the coastal or the Penrith route. It requires simultaneous observations by many observers to give a complete and comprehensive record of the movements between these two major routes, which, up to the present, I have been able to locate. The Great Dividing Range, however, would be of great advantage as a land mark, while the coastline and tidal lakes would also be guiding points in direction.

(To be continued.)

Occurrence of Blue-faced Finch in Brisbane.—On July 25, 1934, I observed a fine specimen of this bird in company with some Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) in a dead tree at North Quay. It was very lively, continually chirping, and seemed very much at home. Cayley gives the Australian habitat as Northern Queensland (Cape York to Cairns district), and goes on to say that only four records are known of the occurrence of this Finch in Australia. Possibly the bird that I saw was an accidental visitor that may have been blown across from the New Caledonia or the Loyalty Group. On the other hand, it may have been an escaped cage bird, but the freedom of its flight across the river made me discount that.—ALAN G. KILPATRICK, Brisbane, Queensland.

Birds of the Wellington District, N.S.W.

By GEO. W. ALTHOFER, Jun., Dripstone, N.S.W.

How many varieties of birds does the average observer, watching only in his own district, notice in the course of a twelve-months period, and how many different birds are seen every day of the year? Partly with the object of investigating the above matters and partly to keep a check on the movement of birds to and from my district, a daily list was kept from June 1, 1933, to May 31, 1934, both dates inclusive. The following notes are not placed on record with the idea in mind that it furnishes a complete list of the birds of this district and a complete record of migration, but is probably as near to being complete as one person in the course of his daily work could make it.

Roughly speaking, four-fifths of my time is spent in or about the orchard, and thus little time is available for observations in the timbered hills (about a mile away) or on the watercourses $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 miles distant from the orchard. The district is made up of mountainous to gently undulating country, the eastern and southern portions being exceed-

ingly rugged and intersected by narrow, fertile valleys. The northern and western portions are composed of undulating farm lands. Two rivers, the Bell and the Macquarie, ensure ample permanent water. Most of the higher land is well timbered with various species of eucalypts and with pine (*Callitris robusta*). Very little undergrowth is encountered.

Both coastal and western inland forms are found in this area. Galahs and Crested Pigeons are fairly common in parts of the district. Rufous Fantails, Leaden Flycatchers and Yellow Robins have also been noted. The last-named is fairly common in the timbered hill gullies of certain parts of the district, and breeds there.

Many species shown on the following list—and of which there are but few records thereon—are very common in restricted localities. For instance, Rufous Whistlers, Grey Fantails, Yellow-tufted Honeyeaters, Spotted Pardalotes, White-throated Tree-Creepers and Orange-winged Sittellas are very common in the green timber, rarely venturing from their hill haunts to the lowlands. Both the Azure and Sacred Kingfishers, Dollar-birds, Cormorants, etc., are common along the rivers, but rarely seen here at the orchard.

Again, many varieties known to be fully migratory in other districts, remain here the year round. Pallid and Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoos, Fairy Martins and Welcome Swallows are cases in point. The Fairy Martins leave their usual haunts, and congregate in immense flocks along the Macquarie and Bell Rivers. Rufous Whistlers and Grey Fantails also temporarily leave their hill habitat for the scrubs bordering the streams.

The winter months bring to us in the orchard, from the hill-scrubs, Chestnut-tailed and Buff-tailed Thornbills and Beautiful Firetails. The Scarlet Robin is also a winter visitor, but is less friendly and keeps to the timbered hills. Fantailed Cuckoos are more in evidence during the winter months than at other periods. Regent Honeyeaters, Spiny-cheeked Honeyeaters, Little Friar-birds and other nectar-loving forms are regular visitors during winter and spring.

The year under review has been chiefly remarkable in that many species formerly common have been totally absent from the district. The Masked and White-browed Wood-Swallows, formerly amongst the most common of our summer visitors, were not noted this season, except for flocks of the White-browed species seen passing over on isolated occasions. Crimson Chats (*Epthianura tricolor*) in other years nested in numbers in sedge clumps along creeks and in long grasses in the orchard enclosure. Stubble Quail were very scarce, and Little Quail were not noted at all during the period under review. In January,

1933, Plum-headed Finches were observed breeding in this district and flocks remained with us until August, 1933. Since then not a single bird has been recorded here.

Why have these varieties largely remained away from their usual haunts? The food factor, so far as this portion of the district is concerned, can be dismissed as a possible cause, for all forms of food have been in abundant supply. Stone-Curlews, Pelicans, Black Swans, Crested Grebes, Black Cockatoos, Glossy Ibis, Grey Teal, Tawny Frogmouths, Grey Currawongs and Southern Figbirds were also not noted during the year.

The number of species seen during the twelve months referred to was 149, and 161 species have been noted in the past ten years.

Those birds found nesting in the orchard were as follows:—Hooded Robin, Red-capped Robin, White-browed Babbler, Zebra Finch, Diamond-Firetail, Yellow-faced Honeyeater, White-plumed Honeyeater, Jacky Winter, White-shouldered Triller, "Scissors Grinder," Willie Wagtail, Peaceful Dove, Diamond Dove, Yellow-tailed Thornbill, Grey-backed Silvereye, Brown Quail (April), Horsfield Bush-Lark, Rufous Song-Lark, Brown Song-Lark, Pipit, White-fronted Chat, Blue Wren, Fairy Martin, Welcome Swallow, Black-backed Magpie, White-backed Swallow, Red-tipped Pardalote, Eastern Whiteface, Magpie-Lark, Brown Tree-Creeper, and Red-backed Parrot—thirty-three species in all, including Goldfinch and House Sparrow. Silvereyes were breeding from November to January and showed a remarkable preference for two or three varieties of peach-trees for nesting sites. Certainly the peaches in question ripened during the months that the Silvereyes were nesting but these varieties only constituted one-tenth of the peaches and nectarines ripening during the same period. Varieties selected for nesting sites were soft-skinned kinds and possibly that factor in relation to the food supply of the adult birds was taken into account.

The accompanying list shows the 149 species referred to earlier and indicates on how many occasions the birds were seen each month. As stated certain species noted in the district were not seen during the period covered. They are: Little Quail (*Turnix velox*), Hoary-headed Grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*), Southern Stone-Curlew (*Burhinus magnirostris*), Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*), Grey Teal (*Querquedula gibberifrons*), Pelican (*Pelecanus conspicillatus*), Red-tailed Black Cockatoo (*Calyptrorhynchus banksi*), Tawny Frogmouth (*Podargus strigoides*), Crimson Chat (*Epthianura tricolor*), Masked Wood-Swallow (*Artamus personatus*), Grey Currawong (*Strepera versicolor*), Southern Fig-bird (*Sphecotheres vieilloti*) and Black Swan (*Chenopsis atrata*).

[illegible]

	1933						1934					Total.
	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.
Grey Falcon (<i>Falco hypoleucus</i>)	—	—	—	—	4	2	2	—	4	4	5	6
Black Falcon (<i>Falco subniger</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—
Little Falcon (<i>Falco longipennis</i>)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Crested Hawk (<i>Baza subcristata</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	14	8	9	4	7	8	25
Brown Hawk (<i>Falco berigora</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	30	30	29	28	31	16	31
Nankeen Kestrel (<i>Falco cenchroides</i>)	27	30	31	30	30	19	26	24	14	26	9	17
Boobook Owl (<i>Ninox boobook</i>)	7	4	4	16	16	19	26	24	14	26	9	182
Barn Owl (<i>Tyto alba</i>)	1	4	1	—	2	9	3	—	—	3	2	4
Musk Lorikeet (<i>Glossopsitta concinna</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Little Lorikeet (<i>Glossopsitta pusilla</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
White Cockatoo (<i>Kakatoë galerita</i>)	5	21	16	29	14	1	1	—	5	14	19	21
Galah (<i>Kakatoë roseicapilla</i>)	—	1	19	22	4	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Cockatiel (<i>Leptolophus hollandicus</i>)	—	—	—	2	3	1	—	1	—	—	2	—
Crimson Rosella (<i>Platycercus elegans</i>)	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Rosella (<i>Platycercus erimius</i>)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Red-backed Parrot (<i>Psephotus haematonotus</i>)	28	27	29	30	31	21	14	14	20	28	25	28
Orange-breasted Parrot (<i>Neophema chrysogaster</i>)	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30	31
Budgerigah (<i>Melopsittacus undulatus</i>)	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	1	—	—	—
Owllet Nightjar (<i>Egotheles cristata</i>)	6	6	—	—	10	29	24	—	—	—	10	1
Dollar-bird (<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Azure Kingfisher (<i>Alcyon azurea</i>)	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	3	7	5	3
Laughing Kingfisher (<i>Dacelo gigas</i>)	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	1	1	—	—	—
Red-backed Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon pyrrhopygius</i>)	19	25	31	28	23	20	27	27	25	29	27	30
Sacred Kingfisher (<i>Halcyon sanctus</i>)	—	—	1	23	29	24	26	31	24	27	9	—
Rainbow-bird (<i>Meryops ornatus</i>)	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Fork-tailed Swift (<i>Micropus pacificus</i>)	—	—	—	—	11	3	1	3	5	9	4	1
Pallid Cuckoo (<i>Cuculus pallidus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	2	2	—	—	—
Fan-tailed Cuckoo (<i>Cacomantis flabelliformis</i>)	1	6	22	23	25	5	2	1	1	2	1	17
Horsfield Bronze-Cuckoo (<i>Chalcites basalis</i>)	7	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	4
Golden Bronze-Cuckoo (<i>Lamprolaima plagiatus</i>)	—	—	—	18	31	25	17	19	16	3	10	5
	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1933							1934							Total.
	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	March.	April.	May.			
Chestnut-tailed Thornbill (<i>Acanthiza uropygialis</i>)	10	12	4	3	2	—	—	—	—	1	14	10	57		
Yellow-tailed Thornbill (<i>Acanthiza chrysorrhoa</i>)	24	29	30	28	25	—	—	19	21	26	28	30	309		
Buff-tailed Thornbill (<i>Acanthiza reguloides</i>)	—	13	10	3	1	2	—	—	2	1	6	3	41		
Superb Blue-Wren (<i>Malurus cyaneus</i>)	30	31	30	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	29	31	363		
White-browed Wood-Swallow (<i>Artamus superciliosus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8		
Dusky Wood-Swallow (<i>Artamus cyanopterus</i>)	15	10	18	25	28	27	25	21	15	10	11	24	229		
Magpie-Lark (<i>Grallina cyanoleuca</i>)	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	31	31	30	31	365		
Grey Shrike-Thrush (<i>Colluricincla harmonica</i>)	10	31	31	21	25	21	26	14	10	13	28	27	247		
Black-backed Magpie (<i>Gymnorhina tibicen</i>)	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30	31	365		
Pied Butcher-bird (<i>Cracticus nigrogularis</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1		
Grey Butcher-bird (<i>Cracticus torquatus</i>)	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	4	1	—	—	—	11		
Eastern Shrike-Tit (<i>Falcunculus frontalis</i>)	2	1	2	12	11	7	2	—	6	15	15	24	97		
Crested Bell-bird (<i>Oreocitta gutturalis</i>)	18	20	13	10	4	4	4	2	10	12	14	20	131		
Golden Whistler (<i>Pachycephala pectoralis</i>)	3	1	1	1	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	7		
Rufous Whistler (<i>Pachycephala rufiventris</i>)	—	—	1	1	7	19	13	5	1	3	10	2	68		
Southern Yellow Robin (<i>Eopsaltria australis</i>)	—	2	1	—	—	1	3	1	1	—	1	—	10		
Eastern Whiteface (<i>Aphelocephala leucopsis</i>)	30	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30	31	365		
Orange-winged Sittella (<i>Neositta chrysoptera</i>)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2		
Black-capped Sittella (<i>Neositta pileata</i>)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2		
Brown Tree-creeper (<i>Climacteris picumnus</i>)	29	31	31	30	31	30	31	31	28	31	30	31	364		
White-throated Tree-creeper (<i>Climacteris leucophaea</i>)	4	5	5	8	1	1	3	3	1	2	2	2	35		
Grey-backed Silvereye (<i>Zosterops lateralis</i>)	16	14	3	—	3	3	23	28	26	25	18	22	181		
Mistletoe-bird (<i>Dicaeum hirundinaceum</i>)	—	12	—	—	—	—	1	4	7	4	13	7	38		
Red-tipped Pardalote (<i>Pardalotus ornatus</i>)	18	27	26	2	31	28	28	15	5	22	23	31	295		
Spotted Pardalote (<i>Pardalotus punctatus</i>)	—	—	1	2	3	1	2	1	—	3	10	9	32		
White-naped Honeyeater (<i>Melithreptus lunatus</i>)	1	—	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	4		
Brown-headed Honeyeater (<i>Melithreptus brevirostris</i>)	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	7	—	12		
Striped Honeyeater (<i>Plectorhyncha lanceolata</i>)	20	21	29	29	31	29	26	28	28	28	25	28	322		
Regent Honeyeater (<i>Zanthoniza phrygia</i>)	—	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	6		
Yellow-faced Honeyeater (<i>Meliphaga chrysops</i>)	—	—	—	—	7	25	29	28	24	21	7	13	152		

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