

stationary numbers. Complete and rigid protection alone will help this Pigeon to survive. Or is it to go the way of the Passenger Pigeon of America? What we require is a little of that remarkable Mohammedan reverence for birds and animals which we are inclined to call fanaticism. Unless we acquire something like that, the alternative is a *voiceless bush*.

I append a list of the most important references on the Topknot Pigeon, which appear in *The Emu*: Vol. i/p. 154; iii 47; x 207, 215, 241, 319; xi 165; xiii 138; xvi 163; xvii 6, 82, 107; xix 3, 216, 269; xx 200, 227; xxiv 276; xxxi 48; xxxiv 11.

Random Notes on Regional Distribution

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In *The Emu*, vol. xxxv, page 211, Mr. A. H. Chisholm asks if the Satin Bower-bird (*Ptilonorhynchus violaceus*) still inhabits the Otways. Whether the birds are still there I do not know, but on November 18, 1928, about two or three miles south-west of Apollo Bay, I found a bower on the bank of a creek and caught glimpses of birds in immature plumage.

Other species noted there, which are common in eastern Victoria, were the Gang-gang Cockatoo (*Callocephalon fimbriatum*), the King Parrot (*Prosmictus scapularis*), the Rufous Fantail (*Rhipidura rufifrons*), the Satin Flycatcher (*Myiagra cyanoleuca*), and the Pied Currawong (*Strepera graculina*). I noted also a Robin which was either the Pink Robin (*Petroica rodinogaster*) or the Rose Robin (*P. rosea*).

There are a few records of the Gang-gang in South Australia as far west as the Mt. Lofty Ranges. As far as I can ascertain, the latest record was near Penola in 1899. The Pink Robin was obtained by John Gould in the Mt. Lofty Ranges, and the late Dr. A. M. Morgan observed it there once—between 1885 and 1890.

With these exceptions, the above species are not on the South Australian list compiled by Mr. J. Sutton. The Otway Ranges are probably the western limit for the King Parrot, the Rufous Fantail and the Satin Flycatcher. The Gang-gang I have seen in fair numbers as far west as Purnim and, from descriptions given to me, I feel sure that it still gets as far as Portland. I have seen the Pied Currawong north of Coleraine at a spot about ten miles west of the Dundas Range.

The Otway Ranges, by the way, are one of the few Victorian localities where one may still feel fairly sure of seeing the beautiful White Goshawk, the albino form of *Astur novæ-hollandiæ*.

Some years ago, I spent many pleasant days investigating the bird life in the mallee at Kurting, which is about 130

miles north-west of Melbourne by rail. In more recent years—1933-1935—I was at Quambatook, some sixty miles farther north. There are still fairly large areas of mallee scrub at Kurting and also at Wedderburn, fifteen miles north thereof. The mallee is growing on what is mostly rough, ironstone country, but farther north, where the soil is more fertile, the scrub has been more completely cleared, and in the Quambatook district there are few patches of mallee left and none of great extent. The Avoca River, which flows through Quambatook, is bordered on each side by a strip of box-country about five miles wide. East and west of the strip, the mallee scrub is again in evidence, but it finally “peters out” some fifteen or twenty miles east of Quambatook.

The Crested Pigeon (*Ocyphaps lophotes*) was seen occasionally at Quambatook but not at Kurting. The Ringneck Parrot (*Barnardius barnardi*) was noted once at Lake Charm about thirty miles north of Quambatook and a single pair was noted a few times about twelve miles south of the township. The Blue-bonnet (*Psephotus hæmatogaster*) was very common. The beautiful Mulga Parrot (*P. varius*) was seen once only, about twelve miles north-west of Quambatook. None of these Parrots was in evidence at Kurting.

The Striped Honeyeater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*) was not uncommon at Quambatook, and the Singing Honeyeater (*Meliphaga virescens*) was to be seen regularly in one small patch of timber a few miles east of the town. Neither of these birds was ever noted farther south, although on January, 1927, an excellent opportunity presented itself of making a practically complete tally of the bird life in the Kurting mallee. While a heat wave progressed to its maximum, I kept a daily vigil beside a small dam which constituted the only water supply for an area of scrub some miles in extent. Even such shy species as the Crested Bell-bird (*Oreoica gutturalis*), the Shy Ground-Wren (*Hylacola cauta*), and the Purple-backed Wren (*Malurus assimilis*) came in and drank beside me on the last hot day when the mercury crept to 110° F. Among the Honeyeaters was one solitary pair of the Purple-gaped (*Meliphaga cratitia*), but I did not see either the Striped or the Singing Honeyeater there.

The Noisy Miner (*Myzantha melanocephala*) was found in the box-country along the Avoca but when one got out into the mallee on either side, the genus was represented by the Dusky Miner (*M. obscura*). This latter species was not noted at Kurting. The Red-tailed Thornbill (*Acanthiza hamiltoni*) occurs at Kurting, which must be also near the southern limit of the Shy Ground-Wren. The farthest south that I have heard the limpid “pan-pan-boolalla” of the Crested Bell-bird was at a spot a mile or two south of Amphitheatre, which is well outside the mallee fringe.