

Sterna fuscata Sooty Tern.

A flock of about 30 birds was seen in Whitsunday Passage on several occasions, probably the same birds each time.

Burhinus magnirostris. Southern Stone-Curlew.

One bird was seen on the lawn between the well-lit cabins on Hayman Island late one night. It is quite possible that this species occurs in the Cumberlands, although I failed to see any.

Trichoglossus moluccanus. Rainbow Lorikeet.

Plentiful on Long, Lindeman and South Molle, where they spent most of the day in the coconut-palms; however, I failed to see any on Brampton, which has the best coconut-grove on any of these islands. They are said to visit the Cumberlands in quite large numbers at certain times of the year.

Dacelo gigas. Laughing Kookaburra.

Seen and heard on Whitsunday and South Molle Islands. Mr. Bussutin informed me that they visit Brampton during the 'wet', but I am reasonably certain they were not present during my visit and the 'wet' had still not begun when I saw them in the Whitsundays.

Cisticola exilis. Golden-headed Fantail-Warbler.

At least one pair inhabited the grasslands in the steep valley on the northern side of Spion Kop, South Molle.

Colluricincla megarrhyncha. Rufous Shrike-Thrush.

Observed on Whitsunday Island.

Rhipidura leucophrys. Willie-Wagtail.

Common in the Whitsundays, but none was observed in the Cumberlands. Willie-Wagtails occur on Heron Island, over 40 miles from the coast, so 15 miles of ocean would scarcely be the cause of their absence. It is probable that, eventually, it will be added to the known Cumberlands avifauna.

Aplonis metallica. Australian Shining Starling.

These were seen on Whitsunday Island.

I am indebted to Mr. A. R. McGill for advice and assistance, and to Mr. Bussutin of Brampton Island, not only for information, but also for active help and encouragement in reaching some of the less accessible parts of the islands.

House Sparrow in High Country?—An editorial footnote on page 350 was considered justified in order to draw author's and readers' attention to a statement in *The Emu* in 1928 claiming that this species was abundant on the Bogong High Plains (in 1927). My own visits to the Plains proper were made in 1924, 1926 and 1934, and I have traversed neighbouring high country on a number of occasions since. There were no permanent (winter) residents and few summer visitors, even in summer, in those days, access being on foot only, with or without packhorses. There were no conditions or amenities likely to attract sparrows and I doubt that any were there. Possibly Miss Paterson, writing in general terms, confused the birds of the high tops with those seen in the small settlements of the valleys below.—C. E. BRYANT, Melbourne, Vic., 18/11/57.