

Birds of Rockingham Bay District.

BY A. J. CAMPBELL, C.M.B.O.U.

IN the remarks by Mr. H. G. Barnard and myself on the birds of this rich region which appeared in the last issue of *The Emu*, two kinds were held over for further elucidation.

Pachycephala queenslandica (Queensland Whistler).

No birds are more puzzling in their phases of plumage than the Yellow-breasted Thickheads. When we were on the flat country and on Goold Island, during August and September, we procured specimens which, although apparently adult, showed signs of immature plumage (rufous edgings on the wing feathers, &c.), and their notes were different. But when we went to the ranges during October we found the males "full-throated" with song, and with breasts resplendent with yellow. We now believe that the grey birds of the coast and the full-plumaged ones of the range are referable to the race above-named.

Ptilotis lewinii (*chrysotis*) (Yellow-eared Honey-eater).

We found this a fairly common species. It frequented the flowering citrus trees of gardens, and came into outhouses and even dwellings after fruit; hence sometimes the local name of "Banana-Bird." In the open the bird fossicked various native flowers, including the olive-green floriferous heads of a climbing pisonia (*P. aculeata*). These flowers, judging by the hum of insects (including a big "bumble bee") about them, must be heavily charged with nectar.

Several nests of the Honey-eater were taken on the coast land, and birds observed, but the nest which we were "shepherding" on the table-land was destroyed by some evil thing. The table-land birds were more tuneful, and frequently gave the characteristic trilling whistle of *lewinii*, which we never heard the lowland birds give. Therefore we thought the lowland variety might be possibly *P. notata*, but the only skin obtained in that locality proved to be *lewinii*. Could the commonly-reputed *notata* of collectors, after all, be a northern form only of the widely-distributed *lewinii*? We regretted we did not get more material while on the spot.

Referring to pisonia trees and their sticky seeds, the late Mr. A. J. North, in his "Nests and Eggs," vol. ii., p. 109, when dealing with *Ptilotis notata*, on the authority of Mr. Frank Hislop, Bloomfield River, mentioned this Honey-eater in connection with another pisonia (*P. brunoniana*), the seeds of which sometimes hold a bird as with the best bird-lime. Indeed, the new material must be more potent than the best bird-lime, because Mr. Hislop has seen on the floor of the forest Nutmeg-Pigeons, a large Rufous Owl (once), and a Crested Hawk, disabled by the clinging, glue-like seeds.

Various.—To our former list may be added the following, which were observed during my previous trip (1914), namely:—*Ægialitis nigrifrons* (Black-fronted Dottrel), *Ægialitis ruficapilla* (Red-capped Dottrel), *Charadrius fulvus* (Lesser Golden Plover), *Hæmatopus fuliginosus* (Black Oyster-catcher), seen at Dunk Island; *Lobivanellus personatus* (Masked Plover), *Anthus australis* (Australian Pipit), seen on Bellenden Plains.

Regarding the previous remarks on the Ashy-fronted Robin (*Heteromyias cinereifrons*), although we found nests with single eggs only, the photograph in my book, "Nests and Eggs," by Mr. D. Le Souëf, shows that a pair of eggs is sometimes laid by this Robin. Also, referring to the Striped Honey-eater (*Plectorhyncha lanceolata*), we stated these birds were observed on Gould Island only. Some were noted on the Kirrama table-land too.

To conclude. It is a far cry from Kirrama, North Queensland, to South Yarra, Melbourne. During October I heard the merry voices of Reed-Warblers (*Acrocephalus australis*) on the Kirrama Creek. The next occasion I heard them was two months later, in the private gardens surrounding my lodgings in the populous suburb of South Yarra. There is much yet to be learned of the migration movements of these agreeably interesting birds.

New and Rare Victorian Birds from Mallacoota.

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IN January last Mr. C. Daley presented to the National Museum two birds sent from Mallacoota, in the far east of Victoria, by Miss E. Dorran, R.A.O.U. These proved to be specimens of the Top-knot Pigeon, *Lopholaimus antarcticus*, and the Koel or Flinders Cuckoo, *Eudynamis cyanocephala*. The former, although a very rare visitor, has already been recorded from Victoria, and one or two are known to have wandered as far south as Tasmania. As early as 1879 a head of this fine Pigeon was forwarded, with other birds, to the Museum from the Gippsland Lakes by the late C. T. Stafford, Esq., who wrote:—"The head of this Pigeon is one of six birds that were brought to me as shot in the vicinity of the lakes, a considerable flight of them having come over the sea, but too far gone in moult to be of any service as specimens. . . . The flesh is very inferior to the Wonga or Bronze-wing for the table." The occurrence of the Koel or Flinders Cuckoo so far south is of particular interest, as it does not appear to have been previously recorded south of Sydney. The specimen, which was the only one seen, is a female.

Additional interest is attached to the above by the still more recent discovery in the same locality of the Red-crowned Fruit-Pigeon, *Ptilinopus swainsoni*. The specimen, a young male, was obtained by Miss E. Dorran on the 21st August last, and forwarded