

Bird Notes from Here and There in Queensland

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Mr. Favaloro's article in the January part of *The Emu* proved of great interest to me. The author is to be congratulated on the first recorded description of the eggs of *Carterornis leucotis*, and his notes on the habits of that lively little bird.

At Christmas, 1930, we were again in the Flycatcher's haunt on the southern end of Stradbroke Island (Moreton Bay, Queensland), but all my calling failed to bring a response from the bird. For many years I have been able to call the bird up directly our boat anchor was down, and before I set foot on shore. The sea of late has made such inroads on the jungle that I shall be surprised to find the bird there again. The late Mr. R. Illidge recorded the bird in that place (Stradbroke Island) fifty years ago, and the wonder to me is that for so many years the generations of *C. leucotis* have returned there to breed. I have not found more than one pair of birds there any summer. Mr. Illidge told me that the bird used to be very plentiful on Ithaca Creek (Brisbane), and he had taken many skins there. Last year Mrs. Hilda Curtis noticed one of the birds fluttering about the top of some trees close to her house, at Tambourine Mountain, but it only stayed an hour or two. I looked for the Flycatcher when at Lake Barrine (North Qld.) recently; for that place seemed the home of many species of Flycatchers, but failed to locate it.

I did find a black and white Flycatcher there. Owing to the bird's habit of running round and round a tree in an upward direction I at first thought it a Tree-creeper, but have identified it since as *Arses lorealis*. I think it may be the first record of the bird from that district (Lake Barrine, Atherton Tableland, North Qld.). The description from my notebook (written whilst the bird was under observation) reads:—"About 6 to 7 inches—crown black—band around neck white—black band across shoulders, followed by white band across back—tail and wings black—all under white." The Black-faced Flycatcher (*Monarcha melanopsis*), the Spectacled Flycatcher (*M. trivirgata*), and a bird with a much lighter mantle—but black eye rings—were all there (the first two plentiful). The last may have been *M. canescens*. Another interesting bird at Lake Barrine was the Tooth-billed Bower-bird (*Scenopæetes dentirostris*): a very noisy bird and a wonderful mimic. For an hour or two, morning and evening—occasionally, too, at midday—the bird perches, well hidden, in a low elevation above the natural bower that it has carefully floored with

fresh green leaves, and mimics every sound it remembers, and all noises that it hears at the moment. The birds in one part of the jungle nearly always began with the notes of the Drongo (*Chibia bracteata*), and excelling the Drongo at his own notes, breaking off to imitate my whistle; then going on to Thrush, Koel, Kookaburra (*Dacelo leachi*) and Chowchilla. Further along the same jungle track, an opposition Bower-bird made a speciality of the calls of the Rifle-bird, Coachwhip-bird, Scrub Magpie (*Strepera*), and the "cluck-cluck" of a Cassowary calling her chicks. The Tooth-billed Bower-bird is the plainest of the Bower-bird family, but to my thinking it is by far the most talented, easily taking place beside the Lyrebird as a mimic.

Scrub Robins were varied, plentiful and always most interested in my doings in the fascinating jungle that bordered Lake Barrine. The white-lored Robin or Little Yellow Robin (*Eopsaltria kempii*) and the grey-headed Robin (*Heteromyias cinereifrons*) I felt sure I had identified correctly. *E. capito*, too, I felt quite sure of; but there were certainly others that I knew not.

A contributor to *The Emu*, in a charming description of a morning walk, writes of the Golden Whistler as a "quiet bush dweller." My experience of the bird in the jungle round Lake Barrine, and again on Tambourine Mountain, is of one of the jungle's noisiest denizens. I grew weary of the constantly reiterated call. I have always found the same bird strangely quiet in the open country.

There is little to record of the bird life round the Brisbane near suburbs at this time of the year. A few Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrikes, a Rufous Whistler, a pair of Sacred Kingfishers (they stayed with us all last winter, and had many a battle with a disgruntled Drongo that had attached itself to a company of Cuckoo-Shrikes), Silver Eyes (busy with the ripening figs), Magpie Larks, Wagtails, and a few White-naped Honeyeaters and Kookaburras are all. A year or two back, little Brown Honeyeaters were always to be found about, but we seldom see or hear them to-day.

It is the intention to state in each issue of *The Emu* the species that will be figured in colour in the following part, in the hope that members familiar with the bird in question will send to the Editor notes thereon which can be incorporated in the letterpress accompanying the colour plate. This suggestion emanates from Mr. J. Neil McGilp, R.A.O.U., who also advocates the publication of a short and concise description of each species figured, which idea will also be adopted. The bird to be figured in the October number is the Shining Flycatcher (*Piezorhynchus alecto*). Members are invited to send along their notes on that bird as soon as possible.